

Short biography of Alain Lamassoure

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Alain Lamassoure was born in 1944 in Pau and completed studies at the Paris Institute of Political Studies and the French National School of Administration (ENA) before beginning his career as a senior official at the Court of Auditors. In 1973, he became Policy Officer or Technical Adviser to Maurice Druon, Minister for Cultural Affairs (1973–1974), and afterwards Technical Adviser in the private office of Jean-Pierre Fourcade, who was Minister for Finance (1974–1976) then for Infrastructure (1977–1978). Lamassoure then became Technical Adviser to the Presidency of the Republic from 1978 to the end of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's term of office.

He was elected MP in 1986 in the fifth constituency of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques *département*, and was re-elected in 1988, 1993 and 1995. He was appointed Minister for European Affairs in the government of Édouard Balladur during the second cohabitation, while François Mitterrand was President of the Republic (1993–1995). He was a supporter of Édouard Balladur but nevertheless worked under the supervision of the Chiraquian Foreign Minister, Alain Juppé. When Jacques Chirac was elected President of the Republic in 1995, Lamassoure joined the government of Alain Juppé as Minister for Budget. From 1993 to 1997, he was therefore involved in the preparations for France's adoption of the euro, the 1995 enlargement, the 1995 French Presidency of the European Union and the negotiations on the Treaty of Amsterdam and the Stability Pact.

His European commitment was also shaped by his role as an MEP: he was elected to the European Parliament in 1989, 1999 and 2004. As a member of the European People's Party (EPP), he was spokesman for the French delegation in the EPP group. Within the European Parliament he is involved in the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Delegation for Relations with India. In 2002 and 2003 he took part in the work of the European Convention. He was Vice-President of the European Movement France from 2002 to 2005 and is Vice-President of the *Cercle de l'Industrie*, the forum for major French industrial firms that aims to define a new industrial policy and improve economic governance in Europe. In March 2007, he published a report in which he criticised the shortcomings of the European Union's financing system and called for own resources.

A former member of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), which was founded by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing when he was President of the Republic, Lamassoure joined the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) when it was established in 2002. He has been the party's National Secretary for European Affairs since 2004.

In 2008, Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic, asked him to write a report on the effective application of Community law in the daily life of citizens in preparation for the French Presidency of the Union, which began on 1 July 2008. On 27 June 2008, in his report, Alain Lamassoure called for a better application of European legislation in France.