

ROBERTO FORMIGONI

Graduated in Philosophy at the *Università Cattolica* in Milan, he studied political economy at the Sorbonne, in Paris. He has been a free-lance journalist since 1985.

In 1975 he founded the Popular Movement and was its President for 12 years. The Movement actively promoted cultural, social and cultural initiatives.

In 1980 he gave birth to the Rimini Meeting for Friendship amongst Peoples.

He started his political career in the European Parliament, to which he was elected in 1984 and 1989 as the most-voted candidate of his party with over half a million preference votes.

He was Vice-President of the European Parliament for five years and in this capacity he went on many international missions to Eastern European countries still under Communist rule, to the Middle East and to Latin America. After being elected to the Italian Chamber of Deputies he served as under-secretary for the Environment.

He was President of the Lombardy Region for four consecutive terms from 1995 to 2013. He enacted major regional reforms: in the health care system, where he introduced patients' free choice between public and private health facilities and a policy based on competition and cooperation between public and private actors; in education and vocational training; in the transportation network, with the implementation of large-scale road, highway and railways projects; in Lombardy external policy promoting a more prominent presence on the international scene.

In February 2013 he was elected to the Italian Senate and became Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture.