

C.V. of Corrado PIRZIO-BIROLI



ENGLISH -----

Corrado Pirzio-Birolì, was born in Udine (Italy) on 25/11/1940, is married with Cécile Cornet d'Elzius and has one son, Federico. He is bilingual Italian-German, is fluent in English and French, and speaks also Spanish. He is currently the Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the ELO, Chairman of the scientific committee of the Qualivita Foundation, member of the scientific committee of the Theresys Foundation, 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 most senior of the European Commission's Chiefs of Staff C. P.-B. actively participated in the key steering groups, which elaborated Commission 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 preparatory 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 in The Hague (1968). He has also been Lecturer in development economics at the University of Gorizia, Italy (1993-94).

He holds a Baccalaureate in Classical studies, a Doctorate in Economics and Business, University of Rome, and post-graduate diplomas from the I.S.S. in economic planning and industrial development programming.

Sports: hunting, river-rafting, skiing, tennis.

Publications

A book “VISION EUROPA” by Styria Verlag in German (1984)

A biography on the explorer Pietro Savorgnan di Brazzà, in Italian and in French (2006)

Several contributions to books and periodicals in the US, UK, Italy and Austria and a number of editorials in Austria on international politics and economics, North-South relations, EU matters such as agriculture/rural development, enlargement, trade, monetary and budgetary affairs and institutional aspects.