

European Community Information Service  
The Farragut Building  
Suite 808  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Biography

SICCO MANSHOLT

Vice President of the Commission  
European Economic Community

Sicco Mansholt was appointed a Vice President of the nine-member Common Market Commission in January 1958, following ratification of the six-nation Common Market Treaty.

Vice President Mansholt is regarded as one of Europe's foremost agricultural economists. He served as Minister of Agriculture in succeeding post-war Netherlands' governments from 1946 to 1956. In the spring of 1946, Vice President Mansholt headed the Netherlands' delegation to the first United Nations Food and Agriculture Conference. In 1950, he was the author of the "Mansholt Plan" for European economic cooperation in the agriculture sector. Some aspects contained in the Plan were later incorporated in the Common Market Treaty.

Born in Holland on September 13, 1908, Vice President Mansholt was educated at the Lycée of Groningen and the Agricultural School of Deventer. He has worked in agriculture his entire adult life either as a farmer and head of a Dutch agricultural cooperative or as a public official, except during the war years, when he was a member of the Dutch Resistance forces in the Netherlands. Even then he was concerned particularly with the problem of obtaining food supplies for underground fighters and refugees from Nazism.

Vice President Mansholt holds the Grand Cross of the Crown of Belgium, and is a Commander of the French Agricultural Order of Merit. He played a major role in developing the Common Market's Common Agricultural Policy, which went into effect in 1962.

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