

ETIENNE HIRSCH

Former President, European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

An ardent supporter of European and Atlantic partnership, Etienne Hirsch, presently serves as economic advisor to the Pan American Union and advisor to the Atlantic Institute. He was second president of the European Atomic Energy Community from February, 1959, to January, 1962.

Mr. Hirsch, a civil engineer, was born in Paris on January 24, 1901. In 1924, he entered the research laboratory of the firm Etablissement Kuhlmann. After five years he was appointed manager of one of their factories and later put in charge of research and development of new manufacturing processes. At the same time, he was managing director of the Marles-Kuhlmann Company, of the Fuel Research Company and of the Ethyl-Kuhlmann Chemical Products Company.

On June 25, 1940, he joined the Free French Forces and became assistant director for armaments, with the special task of ensuring the equipment of the Free French Forces and the supply of all the territories which rallied to Free France.

He was called to Algiers in July 1943, where he worked with, close friend and colleague, Jean Monnet, on preparing the supply system for France for the liberation; later the National Committee in Algiers named him head of the French Mission, set up for this purpose at allied headquarters. In this role Mr. Hirsch carried out missions in Normandy at the time of the landings.

In January 1945, he became French representative on the Joint Committee for Supply of France set up in Paris and, later, president of the French Supply Council in London and French representative on the temporary Economic Committee for Europe.

When the French Planning Committee (Commissariat General au Plan) came into being at the start of 1946, he was appointed head of its technical division and entrusted with the coordination of the work of the Modernization Commission. He played an important part in the establishment of the First Modernization and Equipment Plan. On September 3, 1949, he was named deputy chief of the Planning Commission. After May 1950, while continuing his work with the Planning Commission, he participated as Mr. Monnet's deputy in the negotiations which led to the setting up of the European Coal and Steel Community. On October 11, 1952, Mr. Hirsch was named head of the Equipment and Modernization Plan.

On February 2, 1959, the six governments of the member states of the European Community appointed him member and President of the Euratom Commission, following the resignation of Euratom's first President, Louis Armand. An informal and matter-of-fact man, Mr. Hirsch always insisted upon first-name relations among European colleagues in the Commission. When he left Euratom, three years later, he would accept only a pipe in appreciation for his services, over protests of his associates.

Widowed less than two years ago, Mr. Hirsch has four children. He is an officer of the Legion of Honor and fond of mountaineering and skiing. His hobbies are music and painting.