

Memorandum of the Joint International Committee on a European Assembly (1948)

Caption: On 18 July 1948, the International Committee of the Movements for European Unity finalises a resolution to be submitted to the parliaments of the Member States of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) with a view to the rapid establishment of a European Assembly which would, itself, be responsible for preparations for a European union or federation.

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Memorandum of the Joint International Committee on a European Assembly

1. The Congress of Europe held at The Hague in May 1948 unanimously adopted a Resolution which called for the convening, as a matter of real urgency of a European Assembly chosen by the Parliaments of the participating nations, from among their members or others, in order:

- a. to stimulate and give expression to European public opinion;
- b. to advise upon immediate practical measures designed progressively to bring about the necessary economic and political union of Europe;
- c. to examine the juridical and constitutional implications arising out of the creation of such a Union or Federation and their economic and social consequences;
- d. to prepare the necessary plans for the above purposes.

2. Membership of the European Assembly, at any rate at its first Session, should be limited to representatives of nations who are participating in the European Recovery Programme (including Western Germany).

3. The Parliament of each participating country will be invited to pass a Resolution asking for the convening of the above mentioned European Assembly.

4. It is considered that the Assembly should meet not later than the beginning of 1949.

5. Agreement will have to be reached between the participating nations upon the following points:

- a. definition of the precise terms of reference of the Assembly;
- b. procedure to be adopted in selecting the members of the Assembly;
- c. organisational and administrative arrangements;
- d. budget of the expenditure envisaged and an equitable assessment of the share of the expenses to be contributed by each participating nation.

EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

Draft Resolution to be submitted to each Parliament

1. THAT WHEREAS

- a. it is the urgent duty of the nations of Europe to create an economic and political union in order to assure security, prosperity and social progress;
- b. the time has come when the European nations must merge and exercise in common some portion of their sovereign rights so as to secure joint political and economic action for the integration and proper development of their common resources;
- c. the integration of Germany in a united or federated Europe alone provides a solution to both the economic and political aspects of the German problem;
- d. such union or federation of Europe should be designed to protect the security of its constituent peoples, should be free from outside control, and should not be directed against any other nation;

- e. such union or federation should be open to all European nations democratically governed, which respect the fundamental rights of their citizens;
- f. the creation of a United Europe represents a decisive step towards the creation of a united world.

2. THIS PARLIAMENT IS OF OPINION THAT:

A European Assembly should be convened as soon as possible; And that this should be composed of representatives of the nations participating in the European Recovery Programme, such representatives being chosen by the Parliaments of the participating nations from among their members or others;

3. AND THAT

The function of the said European Assembly should be:

- a. to formulate plans designed progressively to bring about the economic and political union or federation of Europe;
- b. to examine the juridical and constitutional implications of such a union or federation and its economic and social consequences;
- c. to make recommendations for action to the governments and parliaments of the participating nations and to appropriate European intergovernmental bodies.