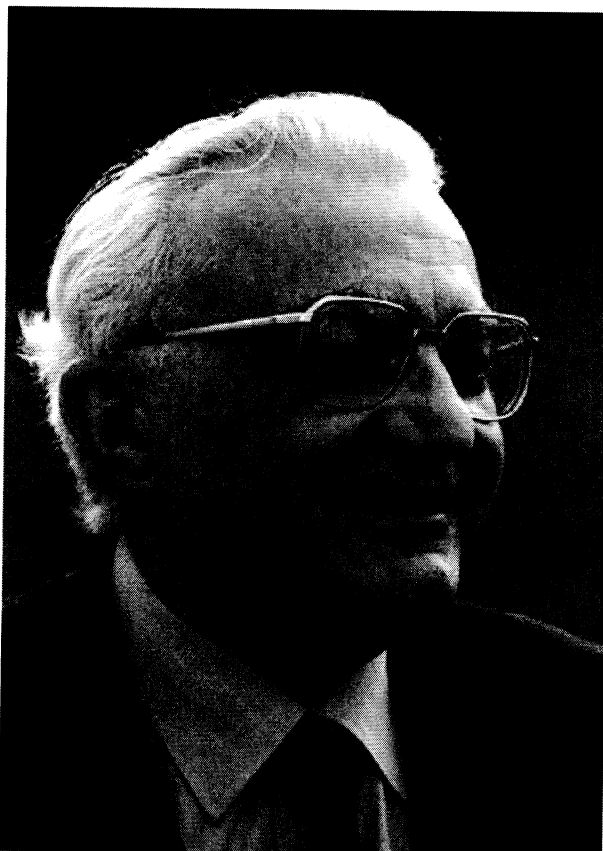


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Europa ▶ The European Commission ▶ Research

Prof. Antonio RUBERTI (1927 - 2000)



Professor Antonio Ruberti, European Commissioner for research, 1993-1994, was born on 24 January 1927. He died in Rome on 4 September aged 73.

On hearing the news of Professor Ruberti's death, [Philippe Busquin](#), the European Union's current research Commissioner said, "It was with much sadness that I learned of the death former research Commissioner, Antonio Ruberti. Driven like few other men by a 'passion for knowledge', to use his own favourite expression, Professor Ruberti held a high view of research. He was also a fervent, committed European with a challenging vision of European research. Although he was a Commissioner for only two years, this short time was enough for him to make his mark on European research policy. He was one of the great builders of the European research community, and for this I wish to pay tribute to him."

Antonio Ruberti was born in Aversa in the province of Caserta, Italy in 1927. He trained as an engineer and dedicated a significant part of his career to active research and training young engineers. A teacher of several courses, including control engineering and systems theory, Professor Ruberti became first head of the Department of Science and Engineering, and later Rector of "La Sapienza" university in Rome. In 1987, he was asked to join the Italian government as Minister for the Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research - a position he held for five years. In 1993, the Italian government appointed him to the European Commission where President Delors gave him the portfolio covering science, research, technological development and education.

During his short mandate, Professor Ruberti launched a series of new initiatives including the Socrates and Leonardo da Vinci programmes, the European Week of Scientific Culture, and the European Science and Technology Forum.

After leaving the Commission, Professor Ruberti was once more elected to the Italian Parliament where he chaired the Committee for European Union Policies.

During his lifetime, Professor Ruberti was awarded numerous honours and international prizes.

