



THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION (EUROPE)

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European Chairman

*A Message to Participants
Dublin Meeting on 7-9 May 2010*

THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION 9TH MAY 1950 - 9TH MAY 2010

The 9th of May truly remains for me the most important date in the history of European integration. The Schuman Declaration represented a truly remarkable act of generosity of spirit in the immediate aftermath of a terrible war. It was intended to be a "first step in the federation of Europe" and indeed for many of us that is exactly what it was. It was too an expression of forgiveness and peace that will resound through history.

When one looks to where we have come during the last sixty years in reversing the antagonisms of a troubled history it is necessary to acknowledge that our achievements were never inevitable. Nor are they irreversible. They are the consequence of the leadership of men and institutions and Robert Schuman will always stand at the highest level in the pantheon of heroes of European federalists and even of those of somewhat more modest aspiration.

We look now for renewed ambition and political fortitude in moving forward towards an unknown destination but one which is built on sharing sovereignty.