



Biography of Mr. Ilir Meta Speaker of the Parliament of Albania

Ilir Meta is the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Albania, elected on September 10th 2013.



He was born on March 24, 1969 in Skrapar, Albania, and graduated in Political Economy at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana in 1992, where he also pursued his postgraduate studies.

Ilir Meta, former Prime Minister of Albania and current Speaker and also Member of the Albanian Parliament, is also the Leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration of Albania (LSI) established in September 2004, currently part of the governing coalition of Albania led by the Socialist Party of Albania.

During the previous parliamentary legislature, Mr. Meta served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy of the Republic of Albania. Prior to that, he held the Chairmanship of the Parliamentary Commission of European Integration.

Ilir Meta has been engaged in politics since 1990 as an active participant in the students' movement against communism that brought political pluralism in Albania.

Since 1992 he has been elected Member of Parliament in all legislatures and has been an active member of several Parliamentary Commissions.

From 1996 to 1997 he was Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Albanian Parliament.

During the period of October 1998 – October 1999, Ilir Meta held the office of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Coordination, as well as that of State Secretary for European Integration in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during March – October 1998.

In November 1999, Ilir Meta became Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania and after the general parliamentary elections he won a second mandate, lasting from September 2001 until February 2002. During this period, Albania engaged in a range of important reforms, joining the Process of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union.

From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Ilir Meta was elected member of the International Commission on the Balkans, chaired by the former Italian Prime Minister, Giuliano Amato. The Commission drafted a series of important recommendations towards the integration of the Western Balkan countries into the European Union.

During the period of 2009 – 2011, Ilir Meta served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and later in the position of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy.

He was an early and strong campaigner for the liberalization of visas with the Schengen area, which was accomplished in 2010 to the benefit of all citizens of Albania.

He remains one of the strongest campaigners and advocates of regional and European integration for all countries of the Western Balkans, as a means to further strengthen stability and peace in the region.

In March 2012, Ilir Meta was honoured with the “*Most Positive Personality in Foreign Policy for 2010*” Award by the International Institute for Middle-East and Balkan Studies (IFIMES), during a ceremony in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The award was presented by former President of Croatia Stjepan Mesic.

During the last LSI National Electoral Convention in October 2012, Ilir Meta was re-elected for another mandate as Chairman of the Socialist Movement for Integration.

Ilir Meta has been lecturer at the Economic Faculty of Tirana University. He has also lectured at several renowned universities and academies overseas, including Harvard University, London School of Economics and the European Academy in Berlin.

Ilir Meta speaks Albanian, English and Italian. He is married to Monika Kryemadhi. They have two daughters and a son, Bora, Era and Besar.