

FRANCE

Jacques Toubon

New Minister of Culture and La Francophonie

Jacques Toubon, 51, an assistant to the mayor of Paris, is a member of the Rassemblement pour la République (RPR).

Former Secretary-General of the RPR (1984-1988) and a deputy for Paris since 1981, Mr. Toubon is a member of the central committee and the political bureau of the neo-Gaullist movement.

Born on June 29, 1941, in Nice, Mr. Toubon has a Licentiate in Law and is a graduate of the Institute of Political Studies in Lyon. A former student of the National School of Administration (ENA, which trains elite civil servants) and assigned to the Ministry of the Interior, he was Chief of Staff of the Prefect of Basses-Pyrénées from 1965 to 1968.

After being Chief of Staff of the Secretary of State for Overseas Departments and Territories from 1968 to 1969, he was appointed as technical adviser to the Secretary of State for Parliamentary Relations. In 1971, he became the collaborator of Mr. Chirac, who was then the Minister responsible to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations.

He was Mr. Chirac's technical adviser in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 1972, and Mr. Chirac's Chief of Staff responsible for political affairs at Matignon, the Prime Minister's headquarters, from 1974 to 1976.

Since the RPR was founded in December 1976, Mr. Toubon has been national delegate in charge of elections. He took over the RPR Federation of Paris in 1978 and the secretariat of the RPR group at the European Assembly in Strasbourg the following year. He was elected as a deputy for Paris in 1981, and as Deputy and Mayor of the 13th Arrondissement two years later.

He served as Secretary-General of the RPR from 1984 to 1988, was reelected as a deputy for Paris in 1986 and 1988, was Chairman of the Commission on Constitutional Law, Legislation and General Administration of the Republic from 1986 to 1987, has been Delegate-General of the RPR since 1992 and now chairs his party's Senior Committee on Man and Society.