

C.V. OF CORRADO PIRZIO-BIROLI

Ambassador (ret.) Corrado Pirzio-Biroli is currently President of the European Landowners Organization (ELO) and CEO of the Rural Investment Support for Europe (RISE) Foundation (whose President is former Commissioner Franz Fischler). He is also Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the Fondazione Qualivita (on food quality), member of the Scientific Committee of the Térésys Foundation (providing policy advice to African Governments), and honorary director of the European Commission.

From 1994 to the end of 2004, he was the Chief of Staff of Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries Franz Fischler. As a member of the 5-person ad-hoc steering group he was deeply involved in elaborating the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reforms of 1999 and 2003-2004. He also contributed to the elaboration of the first ever reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (2003), devoting substantial time to complement Fischler's efforts to sell two CAP reforms and the Fisheries reform to reluctant operators via the media.

As the Doyen of the Chiefs of Staff at the Commission, C. Pirzio Biroli actively participated in the key steering groups, which elaborated the proposals regarding the European Constitution, the Agenda 2000 on the Financial Perspectives 2000-2006, and the New Financial Perspectives for the EU in 2007-2013. He took also part in the talks regarding the Doha Development Agenda and the preparation of the WTO negotiating framework agreed in July 2004.

From 1992-1994 he was Head of the European Commission Delegation in Vienna, accredited to the Austrian Government as well as to the United Nations, the UNIDO, and the Atomic Energy Agency, and a delegate to the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). His main task was to campaign for the accession of Austria to the EU leading to the referendum of 2004 (which recorded the largest pro-EU majority in history besides Ireland).

From 1988-1992 he was Deputy Head of Delegation in the United States, Washington DC, where he notably dealt with political and commercial affairs. Because of the "Fortress Europe" campaign critical of the European Single Market, which was raging at that time, much time was actually devoted to press, radio and TV interviews, public speeches and debates.

From 1985-1988 he was Deputy Head of Division "EFTA Affairs" in charge of the creation of a European Economic Area. He also drafted a 100-page Study on the future of Euro-Japanese relations.

From 1982-1984 C.P.-B. was a member of the Cabinet of Commission President Gaston Thorn in charge of the EU budget, economic and financial affairs, transport, energy and EURATOM.

From 1971, when he first joined the European Commission, to 1982 he held several posts such as Economic Advisor in Washington, liaising also with the World Bank and the I.M.F. (1978-1982), principal administrator in the Development Policies division (1971-1978), and delegate to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation in Paris (1975-1976).

Before joining the Commission, he was the Development Advisor to the Government of the Sudan, Khartoum (1969-1970), and Assistant Lecturer in Economics at the Institute of Social Studies (I.S.S.) in The Hague (1968). He has also been Lecturer in development economics at the University of Gorizia, Italy (1993-94).

He holds a Doctorate in Economics and Business Administration and post-graduate diplomas from the I.S.S., Netherlands, in economic planning and industrial development programming, respectively.

Corrado Pirzio-Biroli, born in Udine (Italy) on 25/11/1940, is married with Cécile Cornet d'Elzius and has one son, Federico. Bilingual (Italian-German), fluent in English and French, speaks Spanish. Sports: hunting, river-rafting, skiing, tennis.