

of the European Union

The most important feature that distinguishes the EC from other organizations established at the supranational level is the "supranational structure" of the Community and, as a consequence, the partial transfer of sovereign powers to the Community by the member states. ■ CEM MURAT SOFUGLU

European countries, which had been fighting each other and waging bloody wars against each other for centuries, began to search for ways to prevent war in Europe once again after the emergence of nation-states and after experiencing two major wars, one at the beginning of the 20th century between 1914 and 1918, and the other in the middle between 1939 and 1945.

The first sign of this quest was given by British Prime Minister W. Churchill, who made his famous speech in Zurich in 1946 about the need to establish "a united and democratic United States of Europe".

Meanwhile, while World War II was still going on, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, which were still under occupation, decided to unite their economic powers in 1944 and

The economic union began operating on 1 January 1948 under the name Benelux.

After the war, there was one European country that relegated the fight against Communism, which was spreading particularly in Eastern Europe and was also in a strong position in other European countries newly liberated from Nazi occupation, to a secondary level: France.

France had fought three wars with Germany in 75 years: once between 1870 and 1871, again between 1914 and 1918, and finally between 1939 and 1945. Each time, its territory was occupied. For these reasons, the French had a "German problem" more

than Communism, and they did not want to experience the same thing again.

French statesman Jean Monnet's proposal for a solution to the Saar Basin issue between West Germany and France was also adopted by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, who was originally from Alsace-Lorraine, the region at the forefront of disputes between Germany and France.

The idea was to place the West German and French coal and steel industries, which were considered among the basic elements of the war industry at the time, under the command of a single High Authority that would oversee their future development.

On May 8, 1950, R. Schuman announced his plan, which would go down in history with his name. According to this, "the common future of the European nations lies in the solution of the Franco-German conflict, the roots of which go back to ancient times. Therefore, the first steps to be taken in this regard will primarily concern both countries. To this end, the French government proposes the unification of the Franco-West German coal and steel production under a common High Authority. This solidarity established in the coal and steel production of the two countries will not only make a war between France and Germany unthinkable but also

"Not only that, but it will also show that it is impossible from matter."

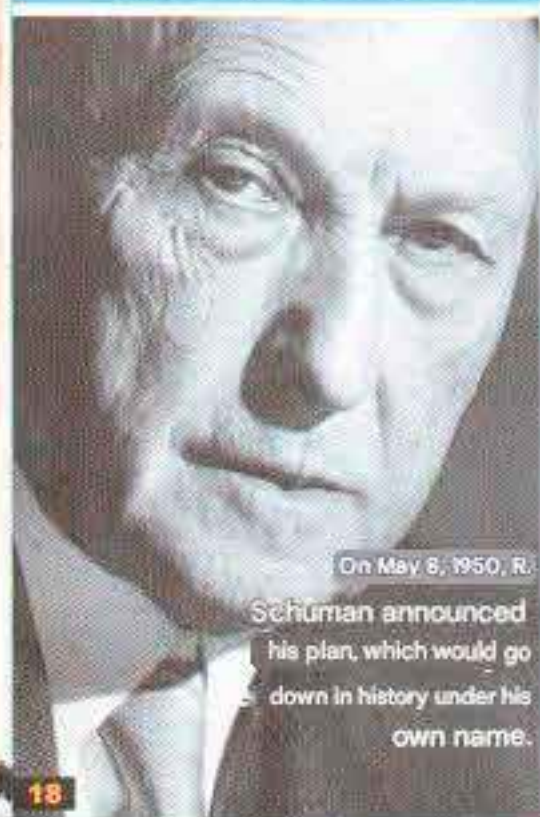
The plan was approved by Konrad Adenauer, then Chancellor of West Germany. All European countries were invited to implement the plan. Italy and the Benelux countries, which had suffered greatly from World War II, immediately responded positively to this invitation, and the agreement establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was signed in Paris on April 18, 1951. Jean Monnet, the union's originator, was appointed president.

After the failure of the Six's plan to establish a European Defence Community, which would be the armed force of the Six, due to France's reluctance in this matter, the Six convened in Messina, Sicily, in June 1955, and appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak to conduct an investigation into the feasibility of establishing a common market.

This committee prepared a report covering the principles of the Treaty of Rome, and based on this report, the Treaty on the European Economic Community (EEC) was signed in Rome by six countries on March 25, 1957. On the same day, the treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) was also signed by the six. Both treaties entered into force on January 1, 1958.

All three communities—the EC, the EEC, and EU-RATOM—were unified on 1 July 1967 and from that date onward they became known as the European Community (EC). Following the Maastricht Treaty, they were renamed the new European Union (EU), as it is known today.

Well, the first six other nation-states were founding members and they did not want war to break out in Europe again in the future.



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