

Jacques Santer

President of the Commission of the European Union

Born at Wasserbillig, Luxembourg, on May 18, 1937, Mr. Santer studied at the Institut d'études politiques in Paris where he received his law degree and certificate in economic and financial studies. In 1961, Mr. Santer became a barrister at the Court of Appeal in Luxembourg.

For two years, from 1963 to 1965, he was the attaché to the Minister for Labour and Social Security and, in 1965, Mr. Santer himself became a government attaché.

From 1966 to 1972, he was parliamentary secretary of the Christian Social Party. The following two years, he was Secretary of State for Cultural and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the Christian Social Party. Mr. Santer became Chairman of the Christian Social Party in 1974 and held the position for eight years.

In 1974, Mr. Santer was a Member of Parliament. From 1975 to 1979, he was also Member of the European Parliament, holding the position of vice-president for the first two years.

Mr. Santer became alderman of the City of Luxembourg in 1976, a position he held for three years. In 1979, he became Minister for Finance, Labour and Social Security and was later Prime Minister, Minister of State and Minister for Finance from 1984 through 1989. At this same time, Mr. Santer was also governor of the World Bank.

For three years, starting in 1987, he was Chairman of the European People's Party. From 1989 to 1994, Mr. Santer was Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for the Treasury, Minister for Cultural Affairs and Governor of the International Monetary Fund. In 1991, he was also governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr. Santer was President of the Commission of the European Union from July to December 1985, from January to June 1991, and has held this position since January 1995.

Mr. Santer is married and has two sons.