

Letter from Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi to Winston Churchill (19 December 1947)

Caption: On 19 December 1947, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Secretary-General of the European Parliamentary Union (EPU), informs the former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, of the choice of the flag that is to symbolise the United States of Europe.

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Gstaad, 19th December 1947

My dear Winston Churchill,

Last week, the Executive Council of the European Parliamentary Union held its first regular meeting at Gstaad. I enclose its results. The most important decision was to call for September 8th 1948, to Interlaken, a Parliamentary Congress for the Constitution of a United States of Europe.

Among other things decided by the Council was the official adoption of the symbol and flag of the United States of Europe.

I believe it would be an excellent thing, if the entire movement for a United States of Europe could accept this symbol and flag that has been used since a quarter of a century. This common symbol would indicate better than anything else the common spirit that inspires our movement. I therefore would think it a very good thing if the United Europe Movement could adopt this symbol: a red cross on a golden sun, representing the two basic elements of our civilization: Greek spirit and Christian love.

My wife and I are sailing for New York on January 1st to co-ordinate the Marshall-Plan with our Parliamentary Action.

With every good wish to you and your family for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
[Signed] Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi.

To the Rt. Hon.
Winston Churchill, M.P.
Marakesh/Marokko