

# A new reading of primary sources via the digital analysis of social networks

## ‘The Werner Committee and the debates on European economic and monetary integration’

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*Motto:*

*«Le chef politique doit être avant tout le catalyseur des énergies de ceux qui l'entourent et qui le secondent dans un grand dessein.»*

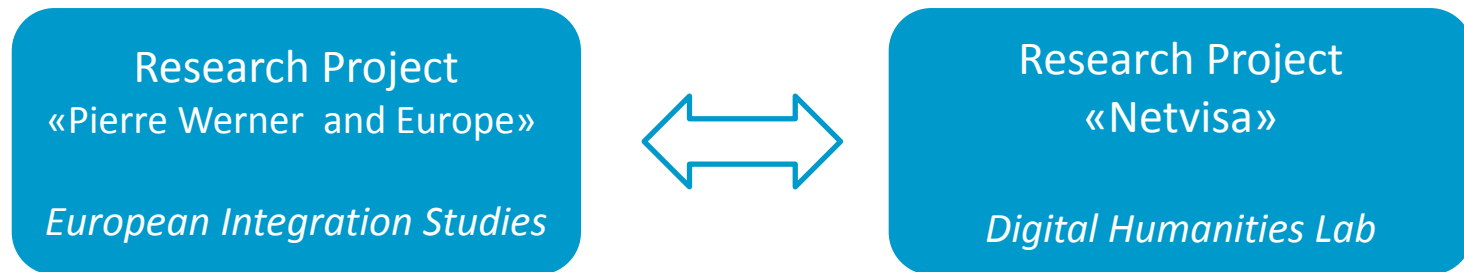
(Pierre Werner, 1992)

1. Introduction - Scope of the pilot project, Issues & Key-players
2. Goals – Summarise and visualise the negotiations within the Werner Committee
3. Methodology – Manual extraction of network data
4. The first results
5. Conclusion/Epistemological considerations – Revisit and upgrade the traditional methodology of research

# 1. Introduction – The pilot project

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- Combining humanities and social sciences research with digital tools
- Publishing the results via the digital research infrastructure on European integration, CVCE.eu



*« There is a tendency when using graphs to become smitten with one's own data. (...) Graphs have a tendency of making a data set look sophisticated and important, without having solved the problem of enlightening the viewer. »*

(Ben Fry, 2007)

<http://www.cvce.eu/recherche/projet-werner>  
<http://www.cvce.eu/digital-innovation/projects/netviz>



# 1. Introduction – The Werner Committee 1969-1972: Issues & Key-Players

## The Hague Summit and the establishment of the Werner Committee

December 1 and 2, 1969  
Hague Summit

The Heads of State agree to make every effort to achieve economic and monetary integration.

The decision is taken to explore the possibilities for stage-by-stage progress towards an economic and monetary union.



© Pierre Werner Family Archives

*Présentation du rapport préliminaire à la  
Réunion du Comité des Ministres du 9 juin 1970  
à Luxembourg.*

Monsieur le Président,

Par décision du Conseil des Ministres du 6 mars dernier, votre Conseil a donné mandat à un groupe, dont j'ai l'honneur d'assumer la présidence, de présenter un rapport tendant à dégager les options fondamentales d'une réalisation par étapes de l'union économique et monétaire, préconisée par la Conférence des chefs d'Etat ou de Gouvernement, tenue à La Haye en décembre dernier. Conformément aux termes du

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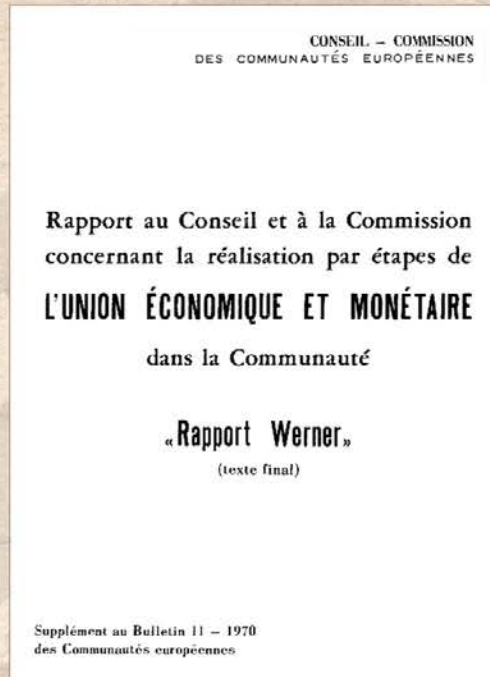


# 1. Introduction – The Werner Committee 1969-1972: Issues & Key-Players

## The 1970 Werner Report: a blueprint for EMU



© Archives familiales Pierre Werner



© Union européenne

'I am happy to note that on all these aspects we forged a unanimous collective view. Of course these joint replies do not reflect all the individual preferences of the members of the group. But we do think that having looked at the question from all sides, at long sessions where we compared a range of ideas, we have succeeded in giving shape to the wish for proceeding in parallel on the measures to be taken in the economic and financial fields. What we aspired to do was, once and for all, to break the vicious circle consisting of setting prior economic and political conditions. We have tried to draw a line midway between the view that monetary union is the crowning glory of European integration and the view that would turn it into the virtually all-powerful engine driving integration. I think the proposals are in line with the existing treaties, and that they do, precisely, ensure that the objectives of the treaties will be achieved in full. Thus for stage one we can go a great deal of the way without amending the treaties. However, there must be a strong political will backing up this process all the time that it is being put into effect.'

Statement by Pierre Werner to the Council of Ministers, Luxembourg, 26 October 1970. In *Bulletin de documentation*. Directorate for publications, Press and Information Service, Ministry of State, 26 October 1970, No 6; 26th year. Luxembourg. (Document consulted on 10 October 2012.)

# 1. Introduction – The Werner Committee 1969-1972: Issues & Key-Players

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## The 1970 Werner Report: a blueprint for EMU

**‘In the history of Europe as a monetary entity,  
there is a pre-Werner and a post-Werner period.’**

‘Up until the time of the report, which is inextricably associated with the Hague Conference, the Member States still had a vision of an economic union, or at any rate a common market, which they thought could be achieved merely by resorting, where monetary affairs were concerned, to the coordination of their policies; from the time of the Hague Conference and the Werner Report onwards, they admitted that economic union could not be brought about unless monetary union were progressively established’

(Ansiaux, H and Dessaert, M. 1975:1)

# 1. Introduction – The Werner Committee 1969-1972: Issues & Key-Players

Seven members and their alternate members

- Holders of high public offices in the Member States
- Leaders of the specialized committees of the European Commission
- Highly committed in the European integration process



**Pierre Werner**,  
Chair of the  
Committee  
& **Johnny Schmitz**



**Johann B. Schöllhorn**  
& **Hans Tietmeyer**



**Gaetano Stammati**  
& **Simone Palumbo**



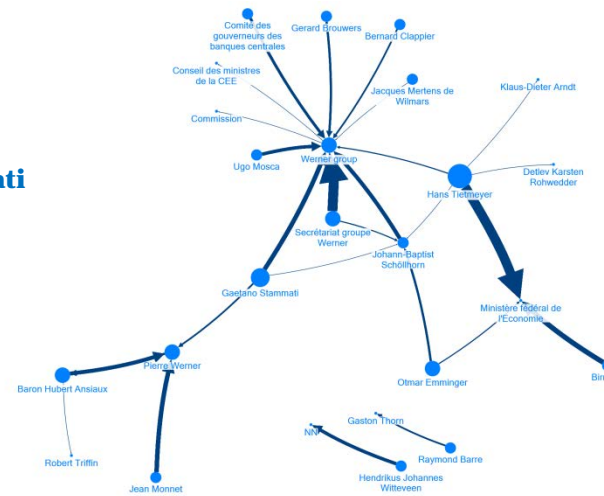
**Bernard Clappier**  
& **Jean-Michel Bloch-Lainé**



**Baron Hubert Ansiaux**  
& **Jacques Mertens de Wilmars**



**Ugo Mosca**  
& **Jean-Claude Morel**  
& **Georges Morelli**



**Gerard Brouwers**  
& **Anthony Looijen**



## 2. Goals

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- ❖ Analysing the relationship between individuals on the basis of various primary sources
- ❖ Drawing a complete overview of the relationship within the Werner Committee
- ❖ Summarize and visualise the negotiations that led to the Werner Report
- ❖ Exploring in depth the network analysis method
- ❖ Enhancing the research capabilities and developing new knowledge
- ❖ Targeting the community of digital tools users

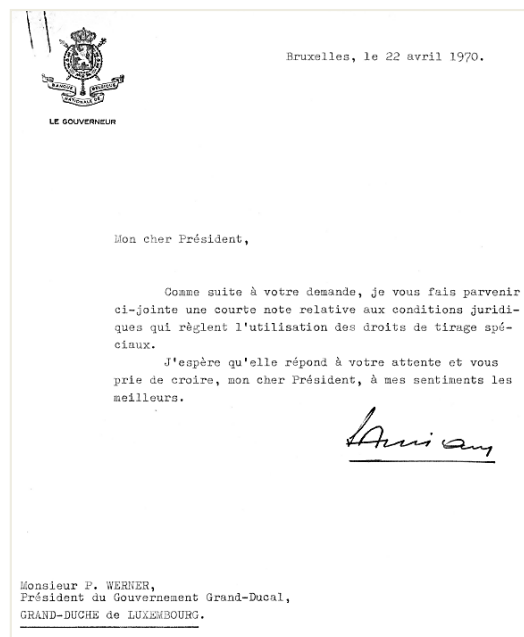
# 3. Methodologie – The digital analysis of social networks

## Exchange of letters

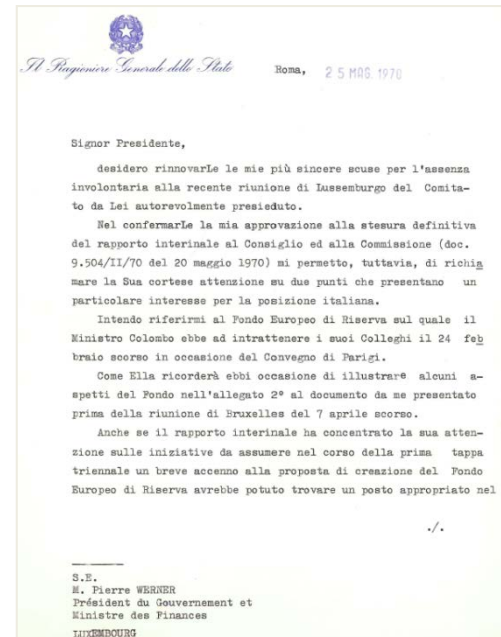
Time frame: 1969-1972

51 relevant documents  
(official and confidential  
correspondence between  
the members of the  
Werner Committee and  
associated figures)

A network of 25 individuals



Letter of Baron Hubert Ansiaux to Pierre Werner (Bruxelles, 22 April 1970)



Letter of Gaetano Stamatì to Pierre Werner (Rome, 25 May 1970)

# Example: Lettre of Gaetano Stammati to Pierre Werner (Rome, 25 May 1970)

## Recipient

Pierre Werner

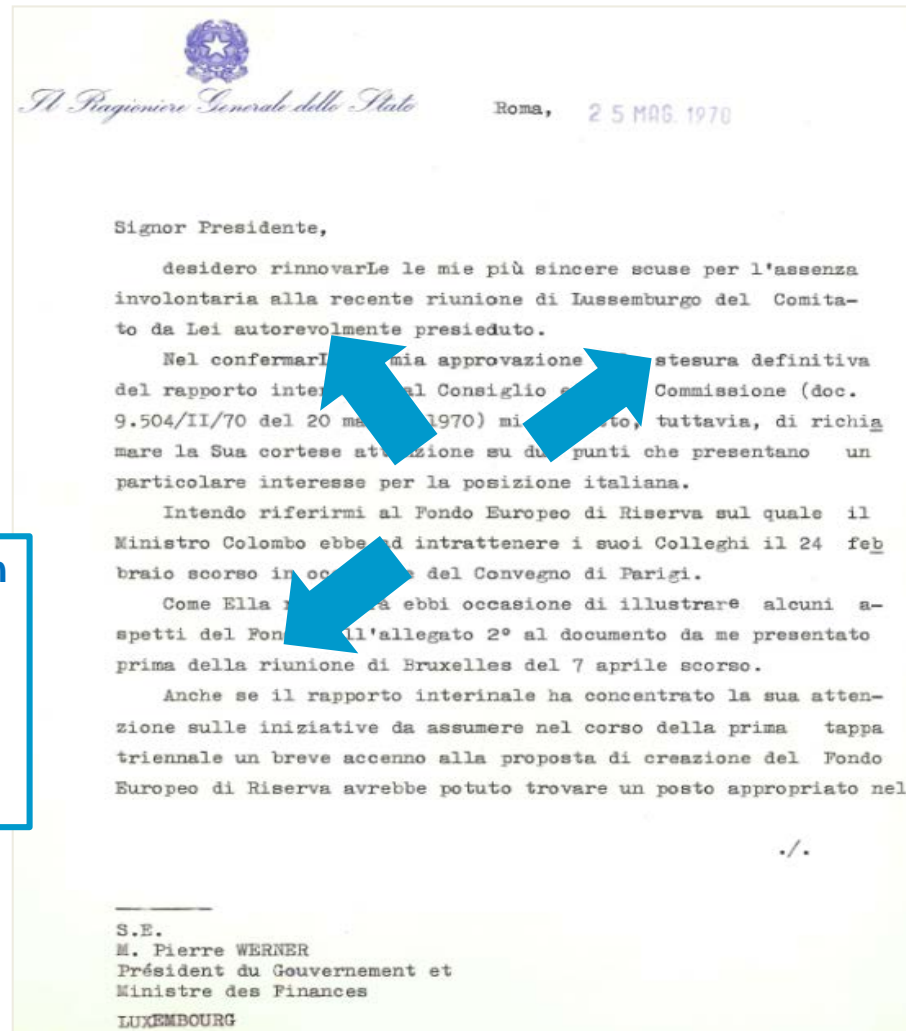
## Sender:

Gaetano Stammati

**Date:** 25 May 1970

## Relationship between sender and recipient:

- \* Strong personal link
- \* From high level to high level



## Discussed topic:

Monetary union, EMU,  
Budgetary union

## Purpose:

Give a analysis

## Agreement/ Disagreement:

Rather agree

### 3. Methodologie – A structured set of data

- A categorization of the discussed topics
- A typologie of the objectives aimed by the documents
- Agreements and disagreements between various points of view

Sample of the structured data of Werner Committee network

	A	B	C	D	G	I
1	Person	Person2	Topic	Actions	(Dis-) Agreements?	Type of E
2			1. Monetary Union	1. Political Action	1. Mostly Agree	1. Official
3			2. Economical Union	2. Request information	2. Mostly Disagree	2. Non-off
4			3. Political Union	3. Exchange Viewpoints	3. Does not apply	3. Other
5			4. Fiscal Union	4. Receive Information		
6			5. Social Dimension	5. Transfer information		
7			6. Intern. Cooperation	6. Give analysis		
8			7. Institutional Matters			
9			8. EMU			
10			9. Budgetary Union			
11			11. Organisation			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		600	600	300
17	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		100	600	300
18	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		600	500	100
19	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		100	500	100
20	Johann-Baptist Schöllhorn	Werner group		600	600	100
21	Johann-Baptist Schöllhorn	Werner group		200	600	200
22	Johann-Baptist Schöllhorn	Werner group		100	600	200
23	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		100	600	300
24	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		100	600	300
25	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Robert Triffin		600	100	100
26	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Pierre Werner		600	600	100
27	Gerard Brouwers	Werner group		100	600	100
28	Gerard Brouwers	Werner group		700	600	100
29	Gerard Brouwers	Werner group		800	600	200
30	Gerard Brouwers	Werner group		200	600	200
31	Bernard Clappier	Werner group		100	600	100
32	Bernard Clappier	Werner group		600	600	100
33	Bernard Clappier	Werner group		800	600	100
34	Comité des gouverneurs des B	Werner group		100	600	100
35				600	600	100

Person	Person2	Topic	Actions	(Dis-) Agreements?
Pierre Werner	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Fiscal Union	Request information	Mostly Agree
Pierre Werner	Baron Hubert Ansiaux	Monetary Union	Give analysis	Mostly Agree

### 3. Methodologie – From letters encoding to a structured set of data

- Network analysis with *NodeXL*

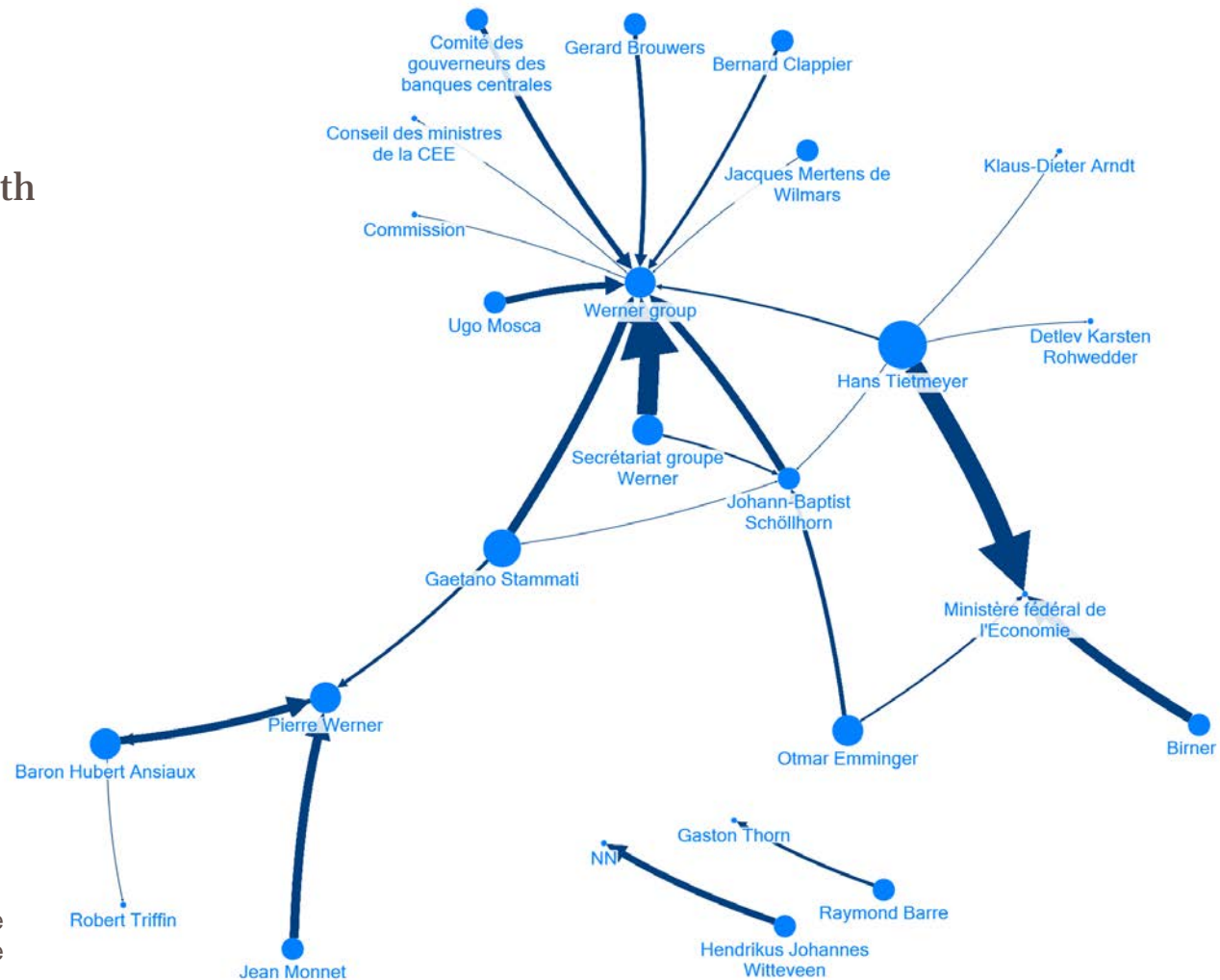


Figure: The Werner Committee network as reflected by the exchange of letters



## 4. The first results – Macroanalyse of the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

- Strong and continuous link between the German alternate member of the Werner Committee and the German Federal Ministry of Economy

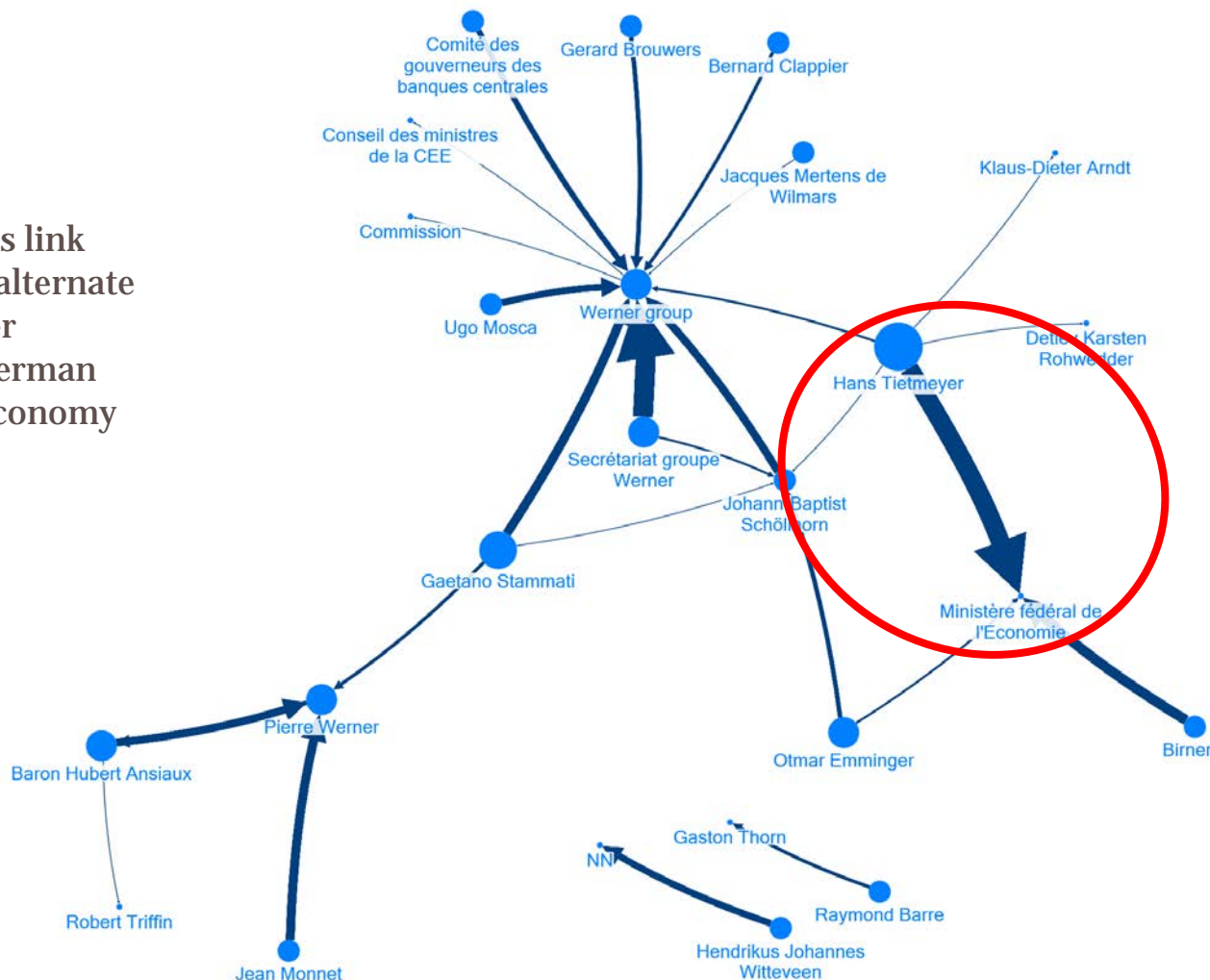


Figure: The Werner Committee network as reflected by the exchange of letters

## 4. The first results – Macroanalyse of the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

- A missing link

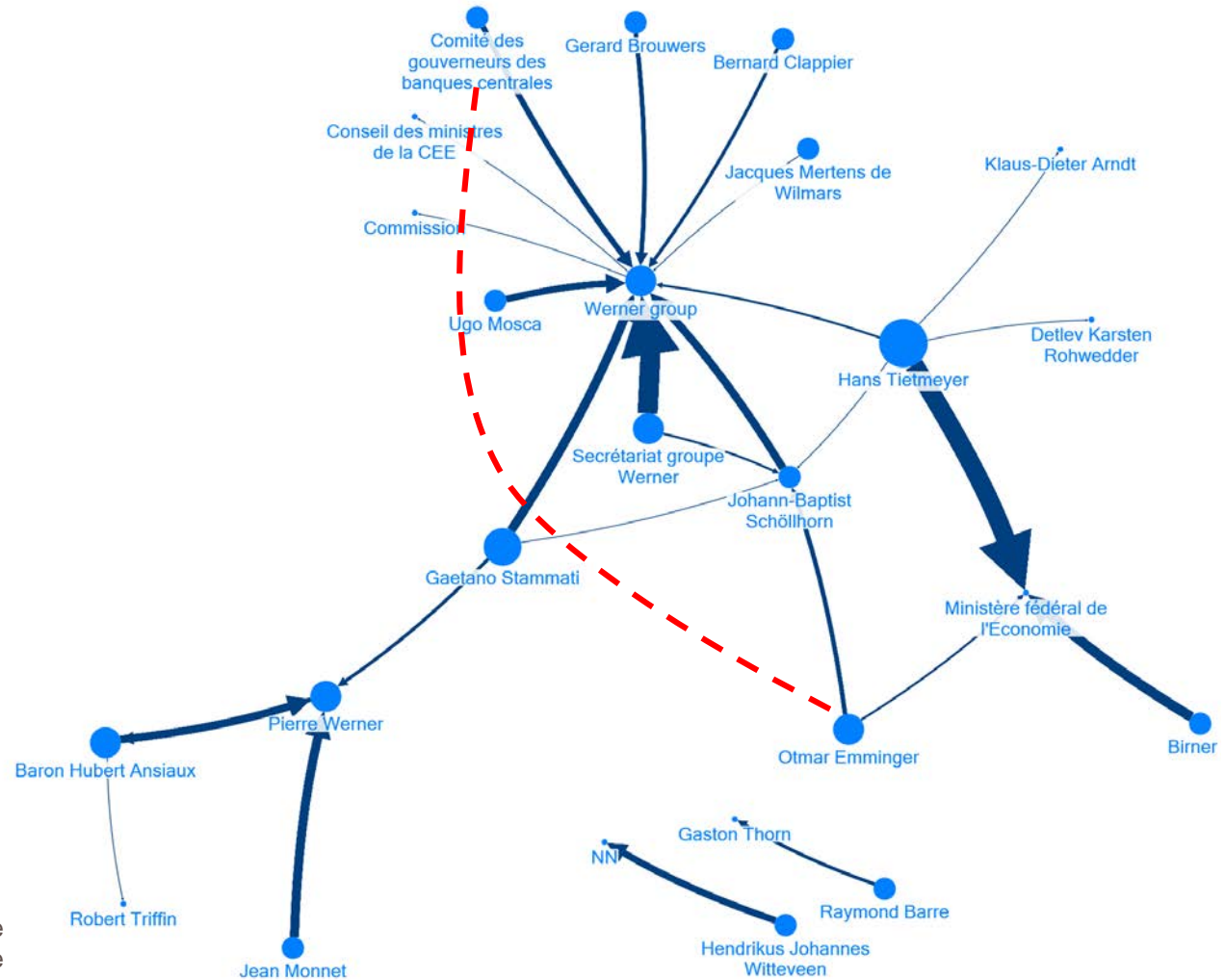


Figure: The Werner Committee network as reflected by the exchange of letters

## 4. The first results – Macroanalyse of the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

### A influential group

Werner-Monnet-Triffin-Ansiaux

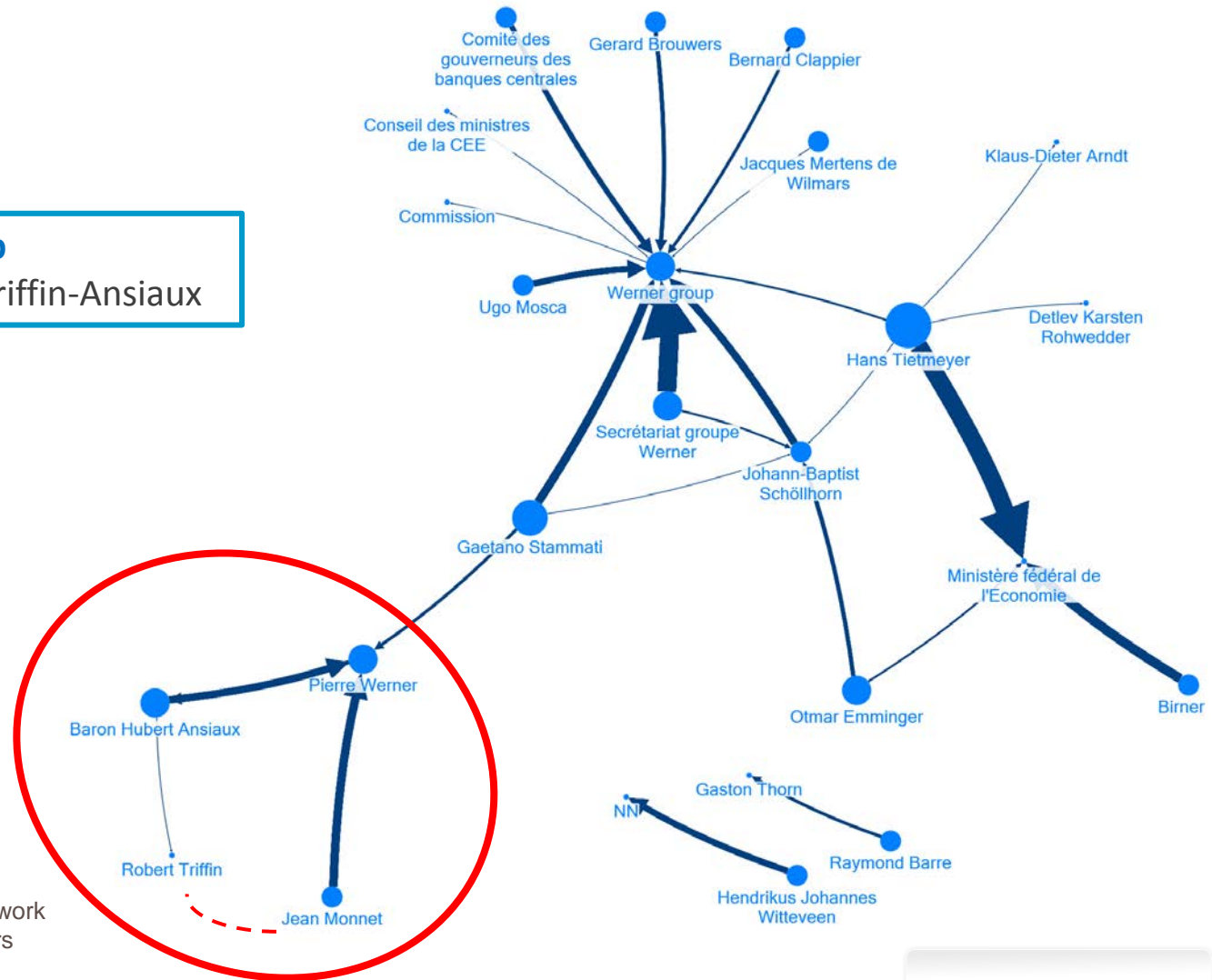


Figure: The Werner Committee network as reflected by the exchange of letters

## 4. The first results – Visualising the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

- Visualisation with RAW

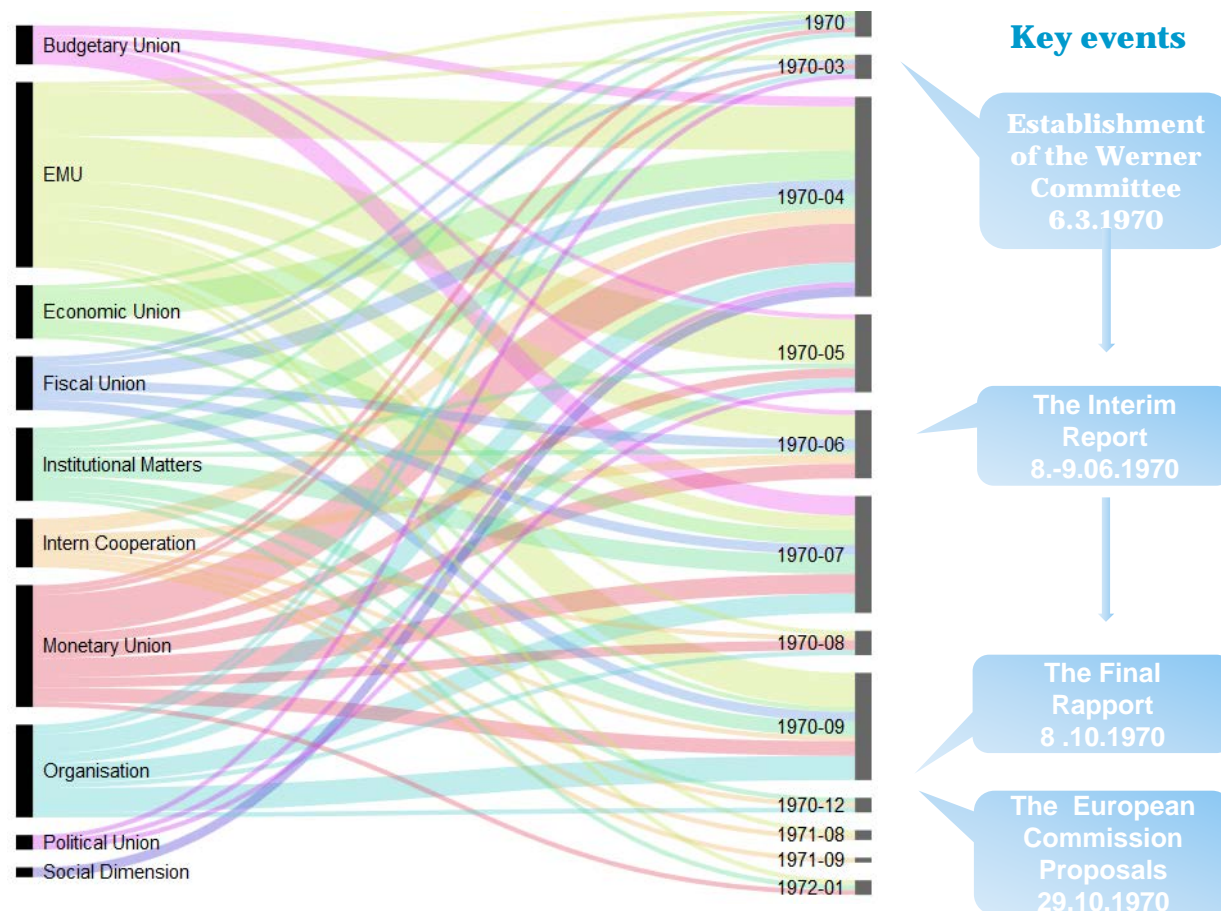


Figure: Topics aimed by the exchanges of letters over time

<http://raw.densitydesign.org/>

## 4. The first results – Visualising the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

Focus on the topic  
«Monetary union»

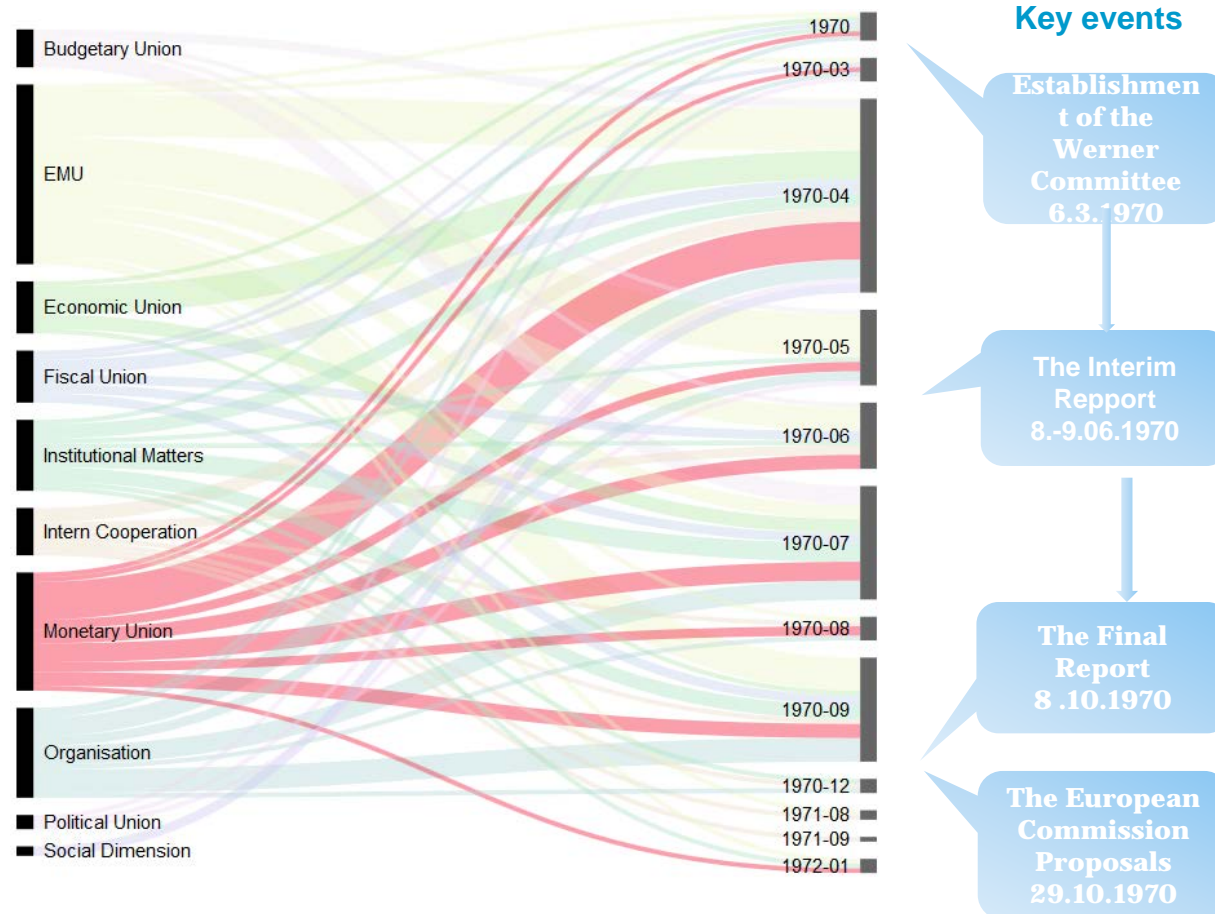


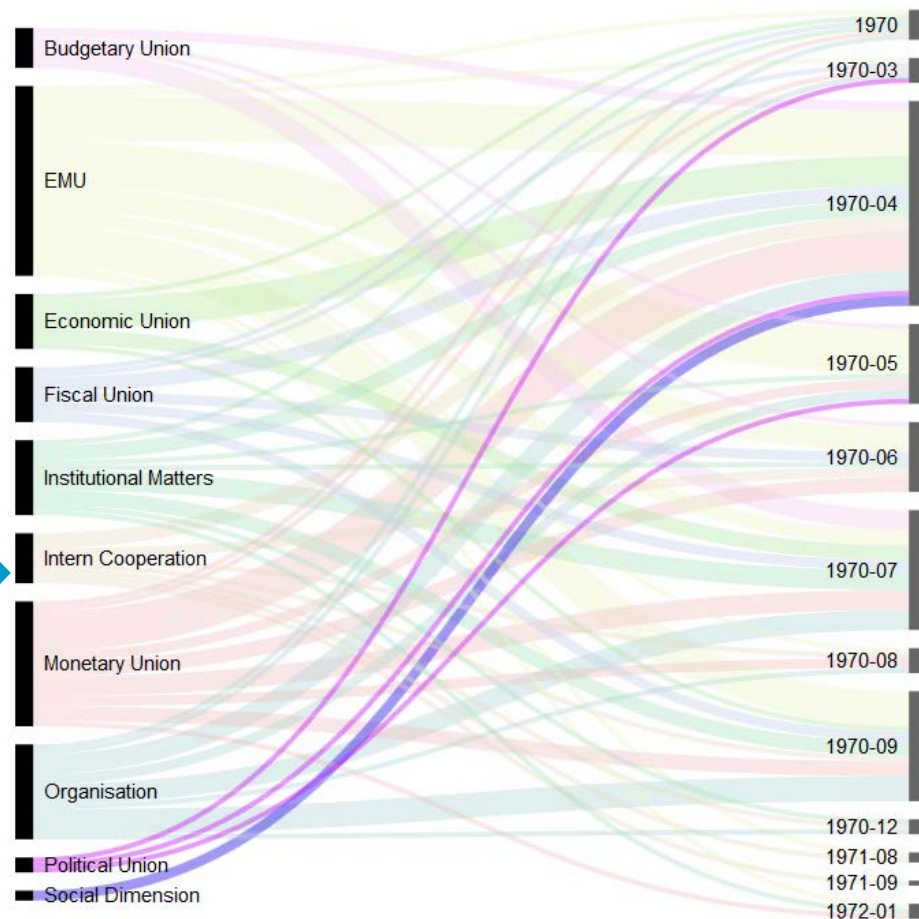
Figure: Topics aimed by the exchanges of letters over time



## 4. The first results – Visualising the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

Focus on the topics

- «Political union»
- «Social dimension»



### Key events

Establishment of the Werner Committee  
6.3. 1970

The Intermediate Report  
8. 9.06.1970

The Final Report  
8.10.1970

The European Commission Proposals  
29.10.1970

Figure: Les sujets abordés dans les échanges au cours du temps

## 4. The first results – Visualising the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

Focus on the topic  
« Budgetary union »

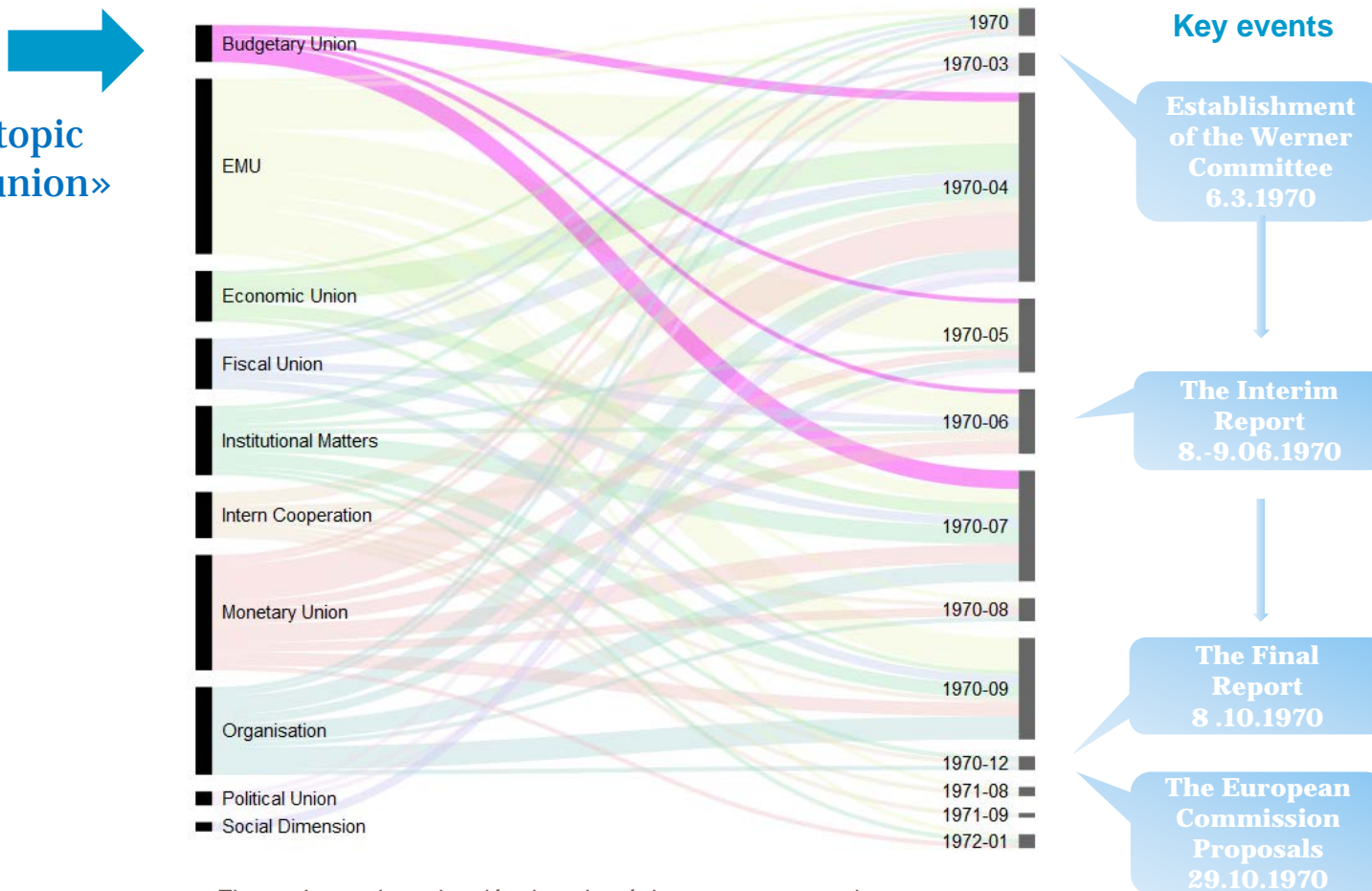
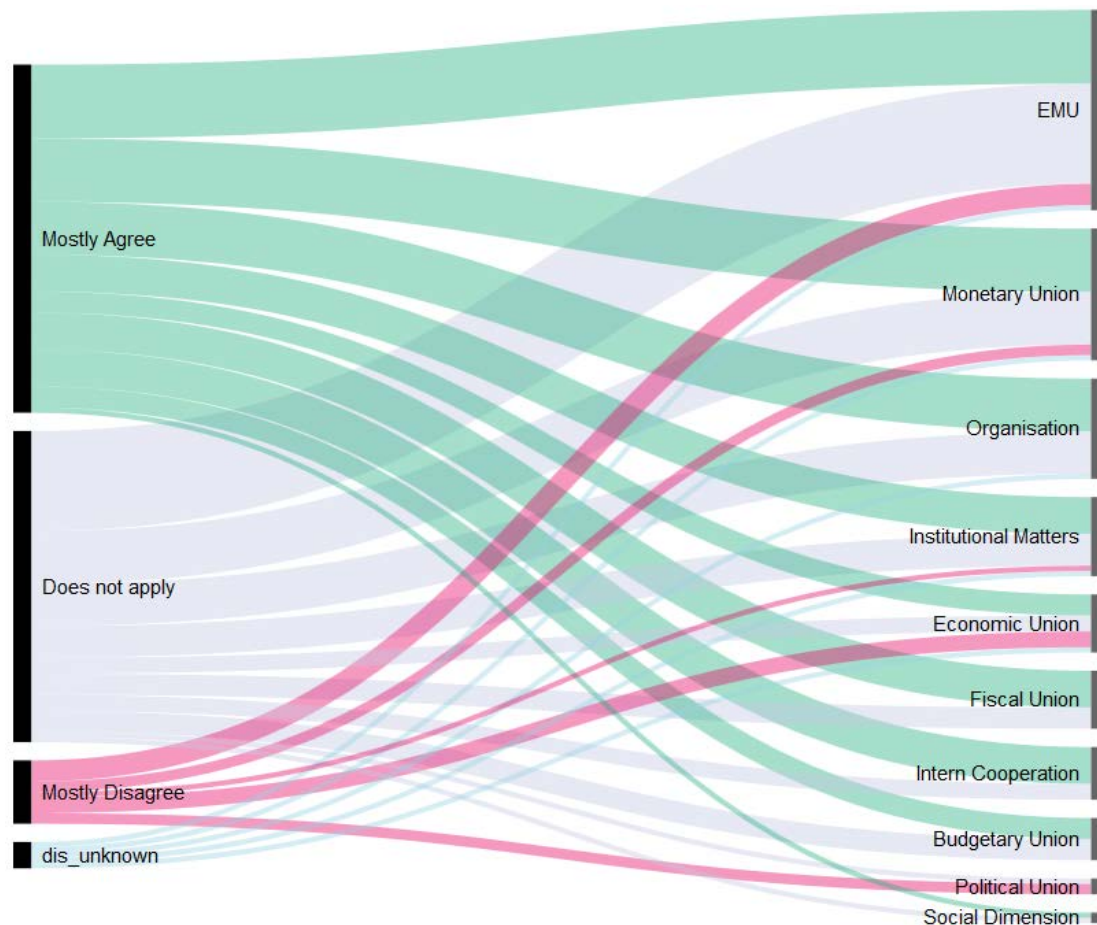


Figure: Les sujets abordés dans les échanges au cours du temps

## 4. The first results – Visualising the exchange of letters within the Werner Committee

- Diagram: Areas of agreements and disagreements related to the topic



## 4. The first results – An iterative and multi-faced process of interpretation and adjustment

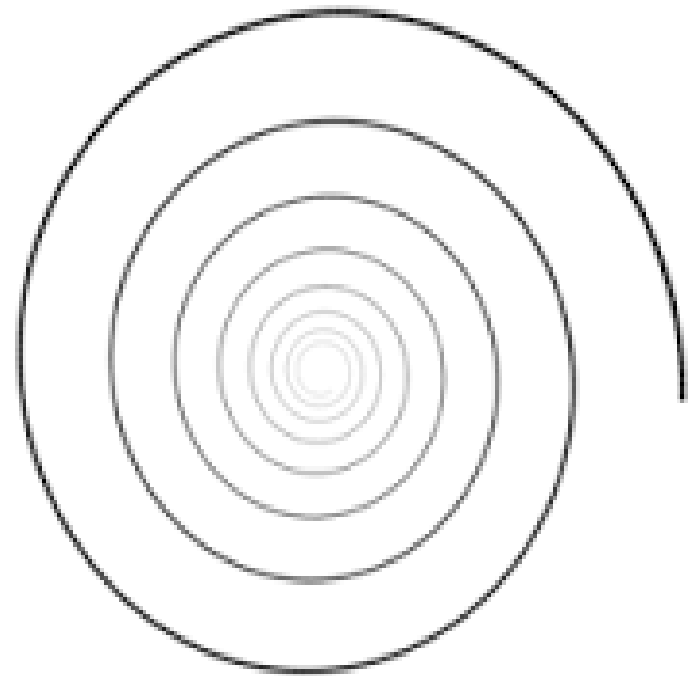
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In order to refine the encoding, the results have being analysed through an iterative and multi-faced process:

Categorisation > visualisation  
>interpretation > adjustment of the  
categories > ...

**Example:**

«mostly agree» and « consensual »



## 4. The first results – Specific conclusions resulting from the analysis of social networks

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### Most valuable outcomes

- The controversy between «Economists» and «Monetarists» less categorical than expected
- Close and continuous link between the German member (and the alternate member) of the Werner Committee and German official institutions
- The German Central Bank (Bundesbank) most active in the interinstitutional cooperation between Member States than inside the the Committee of Governors of the central banks of the Member States of the EEC
- Particular closeness of some relations (Werner-Ansiaux-Monnet-Triffin)

### Limits of the research

- « Work in progress »/«embryo research», only with partial results
- The selection of documents
- Disparity of documentary and data sources by topic and/or by period
- Confidential and non-written exchanges were not retained
- Specific difficulties of the «data setting» process



## 5. Conclusion -Epistemological considerations

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1. Confirm and consolidate the conclusions of traditional analysis
2. Give an appropriate visual representation of the process and explore and interpret data through graphs and diagrams
3. A new perspective on the traditional human reading, the information contained in primary sources and reveal new findings or research directions
4. Revisit and upgrade the traditional methodology of research
5. Communicate results with illustrations

## References

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Digital Humanities LAB at CVCE: <https://cvcedhlab.hypotheses.org>

Node XL: <http://nodexl.codeplex.com>

RAW density design: <http://app.raw.densitydesign.org>

# Thank you for listening !

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