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Hans Konrad K onig at a conference (2005 in Maastricht)

Hans Konrad K onig, called *Hans K onig*, was born on the 23rd of August 1923 in Breslau (at that time German territory) and died on the 15th of November 2016 in Minusio/Switzerland.

He was one of the High German officers during the foundation phase of the European Union, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce but also art collector and patron.

K onig came from a Silesian merchant family; they had to leave their hometown Breslau after the end of the 2nd World War. Hans K onig returned from war captivity in Russia to West Germany in 1947. He started to study languages, law and economy at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland in 1948.

1951/1952 he began his European career with his participation to the foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) which started the process of formal integration which ultimately led to the European Union. He actively took part to the European Economic Community (EEC) and was a Director of Foreign Service.

Upon the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty in 1993, the EEC was renamed the **European Community** to reflect that it covered a wider range than economic policy.

Hans K onig continued his engagement for education in Europe as General Secretary of the International Chamber of Commerce till 1989 when he retired.

Hans K onig also collected oriental carpets, acted as patron e.g. for exhibitions and wrote books about the art of weaving.

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Konrad_K%C3%B6nig