

Jacques Santer

President of the European Commission

Born at Wasserbillig, Luxembourg, on May 18, 1937, Mr. Santer was educated at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and studied law at the universities of Strasbourg and Paris.

Before becoming active in government and politics, Mr. Santer was an attorney for four years at Luxembourg's Court of Appeal. In 1974, he became chairman of Luxembourg's Social-Christian Party and a member of parliament. From 1975 to 1979, he was also a member of the European Parliament, holding the position of vice-president for the first two years. In 1976, he added alderman for the city of Luxembourg to his duties. In 1979, Mr. Santer joined the cabinet as Luxembourg's Minister of Finance.

In 1984, Mr. Santer became Luxembourg's Prime Minister and served for more than 10 years. During that time he held other cabinet posts, including Finance. He also represented Luxembourg on international banking and monetary bodies and on the European Council. Mr. Santer's five-year term as President of the European Commission began in January 1995.

Mr. Santer is married to Danièle Binot and has two children.