

FAMOUS EVENTS: What happened on ... ?

Was ist am 5. Mai 1949 geschehen?

Was ist am 9. Mai 1950 geschehen?

Europatag / Europe Day

Europe Day 2016: Why are we celebrating Europe today?



What is Europe Day?

Europe Day is a celebration of peace and unity in Europe that happens annually on May 9.

It commemorates the historical Schuman Declaration of May 9, made in 1950 by then French foreign minister Robert Schuman.

Schuman proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community, whose members would pool coal and steel production under one common high authority.

The idea was that the industrial cooperation of the member countries would lead to gradual political integration, and the pacification of the nations.

'Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan,' the declaration goes. 'It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.'

'The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany'.

It was a crucial union that forged relations between France and Germany after a brutal and hostile war.

There is another Europe Day, on May 5, which marks the Council of Europe's establishment in 1949.