

A rereading of the Werner Report of 8 October 1970 in the light of the Pierre Werner family archives — Foreword

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Foreword

The digital research corpus ‘A rereading of the Werner Report of 8 October 1970 in the light of the Pierre Werner family archives’ showcases the results of the first stage of the ‘Pierre Werner and Europe’ research project launched by the CVCE in January 2011. Based on a thorough exploration of the Werner family archives, which have been opened for the first time for research purposes, and also on other relevant archives — both Luxembourgish and international, public and private — containing multimedia material in several languages, this corpus throws light on the alchemy of the Werner Report and the mindset in which it was developed. Previously unpublished documents have helped clarify the varied, nuanced role of Pierre Werner and his personal contribution to the development and adoption of the stage-by-stage plan, on a theoretical, methodological and political level, in the context of his European achievements as a whole.

The corpus contains a comprehensive, varied selection of primary sources and related resources, as well as a detailed analytical study, which provides a new interpretation of various little-known, original sources. This corpus offers a ‘rereading’, a fresh look at the Werner Report, retracing the context and historical background in which the report was drafted and examining the work of the Werner Committee, and highlighting the impact of the Werner Plan on the path towards Economic and Monetary Union. In the interests of clarity, the study is accompanied by a list of references cited by section, as well as a list of key figures with brief biographical details, a comprehensive bibliography and a chronology.

This digital research corpus is geared towards the scientific community and intended to be used for in-depth research. It has gone through a peer review process by a steering committee of external experts composed of the following members:

- René Leboutte, Professor in Contemporary History and holder of the *ad personam* Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration History at the University of Luxembourg;
- Ivo Maes, Senior Adviser for Historical Studies in the Research Department at the National Bank of Belgium and Professor and holder of the Robert Triffin Chair at the Institute of European Studies of the Université catholique de Louvain;
- Sylvain Schirmann, Professor at the University of Strasbourg, holder of a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration History and Director of the Institute of Political Studies at the University of Strasbourg.

The corpus has been published following the unanimous positive evaluation of the committee.