

Address to Memorial Service for John Pinder, 25th April 2015
Jaap de Zwaan, TransEuropean Policy Studies Association

Dear family members and distinguished guests,

TEPSA

John Pinder was one of the founders of the Trans European Policy Studies Association, TEPSA.

TEPSA is a network organisation of European Studies Institutes in all the member states of the EU as well as states associated with the EU. It is the first transeuropean research network, established in 1974.

I am the secretary-general of the association. Federal Trust is our British member, of which we are very proud.

In this respect I apologize for the absence of Wolfgang Wessels, the chairman of TEPSA –he is a professor at Cologne University in Germany- who had liked to be here, however couldn't make it today.

Today the network consists of 34 leading research institutes in the field of European affairs –more particularly European integration affairs- throughout Europe. It has an office in Brussels, Belgium.

Still today TEPSA's flagship events, initiated by people like Pinder, are the so-called Pre-Presidency Conferences. The conferences gather the whole TEPSA network and take place in the country that will take up the Council Presidency of the EU, one or several months before the respective semester will start. The event was –and still is- a key opportunity for leading politicians, academics, civil society and media representatives to come together and discuss the priorities of the EU at that particular moment.

In this context I recall that Jacques Vandamme, an old friend of John and coming from Belgium, was also involved in these early and crucial

activities of TEPSA. Jacques counted John as one of his closest friends. In fact Jacques, now 91 years-old, would have loved to attend this ceremony, however his health situation didn't allow that to happen.

Over the time John inspired many people in the TEPSA network and always remained in close contact with many of us, now active in the Association. We knew him not simply as a remarkable colleague, but also as a wise and understanding friend who has enriched our lives.

COLLEGE OF EUROPE

John Pinder was also Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, for thirty years. The College, founded in 1949, so right after the Second World War, is a post-academic institute for European Studies. In practise it is laboratory of European policy makers, thinkers and civil servants to be employed by the institutions of the EU.

John has lectured many of them. In fact I am also one of his former students. I studied at the College in the seventies.

The lectures of John Pinder were always inspiring. He gave us food for (a lot of) thought. And always he demonstrated a positive attitude towards European cooperation. Indeed, in order to secure the values of peace, stability and prosperity on our continent, he stressed the need to work together –to cooperate- in a well-developed solid framework which has become the EU.

His role as a teacher was ground-breaking in the encouragement of European studies, not merely in this country, but throughout the European Union and beyond. Because the College receives students coming from all continents.

Therefore, also as a professor at the College John Pinder has made a central and fine contribution to the development of knowledge and expertise regarding a secure, united and stable Europe.

ACADEMIC AND INTERNATIONALIST

So, John Pinder was a strong academic figure and teacher.

His contribution to the European debate represented a mixture of academic analysis and personal conviction, pleading for the federalist model as the only basis on which Europe -in the long term- can be constructed. Somebody to be proud of.

The fame and reputation of John Pinder go beyond the borders of the United Kingdom and Great Britain. Indeed, he was a person with a real international status and significance

FINAL REMARKS

All in all, John was a dearest friend of TEPSA and, perhaps still more importantly, a great European.

We shall miss him both as an intellectual and as a strong and inspiring personality.

He was an example for all of us, even today.

May he rest in peace.