

This site uses cookies. By continuing to browse the site you are agreeing to our use of cookies. [Find out more here](#)

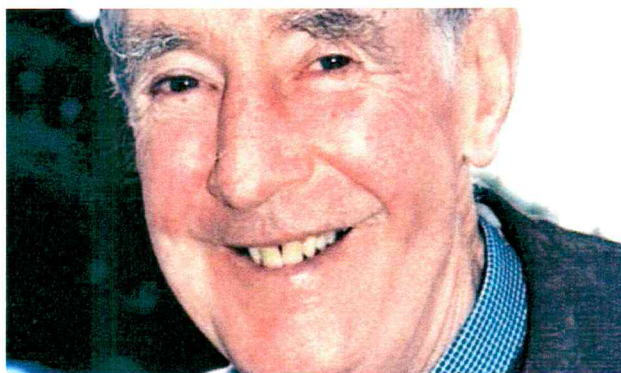
theguardian

 Search

Michael Palmer obituary

David Millar

theguardian.com, Wednesday 27 August 2014 15:29 BST



Michael Palmer influenced many reports drafted for members of the European parliament's political affairs committee

My friend Michael Palmer, who has died aged 81, was the consummate European. He was born in London, but after getting a first at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and a spell at the thinktank Political and Economic Planning, he worked successively for the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, Western European Union and Nato before becoming a director in the European parliament in 1973, based in Luxembourg, when the UK joined the European Economic Community.

He later became director general of research and documentation in the parliament, but his most outstanding work was in the committees, where his vision for Europe and how it might be attained, together with his linguistic skill, influenced many reports drafted for members of the parliament's political affairs committee.

For example, he drafted a report containing a resolution, which was adopted by the parliament, on the decisions taken at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (known as the "Helsinki process") held in three stages between 1973 and 1975. The EEC had participated as a member of the conference, thus entitling the parliament to pronounce on its decisions. Parliament's report pointed to the openings given by the decisions of the conference to central and eastern European countries to take a stand for democracy and the "four freedoms". As a result, [Václav Havel](#) and others in Czechoslovakia founded Charter 77 to fight for these objectives, a challenge that eventually helped to achieve the fall of communism in Europe.

After Michael's retirement, a connection with the Central Bank of Luxembourg opened up what almost became a second career. He wrote the English version of the bank's history and functions, published in 2001, and gradually became expert in many of its activities that involved the use of English. Latterly he was involved in the setting-up of the Luxembourg Forum, bringing together Luxembourgers and people of other nationalities to discuss topics of current interest.

Music was his constant companion, his tastes ranging up to the contemporary. His Christmas music quiz aroused eager anticipation and much research. In art, his highly developed interest and expertise led to his advising the Belgian Kredietbank on augmenting its collection, and producing two volumes on Belgian art. A special edition of these works, in French, was requested by the Belgian king for presentation to foreign dignitaries.

He is survived by his wife, Karin, whom he married in 1983.

More from the Guardian

[What's this?](#)

[Manchester City and Chelsea show way to flustered opponents on deadline day](#) 30 Aug 2014

[Crackdown on British jihadis to include 'deradicalising' scheme from Germany](#) 27 Aug 2014

[Nicki Minaj's Anaconda elevates backside wobbling to a lifestyle choice](#) 03 Sep 2014

[Buses are the future of urban transport. No, really](#) 27 Aug 2014

[The Weekend quiz](#) 29 Aug 2014

More from around the web

[What's this?](#)

Promoted content by Outbrain

[Russia rushes to diversify import sources amid tensions with West](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

[One Too Many: China's One Child Policy Documentary](#) (Indiegogo)

[Myanmar divers claim legendary bell found](#) (Channel NewsAsia)

[Do you know what Behavioral Analytics is?](#) (CoolaData)

[Will Our Data be Used Against Us In the Future? - Dataconomy](#) (Dataconomy)

Recommended by

© 2014 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.



A l'attention du Comité exécutif du Bridge Forum Dialogue

C'est avec grande tristesse que je tiens à vous informer du décès de Michael Palmer.

Michael a été membre fondateur de l'asbl Bridge Forum Dialogue et a également été membre du Comité exécutif du Bridge Forum Dialogue depuis sa création en 2001.

Il a toujours manifesté son vif intérêt et a contribué grandement à la réussite de plusieurs conférences.

Nous garderons le souvenir ému de notre si sympathique collègue.

La cérémonie funéraire aura lieu le mercredi 9 juillet à 14h00 au cimetière Notre Dame du Limperstberg.

Etienne de Lhoneux

Madame Karin Reichel, son épouse,
sa famille,
ses nombreux amis,

ont la profonde tristesse de vous faire part du décès de

Monsieur Michael Palmer

Ancien Directeur Général au Parlement Européen

Companion of The Most Distinguished Order
of Saint Michael and Saint George

Großes Goldenes Ehrenzeichen
für die Verdienste um die Republik Österreich

Commandeur de l'Ordre de Léopold II

Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Couronne de Chêne

né à Londres le 2 février 1933 et décédé à Luxembourg le 4 juillet
2014.

La cérémonie d'adieu aura lieu au cimetière Notre-Dame au Limpertsberg le mercredi 9 juillet 2014 à 14 heures.

1962619.1



BANQUE CENTRALE DU LUXEMBOURG

EUROSYSTEME

LA DIRECTION ET LES AGENTS DE LA BANQUE CENTRALE
DU LUXEMBOURG

déplorent avec profonde tristesse le décès de

Monsieur Michael Palmer

Anciennement conseiller auprès de la BCL

Monsieur Palmer, qui a passé de nombreuses années en tant que conseiller externe auprès de la Banque, a notamment rédigé l'ouvrage « The Banque centrale du Luxembourg in the European System of Central Banks », publié en mai 2001, et a œuvré comme conseiller culturel pour la BCL.

Monsieur Palmer a également été membre fondateur et membre du Comité exécutif du Bridge Forum Dialogue, une association sans but lucratif constituée à Luxembourg pour servir de plate-forme de discussion interdisciplinaire, depuis sa création en 2001.

Nous garderons de Monsieur Palmer le souvenir d'un homme passionné, dont le caractère affable, l'ouverture d'esprit et le savoir intarissable ont marqué les années qu'il a passées à nos côtés.

En ce moment de deuil, nos pensées et nos plus sincères condoléances vont à son épouse, sa famille et ses proches.

1962606.1