



9th May – Europe Day

Today marks the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. On May 9, 1960 French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presented his proposal to unite European coal and steel industries in an effort to restore and maintain peace after the atrocities of the Second World War. Since 1985, Europe Day is commemorated annually on May 9.

Schuman himself is considered to be one of the founding fathers of the EU together with other statesmen such as Konrad Adenauer (Germany), Winston Churchill (United Kingdom), Alcide de Gasperi (Italy), Walter Halstein (Germany), Jean Monnet (France), Paul Henri Spaak (Belgium) and Altiero Spinelli (Italy).

The six founding nations were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Eventually, another 21 European states joined with others lining up to become members in the future. Malta became a

member of the EU on May 1, 2004.

- The EU today is a unique organisation with 27 Member States pooling their sovereignty in key policy areas that transcend normal national boundaries such as trade and environmental issues.
- The EU has succeeded in creating a fair and caring society in Europe, committed to promoting economic prosperity and creating jobs by making companies more competitive and giving workers new skills.
- With other countries, the EU works to spread prosperity, democratic progress, the rule of law and human rights beyond its frontiers.
- The EU is the world's biggest trading power and a major donor of financial and technical assistance to poorer countries.



**Malta-EU Steering
& Action Committee**

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