

The Schuman Plan and the ECSC

What do I need to know before I start?

On May 9, 1950, the French foreign minister Robert Schuman proposed the creation of a single authority to control the French and Western German coal and steel production, open to the participation of other Western European countries, not only to foster economic recovery but also to prevent future wars between France and Germany. This so-called Schuman Plan was supported by the West German Chancellor Adenauer, but also by the Dutch, Belgian, Italian and Luxembourgish governments. The six countries signed the Treaty of Paris in 1951, allowing for the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The ECSC was composed of four institutions; a High Authority, a Common Assembly, a Special Council and a Court of Justice. As the predecessor of the European Commission, the ECSC High Authority was the executive body governing the Community, composed of nine members, eight of which were appointed by the six national governments while the ninth was appointed by the eight others to serve as President of the High Authority. Later to become the European Parliament, the ECSC Common Assembly was composed of 78 representatives sent by their respective national parliaments each year in charge of supervising the work of the High Authority. Representatives of national governments composed the ECSC Special Council of Ministers, whose presidency rotated every three months between ECSC member countries and which was responsible for harmonizing the work of national governments and that of the ECSC High Authority. Seven judges commonly appointed for six years by national governments formed the ECSC Court of Justice, established to guarantee the respect of ECSC law and to interpret and apply the Treaty. To represent the interests of civil society, a Consultative Committee, similar to the future Economic and Social Committee, was set up alongside the High Authority as fifth institution of the ECSC. With the 1967 Merger Treaty, all ECSC institutions except the Consultative Committee were merged into the European Economic Community although the ECSC remained an independent legal entity. With the expiry of the Treaty of Paris in 2002, the activities of the ECSC were taken over by the European Commission and the ECSC ceased to exist. It is however necessary to look at the Schuman Plan and the development of the ECSC to understand the integration process that unfolded in Western Europe after the Second World War. Indeed, the Schuman Declaration of May 9, 1950, was declared 'Europe Day' in 1985 by the Community's institutions, as it laid the ground work for the deepening of European economic integration as well as for the establishment of further Community's institutions with the advent of the 1957 Treaty of Rome.

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.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Relating specifically to the Schuman Plan and to the establishment of the ECSC, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[ECSC High Authority](#) and [Commission](#)

Created in 1951 and merged in 1967 into the European Commission (Merger Treaty), the High Authority was the executive body of the ECSC governing the Community. The inventory of the ECSC High Authority's fonds available at the HAEU includes a separate section for each division of the High Authority, namely for its [Legal Service \(bis\)](#), its [General Secretariat](#), as well as for its division for [External Relations](#), for [Transports \(bis\)](#), for [coal-related economic affairs](#), for [steel-related economic affairs](#), for [Economic Affairs and Energy](#), for [Employment and Social Affairs](#), for [Administration and Finances](#), for [ECSC working groups](#), and a section for the [Four Presidents' Commission](#) and for the [ECSC Consultative Committee](#). The fonds of the European Commission are of less relevance in this context considering that it followed and replaced the ECSC High Authority.

[ECSC Special Council of Ministers](#)

Composed of national representatives, the ECSC Special Council of Ministers was responsible for ensuring the harmonization of the work of the ECSC High Authority with that of national governments. The fonds of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers available at the HAEU includes the proceedings of the Council's meetings as well as various working documents pertaining to the work of the Special Council. Since the fonds is organized by year, you need to browse the fonds for each separate year to access the different files in its inventory.

[Council of Ministers](#)

The EEC and EURATOM Council of Ministers co-existed with the ECSC Special Council of Ministers until the Merger Treaty in 1967. It can thus be useful to consult the fonds of the EEC and EURATOM Council to understand their relations and interactions in further promoting the integration process. Similarly to that of the ECSC Special Council, the fonds of the EEC and EURATOM Council of Ministers is organized by year and you need to browse the fonds of each separate year to access the different sections of its inventory. The fonds includes the proceedings of the Council meetings (example for [1958](#)) and of the COREPER meetings (example for [1958](#)), as well as all documents pertaining to the Council's different activities in the field of Transport, Agriculture, Social Affairs and Economic and Financial Affairs. The fonds also includes a section pertaining to the Council's relations with the other organs and institutions of the Community (example for [1958](#)). The fonds of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities (1968-

1985), also organized by years is of less relevance in this context considering that it was established after that of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers.

[ECSC Common Assembly](#) and [European Parliament](#)

Predecessor of the European Parliament, the ECSC Common Assembly, which had supervisory powers over the ECSC High Authority, held its first session in September 1952 in Strasbourg. The fonds of the ECSC Common Assembly (1952-1957) available at the HAEU comprises all the documents concerning the activities of the Assembly's organs, including its Bureau, its enlarged Bureau, its Presidential Committee and its Reorganization Committee. It also includes all documents pertaining to the Assembly's [parliamentary activities](#), including the [resolution proposals](#), the [proceedings](#) and [reports](#) of the parliamentary commissions, [parliamentary questions](#) as well as the proceedings of the Assembly's [plenary sessions](#). In addition, you may consult the fonds of the [early European Parliament](#) (1958-1979) that succeeded the Common Assembly, with regard to its relations with the still existing ECSC Special Council. The fonds of the European Parliament includes the [reports](#) and proceedings of all [parliamentary commissions](#) and [delegations](#) to third countries, official documents of its different [organs](#), as well as files pertaining to the Presidency of [Gaetano Martino](#) and of [Walter Behrendt](#).

[European Court of Auditors](#)

The fonds of the ECA is of less relevance in this context considering that it was established after the different branches of the ECSC ceased to exist. You might nonetheless find it interesting to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991), [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994). Furthermore, it can be useful to look into the fonds of the [Commission on Budgetary Control](#), set up in 1957 and in charge of financial controls until its replacement by the ECA in 1977.

[European Court of Justice \(ECJ\)](#)

Created in 1951, the ECSC Court of Justice became the Court of Justice common to all three European Communities with the entry into force of the Treaties of Rome in 1958. According to the nature of the ECJ, these fonds include documents dealing with judicial affairs, namely procedure dossiers and sentences, from 1952 to 1982. You might find it interesting to consult some of its dossiers, such as: the [affair 6/54](#) involving the Dutch government and the ECSC High Authority and pertaining to pre-existing agreements, maximum prices and undertakings in a dominant position on the market; the [joint affairs 16-18/59 and 19/59 R](#) involving 'Geitling' (16/59), 'Mausegatt' (17/59), 'Präsident' (18/59) Ruhrkohlen-Verkaufsgesellschaft mbH, 'Geitling', 'Mausegatt', 'Präsident' (19/59 R) versus the ECSC High Authority and aimed at ensuring ECSC High Authority's compliance with the Treaty; and the [joint affairs 24/58 and 34/58](#) involving the 'Chambre Syndicale de la Sidérurgie de l'Est de la France' and the ECSC

High Authority and pertaining to the tariff measures applicable to the rail transport of mineral fuels for the iron and steel industry.

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

The fonds of the Economic and Social Committee includes some files pertaining to the budget and financial state of the ECSC High Authority and of the Court of Justice ([example](#)). Moreover, considering that the Committee co-existed with the ECSC Consultative Committee, the fonds of the Economic and Social Committee includes several files related to the work of the ECSC Consultative Committee ([example](#)). Since the fonds is organized by year, you need to browse the sub-fonds for each separate year to access its various files and it is therefore advisable to search the database directly and filter the results to limit the search to the Committee's fonds.

2) *Corporate Bodies*

[Organisation for European Economic Co-operation \(OEEC\)](#)

It can be useful to consult the fonds of the OEEC to know more about relations between the OEEC and the different branches of the ECSC. The fonds of the OEEC includes some files pertaining to OEEC's [relations with the ECSC High Authority](#) in the context of the Steering Board for Trade, as well as some material pertaining to [OEEC's relations with other international organizations](#) including the ECSC.

3) *Individuals*

[Alcide De Gasperi](#)

Consulting the private fonds of Alcide De Gasperi can provide new insights into the elaboration and implementation of the Schuman Plan and the different actors involved in this process. Specifically, you may look into the file '[Europa](#)' which comprises numerous documents (notes, reports and correspondence) pertaining to the Schuman Plan.

[Walter Much](#)

It is worthwhile to look into the private fonds of Walter Much, member of the German delegation for the Schuman Plan negotiations who participated to the drafting of the ECSC Treaty. Walter Much's sub-fonds includes numerous files related to the elaboration of the [Treaty for the Schuman Plan](#) (from [drafting](#) to [ratification](#)) but also several files pertaining to the work of the [ECSC Court of Justice](#). The [Commission papers](#) pertaining to the work of Walter Much have been transferred to his private fonds.

[Fernand Dehousse](#)

The inventory of the private fonds of Fernand Dehousse includes a section pertaining to the [ECSC](#), from the Belgian perspective, and to the [ECSC Common Assembly](#), which includes relevant files to understand the elaboration of the Schuman Plan and the establishment of the ECSC.

[Pierre Uri](#)

Pierre Uri participated in the drafting of the Schuman Declaration of May 9, 1950. It can therefore be very useful to consult Uri's private fonds, which includes numerous files pertaining to the Schuman Plan, from the [negotiations](#) to the [adoption and consequences of the ECSC Treaty](#).

[Albert Léon Coppé](#)

Coppé's private fonds includes several files pertaining to his work as [Vice-President of the ECSC High Authority](#), including working documents, articles, transcript of speeches and handwritten notes.

[Emile Noël](#)

Noël's private fonds includes [files](#) pertaining to the work of the ECSC and its Common Assembly, as well as to the [revision of the ECSC Treaty](#). In addition, you may look into his notes on the European Council and Commission's meetings, as well as into documents related to the [work of the different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as Secretary-General.

[Paul-Henri Spaak](#)

Spaak was the first president of the ECSC Common Assembly and his private fonds includes several files pertaining to his involvement in the [ECSC](#).

4) Collections

[Jean Monnet Duchêne Sources](#) and [Jean Monnet American Sources](#)

You may also consult the collection 'Jean Monnet Duchêne Sources', which includes numerous files pertaining to the [Schuman Plan](#), its [origins](#), its [content](#), as well as the [negotiations](#) leading to the [establishment of the ECSC \(more\)](#). The '[Jean Monnet American Sources](#)' collection includes [material](#) relating to the development of the [ECSC](#) and to John Foster Dulles' approval of "Europeanising" German coal and steel production, as well as files about the [Schuman Plan and the ECSC](#) as part of the [Clarence Randall Papers](#) and material pertaining to official [American reaction](#) to the announcement of the Schuman Plan.

[French Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

It can be useful to look into the collection 'Ministère des Affaires étrangères français', which includes several [files](#) relating to the Schuman Plan, including correspondence, reports and treaty project drafts in view of establishing the ECSC.

[Auswärtiges Amt, Politisches Archiv](#)

You may also consult the collection pertaining to the German Foreign Ministry's [Secretariat for the Schuman Plan](#), which includes an important amount of files related to the positions of the different countries involved and to the [negotiations](#) leading to the launch of the Schuman Plan and to the establishment of the [ECSC](#).

[Johannes Westhoff](#)

The collection 'Johannes Westhoff' contains files ([treaty project](#) and [draft treaty articles](#)) pertaining to the proposed creation of a European Political Community in 1952 alongside the ECSC and the proposed European Defence Community (EDC). It is relevant to look into these files to study the ECSC, especially considering that it was the ECSC Assembly that drew up a draft EPC Treaty.

5) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the elaboration and implementation of the Schuman Plan and in the work of the organs of the ECSC. Below, you can find a (non-exhaustive) list of persons interviewed who discussed the Schuman Plan and addressed the work of the ECSC.

[Bernard Clappier](#)

[Hans-Günther Sohl](#)

[Pierre Uri](#)

[Paolo Emilio Taviani](#)

[François Fontaine](#)

[Albert Coppé](#)

[Derek Ezra](#)

[Eric Roll](#)

[Hervé Alphand](#)

[Jean Guyot](#)

[François Valéry](#)

[Etienne Hirsch](#)

[Dirk Pieter Spiereburg](#)

[Edmund Dell](#)

[Ulrich Sahn](#)

[Jacques Van Helmont](#)

[Edmund Wellenstein](#)

[Dino Del Bo](#)

[Michel Bonnemaïson](#)

[Wolfgang Ernst](#)

[Christian Calmes](#)

[Emile Noël](#)

[Hans-Joachim Opitz](#)

[Winrich Behr](#)