


Interview with Norbert Schwaiger: information on the Council available to the public (Brussels, 22 November 2006)

Source: Interview de Norbert Schwaiger / NORBERT SCHWAIGER, Raquel Valls.- Bruxelles: CVCE [Prod.], 22.11.2006. CVCE, Sanem. - VIDEO (00:01:47, Couleur, Son original).

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Last updated: 05/07/2016



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[Norbert Schwaiger] In order to make a player other than the Commission better known, during the Council deliberations the suggestion had already been made at Birmingham and Edinburgh that it should also be presented as an institution. It was necessary to portray a sort of *corporate image* to the outside world.

We therefore started to prepare publications; at first ones that were explanatory such as how to access the Council, how the Council operated, how the Council worked, and so on. Hence it was firstly the practical things, then there followed the publication of brochures on certain sectors, about which the Commission had not perhaps said everything already, or in order to add the Council's position and the difficulties that might be presented by the Council's way of working. Of course it developed all the more as the new sectors of JHA and CFSP developed in the Council because there the Commission had no right of initiative and was not a player involved by right in the conception of things. It could contribute certain elements within its area of responsibility, but it was not decisive, so this was all the more reason to publish things on the JHA and the CFSP, hence this also helped.