

Born in Rome on 4 August 1953
Married, 2 children
Lived in Paris, Bologna and Rome

Education and languages

Classical studies at the 'Torquato Tasso' secondary school, Rome
Degree in Law from 'La Sapienza' University, Rome
Foreign languages: French, English and Spanish

Professional Activities

Officer of the Italian Air Force

He completed officer training at the Florence AirWarfare School (Scuola di Guerra Aerea) and attended a specialisation course for Air Defence Controller at the Training Technical Centre at Borgo Piave. Assigned to the Operational Base of the 33rd Air Force Radar Centre, he worked as Air Defence Controller and was Head of the Operations Room monitoring Italian and European civil and military air traffic

- Professional journalist and parliamentary journalist Editor of the Italian weekly 'Il Settimanale'

Presenter for the RAI 1 radio news programme

Head of the Rome editorial office of the Italian daily 'Il Giornale' Special correspondent in Lebanon, the Soviet Union and Somalia

Political Positions

European Commission Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of Industry and Entrepreneurship from February 2010

European Commission's Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of Transport from May 2008 to February 2010

Vice-Chair of the European People's Party, elected at the EPP Congress in Estoril in 2002, re-elected at the EPP Congress in Rome in 2006 and re-elected again at the EPP Congress in Bonn in 2009 and in Bucharest in 2012

Member of the Bureau of the Group of the European People's Party. He has taken part in all EPP summits in preparation of the European Councils

Member of the Convention on the Future of Europe, which drew up the text of the European Constitution

Elected as member of the European Parliament in 1994, 1999 and 2004 with over 120 000 preference votes

During his 15 years of parliamentary activity he took part in many committees (Foreign Affairs, Constitutional Affairs, at the time chaired by the President of the Republic Giorgio Napolitano, Transport and Tourism, Fisheries, Security and Defence).