



Governing Body

315th Session, Geneva, 15 June 2012

GB.315/INS/6(Add.)

Institutional Section

INS

Date: 11 June 2012

Original: English

SIXTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General

Obituary

Jean-Louis Cartier

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, in May this year, of Mr Jean-Louis Cartier, former Government representative of the French Republic on the Governing Body of the ILO and delegate to the International Labour Conference.
2. Jean-Louis Cartier was born in 1937. After completing his studies at the National School of Administration (ENA), he dedicated his professional life, from 1971 to 2002, to the Ministry of Labour, where he was first an expert in international affairs before becoming Director of the Labour Department.
3. He took a very active part in the work of the ILO, both at the Conference and in the Governing Body, as a long-serving member of the French delegation. He attended a nearly uninterrupted series of Conferences and sessions of the Governing Body from 1978 to 2002.
4. At the ILO, the name of Jean-Louis Cartier is well known and frequently mentioned as a result of his having chaired, from 1995 to 2002, the Working Party on Policy regarding the Revision of Standards, which in the mouths of delegates and staff members of the Organization, goes under the name of the “Cartier group”. Mr Cartier placed his expertise, his understanding of institutions and his acute sense of diplomacy at the service of the group, with the result that it played a critical role in the updating and modernizing of the ILO’s body of international standards. Indeed, it could be said that without Jean-Louis Cartier, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, with its integrated approach, might never have seen the light of day.
5. Jean-Louis Cartier would have celebrated his 75th birthday during 101st International Labour Conference in June 2012. The Conference was particularly dear to him, as he had followed it closely for many years, in particular as a member of the Committee on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. Only last year, in *Message*, the publication by former ILO officials, he contributed an article on the Conference that is full

of humour and tenderness, but also of insight, when he describes: “the feeling of striving for the common good, of doing something positive and useful, soft early summer days, the long weeks spent together, the beauty of the landscape and the lake, all unite in a strange alchemy, a sort of natural understanding between all those who, from all corners of the globe, come together and meet each year in Geneva”.

- 6. *The Governing Body requests the Director-General to convey its condolences to Mr Cartier’s family and to the Government of the French Republic.***