

Letter from Harold Macmillan to the President of the Special Council of Ministers of the ECSC (2 March 1962)

Caption: On 2 March 1962, British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, sends a letter to the President of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers in which he confirms the United Kingdom's desire to open diplomatic negotiations with a view to acceding to the Community.

Source: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee: A retrospective view of the political year in Europe 1962. March 1963. Paris: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee. "Text of a letter dated 28th February 1962 from Mr. MacMillan to the President of the Special Council of Ministers of the ECSC (2 March 1962)", p. 23.

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Monsieur le Président,

In his statement to the Ministers of the Member States of the European Economic Community at Paris on 10th October 1961, the Right Honourable Edward Heath, the Lord Privy Seal, said that the United Kingdom would wish to enter into negotiation at the appropriate moment with a view to joining the European Coal and Steel Community on becoming a member of the European Economic Community.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland now wish to open negotiations with the object of acceding to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community under the terms of Article 98.

Her Majesty's Government are at the same time informing the President of the Council of Ministers of the European Atomic Energy Community of their wish to open negotiations for membership of that Community.

Her Majesty's Government reaffirm their desire to see the closer union of Western Europe which they declare to be their aim in seeking membership of the EEC. They believe that this request will contribute to the fuller realisation of the aims set out in the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

(Signed) Harold Macmillan