

Letter from Jean Monnet to Jacques Camille Paris (Paris, 1 August 1952)

Caption: As the future President of the ECSC High Authority, Jean Monnet is responsible for convening the first session of the Common Assembly. In a letter to Jacques Camille Paris, dated 1 August 1952, he expresses an interest in the facilities which the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe is willing to offer him, for the holding of the first session on the premises of the Consultative Assembly in Strasbourg. At the same time, he indicates his desire to maintain in full the independence and the inherent character of the new institution.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Europe - Historical archives of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. European Coal and Steel Community (General File), 2428, Vol. 2 1950 (Août-novembre 1952).

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_jean_monnet_to_jacques_camille_paris_paris_1_august_1952-en-0d4ebf04-07ee-4cb7-a85d-5b9c2711a30a.html

Last updated: 14/05/2014

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REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Présidence du Conseil

Commissariat Général du Plan de
Modernisation et d'Équipement.

Le Commissaire Général :

COPY

Paris, 1st August 1952,
18 rue de Martignac.

My dear Monsieur Paris,

Thank you once more for your recent visit when we spoke of the material facilities which the Council of Europe is able to provide for the First Session of the Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community.

After consulting a number of my colleagues, I hasten, since time is short, to inform you of our conclusions.

The organising of this First Session implies a dual responsibility of the President of the High Authority towards the Assembly he must convene in accordance with the terms of the Convention containing the transitional provisions.

This First Session must, on the one hand, be so organised as to facilitate in the highest degree the work of the new Assembly. In view of the brief time at our disposal and the fact that the Session is to be held at Strasbourg, I hope, as you were good enough to propose, that I may be in a position to call as much as possible on the facilities already made available for the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe.

On the other hand, due respect must be paid to the independence and individual character of this new Assembly, which will be one of the three supranational institutions of the Community. It is, indeed, the very first European Assembly to go beyond national encompassments and to have sovereign powers. It is my duty full to preserve its autonomy whether in respect of the High Authority or any other body. I must therefore ensure that the organisation of this First Session of the Community Assembly is both provisional in character and distinct from that of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, the role and nature of which are, as you are aware, wholly different.

I have therefor asked M. BLAMONT, Secretary-General of the National Assembly and President of the Special Section of Parliamentary Secretaries-General of the Inter-parliamentary Union, to gather round him the Secretaries-General of the six Parliaments in a Preparatory Committee whose task it will be :

- 1.) to organise the provisional secretariat of the Assembly,
- 2.) to establish draft provisional Rules of Procedure that shall be valid until such time as the Assembly adopt its own Rules.

I have asked M. BLAMONT to get into direct touch with yourself in order to make the appropriate practical and financial arrangements for the First Session of the Assembly.

I should be glad if you would kindly appoint a member of your staff to assist the Committee, which will meet for the first time at 10 a.m. on Monday, 11th August, at Paris in the offices of M. Blamont.

The linguistic arrangements of the Community, furthermore, set a somewhat delicate problem and I should be grateful if you would authorise M. Kaminker, Head of the linguistic department of the Council of Europe, to give the benefit of his assistance to the Committee.

I know from the outset that you will be ungrudging of the essential help you are to provide.

I shall be most happy to see you again in the near future, either at Luxembourg or, should this not be possible, later at Strasbourg.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Jean Monnet

Monsieur PARIS
Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.