


Interview with Jacques F. Poos: the importance of the Presidency for the success of a European Council (Sanem, 16 April 2004)

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[Étienne Deschamps] We have already discussed the Presidency and the system of the rotating Presidency. Drawing on your own experience, what do you consider is the importance of the Council Presidency for the success, or even the failure, of a European Council?

[Jacques F. Poos] Its importance is enormous because when the President of the Council sees a discussion degenerating, or when he sees the possibility of a solution emerging from between the different positions — which he is well acquainted with, since he is well briefed and has a good idea of what the various parties think — it is up to him to present a formula that he can have prepared by his staff, by the Secretary-General of the Council, who is there to help him, or by the Chairman of COREPER, seated on his left. He can put forward a text that goes to the heart of the problem and that wins the support necessary. That is the role of the President.