

Official communiqué adopted by the Heads of State or Government of the Six (Bonn, 18 July 1961)

Caption: On 18 July 1961, at a meeting in Bad Godesberg, a suburb of Bonn, the Heads of State or Government of the Six reiterate their determination to continue their efforts to achieve political union in Europe.

Source: Bulletin of the European Economic Communities. July/August 1961, n° 7/8. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities. "Statement issued by the heads of State or Government ", p. 35-36.

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Last updated: 28/08/2015

Statement issued by the heads of State or Government (Bonn, 18 July 1961)

The heads of State or Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg as well as the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, desirous of affirming the spiritual values and political traditions which form their common heritage, united in the awareness of the great tasks which Europe is called upon to fulfil within the community of free peoples in order to safeguard liberty and peace in the world, anxious to strengthen the political, economic, social and cultural ties which exist between their peoples, especially in the framework of the European Communities, and to advance towards the union of Europe;

Convinced that only a united Europe, allied to the United States of America and to other free peoples, is in a position to face the dangers which menace the existence of Europe and of the whole free world, and that it is important to unite the energies, capabilities, and resources of all those for whom liberty is an inalienable possession; resolved to develop their political co-operation with a view to the union of Europe and to continue at the same time the work already undertaken in the European Communities;

Wishing for the accession to the European Communities of other European States ready to assume in all spheres the same responsibilities and the same obligations, have decided:

1. To give shape to the will for political union already implicit in the Treaties establishing the European Communities, and for this purpose to organise their co-operation, to provide for its development and to secure for it the regularity which will progressively create the conditions for a common policy and will ultimately make it possible to embody in institutions the work that has been begun;
2. To hold at regular intervals meetings whose aim will be to compare their views, to concert their policies and to reach common positions in order to further the political union of Europe, thereby strengthening the Atlantic alliance. The necessary practical measures will be taken to prepare these meetings. In addition, the continuation of active co-operation among the Foreign Ministers will contribute to the continuity of the action undertaken in common. The co-operation of the Six must go beyond the strictly political field, and will in particular be extended to the sphere of education, of culture, and of research, where it will be ensured by periodical meetings of the Ministers concerned.
3. To instruct their Committee to submit to them proposals on the means which will as soon as possible enable a statutory character to be given to the union of their peoples.

The heads of State or Government are convinced that by thus organising their co-operation they will further the application of the Rome and Paris Treaties. They also believe that their co-operation will facilitate any reforms which might seem opportune in the interests of the greater efficiency of the Communities.

To this end they have decided:

- a) To have a study made of the various points of the Resolution of the European Parliament of 29 June 1961, on the subject of political co-operation among the Member States of the European Communities.
- b) To associate public opinion more closely with the efforts already undertaken, by inciting the European Parliament to extend the range of its debates to new fields, with the co-operation of the Governments.