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Biographical Note

COLETTE FLESCH

Member of the European Parliament

Mayor of Luxembourg

Ms. Flesch was born in Dudelange in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg in April 1937. After attending High School in Luxembourg (Lycée des Jeunes Filles), she went to the United States for her university education. She received a B.A. at Wellesley College and an M.A. in political science and economics at the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy.

Ms. Flesch's professional career began as Public Affairs Assistant at the American Embassy's Information Service in Luxembourg (1963-64). After five years at the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of the European Community in Brussels (1964-69), she became a member of the Chamber of Deputies of Luxembourg's Parliament in February 1969, succeeding Gaston Thorn when the latter became Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. (Gaston Thorn, still Luxembourg's Foreign Minister, Prime Minister and Minister of Sports, was elected President of the United Nations General Assembly last September.) Ms. Flesch has also been a Member of the European Parliament since 1969 -- the 198 Members of the European Parliament are appointed from and by their national legislatures -- as well as Vice Chairman of the Liberal and Allies Group, the third largest political group in the European Parliament after the Socialist and Christian-Democrat Groups. In July 1974, she was appointed Chairman of the Liberal Parliamentary Group of Luxembourg, and in November of the same year, she became the Chairman of the European Parliament's Cooperation and Development Committee. The latter deals with the European Community's concerns of the 46 countries from the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa with whom the Community has special ties within the framework of the Lomé Convention.

Ms. Flesch was elected Mayor of Luxembourg in 1970, and was reelected last month with the largest majority.

She is a member of Luxembourg's Fencing Team and has represented her country at the Olympic Games in 1960, 1964, and 1968. She was the Assistant Chief of the Luxembourg Delegation to the Olympic Games in 1972. She is the Vice President of Luxembourg's Fencing Association and a member of the Board of Luxembourg's Olympic and Sports Committee.

Ms. Flesch lives in Luxembourg.

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Brussels, 29 March 1990

**COLETTE FLESCH IS APPOINTED HEAD OF THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE**

The Commission yesterday appointed Miss Colette Flesch to the post of Director-General for Information, Communication and Culture, where audiovisual policy will be among her responsibilities.

Born on 16 April 1937, Miss Flesch is a well-known figure in European circles, who has made the news more than once. Not only was she an Olympic finalist in fencing, but also the first female mayor of the City of Luxembourg, an office which she held for seven years before becoming Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economic Affairs and Minister of Justice.

She was deeply involved in the difficult discussions over the restructuring of the steel industry, where her skill and efficiency were widely appreciated.

A Member of the European Parliament since 1969, she has been Chairman of the Committee on Development and Cooperation and is at present Vice-Chairman of the Liberal, Democratic and Reformist Group.

Miss Flesch will take up her duties on 1 June.