

# Government

## The Members of the Federal Government

List with biographies in brief of all members of the Federal Government



Viktor KLIMA  
Federal Chancellor

Viktor Klima (born in Vienna on June 4, 1947) has served as Federal Chancellor since January 1997. He succeeded Franz Vranitzky (Federal Chancellor from 1986 to 1997) after the latter's resignation. Having graduated in business and economic computer science at Vienna's Technical University and the University of Vienna, Klima joined the Österreichische Mineralöl-Verwaltungs AG (OMV), where he was appointed administrator with a general commercial power of attorney. In 1990 he joined the same company's Board of Directors, assuming responsibility for finance, auditing, accounts and resource procurement. Klima, who had been a member of the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) since 1966, joined the Federal Government in 1992, serving in the cabinet Vranitzky III as Federal Minister for Public Industry and Transport. In January 1996 he was appointed Federal Minister of Finance in the cabinet Vranitzky V. On January 28, 1997 Viktor Klima was sworn in as Federal Chancellor of a coalition Government of the SPÖ and the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP).



Barbara PRAMMER  
Federal Minister for Women's Affairs and Consumer Protection

Barbara Prammer was born in Ottnang am Hausruck in Upper Austria on January 11, 1954. She studied sociology at Linz University, graduating in 1986. After working in the municipal offices in Ottnang and in the Employment Service for several years and serving as an official in the Linz organisation of the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ), she became Second President of the Upper Austrian Provincial Diet in 1991. On March 2, 1995 she was appointed Provincial Councillor for Housing Construction, Nature Conservation and Administrative Police, the first female member of the Upper Austrian Provincial Government in the post-war years. Barbara Prammer chairs the Women's Organisation of the Upper Austrian SPÖ and is Deputy Chairwoman of the provincial party organisation. On January 28, 1997 Barbara Prammer was sworn in as Federal Minister for Women's Affairs and Consumer Protection in the cabinet Klima I.



Peter WITTMANN  
State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery

Peter Wittmann was born in Wiener Neustadt (Lower Austria) on March 8, 1947. After completing his compulsory military service he studied law at the University of Vienna, acquiring his doctorate of law in 1980. Between 1974 and 1986 he made several extended journeys, principally to countries in the Far East. In 1975 he spent four months working in Canada. Between 1981 and 1982 he studied Chinese at the Beijing Language Institute. In 1983 he completed a commercial training course with Creditanstalt-Bankverein bank. In September 1987 he opened his own legal practice in Wiener Neustadt. In 1990 Peter Wittmann was appointed First Deputy Mayor of Wiener Neustadt, from March 1993 to March 1997 he has been Mayor of his hometown. On January 28, 1997 Peter Wittmann was sworn in as State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery in the cabinet Klima I.



Wolfgang SCHÜSSEL  
Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Wolfgang Schüssel was born on 7 June 1945 in Vienna. After attending primary school there, he had his secondary education at the Schottengymnasium, where he obtained his higher school certificate (Matura) in 1963. He then went on to study at the University of Vienna and graduated Doctor of law in 1968. From 1968 until 1975 Dr. Schüssel was secretary of the parliamentary People's Party (ÖVP) and then from 1975 until April 1991 General Secretary of the Österreichischer Wirtschaftsbund (Austrian Economic Federation), one of the ÖVP constituent organisations. He was a member of the Nationalrat, the First House of the Austrian Parliament, from 5 June 1979 till 8 May 1989; from 1987 till May 1989 as deputy leader of the parliamentary ÖVP. On 24 April 1989 Dr. Schüssel became Federal Minister for Economic Affairs in the coalition government formed by the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) and the ÖVP under Federal Chancellor Dr. Franz Vranitzky. At the 30th annual congress of the ÖVP on 22 April 1995 Dr. Schüssel was elected leader of the Party. On 4 May 1995 Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel was sworn in as Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Vranitzky IV cabinet. He retained these positions in the Vranitzky V cabinet formed on 12 March 1996. On 28 January 1997 Dr. Schüssel was again sworn in as Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Klima I cabinet.;



Benita Maria FERRERO-WALDNER  
State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Benita Maria Ferrero-Waldner was born in Salzburg in 1948. She graduated from the University of Salzburg with a doctorate of law in 1970. She then worked in private business in Germany before joining the Austrian diplomatic corps in 1984. She belonged to the staff of various departments of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and of the Austrian embassies in Dakar and Paris. Between February and December 1993 Benita Maria Ferrero-Waldner served as Deputy Head of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, with the rank of envoy. On January 1, 1994 she joined the staff of the UN Secretary General's

Executive Office as Head of Protocol at United Nations Headquarters in New York. She became a member of the Federal Government in 1995 as State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

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Johann FARNLEITNER  
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Johann Farnleitner was born in Weikersdorf am Steinfeld in Lower Austria in 1939. He studied law at the University of Vienna, graduating with a doctorate in 1961. After completing his judicial traineeship, he worked in the administration of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government until 1964, when he joined the Chamber of Commerce. He first worked in the Economic Policy Department of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce, later in the equivalent department of the Federal Economic Chamber. In 1978 he was appointed head of the Department of Legal and Commercial Policy. In 1982 he took charge of the Federal Economic Chamber's Economic Policy Department. In April 1992 Johann Farnleitner became Deputy Secretary General of the Federal Economic Chamber. For many years he served as Chairman of the Austrian Catholic Men's Movement and ran the international Catholic Men's Movement. He joined the Federal Government as Federal Minister for Economic Affairs in June 1996.

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Eleonore HOSTASCH  
Federal Minister for Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Eleonore Hostasch was born in Vienna on July 9, 1944. After acquiring her school-leaving certificate at a commercial college, she joined the staff of what was then the Workers' Bank (today the Bank für Arbeit und Wirtschaft, BAWAG) in 1962. Here she worked in the loans and foreign transactions department. She was also an active member of the trade union movement and was elected to a position on the bank's works council in 1969. Between 1975 and 1994 she served as Chairperson of the BAWAG's central Works Council. From 1974 to 1989 she chaired the Women's Department in the Private Employees' Trade Union. She became a member of the Federal Board of the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) in 1983, holding the post of Deputy President from 1991 to 1995. Between 1989 and 1994 Eleonore Hostasch was Chairperson of the Private Employees' Trade Union. From 1974 until 1989 she belonged to the Federal Women's Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ). In the years 1987 to 1989 she served as an SPÖ Councillor on the Vienna City Council. In 1989 she became an SPÖ Deputy in the 'Nationalrat', the lower chamber of the Austrian Parliament. Here she chaired the Social Affairs Committee and acted as the SPÖ's Spokesperson on Social Affairs. In 1979 Eleonore Hostasch was appointed to a senior post in the Viennese Chamber of Labour. In October 1994 she was elected President of the Vienna Chamber of Labour, in the following month President of the Federal Chamber of Labour. Eleonore Hostasch joined the Federal Government as Federal Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs on January 28, 1997.

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Rudolf EDLINGER  
Federal Minister for Finance

Rudolf Edlinger was born in Vienna on February 20, 1940. He completed an apprenticeship in lithography and acquired his school-leaving qualification in evening courses at a commercial college before graduating from a university course in advertising and sales. He joined the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) in 1957, working in the party's youth organisation before embarking on a career in the SPÖ from 1964 onwards. Up to 1968 he served as District Party Secretary in the Währing district of Vienna, later as Organisational Secretary and, from 1976 to 1981, as Provincial Party Secretary of the Vienna SPÖ. Since 1980 he has also been District Party Chairman of the Währing District Organisation of the Vienna SPÖ. Between 1969 and 1986 Rudolf Edlinger was a deputy to the Vienna Provincial Diet and SPÖ Councillor, and from 1981 to 1986 he was also Chairman of the Social Democratic deputies to the Vienna Provincial Diet. Between June 1986 and November 1994 he held the post of Councillor for Housing and Urban Development. In November 1994 he was appointed Councillor for Finance and Economic Policy. On January 28, 1997 Rudolf Edlinger was sworn in as Federal Minister for Finance in the cabinet Klima I.



Wolfgang RUTTENSTORFER  
State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Finance

Wolfgang Ruttendorfer was born in Vienna on October 15, 1950. He graduated from the Vienna University of Business Management. In 1976 he joined the staff of the Österreichische Mineralöl-Verwaltungs AG (OMV), where he worked in various fields. In 1990 he was appointed to a senior executive post with general power of commercial attorney. In 1991 he became a Director of OMV, and in mid-1992 he was appointed to the Board, with special responsibility for finance, auditing and the chemicals division. In the autumn of 1992 Wolfgang Ruttendorfer became Deputy Chairman of the Board. He joined the cabinet Klima I as State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Finance on January 28, 1997.



Karl SCHLÖGL  
Federal Minister of the Interior

Karl Schlögl was born in Vienna on January 28, 1955. After completing his compulsory military service he began studying law and economics. Between 1978 and 1992 he held various posts within the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ), first as Youth Secretary, then as Secretary for Education and Organisation. In 1991 he completed his studies of political science and history. From 1987 to 1991 Karl Schlögl was a deputy to the 'Bundesrat', the Federal Chamber of the Austrian Parliament. Between 1991 and 1994 he served as an SPÖ deputy to the 'Nationalrat'. He was Mayor of the Lower Austrian town of Purkersdorf from 1989 until 1997. In April 1995 he was appointed State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery in the cabinet Vranitzky IV and retained this post in the next Vranitzky cabinet. On January 28, 1997 Karl Schlögl was sworn in as Federal Minister of the Interior in the cabinet Klima I.



Nikolaus MICHALEK  
Federal Minister for Justice

Nikolaus Michalek was born in Vienna in 1940. He graduated from the University of Vienna with a doctorate of law in 1962. He had already worked as a junior clerk in the practice of a Vienna notary public. In 1965 he passed the notary's examination with distinction. In 1987 Nikolaus Michalek was elected President of the Chamber of Notaries Public for Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland. In 1989 he became President of the Austrian Chamber of Notaries Public. Nikolaus Michalek joined the Federal

Government as Federal Minister for Justice in December 1990.



Werner FASSLABEND  
Federal Minister for National Defence

Werner Fasslabend was born in Marchegg in Lower Austria in 1944. He studied law at Wilbraham Academy in the United States and at the University of Vienna, gaining his doctorate in 1970. After completing his judicial traineeship he became product Manager and later Sales Director with Henkel-Persil. Since 1985 he has been Lower Austrian Provincial Chairman of the Department for Employees in the Österreichischer Arbeiter- und Angestelltenbund (ÖAAB), a constituent organisation of the Austrian

People's Party (ÖVP). Werner Fasslabend was an ÖVP deputy to the 'Nationalrat' from 1987 to 1990. He was sworn in as Federal Minister for National Defence in December 1990.



Wilhelm MOLTERER  
Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Wilhelm Molterer was born a farmer's son in the Upper Austrian town of Steyr in 1955. From 1969 to 1974 he attended the Higher Agricultural College in St. Florian, where he gained his school-leaving certificate. He went on to study sociology at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, graduating in 1980. In the years 1981 to 1984 he worked in the Economic Policy Department of the Austrian Farmers' Federation, a constituent organisation of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). In 1987 he was appointed to a staff

position in the office of the Agriculture Minister. In 1989 he was appointed Director of the Austrian Farmers' Federation. He became an ÖVP deputy to the 'Nationalrat' in 1990. From December 1993 to November 1994 he was General Secretary of the ÖVP. Wilhelm Molterer joined the Federal Government as Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in 1994.



Martin BARTENSTEIN

Federal Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs

Martin Bartenstein was born in the Styrian city of Graz in 1953. He graduated from the University of Graz with a doctorate in chemistry. In 1980 he took over his family's pharmaceutical company Lannacher Heilmittel GmbH. In 1986 he became Managing Director of Genericon Pharma GesmbH and in 1990 a member of the Board of Pharmavit AG Budapest. In 1988 Martin Bartenstein was elected Federal Chairman of Junge Industrie Österreich, a federation of young industrialists, and in 1991 he became Industrial Spokesman of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). He has been an ÖVP deputy to the 'Nationalrat' since 1991. In November 1994 Martin Bartenstein was appointed State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Public Industry and Transport. In May 1995 he became Federal Minister for the Environment, and in March 1996 he was appointed Federal Minister for the Environment, Youth and Family Affairs.



Elisabeth GEHRER

Federal Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs

Elisabeth Gehrler was born in Vienna in 1942. She completed her secondary education and a teacher training course in the Tyrolean city of Innsbruck. Between 1961 and 1964 she worked as a teacher in Hart im Zillertal in Tyrol, later at primary schools in Lochau and Bregenz, Vorarlberg. In 1980 she was appointed City Councillor for Music Schools and Regional Co-operation in the Vorarlberg capital Bregenz, where she was elected Local Chairperson of the Women's Movement of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) in 1983. In the following year Elisabeth Gehrler was appointed Deputy President of the Vorarlberg State Diet. In 1990 she was elected to a post in the Vorarlberg State Government as State Councillor for School Education, Further Training, Science, Women's Affairs, Youth and Family Affairs, Municipal Development and Development Co-operation. In January 1994 she became State Director of the Vorarlberg ÖVP's women's organisation and President of the Vorarlberg State Schools Authority. In May 1995 Elisabeth Gehrler joined the Federal Government as Federal Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs.



Caspar EINEM

Federal Minister for Science and Transport

Caspar Einem was born on May 6, 1948, the son of the composer Gottfried von Einem and of Lianne, née von Bismarck. Between 1967 and 1971 he studied law at the University of Vienna, completing a number of traineeships at German and French banks during his studies. From 1972 to 1977 he worked as a federal employee with the Federal Parole Association. In 1978-1979 he worked as a sociologist at the Boltzmann Institute for Criminal Sociology. In 1979 Caspar Einem completed his judicial traineeship. From 1980 to 1991 he was employed by the Vienna Chamber of Labour, where he headed the Department for Local Government. In March 1991 he took a post at the Österreichische Mineralöl-Verwaltungs AG (OMV), where he was appointed head of the Gas Division in 1992. In

November 1994 Caspar Einem became State Secretary in the Federal Chancellery in the cabinet Vranitzky IV. In April 1995 he was appointed Federal Minister of the Interior in the cabinet Vranitzky V. He was sworn in as Federal Minister for Science and Transport in the cabinet Klima I on January 28, 1997.

[Back to top of page](#)

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