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John Flemming†

John Flemming, the first chairman of CESifo's European Economic Advisory Group, died on August 5 2003, aged 62.

John was one of Europe's leading economists. His activities spanned both academic and public life. In Oxford University, he began his career teaching at Oriel College, and moved to a research position at Nuffield College. He finally returned to Oxford as Warden of Wadham College in 1993 after a ten year interlude at the Bank of England and as chief economist of the newly established European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Like all John's colleagues, we in the EEAG constantly marvelled at the range and depth of his intelligence. In a world of increasing specialism, John Flemming stood out for his ability to perceive rapidly the essentials of a diverse range of economic problems, and to offer new approaches and fresh insights to every question, including questions we had foolishly not yet thought to ask ourselves.

We in the EEAG will miss not only those professional attributes, but also a personal friend: John was not only a distinguished scholar but an engaging and exhilarating companion. He continued to participate actively in our deliberations despite the pain of his final illness. We extend our sympathy to his devoted wife Jean, who often joined him at the meetings of the group.

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