



## **Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Minister-President of the Saarland**

### **Personal data**

Born 1962, married, 3 children  
Resident in Püttlingen, Saarland

### **Well grounded and single minded: Advancement in the CDU**

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer is just 18 when she joins the CDU and 22 when elected to the town council of her home town Püttlingen, of which she is a member until 2011. After studying Law and Political Science in Trier and Saarbrücken (Master of Arts degree in Political Science and Public Law), she occupies the position of policy and planning advisor of the CDU Saar from 1991 to 1998 and, on 1.3.1998, succeeds Klaus Töpfer in the Bundestag – the German Federal Parliament – of which she is a member until the election held in the autumn of 1998. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer has been a member of the Landtag of the Saarland – its state parliament – since 1999, where she serves, among other things, as the CDU parliamentary whip. In the same year she takes the Chair of the Women's Union in the Saarland for 13 years and has been Federal Vice Chairwoman since 2001.

In 2003 she is elected Vice Chairwoman of the CDU Saar and then Chairwoman in 2011. Since 2010 she has been an elected member of the CDU National Executive Committee.

### **Experienced minister and first female Minister-President of the Saarland**

In 2000 Minister-President Peter Müller appoints her Minister of the Interior – the first woman in Germany to hold the post. From 2000 to 2007 she gives vital impetus to improving the integration of immigrants and to counter-terrorism. As chairwoman of the conference of sports ministers she successfully advocates the establishment of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

In her following two-year term of office as Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs she reforms the regular Abitur – the school-leaving examination required for university entrance – taken after eight years (G8) while at the same time leaving the possibility of taking the exam after nine years (G9) open. To relieve the strain, above all on families with many children, she introduces the lending of schoolbooks in the Saarland. As Minister for Employment, Family, Prevention, Social Affairs and Sport from 2009 to 2011 she essentially focuses on reconciling family and work.

As the longest serving minister in the Saarland at that time she is elected by the black-yellow-green coalition in the Landtag on 10 August 2011 to become the first female Minister-President of the Saarland. She also assumes the judicial authority. On 6 January 2012 she ends the coalition.

Following new elections in March, she is re-elected Minister-President on 9 May 2012, now in a grand coalition. At the same time, she is responsible in the new cabinet for the science, research and technology portfolios.

The legislative period is characterized by the endeavours made to secure the independence of the Saarland. In the process, the state government led by Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer pursues a safe, but also systematic consolidation and budgetary policy, whereby the economy drive is accompanied by intensive talks with trade unions as well as human resource lobbies and special interest groups.

Thanks to her prudent management of negotiations, the Minister-President represents the interests of the Saarland in the regulation of future fiscal relationships between the federal and state governments successfully, the recommendation recently made by the Saarland for horizontal financial adjustment of taxes especially enabling a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Following the Landtag elections in March 2017, the state parliament re-elects Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on 17 May 2017 as Minister-President. The black-red coalition is to continue; at the same time, Minister-President Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer continues in her role as Minister for Economic Affairs.

### **Authorized representative of Franco-German cultural collaboration**

From 2011 to 2014 Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer is the authorized representative of the German Federal Republic for cultural affairs within the scope of the Élysée Treaty on Franco-German cooperation. As a convinced European she exercises this official function with passion, even now in times of growing Euroscepticism. As authorized representative of Franco-German cultural relations she attaches great importance to the domain of vocational training. During her term in office, she succeeds in establishing the first ever joint Franco-German educational programmes.

Subsequently, in March 2015, at the behest of the Franco-German Ministerial Council, she presides together with the former Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault over a bilateral project group, which addresses the subjects of integration, social cohesion, security and the fight against intolerance.

Within the scope of the 18th Franco-German Ministerial Council, they both present their “Report on the promotion of integration in our societies”, which contains many concrete recommendations and project ideas. This includes the establishment of the Franco-German Integration Council. On 13 July 2017 Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer is officially appointed as a member of the body, which commences its work in October 2017.

### **France strategy**

In her capacity as Minister-President Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer continues to underline the importance of cross-border cooperation – in particular as an opportunity for the future viability and independence of the Saarland – and acts accordingly. At the beginning of 2014, the state government under her leadership drafts a comprehensive France strategy, whereby the Saarland is to become indispensable as a bridge to Germany and, at the same time, a gateway to France. Drawing on all civil society resources available, the France competence acquired over the years as a result of its historical background is being applied to establish within a single generation, amongst other things, the French language as a second common

and erudite language in the Saarland. So as to ensure that these declarations of intent are converted into actions, one year later the Kramp-Karrenbauer government presents the 'feuille de route', a road-map which formulates specific objectives for 2015 and 2016 in the areas of culture, business, politics, education, research, and security, as well as health and social services. In September 2016 the "feuille de route II" was decided for the years 2017 – 2019.

**Decorations and awards (Selection):**

- 2008 Silver Decoration of the Federal Agency for Technical Relief – Germany
- 2014 Commander of the Order of Academic Palms – France
- 2015 "Orden wider den tierischen Ernst" awarded by the Aachen Carnival Association – Germany
- 2015 Elsie-Kühn-Leitz Prize awarded by the Federation of Franco-German Associations for Europe
- 2016 Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honour – France
- 2017 Golden Heart of Europe awarded by the Pierre Pfimlin Symposium
- 2017 Signs Award conferred by the Weimer Media Group for political role model of the year

Furthermore, since 2015 Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer has been President of the Deutscher Volkshochschulverband (DVV) – German Association of Lifelong Learning Centres, as well as a member of the Zentralkomitee der deutschen Katholiken (ZDK) – Central Committee of German Catholics, of the Senate of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, and of the Board of Trustees of the German Children and Youth Foundation (DKJS) and of the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) – Konrad Adenauer Foundation. She is also patron of the Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft Hospiz – Regional Working Group on Hospices.