

## BIOGRAPHY OF JEAN-CLAUDE GAYSSOT



Jean-Claude GAYSSOT was born in Béziers on 6th September 1944. He was Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Housing from 1997 to 2002.

In 1962, after working in the building industry, he joined the SNCF in Béziers. He took on major trade union (CGT) and political (PCF) responsibilities in the Languedoc Roussillon Region, then on a national level.

Jean-Claude GAYSSOT was elected Member of Parliament for Seine-Saint-Denis four times in succession between 1986 and 1997.

The French President recommended that he be made a chevalier in the Legion of Honour in April 2006.

In 1990, as an MP, he was behind the "GAYSSOT" law against racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. This law made Holocaust denial a crime.

When the Concorde began flying again in 2001 he went with his British counterpart to New York where he received a warm welcome from the authorities in New York and the American minister MINETA.

As a minister, he was behind the SRU law and the creation of the TGV East European, he moved forward regulations on maritime transport and social legislation in road goods transport, the creation of the AIRBUS A380 super jumbo and many more.

He was elected Vice President for the Regional Council of the Languedoc Roussillon Region in 2004, responsible for Road, Rail and Airport infrastructure, as well as Canals and Coastal Rivers, on a general left-wing ticket led by Georges FRECHE. In disagreement with his party's national and local bodies, he left with 3 of his Communist comrades in 2010 with the Union list led by Georges FRECHE. He was re-elected Vice President and is now responsible for European, international and French-speaking country issues, now alongside Christian BOURQUIN, who succeeded Georges FRECHE.

Montpellier, 18th March 2013



**Jean-Claude GAYSSOT**  
Vice-President

**Mr Pierre MEYER**  
**President of the Elections Committee**  
**Assembly of European Regions**  
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President of the Commission:  
*International relations*  
*Europe*  
*French-speaking countries*

Our ref.: JCG/YP/AG

Subject: Candidacy for the Vice Presidency of the Assembly of European Regions.

Mr President,

First of all, please allow me to emphasise just how vital European objectives are in this period of recession, objectives which deserve our best possible efforts.

The European Union is at an important turning point in its history. Its members are faced with new challenges, the most significant of which is globalisation. This major stake is combined with a serious slowing down in growth following the heavy economic and financial crisis that we are currently experiencing, and the "Euro-hostility" that is gaining pace in many European States. However, I believe that this feeling must not let us lose sight of the very essence of the European project: the creation of an area of peace and prosperity.

We must make sure that globalisation does not take root to the detriment of our populations and so encourage local actions in favour of development on a more human scale. We can see this on a daily basis: the challenges we must meet are huge and it is the role of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) to move to build an open area which is based on solidarity, dialogue and exchange to encourage the development of everyone.

My attachment to the AER and its main mission to have the region's place and role recognised in building a democratic Europe that is close to its citizens has continued to grow and grow over the last few years. I am already an active member of the Assembly of European Regions Bureau and have

been involved in the AER's work for several years, with a great deal of enthusiasm and driven by our values and our inter-regional cooperation. I have met different European partners and I have made a commitment alongside you and our member regions. I have also had the opportunity to accompany the AER beyond its European borders, in particular when we went to Tunis in May 2011. This trip concluded with the signature of a framework agreement protocol between the regions of Europe and Tunisia, in order to support and accompany the political transition process in this country. I am very proud of this.

So, I have tried to provide all of my international experience, which I acquired as Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Housing, under the presidency of Mr. Jacques Chirac, in the government of Mr. Lionel JOSPIN, from 1997 to 2002. For this reason, I would like to continue to invest fully and play a key role in our work.

I believe sincerely that the future of Europe will be built thanks to our Regions. Relaunching the European process must involve the Regions and their populations to ensure more solidarity, as it is at a regional level that we must put in place regional, economic and social development policies that are able to federate socio-economic partners and create the social cohesion and fraternity that we need now more than ever. In this context, the role of the AER is to have the Regions' voice heard by the European Union to bring Europe closer to its citizens and to establish cooperation links with our neighbours to the East and South, from Turkey to Tunisia. I truly believe that this is the future for our organisation.

I think that we must continue together to deal with the major challenges that face our Regions: climate change, demographics, emigration, agricultural policy and, more particularly today, the economic and financial crisis.

I feel that in this context public authorities must guarantee sustainable development for their territories and promote employment for their inhabitants. This is the responsibility of the Regions and, respecting subsidiarity, is the responsibility of Europe.

I share with you the idea that the future of a cohesion Policy must, along with the union's other policies, be geared towards serving our territories and together we will search for the possibility of working in common with organisations that represent local authorities in Europe and around the world. So, we will continue our actions in favour of territorial cohesion with perspectives for cooperation and solidarity.

My background and achievements with you encourage me to put forward my candidacy for the position of Vice President of the Assembly of European Regions.

I fully believe that together we can defend the values of proximity and solidarity which I hold dear, by building an area that meets the aspirations of the people of Europe.

Finally, please allow me to pay tribute to the actions led by Michèle Sabban, as President of the AER and who has helped to make AER a key player on the European stage. I want to commit myself to carrying on the actions which were initiated by the previous President.

Yours sincerely,

**Jean-Claude GAYSSOT**

Signature

Vice-President



Vice-Président



**International, European  
and Contractual Policy Department**  
International Affairs Section

Montpellier, 18th March 2013

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Candidacy for the Vice Presidency of the Assembly of European Regions  
Policy Programme of Jean-Claude Gaysot,  
Vice President of the Languedoc-Roussillon Region

In the context of his candidacy for the Vice Presidency of the Assembly of European Regions, Jean-Claude Gaysot makes a commitment to:

**1/ Defend and promote multi-level governance**

- It is vital to increase recognition for local authorities and their participation in decision-making processes at a national, European and international level to build a democratic Europe which is close to its citizens. Relaunching the European process must involve the Regions and their populations as it is at a regional level that we will be able to put in place regional, economic and social development policies that are able to federate socio-economic partners and restart growth. It is through greater proximity and solidarity between territories that the crisis can be overcome more effectively by local authorities and by States.

**2/ Bring the citizens of the European Union closer together**

- In a context of growing mistrust in relation to European construction and while faced with increasingly significant "Euro-hostility", it is vital that we favour local actions to encourage development on a more human scale. It is thanks to the Regions and actions by local authorities, who witness and play a part in everyday realities, that we will be able to bring Europe and its citizens closer together and recreate links of trust.  
- Therefore, it is more important now than ever that the Regions' voice is heard by the European Union to bring Europe closer to its citizens and above all for territorial authorities to present a united front to the European Commission in order to influence current negotiations.

**3/ Open up to neighbouring countries**

- The role of the AER is to increase the Regions' political influence with the European Union to bring Europe closer to its citizens but also to establish cooperation links. So, the AER has been working for many years to open up not only to its European neighbours but also to countries which are on the boundaries of Europe, from the Mediterranean to the Baltic. It is vital that we continue to establish these links and accompany countries which are in democratic or economic transition. With this in mind, in particular the AER must strengthen its partnership with Turkey.