

## Interview with Hubert Ehring: the role played by Paul-Henri Spaak during the Intergovernmental Conference on the Common Market and Euratom (Uccle, 25 October 2006)

**Source:** Interview d'Hubert Ehring / HUBERT EHRING, Étienne Deschamps, prise de vue : François Fabert.- Uccle: CVCE [Prod.], 25.10.2006. CVCE, Sanem. - (03:30, Couleur, Son original).

**Copyright:** (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview\\_with\\_hubert\\_ehring\\_the\\_role\\_played\\_by\\_paul\\_henri\\_spaak\\_during\\_the\\_intergovernmental\\_conference\\_on\\_the\\_common\\_market\\_and\\_euratom\\_uccle\\_25\\_october\\_2006-en-a07a7ab1-8030-45a9-83da-e5bbefd806af.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview_with_hubert_ehring_the_role_played_by_paul_henri_spaak_during_the_intergovernmental_conference_on_the_common_market_and_euratom_uccle_25_october_2006-en-a07a7ab1-8030-45a9-83da-e5bbefd806af.html)



**Last updated:** 05/07/2016

## Interview with Hubert Ehring: the role played by Paul-Henri Spaak during the Intergovernmental Conference on the Common Market and Euratom (Uccle, 25 October 2006)

[Étienne Deschamps] There is another question I wanted to ask you concerning the role played by Paul-Henri Spaak — of whom, of course, much has been said in connection with this conference — since there is one thing that intrigues me: namely, how, in practical terms, was he able to perform a double function: that of President of the Conference, with the role of arbitrator and thus neutral, and at the same time that of Belgian Foreign Minister, and therefore the representative of his country's interests? Do you recall anything of this somewhat unusual situation that Paul-Henri Spaak found himself in?

[Hubert Ehring] As regards the Conference, he was the moving force behind the negotiations. But as for his influence on the Conference, I should like to tell you about one minor incident that affected me personally. I mentioned that the Secretariat had seconded three officials to Brussels in order to manage the work of the Secretariat there: Mr Calmes, Mr Guazzugli and myself. Mr Guazzugli had joined the Secretariat before I did, and he played on this to the extent that, in the beginning, at Val Duchesse, I did not have an area that I could work on independently. But one fine day Mr Calmes returned from talking to Mr Spaak and told us that Mr Spaak had expressed his conviction that the negotiations on Euratom would be crowned with success, but that he had expressed serious doubts regarding the success of the negotiations on the market.

As soon as Guazzugli heard that, he at once threw himself into his work on Euratom; he no longer dealt with anything else and left the common market completely in my hands. Of course, an international conference was also a way of helping along the professional careers of the delegates, is that not so? Afterwards he became the first Secretary-General of the Euratom Commission. But in my case, it was a further stimulus to my career later on in the Economic Community. It was nonetheless a sign that not even Mr Spaak, who was an integrationist through and through...

[Étienne Deschamps] ...not even he had understood that...

[Hubert Ehring] He was not always convinced that it would succeed.