



## THEME 3: Transformation processes

### Materials

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#### Transnational Change

#### The European Union, a community for peace

##### T 302/1 The „European Coal and Steel Community “ (Montan union) as a foundation stone of the European Union

On 9<sup>th</sup>. May, 1950 the French foreign minister Robert Schuman read out a government declaration, in which he announced the plan for the pooling of German and French coal and steel production, together with the invitation to other states to join the pool:

Schuman said amongst other things: *"The unification of European nations demands that the centuries-old antagonism between France and Germany should come to an end. The action to be taken must first of all apply to France and Germany. With this intention the French government is proposing to direct action immediately towards a limited but decisive point. The French government proposes to place the whole of the French-German coal and steel production under one common supreme authority within one organization, which will be open to cooperation with other states. The merging together of coal and steel production will immediately secure the establishment of common bases for economic development as the first stage of a European federation and will change the destiny of these regions, which for so long were dedicated to the manufacture of war materials, whose most constant victims they themselves became. The solidarity in production that will be created in this way will demonstrate that any war between France and Germany will not only be unthinkable but also materially impossible. The creation of this powerful union of production, which will be open to all countries wishing to participate in it, and which has the aim of providing all countries united within it with the basic elements of production under the same conditions, will lay the true foundation stones for economic union. This production will be offered to the whole of the world without discrimination or exception, in order to contribute towards raising the standard of living and to progress in labour and peace. With its increased means Europe will be able to set about realizing one of its most essential tasks, namely the development of the African continent. In this way it is possible to realize simply and quickly the fusion of interests, which is indispensable to the creation of an economic union, and to sow the seeds of a much greater and deeper unity between states that have for a long time faced each other in bloody conflict. Through the merging of basic production and the establishment of a new supreme authority whose decisions will be binding upon France, Germany and participating countries, this proposal will realize the first concrete phases of a European federation, which is indispensable for the maintenance of peace.."* (SIEGLER, 1961, p. 41)

##### T 302/2 The lessons of European history

Extract from a speech by the Polish foreign minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski:

*"Many states and nations of Europe (although - unfortunately - not yet all) have understood the importance of drawing lessons from history, above all from the experience that no idea of hatred or imperialistic arrogance pays off. Preaching or secretly practising principles of racism, xenophobia, hatred on religious or class grounds or hatred at all of any kind of groups for other people leads to a dead end." And finally: "We all belong to a cultural circle whose ethical concepts essentially bear the stamp of Christianity or other monotheistic religions. We respect democracy and human rights. Chauvinism, national megalomania,*

*xenophobia, and national egoism have befallen Europeans often enough. The creation of the European Union makes it impossible for us to fall into these temptations any more. For many people the feeling of European community is already at the forefront. Maintaining the European scale of values is at the same time the most important prerequisite for enforcing peace in the continent."* (quotation from: THIEDE, 2000, p. 121)

### **T 302/3 European security is the responsibility of the Community**

On 24<sup>th</sup>.October 1950 the French National Assembly approved President René Pleven's plan for the creation of a European Defence Community with a joint European army.

The government announcement included the following: *"The French government proposes the creation of a European army for joint defence, an army pledged to the political institutions of a united Europe. This proposal was directly inspired by the recommendation that the Consultative Assembly of the European Council accepted on 11<sup>th</sup>. August, 1950. The establishment of a European army was not to be simply the result of a mere combination of national military units, which in effect would be nothing other than a coalition of the old school. An indivisible joint task could only be fulfilled by common organisms. An army belonging to a united Europe, made up of men from different nations, would have to realize within the realms of possibility a complete fusion of men and materials that would come into existence under a communal political and military European authority. A defence minister would be nominated by the participant governments and in accordance with regulations still to be determined would be responsible to his mandatories and to a European assembly ."* (SIEGLER, 1961, p. 47)

### **T 302/4 § 40 (41\*) of the „European Constitution“. Special regulations for the execution of a common security and defence policy**

*"(1) The common security and defence policy is an integral component of the common foreign and security policy. It guarantees the Union an operations capability based on civil and military means. The Union can resort to these in missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, prevention of conflict and support of international security according to the principles of the United Nations Charter. It carries out these tasks with the help of the forces provided by the member states.*

*(2) The common security and defence policy covers the step-by-step decision of a common defence policy of the Union. This leads to a common defence as soon as the European Council has passed it unanimously. In this case it recommends the member states to pass a law with this objective in accordance with their own constitutions.*

*According to this paragraph Union policy does not affect the special character of the security and defence policies of particular member states; it respects the obligations of certain member states, which see their common defence embodied in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, because of the North Atlantic Treaty, and is compatible with the joint security and defence policy established within that framework.*

*(3)The member states place their civil and military capabilities at the disposal of the Union for the enforcement of the common security and defence policy as their contribution towards the realization of the aims decided by the council of ministers. The member states that provide multinational armed forces among themselves can also place these at the disposal of common security and defence policy.*

*The member states commit themselves to improving their military capabilities step by step. A European office for armaments, research and military capabilities will be set up, with the task of ascertaining operative requirements and promoting measures for supplies to cover all requirements, to help in ascertaining measures to reinforce the industrial and technological foundations of the defence sector and where appropriate to carry out these measures, to take part in European policy-making in the area of capabilities and armaments, as well as to support the Council of Ministers in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities".* (BERG, KAMPFER, ed. 2004, p. 36)

\* In the final version of the "Constitution for Europe" from 29 October 2005 this article now has number 41.

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