



Konrad Adenauer



Alcide de Gasperi



Robert Schuman

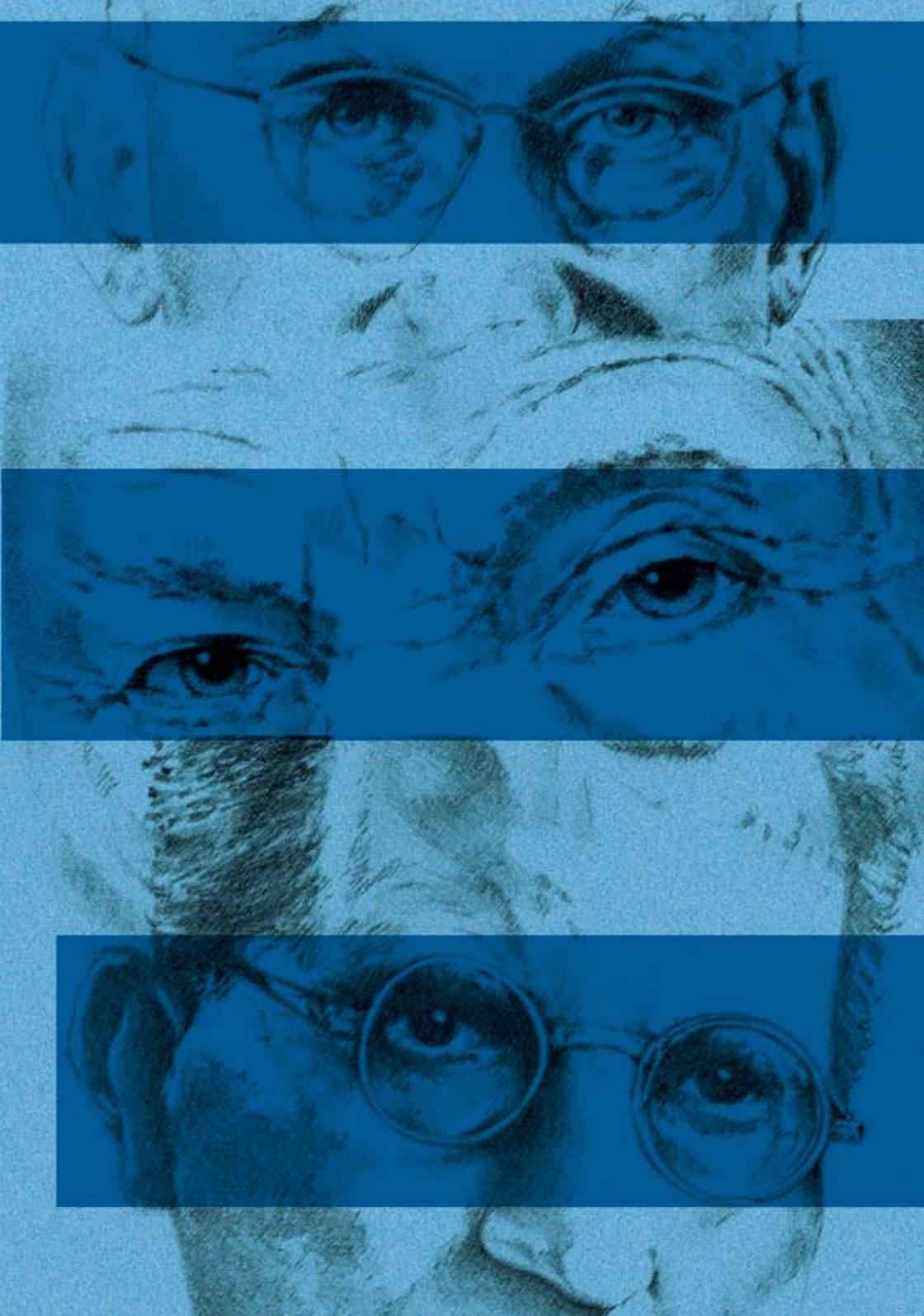


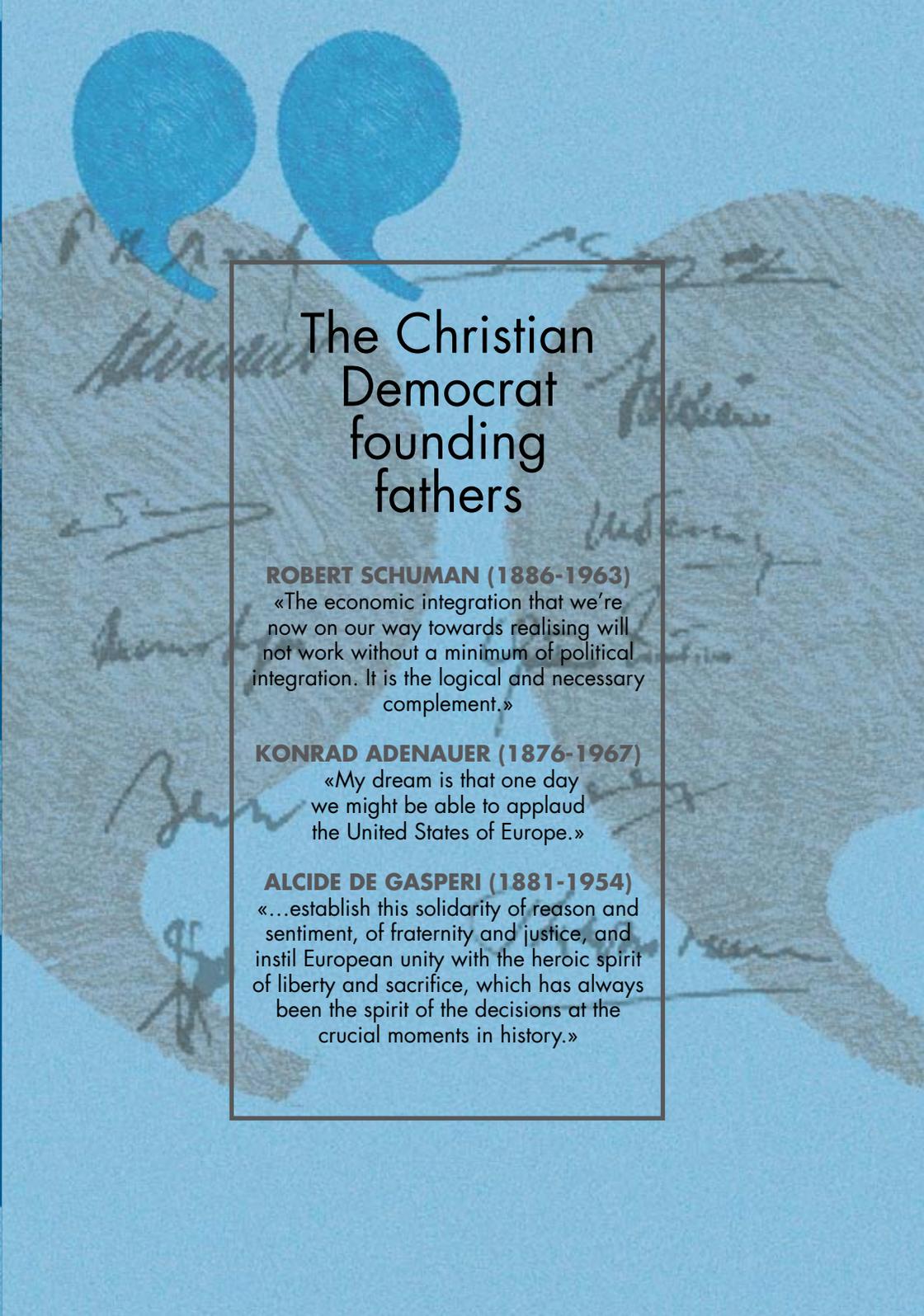
www.epp-ed.eu

Published by: EPP-ED Group, in the European Parliament - Responsible: Christine Debourbet (Documentation - Publications - Research)
Text, slogans, coordination: Christine Debourbet - © Photos: European Parliament, European Commission - Design: Lalieu - Sobieszewska
Address: European Parliament, 60 rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brussels - Internet: <http://www.epp-ed.eu> - Email: epp-ed@europarl.europa.eu
Reproduction of the text is permitted by mentioning the source - Published in March 2007 in English, German, French, Dutch



EPP-ED





The Christian Democrat founding fathers

ROBERT SCHUMAN (1886-1963)

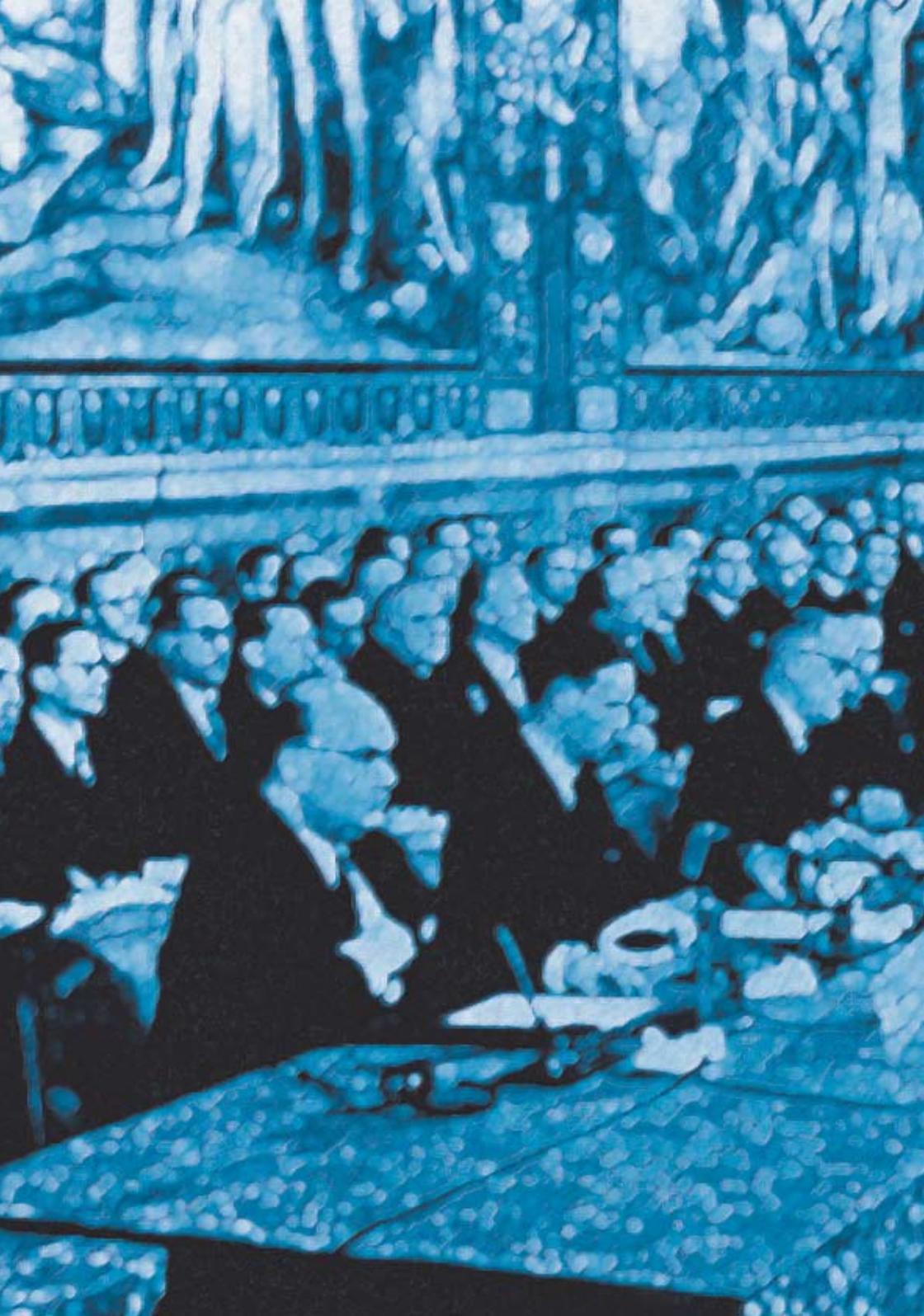
«The economic integration that we're now on our way towards realising will not work without a minimum of political integration. It is the logical and necessary complement.»

KONRAD ADENAUER (1876-1967)

«My dream is that one day we might be able to applaud the United States of Europe.»

ALCIDE DE GASPERI (1881-1954)

«...establish this solidarity of reason and sentiment, of fraternity and justice, and instil European unity with the heroic spirit of liberty and sacrifice, which has always been the spirit of the decisions at the crucial moments in history.»



50 years of European integration

For centuries Europe was the scene of frequent and bloody wars. Following the Second World War, the idea emerged that the only way of guaranteeing a lasting peace between the countries of Europe was to unite them economically and politically.

The determination of Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, Altiero Spinelli and Alcide de Gasperi breathed new life into the continent of Europe.

This movement in favour of European reconstruction was largely inspired by Christian Democrat philosophy. Three of these five founding fathers were members of the EPP-ED Group's Christian Democrat family: Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer and Alcide de Gasperi.

It was initially proposed that production and consumption of coal and steel be combined to prevent the organisation of any new fratricidal conflict and to encourage the post-war reconstruction. This initiative led in 1951 to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), composed of six Member States: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The ECSC was such a success that the six founding states decided to take another step forward in the political and military field. However, after the failure in 1954 of the ratification of the treaty that would have established the European Defence Community (EDC), priority was given to the economic situation with a view to moving European integration forward.

On 27 March 1957, the Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) was signed. This Treaty instituted a broad common market characterised by a customs union and the drafting of common policies, notably in the agricultural and transport sectors.

The EEC Treaty created:

- **a common market**, which was based on the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital and which established a shared economic area for free competition between enterprises.
- **a customs union**, which did away with customs duties and goods quotas between the Member States and introduced an external common customs tariff. Accompanied by a common commercial policy, this customs union was therefore different from a simple free trade association.
- **common policies**, such as the CAP (common agricultural policy), the common commercial policy and the transport policy. Other common policies were later introduced as needed, especially in the fields of environmental policy, regional policy, social policy and industrial policy.



Subsequently, the process of European integration created by the Treaty of Rome continued with successive deepening through the following Treaties:

- **The Single European Act (1986)** introduced the objective of achieving the internal market by 1992, and put in place the first major institutional reform of the Treaties by increasing the number of cases in which the Council could take decisions by qualified majority voting, enhancing the European Parliament's powers (cooperation procedure) and creating new Community competences.

- **The Treaty on European Union, known as the 'Maastricht Treaty' (1992)** created Economic and Monetary Union and a common currency, the euro, introduced new Community policies (education, culture) and enhanced the European Parliament's powers (codecision procedure). The Maastricht Treaty created the European Union (EU), which incorporated the three existing European Communities (EC, ECSC and Euratom), developed new areas of cooperation within the framework of the 'common foreign and security policy' (CFSP) and in the area of home affairs and internal security, and introduced the concept of European citizenship in addition to national citizenship.

- **The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997)** made progress on citizens' rights (notably the protection of fundamental rights), cooperation on security and justice, the common foreign and security policy (with the creation of a High Representative for the CFSP) and strengthening democracy. With regard to the institutions, it increased the number of issues for which the Council of the European Union could use qualified majority voting and strengthened the European Parliament's role in decision-making.

- **The Treaty of Nice (2001)** focused primarily on the institutional problems linked to enlargement that had not been resolved in 1997. They included the composition of the Commission, the weighting of votes in the Council and the increase in the number of cases in which qualified majority voting applied. It simplified use of the enhanced cooperation procedure and improved the operation of the judicial system.

- **The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (2004)** sought to ensure the smooth operation of the institutions of an enlarged Union with 25 and then 27 members. To make things simpler, the Constitution repealed and replaced with a single text all of the existing Treaties. This text consolidated 50 years of European Treaties. For the Constitution to enter into force, it needed to be ratified by all the Member States. The failure of the referendums in France and the Netherlands led to the launch of an 18-month period of reflection.

The signing of the Treaty of Rome was followed by a period full of hope and actions, during which the members of the Christian Democrat Group (CD) in the European Parliament, which became the Group of the European People's Party (EPP) in 1978 and then, in 1999, the Group of the European People's Party and European Democrats (EPP-ED Group), had a strong influence on a bold policy of European integration. As far as they were concerned, the economic integration of the continent of Europe had always been seen as a first step on the path towards political integration and the building of a reunified Europe founded on the values of freedom, democracy and peace.

The shared future

Until now, the process of European integration that followed the entry into force of the Treaty of Rome, has had two major objectives: a guarantee of peace and a passport to a common future.

After the experience of the two World Wars, it was extraordinary to seek to guarantee a European project based on peace. The Treaty of Rome allowed this first goal to be achieved. However, nowadays, after 60 years of shared peace, this objective seems to be so evident, such a given, that the general public seems to be moving away from the European ideal. Nevertheless, 50 years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome, the process of European integration is no less relevant and is still full of promise for the future.

Indeed, Europe continues to be important for the following reasons :

- **Economically**, Europe accounts for EUR 450 billion on the world stage. The largest trading block in the world, the European Union is responsible for 20% of the total volume of global imports and exports. Europe's prosperity has increased significantly over the last decade. European standards of living are among the highest in the world.
- **As far as the common foreign and security policy** is concerned, Europe must be able to defend its values and play a decisive role on the international stage.
- **In a globalised context**, Europe must be able to protect its 500 million citizens and offer them a haven of social peace and competitiveness. With regard to the European market, the legislation on competition, environmental protection and the labour market represents a driving force that makes it possible not only to guarantee fair competition conditions, but above all to provide assistance in coping with the pressure of global competition.
- **Terrorism** is an international phenomenon that must be combated at cross-border level.
- **The challenge posed by migratory** pressure can no longer be adequately managed by the Member States in isolation.
- **Energy security** is no longer a national phenomenon. The challenge of energy security can only be tackled at European level.

In a globalised world, the Member States can no longer be effective on an individual basis. They must work together with respect for solidarity and subsidiarity. The nation state can no longer deal with the modern challenges alone.

As a result, the prospect of European integration must under no circumstances be abandoned; on the contrary, it must be strengthened.

In that regard, the Constitutional Treaty signed in Rome in 2004 takes up the legacy of the Treaty of Rome by endeavouring, during a period of EU enlargement, to present institutional solutions to the challenge of a Europe with 27 members.

After the failure of the referendums on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands, there is a serious risk that the European Union might become weaker and that obstacles might prevent the Union from achieving its objectives.

The EPP family still supports the continuation of the institutional reform: the decision-making process designed for the common market of the six founding countries can no longer be used for an enlarged Union with 27 Member States without perhaps reaching an impasse.

Europe cannot be strong without strong European institutions.

Nevertheless, the aim of the constitutional draft was to go even further: it contained a Charter of Fundamental Rights that demonstrates that the EU is also a community of values.

The European project that began with the Treaty of Rome has provided peace, prosperity and security that would have been unimaginable at the time of its creation. This European project can and must continue to respond to the needs and expectations of the new generations of Europeans.

As far as the EPP family is concerned, there is no alternative to the deepening of European integration. The commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome is therefore not a look back to the past, but the confirmation of a project for a shared future.





The EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament

Since July 1999 the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (EPP-ED) has been the largest group in the European Parliament. With the arrival of the Bulgarian and Romanian MEPs on 1 January 2007, it now accounts for 277 of the 785 Members of the European Parliament.

The EPP-ED Group unites Christian Democrat, Conservative and other centre-right political parties from across the 27 Member States of the European Union.

Originally founded in June 1953 as the Christian Democrat Group in the Common Assembly of the ECSC, the Group has been centrally involved at every stage in the history of the European Union, from its earliest beginnings to the present day.

Very many of the parties represented in the EPP-ED Group also belong to the European People's Party, the first-ever transnational political party to be formed at European level. Others form the European Democrats and sit as allied members of the Group. All work together to resist the political priorities of the left in Europe and to advance the goal of a more competitive and democratic Europe that is closer to its citizens.

As the largest political group in Parliament, the EPP-ED Group is in a stronger position than any other, enabling it to set that institution's political agenda and win its most critical votes.

Its priorities for the current parliamentary term (2004-2009) focus mainly on defending a Europe that is proud of its identity, closer to its citizens, more competitive, safer, more respectful of the environment and stronger within a safer world.



PLACE DE LOFFAINE 21 - BRUXELLES 1

15 Francs

LE

LA RELANCE EUROPÉENNE

Signature solennelle à Rome des traités «Euratom» et du «marché commun»

La solidarité est offerte

Quelques dix ans de difficiles négociations

EURATOM MARCHÉ COMMUN

«H»-N sur la pro pour

L'Espresso

CASA della renna ROLAND'S

SIVO VERSO L'UNIONE DELL'EUROPA

Firmati ieri in Campidoglio per il Mercato

De Standaard

MES

SIX NATIONS SIGN COMMON MARKET TREATIES



Spy scandal investigation in Berne

Europe

Le Monde

DANS ROME EN FÊTE LES «SIX» SIGNENT AU CAPITOLE les traités sur l'Euratom et le marché commun

Tra

Une Europe empirique

ARRIERE

Feierlijke Anterze

STORICA CERIMONIA IN

per il Mercato Italia, Germania, Francia, Belg

enquête sur les de la mort IMENDJEL

50 YEARS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



EPP-ED