

Interview with Gaston Thorn: the Hague Summit (Luxembourg, 6 February 2006)

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[Étienne Deschamps] Did you have the feeling that all the European partners, namely the Six at that time, were all on the same wavelength?

[Gaston Thorn] No.

[Étienne Deschamps] That they saw things in the same way and were ready to make the same efforts?

[Gaston Thorn] Certainly not. Besides, it is the same today. You see, for the Six to think in the same way or even merely to look in the same direction, sharing a more or less common perspective, is something that I believe today to be virtually impossible.

[Étienne Deschamps] What was the atmosphere in The Hague like at that time?

[Gaston Thorn] The atmosphere in The Hague was quite euphoric, because the fact of bringing together so many people, Heads of State, Heads of Government and so forth, gave you the impression that something was going to happen. This is often an illusion, but it has an effect. It was a good atmosphere. The Hague was what we would now call 'a major European event', although there are not many of them, but nonetheless ...