

DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
Information Service

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## Biographical Note

### FERNAND SPAAK

#### Head of Delegation

Mr. Spaak was born on August 8, 1923 in Brussels. He grew up in pre-war Belgium, went to local schools, and then to the University of Brussels to study law. But by then the world was at war, and Belgium occupied by the Nazis. As soon as he could, he contacted the Belgian Resistance and, with others who wanted to join the Allied forces, travelled the dangerous "underground" route through occupied France and Spain and Portugal to Gibraltar and finally to England. There he immediately joined the Royal Navy, as an ordinary seaman, and served first as a deck hand on destroyers doing convoy escort duty on the North Atlantic routes. He rose in the Navy and was a Sub-Lieutenant on a Fleet minesweeper when time came to return to civilian life in 1946 at the age of 23.

He went back to Belgium and resumed his legal studies. In 1948, he received a Doctorate of Law from the University of Brussels, and joined the National Foundation for Scientific Research in Belgium where he specialised in Constitutional Law. Soon afterwards, he returned to England to complete his education at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a B. A. in economics.

In 1950 he returned once more to Brussels, and joined the National Bank of Belgium where he worked in the field of foreign currency.

It could be said that the turning point in Mr. Spaak's life came in August 1952 when he met and spent some time talking to the man who is generally regarded as the "Father of the European Community," Jean Monnet. They spoke, as did many politically aware Europeans at that time, of the new and heady ideal of European unity. Mr. Spaak had doubts that it could succeed without the British, but Monnet convinced the young man that even if the British did not join at the outset, it was still the way ahead for Europe, and that the British would come in as soon as they saw it was working.

Persuaded by Monnet's unique mixture of inspiration and pragmatism, Mr. Spaak became a convinced European and has remained one.

He joined the European Coal and Steel Community when it started, and worked with Pierre Uri, whom he describes as the "brain behind the Common Market."

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Then, two years later, he joined Monnet's personal staff as Chief Executive Assistant, and he continued in this job under Monnet's successor, René Mayer. He rose further to take charge of the department dealing with anti-trust cases.

In 1960, he was appointed Director General of the European Atomic Energy Community's supply agency, where he was concerned with the supply of fissile materials and was later put in charge of the whole field of nuclear safeguards as well.

In 1967, following the merger of the three European institutions (the Coal and Steel Community, the Atomic Energy Community, and the Economic Community) Mr. Spaak was appointed Director General of Energy in the new European Commission. In that job he became a key figure in Europe's search for a joint energy policy and helped steer the Commission through the stormy political seas of the 1973-74 energy crisis following the Arab oil embargo.

Since January 1, 1976, Mr. Spaak has been Head of the European Commission's Delegation to the United States, and he, his wife, Anne, and their three teenage daughters have made their home in Washington, together with the family pets, two dogs, three cats, and a parrot.

Mr. Spaak loves and collects old books, particularly Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century history and literature in both English and French, and, as might be expected, is a voracious reader. He enjoys looking at paintings, and whenever he is in one of the many American cities with a notable collection of art, he takes the opportunity to see it. He enjoys walking, and often walks between his office and his home, and he is an inveterate smoker of a very large variety of pipes.

September 1976



février 1981

CURRICULUM VITAE

B10 Book

SPAARK Fernand

Né le 8 août 1923 à Forest-Bruxelles, marié, 3 filles.

Nationalité: Belge.

LANGUES:

Langue maternelle : Français  
Connaissance active : Anglais  
Connaissance passive: Italien - Allemand - Néerlandais

ETUDES:

1948 : Docteur en Droit (Université Libre de Bruxelles).  
1950 : Bachelor of Arts (Economics) (Université Cambridge)  
1948 - 1950 : Aspirant au Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique en Droit Constitutionnel.

REFERENCE PROFESSIONNELLES:

1950 - 1952 : Banque Nationale de Belgique  
1952 - 1960 : Haute Autorité de la Communauté Européenne du Charbon et de l'Acier, successivement:  
- Chef de Cabinet des Présidents Jean MONNET et René MAYER  
- Directeur des Ententes et Concentrations  
1960 - 1967 : Commission de la Communauté Européenne de l'Energie Atomique (Euratom):  
- Directeur Général de l'Agence d'Approvisionnement d'Euratom  
- Directeur du Contrôle de Sécurité.  
1967 - 1980 : Commission des Communautés Européennes  
- 1967-1975 : Directeur Général de l'Energie  
- 1976-1980 : Chef de la Délégation de la Commission des Communautés Européennes aux Etats-Unis.  
Actuellement : Chef de la Délégation pour l'Elargissement  
4 janvier 1981 : Chef de Cabinet du Président Gaston THORN

PUBLICATIONS:

Etude sur la fonction du Premier Ministre (Revue de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles).  
Divers articles et conférences touchant aux problèmes de l'intégration de l'Europe.



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BIO  
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*Anne Spaak*

*Wife of Mr. Fernand Spaak Head of Delegation  
of The Commission of the European Communities*

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Biographical Note

MRS. SPAAK was born in Belgium. Her father was Italian and her mother Belgian. She spoke English at home, French at school, and, from her father, learned Italian. Already as a girl, she was very much a citizen of Europe rather than of any one European nation.

But in 1939, her studies at the University of Brussels were interrupted by that last explosion of conflicting European nationalisms, the Second World War. Mrs. Spaak found herself, newly married at the age of 18, plunged into the dangers and intrigues of Nazi occupied Belgium. She joined the Resistance and became a member of a sabotage group. Mrs. Spaak was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Palm for her war-time exploits.

In the early 1950's she met and married Fernand Spaak, just at the time when he was beginning his career with the European Commission. They lived in Luxembourg and Brussels, and they had three daughters, Marie, Isabelle, and Virginie, who are all now teenagers.

In her period as what she describes as a "Commission wife", Mrs. Spaak has developed both a passionate commitment to





the cause of European Unity and a healthy scepticism about the ability of "Eurocrats and Technocrats" to achieve it. She says, "It is the people of Europe who must decide European Unity." She feels particularly that the directly elected European Parliament expected for the first time in 1978 is the last chance for some form of political unity for Europe.

Since she came to Washington in January 1976, Mrs. Spaak has thoroughly enjoyed her new role as the wife of a Head of Delegation. She spent the first months transforming the rather gloomy "Residence" into a pleasant family home, entertaining a great deal, and making friends.

She likes opera, and greatly admired the Kennedy Center's Bicentennial programme. Indeed, she finds it extraordinary that here in America she, a European, has been able to see the Companies of La Scala, Milan, and the Paris Opera for the very first time.

Now that she has settled in and is feeling at home here, Mrs. Spaak says that one of the things she enjoys particularly is the mood of activism and freedom among American women, and she wants very much to talk to Americans about the important things going on in the European Community. "In this country," she says, "women always do something. I have made up my mind to try and do something myself."

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