

FOREWORD

By Christian D. De Fouloy
Editor

When the decision was taken on the occasion of the summit in Edinburgh in December 1992 to confirm the Alsatian capital as seat of the European Parliament of the Twelve, it came as a delightful surprise for all of Strasbourg's population. Indeed, Strasbourg had greatly feared that the long debate regarding the seat of the European Parliament finally would turn to its disadvantage, and therefore, the decision came as a relief. As a matter of fact, the local newspaper "Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace" expressed this unanimous sentiment perfectly with this headline: "A Great Victory".

However, some members of the European Parliament continue to maintain forcefully their opposition to the decision taken by the European Council. They declare that the decision was illegal, in breach of the EC Treaty. They contend that they cannot allow the Council to decide where the European Parliament should meet, how many plenary sessions it should hold and where it should have its staff. In December 1992, they even drafted a Parliamentary resolution censuring the Council for not having consulted the Parliament on this issue and told the Council they would not be bound by the summit decisions and would uphold their right to run their own affairs.

Above this controversy of course, there is the importance and interest of the work achieved by European organizations operating in Strasbourg, there is the vitality of Strasbourg's Urban Community and its true European vocation.

"I have found what I came here to find," declares a Japanese researcher, adding that the "location of Strasbourg in the heart of Europe is ideal for a researcher who makes comparisons between countries".

An American professor from the University of Santa Clara in California points out, "in Strasbourg, I have found all the great names of international law and I can work easily with the Council of Europe, the European Community and the United Nations." An Italian declares that "Alsace is worth the discovery," mentioning all aspects of

cultural life, including theatres, music, operas, museums, the joys of eating out and travelling in the region.

It therefore appears timely to present to as large a number of readers as possible the organization and activities of the European and international institutions based in Strasbourg.

This European Strasbourg Register 1993/1994 is divided into two parts. Part One comprises articles contributed by eminent specialists on specific topics concerning Strasbourg. Part Two, as its title indicates, outlines the institutional set-up in Strasbourg and details the activities of the European and international organizations and bodies based in or active in Strasbourg. Both parts of the book require a few comments.

Part One opens with papers published under the joint title "The Future of Strasbourg as Seen by VIPs". The authors of these papers are leaders in political, administrative, diplomatic, academic and business circles. They were kind enough to answer my request for their views on selected important topics. Not only are these papers informative, but by emphasizing different facets of Strasbourg, their authors offer interesting insights into their special concerns. What is important, however, is the firm belief shared by all these distinguished leaders that Strasbourg remains called upon to play a vital role at this crucial crossroad in the history of the Community.

I would like to thank all the authors for their articles, which contribute to a better understanding of the role of European and international organizations based in Strasbourg in the search for solutions to the present problems of Europe and the rest of the world.

Part II of the present volume presents a list of the most significant organizations in Strasbourg, along with general information about them and the activities they pursue.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the city of Strasbourg for its encouragement, advice and moral support in making the publication of this Register possible.