

Federal Republic of Germany

Hans - Dietrich GENSCHER
Minister of Foreign Affairs

A 49 year old lawyer, Mr. Genscher was born in a part of Germany (Halle) which is now part of the German Democratic Republic. In 1952, he came to West Germany as a refugee and shortly after joined the Free Democrat (or Liberal) Party and fashioned his career as a member of the Party executive until his election to the Bundestag (Parliamentary Lower House) in 1965. In 1969, he became Minister of the Interior in the Brandt/Scheel Cabinet.

Mr. Genscher kept the Interior Cabinet portfolio until his appointment in May 1974 as Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor. With Walter Scheel's departure to the Presidency, Mr. Genscher, who was Vice-President of the FDP, became Acting Leader of the Party and formed a new coalition with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Mr. Genscher has some knowledge of English but does not speak any other foreign language.