Jacques Delors’ legacy

Jacques Delors, a passionate advocate of European integration, is widely considered to be the father of the European single market and the economic and monetary union. Previously a trade union activist, French Finance Minister, and MEP in the first directly elected European Parliament, he served three terms as the President of the European Commission, from 1985 to 1995. Jacques Delors died on 27 December 2023, aged 98.

Following his death, he leaves behind a huge legacy, with numerous commentators underlining his role as one of the architects of today’s EU. It was during his term in office that the Member States signed the Single European Act in 1986 and the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, which paved the way for the transformation of the European Economic Community, and other pre-EU organisations, into the European Union.

This note gathers links to the recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on Jacques Delors’ life and legacy.

A tale of two treatises: the Werner and Delors Reports and the birth of the euro
Bruegel, February 2024

Date with history: The birth of the European Union
Chatham House, February 2024

Ten reflections on Jacques Delors
Centre for European Reform, January 2024

Delors, Schäuble and Europe’s misdiagnosed competitiveness problem
Centre for European Reform, January 2024

Jacques Delors’ contributions were immense
European Centre for International Political Economy, January 2024

European Movement International’s obituary in commemoration of Jacques Delors
European Movement International, January 2024

Jacques Delors: European giant
European Policy Centre, January 2024

In memoriam: Jacques Delors
European University Institute, January 2024

Jacques Delors and a new European impulse
Foundation for European Progressive Studies, January 2024
The passing of Jacques Delors, architect of the euro: How will his legacy play out?
Institute for Research in Economic and Fiscal Issues, January 2024

"Come on, courage, the spring of Europe is still ahead of us!"
Jacques Delors Institute, January 2024

Jacques Delors (1925-2023) et l'Europe: Pensée, méthode, style
Le Grand Continent, January 2024

Disparition de Jacques Delors: Hommage à l'homme qui transforma l'Europe
Science Po, January 2024

Biographie: Jacques Delors
Toute l'Europe, January 2024

The Delors legacy: Lessons for the future
Trans-European Policy Studies Association, January 2024

Jacques Delors: A man ahead of his time
Wilson Center, January 2024

Europe according to Jacques Delors
Europe Jacques Delors, December 2023

Jacques Delors: Un message politique européen
Fondation Jean Jaurès, December 2023

In memory of president Jacques Delors
Fondation Jean Monnet pour Europe, December 2023

Delors: A great European
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, December 2023

Jacques Delors shaped the Europe we know today
Hertie School, December 2023

An architect of a united Europe
Jacques Delors Institute, December 2023

Personalism and European Integration: Jacques Delors and the legacy of the 1930s
Cambridge University Press, March 2023

L’héritage de Robert Schuman dans la vision et l’action de Jacques Delors
Institut Jacques Delors, 2022