

Interview with Gaston Thorn: Luxembourg in Europe (Luxembourg, 6 February 2006)

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[Étienne Deschamps] In terms of your own lengthy experience, how would you describe the major trends in Luxembourg's European policy since the European Communities' first steps, from the late 1950s until the present day? Were there such trends? Were there intangible aspects? What position did the country take towards a Europe in the throes of integration and in constant evolution?

[Gaston Thorn] I feel that the vital concern for Luxembourg was, is and will remain, the constant affirmation of its existence, and specifically to affirm its existence between Germany and France, without letting one or the other claim sovereignty over poor little Luxembourg. I believe that this was the vital concern

[Étienne Deschamps] And did you sometimes feel that the French or the Germans needed to be reminded that Luxembourg existed? Did you sometimes have the feeling that...

[Gaston Thorn] That is what a lot of people still do not want to understand today. Even now it is still always necessary to remind everyone that, first and foremost, we are Luxembourgish. You can hear that in lots of Luxembourgish songs, but it cannot be repeated often enough and clearly enough.