

## **Antonio Tajani**

Born in Rome on August 4, 1953, Antonio Tajani is the son of an Italian army officer and a Greek and Latin teacher. He obtained his Law degree from La Sapienza University of Rome, he served as an Officer of the Italian Air Force. Married, with two children, he is fluent in French, Spanish and English.

A professional journalist since 1980, Antonio Tajani was parliamentary reporter, host of GR1 Rai, head of the Roman editorial board of the newspaper “Il Giornale” directed by Indro Montanelli, of which he was a close collaborator for ten years.

He also served as special envoy in Lebanon, the Soviet Union, and Somalia.

Co-founder of *Forza Italia*, in 1994 he was elected to the European Parliament for the first time. *As a member of the Convention on the future of Europe chaired by Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, he contributed to drafting the project for a European Constitution.*

From 2001 to 2004, he was also a member of Rome’s city council.

He was appointed European Commissioner for Transport in 2008, and in this capacity, he contributed to enhancing the trans-European transport networks and creating a European regulatory framework to protect passengers' rights. In 2010, he was appointed *Vice-President and European Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship*, working to support reindustrialization, “green growth”, and SMEs, in particular with the Late Payment Directive and Action Plans for all sectors of industry, steel to begin with.

In 2014, he was re-elected Member of the European Parliament, *also serving as First Vice-President* responsible for security, interreligious dialogue and the House of European History.

*When moving from the European Commission to the European Parliament, he communicated to the then-President of the European Commission Barroso his decision to renounce to the transitional allowance of 468,000 euros, to which Tajani was entitled as former Vice-President of the Commission.*

In April 2015, the city of Gijon, in Northern Spain, dedicated a street to Antonio Tajani in recognition of the work he had done during his mandate as Vice-President of the European Commission, having fought *to prevent the closure of an industrial plant, thereby saving 210 jobs.*

On 17 January 2017, he was elected *President of the European Parliament.* In this capacity, he organized the “*Debates on the future of Europe*”, which were attended by 18 Heads of State and Government. He also organized 12 high-level conferences on topics such as migration, research, tourism, business, cultural heritage and digital. His mandate was characterized by a strong commitment to a common European defense, support for the real economy, and relaunching the EU’s on the global stage, particularly in Africa and Latin America.

The European Jewish community dedicated him a forest of 18 trees, a symbol of life, in Israel, as recognition for his work “to bridge gaps between religions as well as between the European Union and the various religious confessions.”

From 2019 to 2022, he served as Chair of the European Parliament’s Committee on Constitutional Affairs and as Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs. In January, he was re-elected by acclamation as Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs. He also actively participated to the organization of the *Conference on the future of Europe* and was a protagonist of the negotiations for the Brexit agreement, fighting for the rights of European citizens residing in the United Kingdom.

Since 2002, *he is Vice-President of the European People's Party.* He also is *Vice-President of Forza Italia since July 2018 and the Party’s National Coordinator since February 2021.*

For over twenty years, he has been supporting the charitable work of the Community “in Dialogo” of Trivigliano (Frosinone), which works for the recovery and social reintegration of young drug addicts. In 2018, he donated to the Community the pension to which he was entitled as former Vice-President of the European Commission.

*Antonio Tajani has been awarded the following honors and awards:*

- ❖ Grand Cross of the Order of Faithful Service from Romania;
- ❖ “Europe Award” by the Italian Initiative Group of Brussels (GII) for the

strong commitment in favor of the business world - especially SMEs - and the promotion of the Italian entrepreneurship in Europe;

- ❖ *Officer of the Order of the Legion of Honour*, awarded by the France's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Laurent Fabius;
- ❖ *Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit* awarded by the Prime Minister of Spain, Mariano Rajoy;
- ❖ Grand Cross of the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins, Chile;
- ❖ "Premio Foro España" for his work to defend EU values as President of the European Parliament. He also served as President of the jury for the 2022 edition of the Foro España Prize.
- ❖ Silver Star of the Order of Merit of the Civil Guard (Madrid);
- ❖ Hungarian Order of Merit Grand Cross;
- ❖ *Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun* by the Government of Japan.

*During his term as President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani has also been awarded the:*

- ❖ *Princesa de Asturias de la Concordia Award* from Spain (awarded in Oviedo, Spain, along with the then-President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the then-President of the European Council Donald Tusk. The 50,000 Euro that were awarded as part of the Prize were donated to the victims of fires in Spain and Portugal);
- ❖ Honorary citizenship of Fiuggi (FR);
- ❖ "Against Terrorism" Award, awarded in Seville on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Alberto Jiménez-Becerril, city councilor of the Andalusian capital, brutally murdered 20 years ago by the terrorist group ETA;
- ❖ Honorary citizenship of Vietri sul Mare (SA);
- ❖ "Forum Nueva Economía 2018" Prize, awarded for his important contribution to the process of European integration;
- ❖ *Carlos V European Prize* awarded by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation for his political commitment to the European Union and its institutions, guarantors of peace, democracy, human rights, equality and solidarity. The 30,000 Euros that were awarded as part of the Prize were donated to the municipalities of Arquata del Tronto, Norcia and Accumoli, affected by the earthquake of 2016;
- ❖ Lord Jakobovits Prize, awarded for his contribution to interreligious dialogue and the fight against anti-Semitism;
- ❖ Rocco Chinnici Prize in Enna (Sicily), awarded for the impulse given to the

treatment of issues focused on the protection of rights.