

## Interview with André Dubois: the General Secretariat and the merger of the three Councils (Brussels, 8 December 2006)

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[André Dubois] I would say that the Merger Treaty was a political instrument, the result of a political decision, which was taken with a view to merging the Communities. I would not say that the existence of a single secretariat contributed to that political decision. That much is certain, is it not? It was guided by other considerations. It is a fact, however, that the operational unity of our secretariats avoided ... enabled us to undertake the merger without any problems, because we were already operationally unified — a small team had remained in Luxembourg — and we did not have the kind of problems that were posed by the merger of the Commission administrations. That, very briefly, is what I would like to ...

[Étienne Deschamps] Until 1967, I believe, most Council activities actually took place in Brussels, but nevertheless, as you just said, a team remained in place in Luxembourg to deal with specifically ECSC matters. How did things work between the Luxembourg team and the Brussels team? Were there permanent contacts, or were the two teams, for what we might call sectoral reasons, ultimately quite separate entities?

[André Dubois] The activities of the ECSC were obviously less complex than those of a nascent Community. Accordingly, the team that remained in Luxembourg could deal quite easily with the activities of the ECSC. It was bolstered as necessary by people who moved between the two centres: the Secretary-General, the Legal Affairs Department and the Press Service. I have to say that this did pose any particular problem. I do not recall it being a great problem ...