
F A C T S O N
FRANCE

BID
BOOK C

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Edith Cresson

Prime Minister of France

Edith Cresson was appointed Prime Minister of France by President François Mitterrand on May 15, 1991. Mrs. Cresson was formerly Minister of European Affairs, having been appointed on May 11, 1988 and reappointed on June 28, 1988 in the first and second cabinets of former Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

Mrs. Cresson's political activities date back to her involvement in Socialist Party candidate François Mitterrand's bid for the presidency in 1965. Later that same year she joined the Organization of Republican Institutions. Within the Socialist Party, she has held numerous positions including National Secretary for Youth Organizations (1975-1979), National Delegate for Environmental Matters (1980-1981), National Secretary for Industrial Issues (1987-March 1990) and member of the Steering Committee of the Socialist Party.

A former member of the European Parliament (1979-1981), Cresson served on that assembly's Agriculture Committee. In 1981, Cresson was appointed Minister of Agriculture in the cabinet of Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, a position she held until 1983. Subsequently, she was appointed Minister of Foreign Trade in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Laurent Fabius and remained in the post until 1986.

On the local level, Mrs. Cresson was elected a *député* to the National Assembly from the Vienne *département* on the Socialist Party ticket in 1981, reelected in 1986 and in 1988. She has also served as mayor of the small city of Châtellerault located in western France, first being elected in March, 1983. She has also served as a member of the General Council of the *département* of Vienne.

Mrs. Cresson is a graduate of the Women's School of Advanced Commercial Studies (HECJF) where she received a degree in business and a doctorate in demography. She is also the author of the book, *Avec le soleil* (With the Sun) and received the Legion of Honor last January.

Edith Cresson was born on January 27, 1934 in the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt. She is married and the mother of two children.



Ambassade de France

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For your information -

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Edith Cresson

Born: 27 January 1934 in Boulogne-Billancourt, France
Married with two children

University qualifications

Graduate of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales
Doctorate in demography

Career

1958-60 Researcher at the C.F.P.
1968-74 Director of studies in private economic research institutes, responsible for selection of industrial sites, inter alia
1990-91 Chairwomen and managing director of Schneider Industries Services International

Political activities

1966 Responsible for agricultural matters in the Convention des Institutions Républicaines
1971 Joined Socialist Party at the Epinay party conference
1974 National Secretary to the Socialist Party, responsible for youth and student affairs
1975 Stood against Pierre Abelin, Minister for Cooperation and Mayor of Châtellerault, at parliamentary by-election in Châtellerault.
1977 Mayor of Thuré in Vienne, a rural borough with 2500 inhabitants
1979 Member of the European Parliament
 Member of the Agriculture Committee
1981 Elected Member of the Assemblée Nationale for Vienne
1981-83 Minister for Agriculture
March 1983 Elected mayor of Châtellerault
 Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism
1984-86 Minister for Industrial Redeployment and Foreign Trade
1986-88 National Secretary to the Socialist Party, with responsibility for Industry



March 1986 Re-elected Member of the Assemblée nationale for Vienne
1988 Re-elected Member of the Assemblée nationale for Vienne
1988-90 Minister for European Affairs
1991-92 Prime Minister

Offices held

Member of Steering Committee of the Socialist Party from 1974-90

Member of the Vienne Conseil Général since 1982

Chairwoman of the Democratic Association of French nationals abroad from 1986-91

Chairwoman of "France exporte plus", established in 1987, until 1991

Mayor of Châtelleraut since 1983

Chairwoman of the Institute of European Studies since 1992

Published works

1970 Thesis for doctorate in demography on women's lives in the rural district of Tueméné-Penfao

1975 "Avec le soleil", published by J.J. Lattes

Current post

1992 Chairwoman and managing director of Services Industries Stratégies Internationales Environment

