

Personal reply by Konrad Adenauer to Robert Schuman (8 May 1950)

Caption: Replying personally to Robert Schuman's letter dated 7 May 1950, the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, expresses his confidence in the French Foreign Minister's plan for the future of Franco-German relations.

Source: L'Europe une longue marche. Lausanne: Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe, Centre de recherches européennes, 1985. 104 p. (Cahiers rouges). p. 63.

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Mr President [Bonn,] 9 May 1950

Robert Schuman
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Paris

Dear President,

It seems only right that I should also thank you personally for the letter in which you set forth the intentions of the French Government regarding close cooperation between Germany and France on coal, steel and iron.

In the last few weeks and months Franco-German relations have undergone some serious ups and downs. I am particularly glad that, thanks to the French Government's plan, relations between our two countries, which were in danger of hardening into suspicion and doubt, will henceforth move forward again towards constructive cooperation.

This good news reached me at the same time as I decided to recommend to the Cabinet that the Federal Government should join the Council of Europe. The Cabinet will take a decision on this matter tomorrow and I am in no doubt that its decision will be favourable. This important issue will immediately be referred to Parliament and I believe that it too will decide in favour of German entry — naturally despite the votes of the Social Democrats. In so doing, an important step in post-war development will be taken, and I hope that, in Strasbourg, Germany will make a useful contribution to the reconstruction of our European world.

The French Government plan that you presented to me in its broad lines will be received with great interest by German public because, for the first time since the disaster of 1945, Germany and France will find themselves working on a common task with equal rights.

Yours very sincerely,

Adenauer