

## Agriculture

### What do I need to know before I start?

The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, established the Common Market, but also defined the general objectives of a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), whose principles were set out at the Stresa Conference in July 1958. As one of the oldest policies of the EU, the CAP came into force in 1962 as the result of years of discussions and negotiations among the institutions of the EEC and the member states. The main architect of Europe's agriculture policy was the Dutch European Commissioner Sicco Mansholt.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fond, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than the ones listed in the description.

### What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to European agricultural polity-building and policy-making, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

#### 1) *EU institutions*

##### [Council of Ministers](#)

Agricultural matters discussed in the Council of Ministers are assembled in a section on agricultural activities: "*Activités de la CEE : Agriculture*". The fonds of the Council of Ministers being organized by years, you need to browse the sub-fonds of each separate year to access the specific section on agriculture ([example](#) for the year 1958).

##### [Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, you will find a specific section for the [DG VI Agriculture](#). The CAP is also discussed in the context of commercial relations in the section for the [DG V External relations](#). In addition, you might want to look into the sections on the [Secretariat-General](#) which also contains the minutes of the weekly Commission meetings since 1958, and on the [Cabinets](#), which include documents of the Cabinet Mansholt, active in agricultural policy.

### [European Parliament](#)

The Parliament's fonds include two sections '[Commission de l'agriculture](#)' and '[Commission de l'agriculture, de la pêche et du développement rural](#)' that include respectively the proceedings and the reports of the parliamentary committee for agriculture during the Parliament's first legislature (1979-1984) second legislature (1984 – 1989) and third legislature (1989 – 1994).

In the collection of Press Cuttings (CPPE), you will find a specific section related to "[Agriculture, pêche et alimentation](#)" with a selection of articles regarding this topic.

### [European Court of Auditors](#)

You may consult the ECA annual reports (1977-1997), special reports (1978-1991) and opinions (1977-1997). Among the annual reports and the ECA's opinions on EU legislative acts, such as Council and Commission regulations, you will find documents dealing with agricultural policy and financial regulation regarding the [European Agricultural Guarantee Fund \(EAGF\) 'guarantee' section](#).

### [European Court of Justice](#)

According to the nature of the ECJ, these fonds include documents dealing with judicial affairs, namely [procEDURE DOSSIERS](#) and [SENTENCES](#). You might find it interesting to consult some of its dossiers dealing with agricultural issues, such as the [143/73 affair](#) dealing with the 'Fonds d'orientation et de régularisation des marchés agricoles (FORMA)' and the 'Fonds d'intervention et de régularisation du marché du sucre (FIRS)', [the 48/74 affair](#) dealing with the national organization and common organization of agricultural market, and the [121/78 affair](#) dealing with Common organization of beef meat markets.

### [European Investment Bank](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the '[projets](#)', '[Aides, dons et subsides exceptionnels](#)' and [publications 'sub-fonds'](#), where you can find documents dealing with pre-aid conditions and aids in the agricultural sector, in EU member states and associated countries.

### [Economic and Social Committee](#)

Similarly to the fonds of the Council of Ministers, the inventory is organized by years, each including a sub-section on agriculture ([example](#) for the year 1962).

## 2) *Corporate bodies*

### [Organisation for European Economic Cooperation \(OEEC\)](#)

In the OEEC's fonds, you can find a specific section on the OEEC's [Directorate for Agriculture and Food](#).

### [Political Groups of the European Parliament](#)

The [fonds of EPP Group \(PPE\)](#) include a section for the Standing working group on Agriculture. You will find Minutes of the committee's meetings and Plenary notes for 1999 to 2004.

## 3) *Private collections*

### [Emile Noel](#)

In his private fonds, you can find documents specifically related to the formulation and reformation of European agricultural policy in the section "[Politique agricole commune](#)" during Noel's time as Secretary-General.

### [Graham Avery](#)

Avery held several posts in the DG for Agriculture during his career in the Commission, and you can find in his private fonds various [documents](#) related to the development of an agricultural policy at the European level.

### [Georges Rencki](#)

In his private fonds, various documents related to the [CAP](#) are available, as he worked in the DG Agriculture and was in charge of relations with professional agricultural organizations.

### [Helmut von Verschuer](#)

Having held various posts in the DG Agriculture including deputy Director General, his private fonds offer numerous [documents](#) related to the CAP and agricultural matters discussed at the EU level.

### [Michael Tracy](#)

Michael Tracy being also a well-known figure in the field of agricultural policy in the EU, his private fonds include [documents](#) related to agricultural policy in Europe and European countries.

#### 4) *Oral History*

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials active in the development of agricultural policy at the European level. Below, you can find a list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of agricultural policy at the European level.

[Benda, Francois](#)

[Bladbjerg, Bjarne](#)

[Di Carpegna, Ranieri](#)

[Emerson, Michael](#)

[Franklin, Michael](#)

[Hannay, David](#)

[Hauge Pedersen, Jens](#)

[Henriksen, Ole Bus](#)

[Jacquot, Michel-Jean](#)

[Kolte, Lars](#)

[Larsen, Arne](#)

[Legras, Guy](#)

[Mordrel, Louis](#)

[Pas, Nikolaus Van Der](#)

[Pedersen, Uffe Toudal](#)

[Pooley, Peter](#)

[Pratley, Alan](#)

[Rencki, Georges](#)

[Sicco Mansholt](#)

[Stendevad, Ejner](#)

[Ventura, Sergio](#)

[von Verschuer, Helmut](#)

[Williamson, Lord David](#)