

## Mr. ILIR META

### Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania



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

Ilir Meta is the Leader of the Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI) founded in September 2004.

As of 17 September 2009, Mr. Meta is Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania. In the previous parliamentary legislature 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 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, and 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 EU.

Ilir Meta served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, from July 2002 – July 2003.

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.

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 and the European Academy in Berlin.

Mr. Meta is married to Monika Kryemadhi. They have two daughters and a son, Bora, Era and Besar.

Mr. Meta speaks English and Italian.