

H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec - Bio

Marcin Korolec, the Polish Minister of the Environment, is a lawyer, career civil servant and negotiator. His aim is to achieve a balance between the needs of the environment and the economy, in order to seamlessly unite environmental protection and economic growth. He sees environmental protection as an interdisciplinary field, having a direct influence on many other policy areas and being strongly influenced by international arrangements and standards.

He spent the last two governmental terms of office serving as the Under-Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Economy, where his responsibilities included horizontal pan-European issues (energy, competitiveness and trade, and climate policy).

He completed his studies at the Ecole nationale d'administration in Paris, having previously graduated from the University of Warsaw, studying first at the Faculty of History and then at the Faculty of Law and Administration.

As a long-term member of the team of Jan Kułakowski, chief negotiator in Poland's negotiations for membership of the European Union (EU), his professional career has been devoted to Poland's accession to and membership of the EU. As a member of that team he was responsible for such areas of negotiation as the free movement of goods, the free movement of persons, agriculture, competition policy and consumer protection policy. In 2001–2004, at the Office of the Committee for European Integration in the cabinet of Minister Danuta Hübner, he conducted direct preparations for Poland's accession to the EU.

He has also gained experience in European affairs as a lawyer (working on the implementation of European legislation in Polish law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and as a consultant on European funds.

He is involved in managing both Polish and international institutions connected with climate and environmental protection: since 2010 he has been a member of the Supervisory Board of the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management; he represents Poland on the Council of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).; and he is also a member of the EU–Russia Gas Advisory Council.

During the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, Poland held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Minister Marcin Korolec, as the President of the Council of Ministers for the Environment, together with the European Commission, played a significant role in the negotiations towards a positive outcome, leading to the creation of the Durban Platform.

Marcin Korolec is the author of scientific publications about the Polish accession negotiations and an academic lecturer. He is fluent in Polish, English and French. He is 43, married to Olga Korolec and a father of four. His hobbies include long-distance running and skiing.