

Interview with Jean François Poncet: the importance of the Spaak Report for the Val Duchesse negotiations (Paris, 16 March 2007)

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[Jean François-Poncet] That is right, I returned to the Quai d'Orsay in 1956 and a few months later the Quai d'Orsay asked me to join the Private Office of Maurice Faure, who had been assigned the task of negotiating the Treaty. However, as you remarked, this was after the Spaak Committee had finished its work. In fact, one year earlier, a conference had been held in the course of which a decision was taken to launch two projects: the proposed atomic Community, the nuclear Community — Euratom — and the other one, the common market. The object of these two projects... under the leadership of Paul-Henri Spaak, with a French delegation, a German one, and so on, in which I did not yet take part and which drafted two reports — one on the common market, one on Euratom; reports that were extremely well done — and later on our task consisted in taking these reports and rewriting them in legal terms in order to make treaties out of them. Of course, at this point, nearly all the issues were reopened. It was not a task that involved legal transcriptions of what had been proposed in the Spaak Report; it was a negotiation, in my view, held with full functions on the fundamental issues, and this was the negotiation that took place in Val Duchesse and the negotiation that I followed from A to Z.