

Information and Communication

The Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU) preserve extensive sources documenting how European institutions and pro-European actors have sought to inform the public about European integration, its policies and its activities since the early 1950s. These records allow researchers to trace the long-term development of information, press and communication strategies directed at European citizens, opinion leaders and international audiences. While the European Commission played the central and most continuous role in shaping and implementing information policy, other EU institutions, especially the European Parliament, and a wide range of pro-European organisations outside the institutional framework also contributed significantly to these efforts.

The origins of European public information activities lie in the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which established an Information Service in the early 1950s to explain the objectives and functioning of the first supranational authority. From the outset, information was understood not merely as a technical or administrative task, but as a political necessity: informing citizens was seen as essential to legitimising supranational governance and building public support for European integration. Early activities relied heavily on printed publications, press relations, exhibitions and films and were complemented by the creation of information offices in member states and selected third countries.

With the creation of the European Economic Community (EEC) and Euratom in 1958, information activities expanded and were gradually coordinated through a Joint Press and Information Service serving all three Communities. During the 1960s, this service developed a more structured approach, increasingly supported by the European Parliament and explicitly aimed at fostering a sense of European civic consciousness. Particular attention was paid to opinion leaders (journalists, academics, trade unionists, educators and professionals) who were seen as key intermediaries in shaping national debates on Europe.

The merger of the Community executives in 1967 marked a major turning point with the creation of a dedicated Directorate-General for Information (DG X) within the Commission. From this point onward, information policy became a permanent and expanding administrative field. In the context of enlargement and growing public scepticism during the 1970s, the Commission intensified its efforts to understand public opinion, notably through the launch of the Eurobarometer in 1974 and to adapt its messages to increasingly diverse linguistic, social and cultural audiences. Decentralisation through national information offices became a core strategy, even if financial constraints limited its full implementation.

From the mid-1970s onwards, information activities were increasingly framed within the broader ambition of building a “Europe of the citizens.” Communication campaigns accompanied the first direct elections to the European Parliament in 1979 and made growing use of visual, audiovisual and promotional media. A significant shift occurred in the late 1980s, when information, communication, culture and the audiovisual sector were brought together within the same administrative framework. This reflected the growing recognition that culture and media could act as powerful vectors of European identity and cohesion. Initiatives such as support for European cinema, audiovisual programmes and later the MEDIA programme illustrate this evolution. The Maastricht Treaty (1992) reinforced these developments by granting the European Union explicit cultural competences and by placing communication at the centre of debates on democratic legitimacy and the so-called democratic deficit.

Beyond the EU institutions themselves, the HAEU also hold rich documentation from pro-European movements, political groups, youth organisations and civil-society networks, including the European Movement, the Young European Federalists and parliamentary political groups, that actively shaped public debates on Europe through campaigns, publications, educational initiatives and cultural action. Together, these sources document a long-term transformation: from early press and information services focused on explanation and legitimacy, to a multifaceted communication landscape combining policy information, audiovisual media, cultural action and identity-building strategies.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than those listed in the description.

Please bear in mind that archival sources are subject to the 30-year accessibility rules. Some files may therefore currently be listed as closed but will progressively become available as they reach the required period of accessibility (check the "Closed until" field in description).

What can I find at the HAEU?

The [HAEU's holdings](#) are organised in the following categories: EU institutions, corporate bodies, collections and individuals (private papers). Moreover, the HAEU has an extensive body of interviews that you can find in our Oral History repository, as well as a large audiovisual collection.

Relating specifically to the EU's institutions' information and communication policies, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions, bodies and agencies*

Council of Ministers

The Council's fonds includes several files relating to its information activities, including documentation of its [Information Group](#), including its internal working, its relations with the expert group on fairs and exhibitions and cooperation with country-specific information advisers.

It is advisable to look up 'press*' 'information' or 'communication' or similar search terms in the HAEU database and filter the results to limit the findings to the Council's fonds (the same advice applies to all other bodies below).

Note: the link to 'Council of Ministers' above leads you to [CM2](#) (Council of the European Communities: EEC and Euratom and from 1967 also ECSC); see also [CM1](#) (Special Council of the ECSC from 1958 until 1967).

European Commission

For the European Coal and Steel Community, documents related to information are found in

the working groups "[Presse et information](#)" and "[Relations extérieures et information](#)". You can also find some documents related to press and information under the ECSC's legal service, for instance, [this one](#) on the opening of a Press and Information Office in Berlin.

For the period 1960-1967, you will find the documents related to the ECSC, Euratom and the European Economic Community (EEC) in the files dedicated to the common Information Service: [Service de presse et d'information commun](#). These files document the press and information activities of the European Communities, including media coverage of Community action and enlargement debates, political speeches, the work of the press and information services (such as the Washington office) and the Community's participation in major international and universal exhibitions (Turin 1961, Seattle 1962, Montreal 1967).

For the period starting in 1967, look at the files in [Presse, information, communication et porte-parole](#). These files cover the Communities' Single Commission's press and communication activities, including the Spokeservice work on enlargement political speeches, the work of the Director General of DG X, the overseas press offices in Washington and the Communities' participation in major international and universal exhibitions (Osaka 1970, Okinawa 1975, Seville 1992).

In addition, you might want to look into the sections concerning the [Secretariat-General](#) and the cabinets. For instance, the two Delors Cabinets, which include files on the [information and communication](#) policies but also on [Audiovisual, Information, Communication, Culture](#) and on [Télécommunications, industries de l'information et innovation](#) or Roy Harris Jenkins, which includes [files](#) on press, information, communication and spokesperson service, and also Francois-Xavier Ortolí which contains files on [Personnel et administration et information](#).

Note: the links 'European Commission' and 'Secretariat-General' only lead to documents dating from 1967 and later. Visit the holdings page of the HAEU website to see the links to earlier documents, before the establishment of the Single Commission.

[European Parliament](#)

In the records of the Common Assembly, the European Parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament before the introduction of direct elections in 1979, researchers will find early debates highlighting the need to inform the public, notably as early as [1957](#). These holdings also include parliamentary questions on [information policy](#), as well as more thematically focused files addressing information activities in specific policy areas, such as [agriculture](#) and targeting particular audiences, including [young people](#).

For the first legislature of the directly elected European Parliament, sources on information activities can be found within the Secretariat under the cabinet of Simone Veil. These include files on [Information et relations publiques](#), covering information policy and press offices, the audiovisual service and visits to the Parliament. Additional material is held in the parliamentary committees, notably the Commission de la jeunesse, de la culture, de l'éducation, de l'information et des sports and its [Sous-comité de l'information](#).

With regard to the second legislature of the European Parliament, relevant material can be found in the Secretariat under [Information et relations publiques](#), in particular within files relating to information policy and press offices, the audiovisual service, visitors and

preparations for the European elections. Additional material is held in the parliamentary committees, notably the Commission de la jeunesse, de la culture, de l'éducation, de l'information et des sports and its [Sous-comité de l'information](#).

With regard to the third legislature of the European Parliament, relevant material can be found in the Secretariat under [Information et relations publiques](#), in particular within files relating to information policy, press offices and visitors.

With regards to the fourth and fifth legislature, you can find parliamentary questions that discuss information and communication policies (for example, on the information campaign on the introduction of the euro in [1998](#) during PE4, or a general discussion of information and communication strategy in [1999](#) in PE5).

Note: the link 'European Parliament' in the title only leads to documents from the first legislature. Visit the holdings page of the HAEU website to see the links to documents from the other legislatures, as well as documents from before the direct elections.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

The sub-fonds [Documents d'information](#) contains internal documents dating from 1977 to 1994 intended to inform members of the College and Court staff on a range of matters, including the transmission of Court reports to other Community institutions, the publication of the Court's opinions, communications and correspondence from other institutions, the organisation of Court services and official events, among other topics. You may also wish to consult the working documents of the College, as some relate to external communication, for example, [files](#) on the presentation of press releases and information notes.

[European Investment Bank](#)

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the financing institution of the European Community / European Union, providing loans and financial instruments in support of Community and Union policy objectives and long-term development projects. The HAEU sources include the [EIB's press releases](#), which are organised chronologically by year (1958–2003) and cover institutional activities, capital market operations and the signature of loan agreements. In addition, you will find 157 issues (1975-2015) of the periodical [BEI-Information](#), published by the Bank's Information and Communication Department. Note that you can also find the discussions of the EIB's information policy in the [sources](#) of the European Parliament.

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

The Economic and Social Committee is an advisory body representing employers' and workers' organisations and other interest groups. At the HAEU, its inventory is organised by year (1958-1982). If you go through the inventory by year, you will find documents related to information activities, for example, for 1978: [Information notes](#) on the work of the Economic and Social Committee; [press releases](#); [information bulletins](#).

[Court of Justice of the European Union](#)

The Court of Justice, established with the European Communities in the early 1950s, has ensured the uniform interpretation and application of EU law and reviews the legality of acts

adopted by the European institutions. For information on its information activities, see the sub-fonds [Service Presse Information](#), which includes sources documenting the establishment of the Court as well as the activities of its Press and Information Service, including overviews of the Court's work, yearbooks, press relations, information meetings with journalists, visits to the Court and audiovisual material (photographs and films). Also consult the sources of its [Direction de l'Information](#), which document the activities and internal functioning of the Information Directorate, notably the Press and Information Service of the Court. They include records on service operations, internal chronological files, incoming and outgoing correspondence with the Registry (Greffé) and the President. You may also want to consult these multilinguals [information publications](#) on the Court.

European Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions is an advisory body which represents the interests of regional and local authorities in the European Union and addresses opinions on their behalf to the Council and the Commission and to the European Parliament. Various Opinions on Information could be of your interest such as this [one](#) or also [the following](#) or soon available this [one](#). You will find a series [of press releases from 1995](#) and [1996](#).

2) Corporate bodies

European People's Party (Political Group of the European Parliament)

The fonds of EPP Group includes a section for the Standing Working Group on Culture and Education, comprising the minutes of the committee's meetings and plenary notes for 1999 to 2004. The consultation of the inventory is exclusively possible from the HAEU reading room, using English-language keywords.

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe at the European Parliament (ALDE)

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe is a European political family that brings together liberal and centrist parties from across Europe. You can find information related to the work of its predecessor, the Groupe du Parti européen des libéraux, démocrates et réformateurs (ELDR) You will find a series of its [press releases](#) and its [publications](#), which comprise notes and correspondence concerning the press service's publications, including documentation, journals, brochures, leaflets and information bulletins produced by the Group. You can also consult the [photographs](#) by the Group. Finally, you can consult sources related to their [activities](#) in the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport (CULT), which includes discussions on information and media policy.

Groupe parlementaire du Parti des socialistes européens

The Group of the Party of European Socialists, founded in 1953 by socialist members of the ECSC Common Assembly, was the first parliamentary group in Europe organised along political rather than national lines. Over time, it evolved into today's Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), playing a central role in parliamentary coordination, committee work and the development of transnational party cooperation within the European Parliament. The HAEU holds files on the group's activities [Communication and information](#), which includes documents on electoral and information campaigns, publications and

brochures, as well as conferences and policy positions of the Group.

[Mouvement européen](#)

The European Movement is a federalist pro-European network of organisations and individuals, founded in 1948, which promotes European integration, democracy, human rights and cooperation through advocacy, public debate and transnational civil-society initiatives. At the HAEU, you can find [published documentation](#) on the ME, including printed publications, press cuttings and photographs. Also see documentation on the [European Youth Campaign](#) (CEJ), launched in 1950 on the initiative of the European Movement, aimed to inform and mobilise young people in favour of European integration, notably during the relaunch of the Communities and the Treaties of Rome.

[Young European Federalists](#)

Founded in 1947 within the broader European Federalist Movement, the Young European Federalists (JEF) emerged in 1948 as its youth section and was reconstituted at the Luxembourg Congress (1972) following campaigns for the direct election of the European Parliament.

JEF is a transnational, non-partisan political movement advocating European federalism and international democracy, pursuing its aims through education, publications, campaigns and public debate rather than participation in party politics. At the HAEU, you can find information on their [information](#) efforts, which include bulletins and federalist press as well as photographs and electronic documents.

[Femmes d'Europe](#)

The FDE fonds contains documentation collected by the European Commission's service 'Information femmes' (c. 1977–1992) for its publications *Femmes d'Europe*, *Suppléments* and *Cahiers*. It includes press clippings, journals and studies. The fonds also comprises material provided by women's associations concerning their activities, as well as records relating to the creation and internal activities of the service itself. You will also find all editions of the [Bulletin "Femmes d'Europe"](#) from 1976-1992.

3) Collections

[Agence Europe](#)

This collection includes the issues of the *Europe Bulletin quotidien / Europe Daily Bulletin* 1953–1999). These are Agence Europe's daily newsletters (documenting all aspects of European integration, with detailed reporting on European politics and policies. Published initially in French and later also in English, it consists of about 20 pages per issue, organised by topic. The collection includes numerous thematic supplements (e.g. economics, defence, elections, institutional documents) and comprehensive annual indexes (Eurosint).

[Advertising Europe Film Collection](#)

This collection comprises around 245 films produced between the late 1940s and early 1970s to promote or reflect ideas of European unity and integration. Collected within the *Europafilme*

research project (2009–2012) led by Gabriele Clemens at the University of Hamburg, the films were deposited at the Historical Archives of the European Union in 2018. The corpus includes short documentaries, animations and fiction films commissioned by European institutions, transnational organisations, governments and private actors. The films were widely used in cinemas, schools and educational settings to communicate the idea of Europe and foster a sense of **European identity**. Consultation is generally limited to the HAEU due to copyright restrictions.

Nicola Di Gioia's collection

One collection of particular relevance to information and communication activities of the Commission and the other institutions is the Nicola di Gioia Collection, which comprises 1,045 posters on paper produced by EU institutions between 1957 and 2003. The collection is organised thematically, covering Communication and Information Policy; Cultural and Identity Policy; Economic Policy; Education, Training, Youth and Sport; Enlargement, Cooperation and External Relations; Environmental Issues; Fundamental and Social Rights; and Research and Technology.

4) Individuals

The private archives of a wide range of individuals, including founders of the European Communities, EU officials and members of pro-European movements, as well as researchers, are preserved and made accessible at the HAEU. Many of these actors were also deeply engaged with cultural issues alongside their political and institutional work.

Fausta Deshormes La Valle

Fausta Deshormes La Valle was a journalist by training who joined the European Commission in 1961, where she worked in the press and information services (DG Information / DG X), initially on university information, youth and education, promoting teaching and research on European integration. From 1977, she became responsible for press and information for women's organisations, leading the Information femmes service and supporting women's emancipation through media, policy and audiovisual initiatives. Her private fonds contains correspondence, notes, photographs and audiovisual materials documenting these activities and complements the fonds [Femmes d'Europe](#), which should be consulted alongside it.

Max Kohnstamm

Max Kohnstamm was a Dutch diplomat who was a central figure of early European integration, closely associated with Jean Monnet and the ECSC High Authority. As the first Director of the Press and Information Service, playing a key role in shaping early European communication and information policy. The HAEU holds his as well as his [personal diaries](#) (1953–1967).

Émile Noël

Émile Noël was the Secretary-General of the Commission between 1967 and 1987. His private fonds includes documents related to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as Secretary-General. You can find numerous dossiers on the DGX (the Commission's

Directorate General with a competence in communication) (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). You can also find documents related to the European Commission's [information offices](#) in non-member countries.

5) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews with European politicians and officials, including important figures active in the development and execution of an information and communication policy at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed these topics. Note that in the advanced search option, you can limit your search results to interviews.

[Collective interview with Ivo Dubois and Guido Vanhaeverbeke](#)

[Robert Cox](#)

[Jacques Delors](#)

[Renaud Denuit](#)

Fausta Deshormes Lavalley – Interviews in [2004](#) and [2011](#).

[Lucien Emringer](#)

[Willy Hélin](#)

[Gerardo Mombelli](#)

[Robert Pendville](#)

[Marco Piccarolo](#)

Jacques-René Rabier – Interviews in [1988](#), [1998](#), [2004](#) and [2010](#).

[Niels Jørgen Thøgersen](#)

6) *Audiovisual Sources*

For information and communication purposes, the European institutions did not rely solely on written texts but made extensive use of audiovisual media—such as photography, film, sound recordings and graphic design—to reach broader audiences, convey complex messages more effectively and engage citizens across linguistic and cultural boundaries. You will find these sources in the HAEU's audio-visual collection, which comprises over 70,000 photographs, as well as posters, audio recordings and videos. A dedicated [multimedia portal](#) facilitates users' consultation of these holdings and specific research guides are available.