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Biography

RAYMOND F. E. RIFFLET

Executive Assistant to the President of the Commission
of the European Communities

Raymond Rifflet was born in Schaerbeek, Belgium, on December 21, 1919. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in history at the Free University of Brussels in 1941, where he also studied law and was accredited (Agrégé) as a high-school level teacher.

From 1946 to 1961 he taught at the Schaerbeek public high school.

Since 1958, he has been a part-time and full-time lecturer in contemporary history and economic history at the Public University for Business Administration at Antwerpen, Belgium, and also, since 1965, at the new School of Applied Sciences at Antwerpen. Since 1963, he has taught, part-time, a course in the problems of contemporary history at the National Institute for Higher Dramatic Arts. During 1964-65 and 1966-67, he was a lecturer at the University Center of Higher European Studies at the University of Strasbourg.

Other posts he has held include: professor at the College for Federalist Studies of Aosta, Italy; professor at the European Institute for Higher International Studies at Nice, France; administrator of the College of Europe at Bruges; and administrator of the International Center for the Formation of Europe.

Since 1959, he has been director-administrator of the National Study Center for Sociological and Economic Problems of Europe; and, since July 1, 1965, director of research at the Institute of Sociology at the Free University of Brussels.

On July 6, 1967, he became the executive assistant to Jean Rey, President of the European Communities Commission.

During his career he has performed various duties for the Belgian government. He was a member of the Belgian delegation for negotiating the formation of the European Economic and Atomic Energy Communities in 1956. From 1961 to 1965 he was attached to the staff of the Minister of National Education and Culture; during the same period, he was a commissioner for Belgian Radio-Television and for the Belgian National Opera.

On matters of European integration, he has served with the Belgian Council for the European Movement; was president of the international executive office of the European Federalist Movement (1959-66), and a delegate since 1966. He has been a member of the international executive of the European Left, the International Council of the European Movement, and the Association for the Study of the Problems of Europe.

He is author of a number of academic publications and works on the European Community.

He is a member of the Royal Institute of International Relations and a member of the Belgian Institute of Political Science.

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