



Assembly of Western European Union
The Interparliamentary European Security and Defence Assembly
1955-2005: celebrating fifty years of parliamentary debate on European Security and Defence

**Jean-Pierre Masseret, Member of the French Senate and
President of the Assembly of WEU**
Curriculum vitae

Paris, 7 December 2005: **Jean-Pierre Masseret** (France, Socialist Group) was elected President of the WEU Assembly on 7 December 2005 during the second part of the Assembly's 51st plenary session in Paris. Mr Masseret is a Senator representing the Moselle area and President of the Regional Council for Lorraine in eastern France (a region bordering on Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany). President Masseret, whose term of office is for one year, twice renewable, succeeds Stef Goris (Belgium, Liberal Group).

Mr Masseret first became a member of the Assembly in 1989. He has been a Vice-President since July 2002 and Chairman of the Socialist Group since December 2003. In 1996-97 he was Chairman of the Parliamentary and Public Relations Committee. As a member of both the Political and Defence Committees he has twice been a Rapporteur for the Assembly: on WEU's contribution to reinforcing peace in Central Africa and on non-EU European countries and European Defence. Before his election as President Mr Masseret was Leader of the French Delegation to the Assembly.

Born 23 August 1944 in Cusset (Allier), Jean-Pierre Masseret studied public law before becoming a principal inspector of taxes. He was elected a departmental councillor (*Conseiller Général*) for Moselle in 1979, a town councillor (*Conseiller municipal*) for Metz in 1983 and to the French Senate in 1983 and 1992. He was also elected Mayor of Hayange (Moselle) in 1995. In 1997 he joined Lionel Jospin's government as State Secretary for Defence with responsibility for War Veterans, a post he occupied until 2001 when he was re-elected to the Senate. On 2 April 2004 he was elected President of the Lorraine Regional Council.

Within the Senate, he holds the office of Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Budget Control and the Nation's Economic Accounts (*Vice-Président de la Commission des finances, du contrôle budgétaire et des comptes économiques de la Nation*). He is a member of France's Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, a member of the Supervisory Board of France's Industrial Innovation Agency (*Conseil de surveillance de l'Agence de l'innovation industrielle*) and a member of the High Council for Military Reserve Forces (*Conseil supérieur de la réserve militaire*).

Mr Masseret said in his address on the occasion of the official ceremony to celebrate the WEU Assembly's 50th Anniversary, held in the *Palais de l'Europe*, Strasbourg, in June 2005, that the Assembly had made "an honourable and useful contribution to forming and nurturing the European spirit. [It] has ever worked for peace and security (...) for without them – peace and security – economic, social and cultural progress is not attainable". He went on to observe that "to aspire to peace and security means thinking collectively about the threats and risks we face and also about the political conditions that need to be present in order to deal with them. It means being clear about the military instruments we need. As peace and security are the foundation of any democratic endeavour, the involvement of national parliaments is a prime requirement".

He pointed out also that "at present, the WEU interparliamentary Assembly is the most inclusive organisation for European defence that there is. (...) Thus the Assembly should continue to work with the same determination for the development of European defence, taking a more political approach (...). It will then show, on the basis of carefully drawn up reports, that the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the Constitutional Treaty does not in any way affect the common will of the representatives of European citizens to pursue the goal of European defence".

President Masseret's inaugural address can be found on the WEU Assembly's website (www.assemblee-ueo.org).

Should you wish to contact Mr Masseret, please do so via Michael Hilger, Head of the WEU Assembly Press Service, or Natacha Masseret, Mr Masseret's Press Attaché in Metz (+33.387336202).

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