



Zsolt NÉMETH Minister of State – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

Zsolt Németh's political career started with the foundation of FIDESZ (Hungarian Civic Party) in 1988. Mr. Németh was a founding member of FIDESZ and has been a member of the Hungarian Parliament since the first free and democratic elections in 1990. Currently, Mr Németh is Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Németh is a key figure in formulating Fidesz's foreign policy. He has participated in the preparation of the party's foreign policy strategies in the past two decades. Mr Németh was an active supporter of the Act on National and Ethnic Minorities (1993), which grants individual and collective rights and the right to self-government for ethnic and national minorities living in Hungary. He also supported the Act on Hungarians Living in Neighbouring Countries (2001), which ensures special benefits for ethnic Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin. Mr Németh was also among the sponsors of the Act allowing non-resident Hungarians to apply for Hungarian citizenship if they are of Hungarian origin and speak the language (2010).

Between 1990-1994, Mr Németh participated at and headed the Committee on Human Rights, Religions and Minority Affairs in the Parliament. While FIDESZ had majority in the Parliament between 1998-2002, Mr Németh acted as Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 2002-2010 Mr Németh was the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr Németh acted as member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe between 1993-2008 being the Deputy Leader of the Hungarian delegation from 2002. In 2004, he became Member of the European Parliament, where he served on the Committee on Foreign Affairs for a year. Between 2005 to 2008, he was the Vice Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee of the Council of Europe. He is member of the Executive Committee of the European People's Party (EPP) since 1997.

Mr Németh held and presently holds several honorary and executive positions at non-profit organizations and other NGOs; among others, he was the founder of the Pro Minoritate Foundation, he is the Honorary Chief Superintendent of the Calvinist Congregation of Transsylvania, and a Member of the Knight's Order of the Johannites.

Mr Németh studied political science at the Oxford University St. Anthony's College as a visiting student between 1988-89. He earned his M.A. in Economics and Sociology at the Karl Marx (Corvinus) University of Economic Sciences at Budapest in 1987.

Mr Németh is married with three children.