



THE JEAN MONNET HOUSE

CREATING A HOME FOR EUROPE



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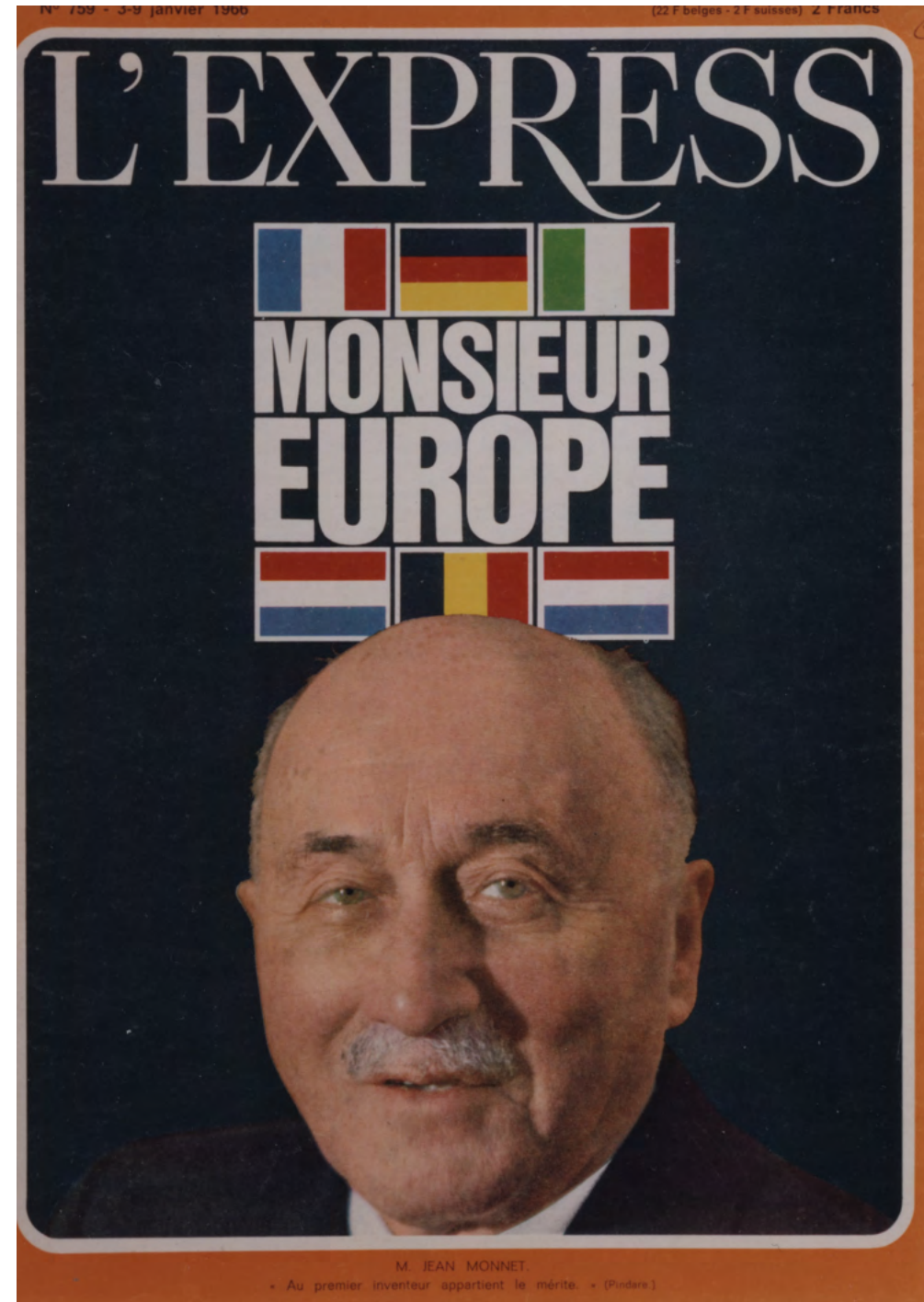
A founding father of the European Union, Jean Monnet (1888-1979) dedicated his life to bringing Europeans together and establishing unity and peace in Europe and across the world. His vision for a united Europe, a vision that would change this continent for ever, was created here in his unassuming home on the outskirts of Paris. Over the years, dignitaries and leaders from across the world met with Monnet at Houjarray to discuss the future of Europe. After witnessing the horrors of the Second World War, it is here that Monnet worked to bring European countries together and create a strong, unified Europe. This led to France and Germany combining their steel and coal production under a common authority, ensuring war could never again break out between the two countries and paving the way for the European Union we recognise today. And it all began here - at Houjarray, the home for Europe.

It is hard to believe that this seemingly ordinary family home, secluded yet still close to the bustling heart of Paris, was where the future of Europe and its place in global affairs developed. This is the place where Jean Monnet's vision of peace and European unity was established. Monnet desired to see his family home transformed into a place dedicated to welcoming young people, and the European Parliament has honoured that commitment by making the Houjarray house a place of memory and interaction open to visitors: a space for learning, discussion and mediation. It is the ideal place to discover the living and working environment of one of the architects of today's European Union.

The Jean Monnet House was purchased by the European Parliament for future generations in December 1982. As well as exploring the public career and engagements of this important statesman it also uncovers the personal life of the man himself, connecting people directly

to Monnet's work and exploring its importance in the Europe of today.

This building is not just about preserving the European Union's origins: it is a place to be inspired and to consider the future of Europe as a united entity. As we move further into the 21st century with a future that is increasingly uncertain and challenging, it is vital that we keep in mind the messages of this historic space. There is thus a new impetus within the Jean Monnet House to raise awareness of the legacy of this founding father of Europe by sharing his values of peace and solidarity with a wide audience and to show the connection between Monnet's ambitions and the work being done on the European stage today. As well as organising new activities and hosting numerous events for the public, the building is opening its doors as a space for the European Parliament to meet with leaders and build Europe's future here in the very birthplace of European integration.



Monnet was often referred to in the press as 'Monsieur Europe'. With permission from © Groupe L'Express – cover of the 3 January 1966 edition of L'Express

Born in 1888, Jean Monnet spent his life working to bring Europeans together and is nowadays seen as a central figure in the history of European integration. He started off in his family's cognac trading company but soon became involved in organisations for cooperation between Allied powers during World War I. He was then appointed as deputy secretary-general of the League of Nations, before pursuing a career as an international banker. With war in Europe once again by 1940, Monnet proposed the creation of a Franco-British Union that would completely merge the two countries as a way to defeat the Nazis. Although this project didn't succeed Monnet continued to fight for democracy, becoming head of the Victory Programme in Washington, D.C.

Following 1945 Monnet was responsible for the French General's Office for the Modernisation and Equipment Plan, holding the belief that the country's prosperity and security could function only with the economic rapprochement of the European states. With the Cold War now quickly taking hold in society, he knew that the only way to create genuine solidarity between the European partners was to ensure the creation of a functional Europe through deep integration in key sectors. In this way, the foundations of the "Monnet method" were laid: taking small steps closer together and transferring sovereignty to supranational bodies. This method required stubborn persuasion, the joint pursuit of shared interests, and a great sense of organisation.



Jean Monnet at his home in Houjarray in the 1960s.
Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe, Lausanne
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Aerial photo of the future Jean Monnet House circa 1930.
European Parliament
European Union



In June 1987 the Association of Friends of Jean Monnet, in the presence of former presidents of the European Parliament Pierre Pflimlin and Simone Veil, unveils a plaque commemorating Jean Monnet's time at Houjarray between 1945 and 1979.
European Parliament
European Union

In 1950 Monnet suggested to Robert Schuman, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the coal and steel industries of the Western European countries should be placed under a common regime and that a High Authority be established to administer these sectors of strategic importance directly and independently. By acting in everyone's interests, the High Authority effectively countered national self-interest. The pooling of coal and steel would make a new Franco-German war unthinkable and materially impossible, avoiding a repeat of the horrors Europe had just experienced. This dream became reality with the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951: for Monnet, a first step towards a 'United States of Europe'.

As the first President of the ECSC High Authority in Luxembourg Jean Monnet was firmly committed to the European Defence Community, which he hoped would create a

European army within a new political framework. However, the failure of this project due to France's feared loss of national sovereignty led him to resign and set up the Action Committee for the United States of Europe in 1955 to continue the fight. Bringing together political and trade union leaders, this Committee acted as a lobby to promote concrete achievements for a united Europe for over 20 years. Monnet inspired the creation of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), and also advocated for the United Kingdom's accession to the European Communities and for the creation of a common European currency. He supported the creation of the European Council of Heads of State or Government in 1974, bringing European leaders closer together for the good of all Europe's citizens. Jean Monnet died in 1979, a few months before the very first European elections he had been calling for.



*Jean Monnet, Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Nations (1920).
League of Nations, Geneva
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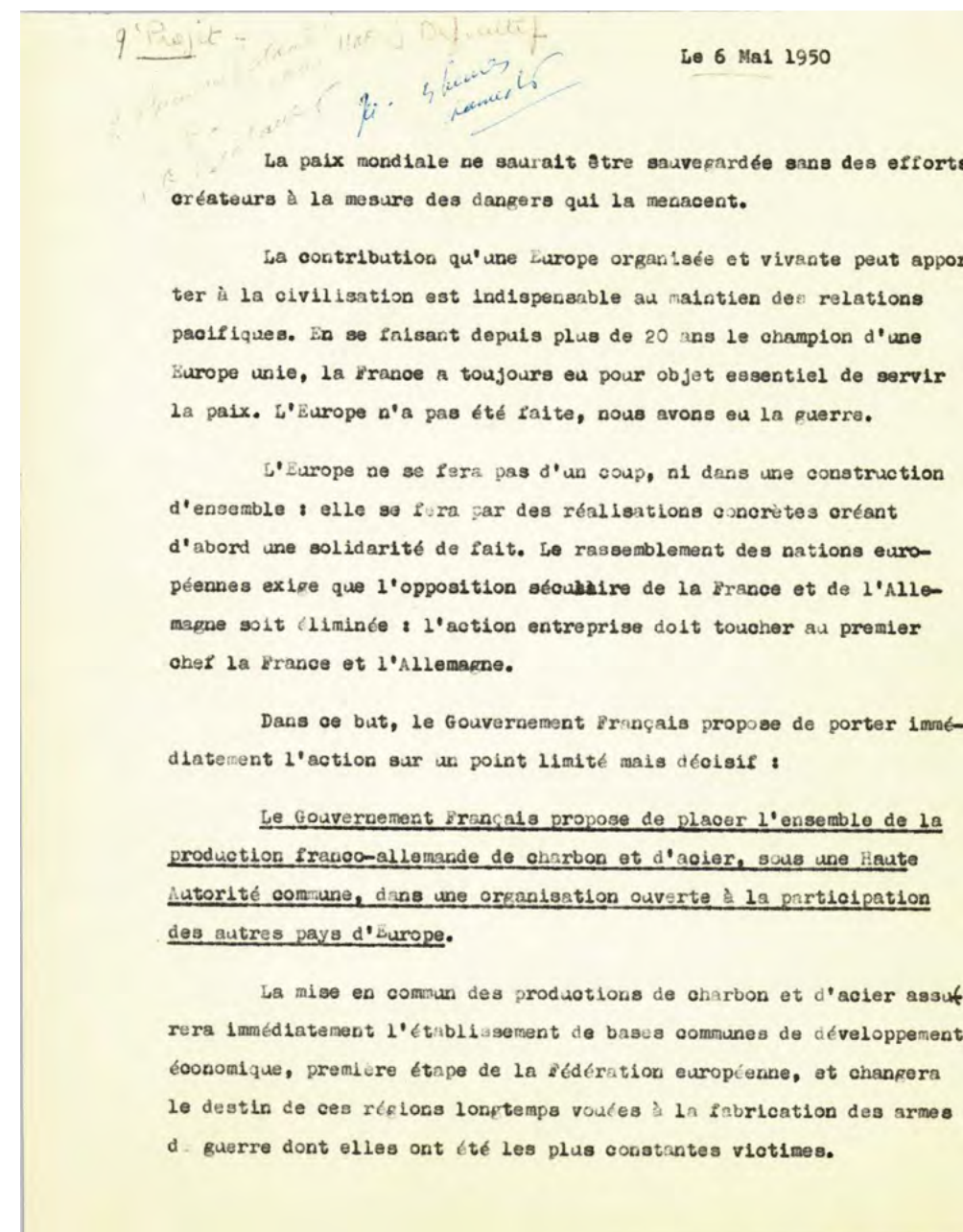


*Jean Monnet returns to France in 1945 to start work on the country's reconstruction and modernisation and the unification of western Europe.
Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe, Lausanne
In copyright*

In the spring of 1950
Jean Monnet, the
French Minister for
Foreign Affairs Robert
Schuman and the
director of Schuman's
cabinet Bernard
Clappier meet at
Houjarray to prepare
the the Schuman Plan.
European
Commission
European Union



For Jean Monnet, coal
and steel would form
the foundations of a
European political and
economic community
that would strengthen
Europe's countries
together.
European
Commission
European Union



On 6 May 1950 Jean Monnet and his colleagues finalise the declaration Robert Schuman would make three days later at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris, announcing the pooling of European coal and steel and thus preventing any future mobilisation for war in western Europe.
European
Commission
European Union

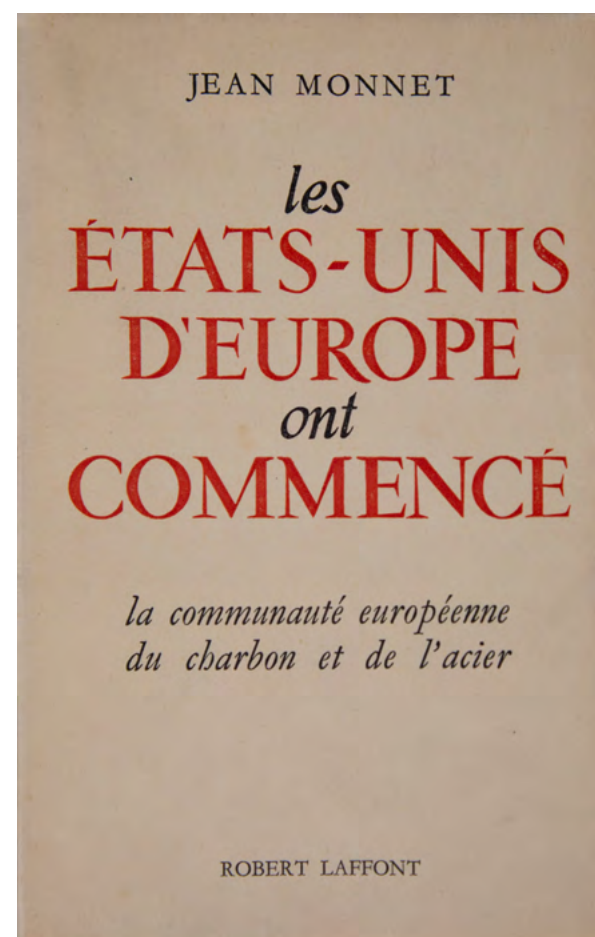
Jean Monnet prepares for a press conference at the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Committee in Luxembourg, April 1953 to announce the launch of a common steel market in Europe.
European Commission
European Union



In 1953, a cast-iron ingot marked with 'EUROP' is smelted at the ARBED factory in Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg and is offered to Jean Monnet to mark the first casting of European steel.
Private Collection
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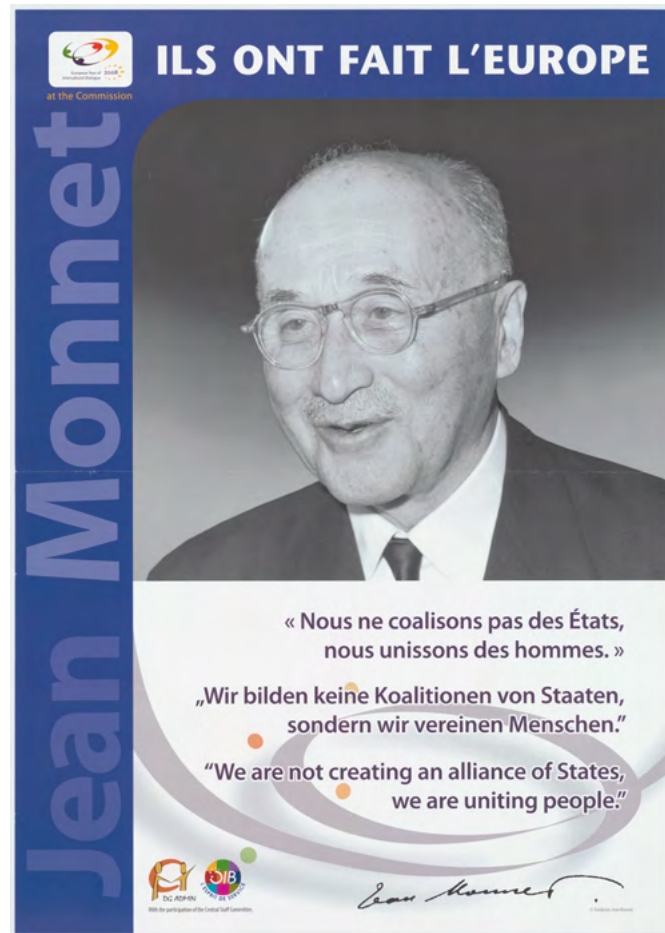
Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman take part in a commemorative ceremony to mark the Schuman Declaration in May 1953.
Photothèque Ville de Luxembourg/
Théo Mey
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In 1954, the Parisian editor Robert Laffont publishes a collection of Jean Monnet's declarations and speeches 1952–1954 made as President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Committee.
Authorisation with the kind permission of Éditions Robert Laffont



Pro-European demonstrators carry a portrait of Jean Monnet, 1969.
European Commission
European Union



Jean Monnet, Father of Europe.
European Commission
European Union

In 1945, on his return from the United States, Jean Monnet and his family acquired a former farm in Houjarray, Yvelines, moving in without even time to renovate the building. It was in this simple setting that Monnet would live and work for more than thirty years, whilst his wife Silvia would devote herself to painting.

In Houjarray, Monnet spent much of his time considering the future of Europe and its institutions. It was here in 1950 that he conceived of the project which would give birth to the ECSC two years later. When he wasn't travelling abroad it was in Houjarray that Monnet received his friends and foreign officials, all of them eager for his advice and comment on the latest news. Illustrious visitors included former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower, Minister Robert Schuman, U.S. diplomats John McCloy and George Ball, British financier Eric Roll, labour leader George Brown and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Regular loyal collaborators such as Pierre Uri, Robert Marjolin, and Etienne Hirsch also made frequent appearances.

Each day, after walking through the surrounding countryside and reading the latest newspapers, Monnet left Houjarray to reach Foch Avenue in Paris where he had set up the offices of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe. It was at his home, however, that he liked to talk by the fire with journalists and major editorialists of the international press about Europe's future. It was also in Houjarray that Jean Monnet embarked on the preparation of his Memoirs, which would appear in 1976.

Beyond this cosy setting, Monnet's work was gaining him major recognition across the continent: in 1975, the French President Georges Spénale presented him with the European Parliament's Great Gold Medal for his decisive contribution to the construction of a united Europe. Houjarray continued to play a role in his life: it was also here that Monnet learned in 1976 of the decision of the European Council to declare him a 'citizen of honour of Europe'. Monnet died in his home on 16 March 1979, and was buried in the small cemetery of Bazoches-sur-Guyonne.



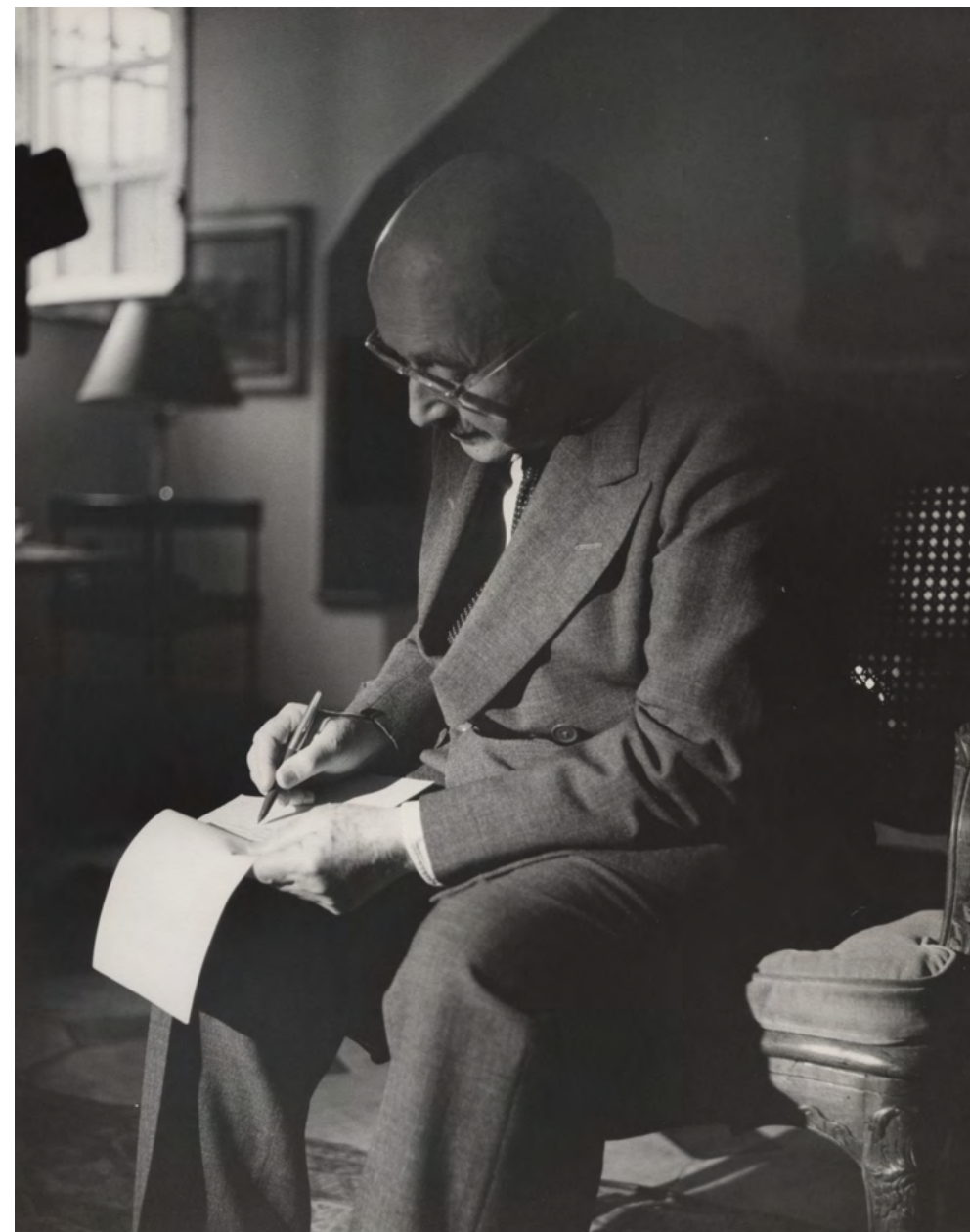
Jean Monnet liked to go for a walk every morning in the surrounding countryside around Houjarray before starting work.
Jean Monnet
Foundation for
Europe, Lausanne
Agence Rapho,
Sabine Weiss



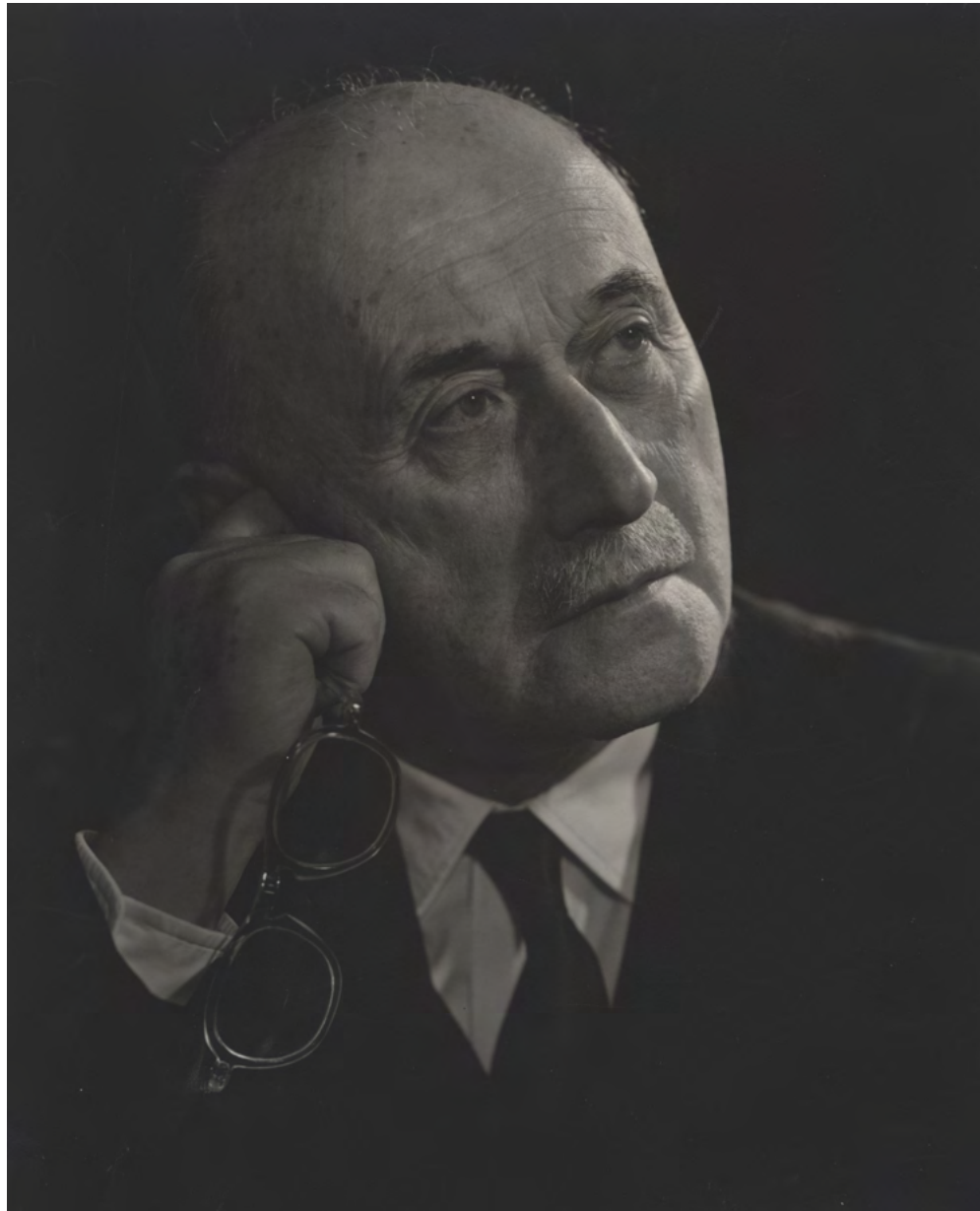
Jean Monnet finds a quiet moment with a book at Houjarray.
Jean Monnet
Foundation for
Europe, Lausanne
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The Monnet family celebrated many happy occasions at Houjarray.
Jean Monnet
Foundation for
Europe, Lausanne
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In the calm of his home at Houjarray, Jean Monnet liked to reflect on the future of Europe and prepare for important meetings.
Jean Monnet
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Europe, Lausanne
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Portrait of Jean Monnet
Jean Monnet
Foundation for
Europe, Lausanne
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Former President
of the United States
Dwight Eisenhower
visits Jean Monnet and
his family at Houjarray
in the 1960s.
Jean Monnet
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Europe, Lausanne
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Jean Monnet receives
the Erasmus Prize for
his exceptional contri-
bution to Europe,
presented at his home
in Houjarray by Prince
Bernhardt of the
Netherlands in 1977.
Jean Monnet
Foundation for
Europe, Lausanne
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After Jean Monnet's death, the President of the European Parliament Emilio Colombo took steps to purchase Houjarray as part of the common historical and cultural heritage of Europeans. Those close to Monnet stated that, shortly before his death, he had requested that the house should one day be dedicated to welcoming young people. The European Parliament worked to honour this request and create a space for education, connection and discussion for all of Europe. The deed of sale between Monnet's heirs and the Parliament was signed on 7 December 1982.

The European Parliament knows how important it is to contribute to the preservation of Europe's historical heritage and to honour the memory of one of the founding fathers of Europe. Its aim is to make this house an emblematic focal point and home of the European spirit of integration. Following the farm's renovation, it was decided it should become a space for people to meet, debate and learn about European integration.

It wasn't just the Parliament that was inspired to continue Jean Monnet's legacy: his old friends decided to create the Association des Amis de Jean Monnet in Paris, with the aim of continuing the memory of Monnet, his work and his teachings.

The Jean Monnet House was soon transformed into a museum dedicated to the life of its former owner and the functioning of the European Community, and was opened to the public in 1987 in the presence of former Presidents of the European Parliament Pierre Pflimlin and Simone Veil. On the centenary of his birth the European Community institutions declared 1988 the 'European Year Jean Monnet', and that same year his ashes were transferred to the Panthéon on the proposal of French President François Mitterrand. In 1990, an agreement was signed between the Association des Amis de Jean Monnet and the European Parliament, which granted it the operation and management of the site under the responsibility of its Information Office in Paris.

Ad/BC/blm

Luxembourg, le 22 octobre 1982

PROJET DE REPONSE A LA QUESTION N° 64/82 DE M. CAPANNA

Concerne : Acquisition de la maison de Jean Monnet

1. Déjà dans son budget pour l'exercice 1980 (J.O. L 242), le Parlement européen avait inséré dans la ligne budgétaire du chapitre 10.0 "Crédits provisionnels" un crédit de 5.841.200 UCE avec le commentaire suivant : "on devra également prélever sur ces crédits le montant nécessaire à l'acquisition de la demeure du président Jean Monnet, pour répondre à l'initiative prise par le Parlement".

Le Bureau, par décision en date du 15 décembre 1981, a procédé à l'établissement d'un engagement de dépense pour l'acquisition de cette demeure.

En outre, lors de sa réunion du 20 avril 1982, il a décidé de procéder à l'achat de la maison de Jean Monnet. Cette décision n'a pas subi de changement suite à l'événement que vous évoquez.

2. Le Président a pris connaissance de l'étude technique sur la maison Jean Monnet établie par la Division Bâtiments-Infrastructure du Parlement européen concernant l'état des lieux.

3. L'évaluation précise du montant de la remise en état n'a pas encore pu être faite, celle-ci dépendant de la décision qui sera prise concernant l'utilisation de l'immeuble.

4. - 5. Le Bureau, qui a recueilli l'avis de la Commission de la Jeunesse, de la Culture et de l'Education, doit encore se prononcer sur la destination de cette propriété.

6. Suivant la décision qui sera prise par le Bureau, il n'est pas exclu que la destination du bâtiment puisse bénéficier à de jeunes étudiants, chercheurs ou visiteurs qualifiés particulièrement intéressés par les problèmes ayant trait à l'histoire et au développement de la Communauté européenne.

envoyé à D. Opik pour
accord le 3-11

rem : LC

EP decisions
concerning Jean
Monnet's house
EP Archives
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In June 1987 the site of the Jean Monnet House is officially inaugurated, along with the museum dedicated to Monnet's life and to the history of the European Community. European Parliament European Union



On the centenary of his birth, the European Communities announce that 1988 is the European Year of Jean Monnet. Private Collection In copyright



Since 1987 Monnet's house has been open to the public at Houjarray, restored as if Monnet has just left yesterday. Today it welcomes over 12,000 visitors a year. Jean Monnet House/ European Parliament Colombe Clier



A family explores Jean Monnet's life and his contribution to a united Europe at Houjarray's interactive exhibition. Jean Monnet House/ European Parliament European Union

The European Parliament is ensuring that this historic birthplace of European integration continues to hold an important role in Europe's future. Between 2012 and 2022 the building underwent many transformations, with work undertaken to expand the conference room and transform the park surrounding the house to create a space where citizens can meet and explore Monnet's life and ideas. The house now welcomes a wide range of visitors from across Europe and beyond, who enjoy this enriching educational experience in Houjarray's unique setting. Several thousand people arrive every year for guided tours, educational activities, conferences, thematic workshops and research seminars, whilst cooperation agreement with the Île-de-France Region is creating partnerships with schools and young people. The House also welcomes guests from around the world through the European Union Visitors Programme.

In 2013, the French Ministry of Culture awarded the Jean Monnet House the label of 'Maison des Illustres', a title reserved for places which preserve and transmit the memory of important personalities. The house's museum

explores Monnet's vital contribution to the construction of a united Europe, as well as giving glimpses into his private life. The interactive exhibition presents Monnet's character and journey in its historical context, allowing visitors to explore the crucial concepts of European identity and unity in the very place where they were created. The museum's multimedia activities also explore Monnet's relevance to our modern society, showing how Jean Monnet has shaped the Europe we know today and how the institutions of the European Union influence the daily lives of citizens.

The Jean Monnet House is part of the European Parliament Network of Houses and Political Foundations of Great Europeans, which aims to develop exchanges and cooperation, particularly in the field of relations with citizens. Under the leadership of the European Parliament, the venue helps to give value of the memory of a common political history. In January 2020 the respective Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Council, and the European Commission all met in Houjarray to reflect on Europe's future challenges,

its place in the world, and the EU's climate and digital ambitions. A new guesthouse makes the location a 'Camp David' for the European Parliament, where key leaders can meet and debate in the birthplace of European unity.

Houjarray has also become the seat of the Jean Monnet Academy, which provides various vocational training programmes for the European Parliament's staff to help them better serve the European public. In addition to meetings of the Bureau of the European Parliament, the Jean Monnet House hosts international scientific conferences within the framework of Jean Monnet seminars. It also organises meetings within the framework of the Jean Monnet Dialogue for Peace and Democracy to provide answers to situations of political tension in countries such as Ukraine, Serbia and North Macedonia. These important dialogues are conducted according to the principles that defined how Jean Monnet himself worked: pragmatism, concrete action and focus on dialogue in order to achieve results by consensus.

All of these initiatives are working with the same objective: to maintain the Jean Monnet House as a place of memory, meetings and inspiration where the European idea is embodied and where citizens can learn about the history, the functioning and the challenges of the European Union. Thanks to the Parliament, the Houjarray house is now preserved for future generations as a place of education, connection and mediation, spreading Monnet's core values of peace and solidarity with citizens across Europe.



In 2017 the Jean Monnet House is welcomed into the Network of Political Houses and Foundations of Great Europeans. The Network regularly organises gatherings at Houjarray.
Private Collection
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The European Parliament is continually updating and improving the Jean Monnet House and what it has to offer, including educational and political activities and exhibitions.
European Parliament
European Union



The European Parliament organised a seminar at Houjarray in October 2021 focusing on issues of strategic European autonomy, with the support of the European Parliamentary Research Service.
European Parliament
European Union



Jean Monnet Dialogue for peace and democracy.
European Parliament
European Union



The Jean Monnet Academy often organises training programmes for the European Parliament's staff.
European Parliament
European Union



Meeting of the Bureau of the European Parliament at the Jean Monnet House.
European Parliament
European Union



Summit meeting at
the Jean Monnet
House, 2020.
European Parliament
European Union



In January 2020 the
presidents of the
European Council
(Charles Michel), the
European Commission
(Ursula von der Leyen)
and the European
Parliament (David
Sassoli) met at the
Jean Monnet House
to reflect on the
European Union's
future challenges.
European Parliament
European Union

Visit the interactive exhibition at Jean Monnet House in Bazoches-sur-Guyonne and discover the life and work of one of the architects of today's Europe.



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Age: 0-99 years

Length of visit: 45 minutes - 1 hour

Group booking: 10-25 people

Audioguides available in EN, FR and DE

Guided visits and workshops available in EN, FR, DE, ES, IT

Opening hours:

From 15 April to 15 October:

Monday – Friday
10:00 to 17:00

Saturday and Sunday
10:00 to 18:00

From 16 October to 14 April, the museum closes at 17:00 on weekends.

The museum is closed on 1 January and 24, 25, 31 December.



Scan to visit the Jean Monnet House website

Individual visits

Individual visitors and groups of less than 10 people do not need prior booking to visit the museum. Visitors can enjoy the exhibition at their own pace, with the multimedia guides available in French, English and German.

Group visits

Groups of more than 10 people must book in advance for both multimedia guide and guided visits.

Visits with a multimedia guide are available in French, English and German and must be booked a minimum of one week in advance.

Guided visits are available in French, English, German, Spanish and Italian. These must be booked at least 2 weeks in advance and can be tailored to interests of the group. They can focus on a variety of topics from the European Union today to the historic view of European peace. Creative workshops for school groups can also be organised to allow students to discover issues like European citizenship and how Europe responds to climate change.

To book a group visit, please call:

+33 (0)1 34 86 12 43

+32 (0)2 28 41 357

Email : jean-monnet-europe@europarl.europa.eu



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'The Jean Monnet House: creating a home for Europe' exhibition organised jointly by the Archives Unit, the Directorate for the Library and Knowledge Services of the European Parliament and the Jean Monnet House Service.

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[European Union sources and European Parliament archival material](#)

[Multimedia package](#)

Further reading

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*The Jean Monnet House at Houjarray
European Parliament
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ONLINE EXHIBITION



MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

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