

## Letter from Sicco Mansholt to Tony Benn (April 12 1972)

**Caption:** On 12 April 1972, Sicco Mansholt, President of the European Commission, sends a letter to Labour MP, Tony Benn, in which he denounces the anti-European attitude of the British Labour Party.

**Source:** BENN, Tony. Speeches. BODINGTON, Joan (Ed.). Nottingham: Spokesman Books, 1974. 303 p. ISBN 0-85124-091-7. (Spokesman Books). p. 118.

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**URL:** [http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter\\_from\\_sicco\\_mansholt\\_to\\_tony\\_benn\\_april\\_12\\_1972-en-fba31f81-22ee-46cd-9918-92c5b0f46088.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/letter_from_sicco_mansholt_to_tony_benn_april_12_1972-en-fba31f81-22ee-46cd-9918-92c5b0f46088.html)

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Commission Des Communautés Européennes  
Le Président

Brussels, 12th April 1972

Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn M.P.  
House of Commons  
London, SW1

Dear Mr. Wedgwood Benn,

Your letter of March 28th surprised me.

When I see that all socialist parties in continental Europe are in favour of European cooperation in general and of the European Communities in particular, I cannot be but « ashamed to see my socialist friends adopt such a negative attitude ». What you do, in effect, is to desert from the socialist family. « Right or wrong my country » was for a long time a conservative slogan in your country, you seem to have taken over that slogan.

It has been, and still is, a good socialist tradition to abide by democratic parliamentary decisions. The democratic parliamentary decision to enter into the Community has been taken by your House of Commons.

The debate in your country, after that vote, should be over now. Instead of the Labour Party should prepare itself for the new situation and work closely together with the other socialist parties in order to make out of our Europe the socialist Europe we want it to be.

Yours fraternally,

S. L. Mansholt