

IN MEMORIAM



1914-2010

Max Kohnstamm

Founding European Chairman

The Trilateral Commission

1973-1975

Max Kohnstamm died peacefully on 20 October 2010, aged 96

A Tribute by Georges Berthoin, Honorary European Chairman

Born with the first global war in 1914, Max Kohnstamm was constantly looking for Peace. Convinced that, beyond rhetorical good intentions, words should not betray those believing in them, he opted for practical actions. In his late thirties, his meeting with Jean Monnet gave substance and continuity to this ideal for the rest of his life. Where and when a beginning was needed he was always *present at the creation*: Luxemburg in 1952, among the pioneers who established the present European Union's basis; Paris in 1955, seconding Jean Monnet as Vice President of his influential Action Committee for the United States of Europe; London in 1956, inventing from scratch the embryo of what is today a universal European diplomatic service and tradition; Tokyo in 1973 at the start of our Trilateral Commission when cooperation was needed between the then key democracies in an emerging multilateral world.

He mastered diverse aspects of a tenacious quest for harmony from the cosiness of a happy family life to the adventurous rewards of an open and unchartered world. For almost a century of inspired devotion and efforts as a humanist, democrat, patriot, European, citizen of the world, he saw his dreams come true and always made others share this rare privilege.

Our Commission will not forget its debt and gratitude to its first European Chairman, Max, the man of vision and precise implementer, the doer and the prophet.