



Europe Day



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



INTRODUCTION



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- Nowadays Europe is facing severe problems which threaten prosperity, solidarity and peace, all of them accomplished after struggles and sacrifices. The **war in Ukraine**, the **economical** and **environmental crisis** are just some of the few alarming issues our continent needs to face. However, in order to eliminate our current concerns once and for all, we should turn to **unity**. The European Union is therefore, for one more time, asked to accomplish this goal.

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- As a Union which promotes peace and welfare, it has been contributing to offering a solution to some of the most troubling problems worldwide since 1951, when the European Coal and Steel Community was founded. This idea of the Union dates back only to 1950, when the **Schuman Declaration** was proposed. On the **9th of May**, this Plan is celebrated as **Europe Day** and aims to remind the European citizens of the Union's goals. As its motto mentions, the Europeans should be "In Varietate Concordia" (United in Diversity).

The Schuman Declaration

- **The Schuman Declaration**, proposed on 9th May 1950 by the French Foreign Minister **Robert Schuman**, suggested the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the members of which would together handle the production of these two minerals. The ECSC turned out to be the first out of a series of supranational European institutions that eventually evolved into today's “**European Union**”.

The Schuman Declaration

9th May 1950: The creation of the *European Coal and Steel Community*.



The Schuman Declaration

- Given that the two World Wars had just ended, the European countries had not recovered yet from their consequences. Determined to prevent a recurrence of such a terrific war, European governments concluded that joined management of coal and steel production would make a future war between France and Germany- as the Declaration literally states- “not only unthinkable but materially impossible”. The reasoning prevailed, and rightly so, that the amalgamation of economic interests would help raise standards and be the very first step towards the **unification of Europe**. Accession to the ECSC was also opened to other countries.

The Schuman Declaration

In **1951**, following the Schuman Declaration, the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community was signed on the **18th of April, in Paris.**

After ratification by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (the Inner Six), the treaty entered into force on the **23rd of July 1952.**



Robert Schuman-The Father of Europe

- While the immediate objective of this first treaty was to establish a common market for coal and steel, it also aimed to lay the foundations of an **economic community** that would gradually become a **political union**.
- The treaty established a High Authority, a Common Assembly, a Special Council of Ministers and a Court of Justice, which were to become the institutions of the European Union of today: the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the Court of Justice.

Robert Schuman

The “father” of
Europe: 1886-1963



Robert Schuman-The Man with the Plan

- The man behind the Declaration, Robert Schuman was German but became a French citizen in 1919. When the World War II struck, he was only a junior Minister in the French government. Taking part in the **French Resistance**, he was taken prisoner and **barely managed to escape from being sent to a concentration camp**. After the war, he became Minister of Finance, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Justice.

Robert Schuman-The Man with the Plan



Robert Schuman-The Man with the Plan

- As a French Foreign Minister he oversaw the preparation of the declaration within his Ministry, which was materially drafted by Paul Reuter, Bernard Clappier, Jean Monnet, Pierre Uri and Etienne Hirsh.
- Robert Schuman's efforts to create a united Europe did not stop with the European Coal and Steel Community. In **1958**, he became the very first President of the predecessor to the current European Parliament. When he left office, the Parliament granted him the title of “**Father of Europe**”.

European Parliament Today



European Parliament Today

- Today, the European Parliament resides in **Strasbourg, France**. It is vital that we, the younger generation, keep the vision of Robert Schuman alive. Thus, we need to unite and celebrate our differences, we need to love and care for each other, despite of our backgrounds, religion, color, sex and sexuality. This is what Europe Day represents.

European Parliament Today



EUROPE DAY

- To conclude, **Europe Day, held on 9 May every year**, celebrates **peace and unity** in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historic 'Schuman declaration' that set out the idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Thank you!

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