

Jean-Pierre Raffarin

Prime Minister of France

Jean-Pierre Raffarin was born on Aug. 3, 1948, in Poitiers. After studying at the Lycée Henri IV in Poitiers, he attended law school and then graduated from the École supérieure de commerce in Paris. He was a senior lecturer at the Paris Institut d'études politiques from 1979 to 1988.

Before entering politics, Mr. Raffarin began his career in the field of marketing and communications. He was a technical adviser in the office of the Minister of Labour from 1976 to 1981 and, at the same time, a delegate to Institut Euro-92.

Mr. Raffarin was a municipal councillor for the city of Poitiers and then became a member and chairman of the Poitou-Charentes regional council and a member of the Senate for the Vienne constituency. He was also a member of the European Parliament.

In 1995, Mr. Raffarin was appointed Minister for Small and Medium-size Business, Trade and Small Industry, a post he retained until 1997 when he became vice-president of the Démocratie libérale party. He became a founding member of the Union pour un mouvement populaire in September 2002 when his party joined other political parties in forming the UMP.

Mr. Raffarin became Prime Minister of France on May 6, 2002.

Mr. Raffarin is married and has one child.