

sovereignty of the states in the European Union. I wonder in what areas you would have a common usage between the various countries. For example, are you contemplating a common language and a common courtesy?

AMBASSADOR von BALLUSECK: No, not at all. I don't think we need that at all. Today we are not integrated and yet we are getting along fairly well with each other. We can understand each other more or less. The smaller ones among us have to learn English, French and German, because nobody takes the trouble to learn Dutch. But we do, and we've been doing that for a long time. And so, there is no language problem. I don't think you need one common European language to emphasize the conception of Europe. No, not at all.

Culturally speaking, of course, our cultures have all been mixed for centuries and centuries, and it's very difficult to say what, in particular, is the Dutch culture, or the French culture. They have all influenced each other, of course. But there we'd have no difficulty. I didn't quite get the hang of your question. What did you want to know?

QUESTION: I was asking, "What areas of common policy do you envision between these European states?" I was wondering if you envision a common language and a common courtesy, among other things.

AMBASSADOR von BALLUSECK: No. I said somewhere in my talk that if you want to be practical you must integrate the things that can be integrated. Because, they really are common interests. Language and culture are not common interests. They are separate. Each one has its own interpretation of culture. Each one reflects its own psychology, its own being, and those things can't be changed. They can be changed by force,