

Short biography of Jacques-René Rabier

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Jacques-René Rabier was born in Paris on 16 September 1919. He completed university studies in Political Economy and Law in Paris and at the Free School of Political Sciences. During the war, he became part of the intellectual circles inspired by the personalist philosophy of Emmanuel Mounier and Jacques Maritain. He was introduced by the economist François Perroux to Mounier and served on the editorial board of the journal *Esprit* between 1946 and 1952.

After the Liberation, Jacques-René Rabier worked for a brief spell at the French National Centre for Economic Information. It was at this time that he began to take an interest in subjects to do with planning. His professional career really took off in 1946, however, when he joined the French National Planning Board in Paris. Jacques-René Rabier was Special Adviser then Head of the Private Office of the Commissioner-General, Jean Monnet, and in 1952 he became Deputy Secretary-General for Planning. But in November 1952, Monnet, who a few months earlier had been appointed President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in Luxembourg, asked him to come and join his Private Office. Jacques-René Rabier therefore joined the ECSC on 1 January 1953. He immediately undertook to draft a monthly report to raise the awareness of MPs and the general public of the High Authority's activities. This was the first step towards a future information service. The following year, he became Director for Annual Reports at the High Authority. Jacques-René Rabier therefore had close links with journalists and the first European press agencies. After Jean Monnet's resignation in 1955, Jacques-René Rabier retained his post in the Private Office of the new President, René Mayer.

In 1958, he became Director in the Directorate-General of Press and Information of the High Authority, which subsequently became the Joint Press and Information Service of the European Commission when the European Economic Community (EEC) was established in Brussels. Jacques-René Rabier organised conferences, meetings and numerous study days. He sought to address youth movements, university circles and adults undergoing training as well as journalists and trade unionists, consumer organisations and women's movements. He was keen to communicate on Community issues not only via the written press but also such media as radio and television. Between 1970 and 1973, Jacques-René Rabier led the Directorate-General for Press and Information of the Commission of the European Communities (ECSC, EEC and Euratom). In 1973, he retired with the rank of Honorary Director General.

Jacques-René Rabier then held the post of Special Adviser to the Commission until 1986. It was in this capacity that he established the first Eurobarometer public opinion surveys in 1973. Between 1987 and 1992, he was a researcher on public behaviour in connection with the 'Europe against Cancer' programme.

Jacques-René Rabier was also Deputy Chairman of the Research Committee on European Unification of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Deputy President of the Association *From Europe to Europe. Myths and symbols* and prominent in the ATD Fourth World movement.