

**Question for written answer E-6014/2010
to the Council**

Rule 117

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Subject: European identity and Community commemorations

On 18 June 1940 General de Gaulle broadcast his famous call to arms on BBC radio: refusing to accept his country's capitulation to the Nazi enemy, General de Gaulle had returned to London to carry on the fight for the freedom and sovereignty of France. The speech perfectly symbolised the solidarity of European nations struggling to achieve freedom, security and union in the face of totalitarian ideologies. It was the voice of freedom and republicanism rallying the war-torn European continent of 1940. It was the same voice as would bring about lasting reconciliation between post-war France and Germany.

Charles de Gaulle's commitment and values made him a prime mover in the construction of Europe. He was a visionary, who had not only 'a certain idea of France', but a concept of a united Europe, a confederation of sovereign states, a political Europe, a Europe that would be a new force in the world, which is as fresh as ever at a time when the Lisbon Treaty has moved Europe several steps further along the road.

As France and the United Kingdom jointly commemorate the 70th anniversary of General de Gaulle's appeal, the meaning, scope and influence of which made it a seminal event in the European venture, what does the Council think of the idea of a European commemorative day dedicated to the great architects of the European Union?