

# GILLES DE ROBIEN

AMBASSADOR AND FORMER MINISTER

**FRENCH GOVERNMENT DELEGATE  
TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY SINCE 2007**

PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE IN 2010

COORDINATOR OF THE SOCIAL DIMENSION FOR THE G20 IN 2011

Social dialogue: a passionate commitment throughout a lifetime of experience

BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS  
POLITICS / DIPLOMACY

## — A profession

First as an employee, then as a company director, GILLES DE ROBIEN worked in the private sector for 25 years (insurance and finance).

## — A dedicated commitment

GILLES DE ROBIEN has chaired professional organizations at the local level. He was a national officer of the Chambers of Liberal Professions and of the National Insurers Federation.

## — An active parliamentarian

GILLES DE ROBIEN entered political life in 1986:

Member of Parliament, 1986-2002; **Vice-President of the French National Assembly** ; President of a parliamentary group of 215 Deputies ; named "Parliamentarian of the Year", 1996.

Architect of several laws, including the one known as the "**Robien Law**", much appreciated by employers and employees alike. This law facilitated company agreements on working hours and the creation of jobs on an "**EVERYBODY WINS**" basis.

## — Mayor and President of an Urban District

GILLES DE ROBIEN ran a city of 136,000 inhabitants – **AMIENS** – for 19 years and created an Urban District Community of 180,000 inhabitants, with a budget of €500 million and a staff of 3,000.

He was known for his rigorous, economical management which respected public money, and was named **best mayoral manager** in France by "Challenge" magazine in 2008. He made Amiens a **pilot city for democracy**, for which he received a national award (Marianne d'Or in 1999).

## — Government Minister

GILLES DE ROBIEN entered Government in 2002, during the Presidency of Jacques Chirac.

- From 2002 to 2005,

### **Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Spatial Planning, Tourism and the Sea.**

GILLES DE ROBIEN actively promoted social housing. During his mandate, the SNCF, France's national railway company, achieved a balanced budget. GILLES DE ROBIEN's policies on road safety (resulting in a decrease of road deaths by nearly 50%), maritime and environmental safety (laws against marine litter) and safety of living areas (laws on the safety of lifts and swimming pools) are appreciated internationally.

- From 2005 to 2007,

### **Minister for Education, Higher Education and Research.**

GILLES DE ROBIEN managed a budget of €77 billion and a staff of 1,200,000. He redefined the basic acquisitions for primary school children and initiated the process of giving universities autonomy.

## INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS AND MISSIONS

A career punctuated by international actions, missions and responsibilities.

- **AS MAYOR,**

GILLES DE ROBIEN promoted Amiens within Europe, built links with other major cities and created ties with the headquarters of the international companies with plants in the city, including the American companies Procter and Gamble and Goodyear and the Japanese company Ajinomoto Eurolysine.

- **AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,**

GILLES DE ROBIEN was entrusted with numerous international missions ; in 1994 he presided over the observation mission for the first elections in South Africa.

- **AS MINISTER,**

GILLES DE ROBIEN visited more than 50 countries in five years to build partnerships and conclude bilateral agreements. For example, as Minister for Transport, he helped to establish a European Road Safety Day, gave strong support to the creation of the European airline blacklist and to the text which led to the ILO Maritime Labour Convention.

As Minister for Education, Higher Education and Research, he promoted mobility and international student exchanges, creating international and European sections in French secondary education institutions, setting up the CampusFrance agency, and supporting European exchange programmes, including Erasmus. Protocols were signed with other countries at the highest academic level, particularly in China, the United States and South America. GILLES DE ROBIEN participated in creating the Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi in 2006, and the Tongji University Sino-French Centre and the *Institut des Amériques* (Institute of the Americas) in 2007. He participated actively in major international meetings including the G8 Education in Moscow.

Since 2007,

**FRENCH GOVERNMENT DELEGATE  
TO THE ILO GOVERNING BODY  
AND AMBASSADOR FOR SOCIAL COHESION**

GILLES DE ROBIEN has represented France  
in numerous international bodies and meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> **India-EU** Seminar on Employment (New Delhi) in India, the Meeting of **G8** Labour and Employment Ministers (Niigata) in Japan, the **ASEM** Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (Bali) in Indonesia in 2008 ; the High-Level **ASEM** Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (Potsdam) in Germany in 2009 ; the **ASEM** Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference (Leiden) in The Netherlands ; the **ASEM** Workshop on Social Protection Floor and the Informal Economy (Nice) in France in 2010...

GILLES DE ROBIEN has participated in **ILO Regional Meetings**:

In Portugal (Lisbon) in 2009 ; in Cameroon (Yaoundé - 2nd African Decent Work Symposium) in 2010 ; in South-Africa (Johannesburg) and in Japan (Kyoto) in 2011...

GILLES DE ROBIEN has been involved in **ILO technical cooperation**  
projects and field visits:

At the Interregional Workshop on support to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (**PAMODEC**) in Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou) in 2009 ; at the **PAMODEC** evaluation and steering committee in Togo (Lomé) and the Project to support Promotion of Employment and Poverty Reduction (**APERP**) evaluation committee in Senegal (Dakar) in 2010...

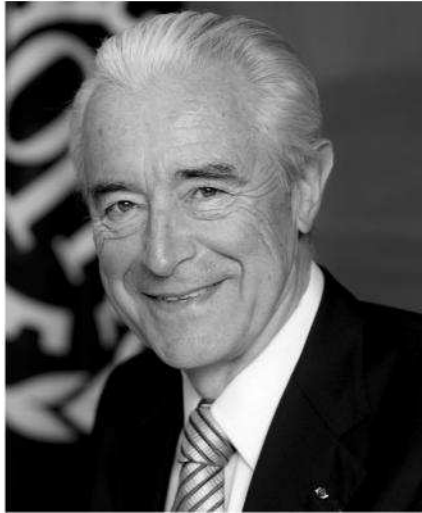
## Recent missions

IN 2010, GILLES DE ROBIEN HELD THE PRESIDENCY  
OF THE **99TH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**

On that occasion he signed Recommendation 200 on HIV/AIDS which, as the first international human rights standard dedicated to fighting AIDS, is an historic landmark.

IN 2011, UNDER THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY,  
GILLES DE ROBIEN COORDINATED  
THE **SOCIAL ISSUES FOR THE G20**

He ensured that all non-G20 member countries were informed of the work undertaken and that the social partners were fully involved. In Cannes, on 3-4 November 2011, the Heads of State and Government reached a consensus on four objectives : employment, social protection floors, standards, coherence. Alongside the summit, a B20/L20 meeting resulted in a text cosigned by employers and workers. Social issues are now a fixture of the G20 agenda.



### **GILLES DE ROBIEN**

is the author of several works including:

“HORS LA LOI” (Outlaw),  
which covers company working-time agreements;

“JULES VERNE LE REVEUR INCOMPRIS” (Jules Verne, the Misunderstood Dreamer),  
who was one of Gilles de Robien’s predecessors as Mayor of Amiens;

“ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE”,  
philosopher and historian;

“DES IDEES PLEIN LA VILLE” (A City Full of Ideas),  
with a preface by SIMONE VEIL, former President of the European Parliament.  
This work covers social cohesion in urban areas.

GILLES DE ROBIEN was born in 1941, is married and has four children.

*Chevalier* in the LEGION OF HONOUR  
*Commandeur* in the ORDER OF ACADEMIC PALMS  
Numerous foreign decorations

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