

## **PROMOTING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S POSITION: THE 'PLUMB-DELORS AGREEMENT'**

I did things my way, and after a while not only did we understand each other but we worked well together, and I think Jacques was always a good leader. He was a totally committed man and you only have to think of Jacques Delors as the man who really converted the Labour Party in this country overnight by making one speech to the Trade Union movement. Because the Labour Party were opposed to our membership of the European Community and Jacques Delors came and persuaded them, and overnight that whole thing changed. Very interesting is it not, when you think about it, as the Labour Party are now totally committed to Europe, but they were totally against, while the Conservative Party have mixed views I think at the moment and did have and have had for some time. The agreement we had was that we should form a sort of a regular meeting, as I had with him, and as I had with Commissioners following him or with Commissioners at a specific level.

## **THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AT EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETINGS COUNCIL OPENING SPEECH**

I just put in a request to attend. I thought, you know, the President of the Parliament should go to Council meetings, to a summit, and should have the chance to say, to all the prime ministers, this is what the Parliament thinks on so many different issues. Not an easy speech to write, because it has got to be one that every political group in the Parliament is going to see. Can I satisfy them all? No, I cannot. But I can at least reflect what the Parliament as a whole does think on these issues. So it was a request that was made.

There was only one prime minister who objected to the President of the Parliament joining, and perhaps she did not realise at the time who the President was. She did not like calling the European Parliament a parliament. It was always the Assembly. But anyway, of course, she accepted. I was not allowed to have my picture taken with the Council of Ministers. Now I see the President is on the front row, so it was a move in the right direction.