Europe Day, held in May every year, celebrates peace and unity in Europe. It marks the anniversary of the historical 'Schuman declaration'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out the ideas crafted by Jean Monnet, for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war among Europe's nations unthinkable.

His vision was to create a European institution that would pool and manage coal and steel production. A treaty creating such a body was signed just under a year later. Schuman's proposal is considered to be the beginning of what is now the European Union.

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