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Directorate-General
Customs union and indirect taxation

The Director-General

Curriculum Vitae : Mr. Henry CHUMAS

Full name : Henry John Chumas
Date of birth : 21 December 1933
Place of birth : Greenford, Middlesex, England
Nationality : British
Family status : married, 3 grown-up children

Mr. Chumas joined the United Kingdom civil service in 1952 at the Home Office.

After military service from 1953 to 1955, during which he studied Russian at Cambridge University, Mr. Chumas remained a reserve officer in the Territorial Army until 1971, ending with the rank of major.

During his years as a civil servant he followed courses at the University of London in law and business studies and became a Member of the Institute of Personnel Management.

Mr. Chumas worked for the Board of Customs and Excise from 1961 to 1973, ending up as Assistant Secretary, Head of Management Services.

In 1973, following British entry into the European Community, Mr. Chumas was appointed Principal Adviser on Tariff questions at the Commission, and in 1979 became Director of External Tariff Questions. Since the departure of Director-General Vilar in September 1989, Mr. Chumas has been Acting Director-General of Customs Union and Indirect Taxation.

Among many important duties carried out by Mr. Chumas mention should be made of his participation in the multilateral trade negotiations (Tokyo Round) where he was the Community's principal negotiator for the GATT value code agreed by the EC, USA, Japan etc. in 1980. He played a leading part in preparing the EC for the implementation of the Harmonized System Convention on 1st. January 1988 and has also, building on experience acquired in the UK Civil Service, been largely responsible for the coordinated introduction and development of computerization and EDI into the work of the customs administrations of the EC's Member States. He is well known in international informatics circles.

It should be noted that Mr. Chumas has, over a number of years, had extensive contacts with the US Customs Service, although he has yet to meet Mrs. Hallett, newly appointed Commissioner of Customs.
