



Martin Schulz President of the European Parliament

1955 - Born Hehlrath, Germany

1975-1994 - Bookseller and book shop proprietor

1984 - Municipal Councillor, Würselen

1987-1998 - Mayor, Würselen

1994 - Elected as MEP

2004 - Became leader of the Socialists (Party of European Socialists and then Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats) in the European Parliament

2012 - Elected President of the European Parliament.



Role in the EU:

The presidency of the EU Parliament is a largely ceremonial role. The President chairs: plenary sittings of the Parliament; the Conference of the Presidents of Political Groups; and the Bureau of Parliament (which includes the 14 vice-presidents). During the budget decision process, he chairs the European Council/Parliament conciliatory meetings.

The President also represents Parliament. First, he does so in all legal matters, signing all legislative acts subject to co-decision. Secondly, he opens meetings of the European Council with an address outlining the Parliament's stance on the agenda. Thirdly, he takes part in intergovernmental conferences for reform of the Treaties, when these are organised at ministerial level. Lastly, he represents the EU internationally on official state visits.

Schulz is a member of the S&D Party in the EU Parliament - he will serve a two-and-a-half year term after succeeding *European People's Party* President Jerzy Buzek.

Schulz has vowed to champion the role of the Parliament in EU legislating during his time as President, in order to enhance democracy in the EU, and to bring politics back to the role after Buzek focussed on its ceremonial and representative aspects.

Trivia: As a former bookseller, Schulz's main hobby is reading and his favourite books are by Thomas Hobsbawm.

Quotes: *"I will not be an amenable President (but one) who will do everything in his power to win back lost public trust."* Acceptance speech, January 2012.

Website: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en/>