

Interview with José da Silva Lopes: the reactions of the political parties to Portugal's accession (Lisbon, 23 October 2007)

Source: Interview de José da Silva Lopes / JOSÉ DA SILVA LOPES, Miriam Mateus, prise de vue : François Fabert.- Lisbonne: CVCE [Prod.], 23.10.2007. CVCE, Sanem. - VIDEO (00:01:11, Couleur, Son original).

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Last updated: 05/07/2016

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[Miriam Mateus] In 1986, you were a member of the national parliament. What was the attitude or the reaction of the political parties towards Portugal joining the Communities?

[José da Silva Lopes] Well, when I became a Member of Parliament, the Accession Treaty had already been signed. As was obvious at the time, the only party that was clearly against accession was the Communist Party. As we know, the most enthusiastic party was the PS [Socialist Party]. The other two, the PSD [Social Democratic Party] and the CDS [Social Democratic Centre] eventually fell into line. I think that there was a time when the PSD was a little hesitant — although this might be a slightly personal and unfair interpretation ... well, not hesitant, but at least not showing the same enthusiasm. I think the CDS was always very enthusiastic at that time, at least when Freitas do Amaral and Lucas Pires were around, but, after those two, it changed. Those two were both convinced Europeans.