

Helmut Kohl

Chancellor of Germany

Helmut Kohl was born on April 3, 1930 in Ludwigshafen. He joined the Christian Democratic Union in 1947 and earned a doctor of philosophy degree in 1958 after studying history, law and political science.

Mr. Kohl became a member of the Rhineland-Palatinate land parliament in 1959 and was elected chairman of his party in 1963. In 1969, he was elected Minister-President of the Rhineland-Palatinate and became federal chairman of his party in 1973.

Mr. Kohl was elected Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1982, and his government was confirmed in office in an election the following year. His government was re-elected in 1987. Three years later, in March 1990, the neighbouring German Democratic Republic elected the Alliance for Germany party, which Mr. Kohl supported.

A monetary, economic and social union of the two German republics, which had been proposed by Mr. Kohl, came into effect July 1, 1990. Fifteen days later, Mr. Kohl obtained consent in Moscow to full sovereignty for a united Germany. On December 2, 1990, a coalition government led by Mr. Kohl won the first all-German election to the lower house of the federal legislative. Mr. Kohl has been re-elected federal Chancellor four times in a row, most recently in 1994.

Mr. Kohl is married and has two children.