

Interview with Jean François-Poncet: the Venice Conference (Paris, 16 March 2007)

Source: Interview de Jean François-Poncet / JEAN FRANÇOIS-PONCET, Étienne Deschamps, prise de vue : François Fabert.- Paris: CVCE [Prod.], 16.03.2007. CVCE, Sanem. - VIDEO (00:01:12, Couleur, Son original).

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Last updated: 05/07/2016

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[Jean François-Poncet] The aim of the Venice Conference was to approve the Spaak Report. Once a report on the two treaties had been drawn up, the Foreign Ministers met in Venice and said: Very well, these reports are adopted. Now get to work and draft a Treaty.

[Étienne Deschamps] Paul-Henri Spaak and Jean-Charles Snoy et d'Oppuers, in their memoirs, refer to this Venice Conference as if it were a miraculous conference, in so far as very very rapidly the Six came to an agreement on the substance of this Spaak Report, agreeing to use it as a basis for future negotiations. Is this how you remember it?

[Jean François-Poncet] Yes, I have no recollection of the Venice Conference s having been a decisive conference. In reality, the substance of the issues was not discussed. We were asked: Will these two reports do? The reply was yes , and after that we set to work making a draft. The real work began later. Not in Venice. Venice was one step in the process.