Extract from an address given by Joseph Bech (Luxembourg, inaugural session of the High Authority, 10 August 1952)

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Some extremely complicated problems were solved during the arduous negotiations leading up to the Schuman Plan. This makes us look to the future of the Community with justified optimism, despite the many difficulties still to be overcome. We will win through in the end, I am absolutely sure, provided a high degree of trust and cooperation is established between the High Authority and Europe's industrialists. It is quite understandable that industrialists should have found it hard to give up habits and working and production methods which they hold dear and which have, heaven knows, proven that they work and can bring countries such as mine social peace as well as prosperity.



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