

## Short biography of Paul Collowald

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Paul Collowald was born on 24 June 1923 in Wissembourg, Bas-Rhin, and began his professional career in 1946 as a journalist on the *Nouvel Alsacien*. He also became the correspondent for the daily newspaper *Le Monde* in Strasbourg, seat of both the Council of Europe and the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which enabled him to follow the progress of European integration right from the start.

He was therefore a witness to the emergence of the first post-war European organisations, such as the Council of Europe in 1949 and, following the Schuman Plan, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951, and the European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC) in 1957. The 1950s also saw discussions on the establishment of a European army, the debate on the rearmament of the Federal Republic of Germany against the background of the Cold War, and the failure of the European Defence Community.

Paul Collowald's European career began in April 1958 when he joined the joint European Communities Information Service in Luxembourg, directed by Jacques-René Rabier. His stay in Luxembourg was short-lived. In October 1959, following the establishment of the Spokesman's Group in Brussels, he was called on by Robert Marjolin, Vice-President of the EEC Commission with responsibility for Economic and Financial Affairs, to become his Spokesman and help set up the Press Service of the Commission.

In 1967, after the merging of the Executives of the European Communities and the reorganisation of the various information services, Paul Collowald became Deputy Spokesman in the new Spokesman's Service of the Commission of the European Communities, which was directed by Bino Olivi. He was also Spokesman for Raymond Barre, Vice-President of the European Commission with responsibility for Economic and Monetary Affairs. Accordingly, he was directly involved in the first plans for establishing Economic and Monetary Union, in particular with the publication, in 1969, of the Rey Commission memorandum on the coordination of economic policies and on monetary cooperation within the Community. His wide experience of economic and financial issues ensured that, at the beginning of the Ortolí Commission, he remained Spokesman for Wilhelm Haferkamp, the German Vice-President with responsibility for Economic Affairs.

In 1973, with the enlargement of the European Communities to include Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom, and the reorganisation within the Commission that followed, Paul Collowald ceased to act as Spokesman. Instead he took charge of the decentralised information offices of the European Commission as Director in the Directorate-General for Press and Information.

In June 1984, having spent 25 years in the Commission, Paul Collowald made a fresh start at the European Parliament, where he became Head of the Private Office of the new President, Pierre Pflimlin. As a result, until the end of Pierre Pflimlin's term of office in January 1987, he worked on the most important issues of this period, particularly on the widely discussed question of the Community budget. In 1988, Paul Collowald ended his professional career as Director-General for Information and Public Relations of the European Parliament in Luxembourg.