

## Interview with André Dubois: the influence of Christian Calmes as the first Secretary-General of the Council (Brussels, 8 December 2006)

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[Étienne Deschamps] You have mentioned Christian Calmes several times, a Luxembourg civil servant who became the first Secretary-General of the Council. How would you describe his influence in getting this whole venture and this first team up and running, given that it practically had to be cobbled together?

[André Dubois] As you said, he was the one who created the Secretariat, and I think he was the one who really imbued it with his spirit and his strict moral code, which was based on total impartiality and loyalty to the European ideal. This is something that is vitally important in a secretariat, and I think it is a spirit that is still there today, and was really created by Christian Calmes himself. If you read Mr Giscard d'Estaing's book on the European Constitution, he pays tribute to this spirit of loyalty and objectivity in the Secretariat, and I think Christian Calmes really was the one who created that. The governments certainly had total confidence in him. I'm not entirely sure, but I seem to remember that it was at Chancellor Adenauer's suggestion — Mr Calmes spoke fluent German — that he was appointed to the post, and that's how it happened ... He had been a career diplomat, he belonged to a country that had been annexed by the Reich during the War, he had fought in the Resistance ... I have to say that he was also a very human person, and father to a large family of five children. I still have some wonderful memories of him.