



Karmenu Vella

Date of Birth 19 June 1950

Nationality Maltese

Address

Phone

Email

General

Karmenu Vella was born in Zurrieq, Malta in June 1950. He graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Malta, and later obtained a Master of Science in Tourism Management from the University of Sheffield.

Mr Vella served and contributed to the Maltese democratic process for over four decades. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 and continued to be re-elected in the elections that followed, for nine consecutive times. During his political career he has been appointed Minister for Public Works, Minister for Industry and Trade, and Minister for Tourism twice. Karmenu Vella vacated his parliamentary seat in 2014, following his nomination as European Commissioner. Mr Vella was awarded the National Order of Merit from the Republic of Malta in 2019.

During his term as European Commissioner, Karmenu Vella was a key actor for the realisation of the institution's ambitious and comprehensive plans in the areas of environment and ocean protection. His work acknowledged by the World Economic Forum and the Forum of Young Global Leaders, who during his term in office awarded the European Commission with the 2019 Circular Economy prize. Karmenu Vella's work towards the protection and sustainable use of the oceans has also been acknowledged by the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, who under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein awarded him with the German Ocean Award. His merits in the aforementioned field were also commended by a number of high-ranking personalities including former US Secretary of State John Kerry, Prince Albert II of Monaco, the German Federal Minister of the Environment Svenja Schulze and the Deputy Director of UNESCO, Vladimir Ryabinin. Mr Vella was also awarded the Medal of the French Maritime Cluster in 2018, as a recognition of his achievements and dedication in the maritime field.

During his professional career, Karmenu Vella has held a number of managerial and directorship posts. In 1973 he started his own private practice as an Architect and Civil Engineer, and during that same year he was appointed a director until 1976 on Mid Med Bank - Malta. In 1974 he joined the Libyan Maltese Holding Company as Managing Director where he was responsible to setup and subsequently manage the company. The Libyan Maltese Holding Company is a joint venture between the Maltese and Libyan Government. Under his leadership, the company managed to set up a number of manufacturing and servicing companies in Malta focusing to provide necessary provisions to the Libyan market. In 2001 he was appointed executive chairman of Corinthia Hotels International till 2007 and then executive chairman of Corinthia's Mediterranean Construction Co Ltd., up to 2010. In 2010 he joined Betfair Group Ltd. as a director and sat on SMS-Mondial Travel Group's Board as chairman until 2013.

Education

- 1998 – 2000 M.Sc Tourism Management – Sheffield Hallam University, UK.
- 1968 – 1973 Bachelor of Arch and Civil Eng (Hons) – University of Malta.
- 1968 – 1970 Bachelor in Architectural Studies (Hons) – University of Malta.

Languages

- Maltese.
- English.
- Italian.

Political

- 2014 – 2019 EU Commissioner for the Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs.
- 2013 – 2014 Minister for Tourism and Aviation.
- 2011 – 2013 Shadow Minister for Finance.
- 2008 – 2013 Group Co-ordinator for the MLP Parliamentary Group.
- 1998 – 2011 Shadow Minister for Tourism.
- 1996 – 1998 Minister for Tourism.
- 1987 – 1996 Shadow Minister for Tourism.
- 1984 – 1987 Minister for Industry and Trade.
- 1981 – 1983 Minister for Public Works and Infrastructure.
- 1976 – 2014 Member of Parliament, Malta.
- 1970 – 1976 Member of National Exec Council – Malta Labour Youth.
- 1968 – 1970 Member of Zurrieq Civic Council.

Awards

- 2022 Mediterranean Tourism Forum Award.
- 2019 National Order of Merit from the Republic of Malta.
- 2019 The Elisabeth Mann Borgese Medal - International Ocean Institute.
- 2019 Medal of the Order of St Charles from Prince Albert II of Monaco.
- 2018 German Ocean Award - GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research.
- 2018 Medal of the French Maritime Cluster.

Profession

- 2022 – to date Special Advisor to the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries.
- 2022 – to date Advisor to the Maltese Minister for Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Trade.
- 2020 – 2022 Advisor to the Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, Capital Projects.
- 2020 – to date Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malta.
- 2010 – 2013 Chairman – Orange Travel Group and SMS Cruises.
- 2009 – 2013 Board Director - Betfair Group Ltd.
- 2008 – 2010 Exec Chairman - Corinthia Mediterranean Construction Co Ltd.
- 2001 – 2007 Exec Chairman - Corinthia Hotels International.
- 1978 – 1981 Managing Director - Libyan Maltese Holding Company Ltd.
- 1978 – 1981 Director in LMHCo's subsidiaries:
 - Malta Shipbuilding Co Ltd
 - Rotos Zirayia Pumps Co Ltd
 - Plastic Processing Co Ltd
 - Medelec Switchgear Co Ltd
 - Mediterranean Aviation Co Ltd
 - Mediterranean Power Electric Co Ltd
- 1973 – 1976 Director Mid-Med Bank.
- 1973 – 1981 Architect & Civil Engineer.

Non-

- 2019 – to date Member of the Global Policy Advisory Council of the Sustainable Ocean Alliance.
- 2008 – 2013 Member of the Vodafone Malta Foundation.
- 2007 – 2013 Founder / Chairman of the Maltese Turkish Business Council.

Culture / Sports

- Honorary President – Queen Victoria Band Club, Zurrieq, Malta.
- Honorary President – Bocci Club, Zurrieq, Malta.
- Honorary President – Aquatic Sports Club, Birzebbuga, Malta.