

Curriculum Vitae
Dr. REINHOLD LOPATKA
Member of the European Parliament



Personal Data

- Place and date of birth: Vorau, Austria, 27.1.1960
- Citizenship: Austrian
- Marital status: married, father of three sons
- www.lopotka.at

Reinhold Lopatka was born on 27 January 1960 in Vorau, Austria. He studied law and theology at the University of Graz, where he earned his PhD in 1982, passing with distinction in all subjects (*magna cum laude*).

After completing his military service, he worked from 1983 to 1989 as an assistant professor (lecturer) at the Law Department of the University of Graz. He served as Chair of the Styrian branch of the youth wing of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) from 1983 to 1991 and as the Deputy Chair of the national branch of the ÖVP youth wing from 1984 to 1990.

Lopatka has observed more than 40 elections and led 10 election observation missions for the OSCE or the Council of Europe, such as in Serbia in December 2023. For the European Parliament, Lopatka led the election observation mission in Malawi.

From 1986 to 2003, Mr Lopatka was a Member of the Styrian state parliament. In November 2000, he was unanimously elected as the Chair of the caucus in Styria. From 2003 until 2007, he served as a Member of the Austrian Parliament and Secretary General of the Austrian People's Party.

From 2007 to 2008, Reinhold Lopatka held the position of State Secretary (State Minister) for Sport within the Federal Chancellery. He was Chair of the Organising Committee of the European Football Championship (EURO 2008), hosted in Austria and Switzerland. From 2008 to 2011, he was State Secretary (State Minister) in the Federal Ministry of Finance, responsible for international financial institutions and customs matters. From 2012 to 2013, he served as State Secretary (State Minister) in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. From 2013 to 2017, he was Chairman of the parliamentary group of the Austrian People's Party and he served as Vice-Chair of the Austrian People's Party from 2014 to 2017. Since 2011, he has been the Spokesperson for European and Foreign Affairs. From 2017 to 2024, Reinhold Lopatka has also been a member of the National Security Council, the federal government's central advisory body on foreign, security, and defence policy matters.

In 2018, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker appointed Reinhold Lopatka as a member of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently" (2018-2019). That same year, he became Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the International Democratic Union (IDU), an international alliance of Conservative and Christian democratic parties.

From 2017 to 2024, Mr Lopatka was the Head of the Austrian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU (COSAC), the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, as well as the Deputy Head of the Austrian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

From 2019 to 2022, he was elected as the President of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, which currently has 179 member parliaments. From 2020 to 2024, he was the Chairperson of the Austrian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In 2023-2024, he served as the Vice-President of the Assembly and as Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on the Middle East and Arab World of the PACE. He was also Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and from 2021 to 2024, he served as Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. In 2022, Mr Lopatka was appointed as the Special Representative of OSCE-PA for Parliamentary Dialogue on Ukraine. From 2022 to 2025, he was also elected Chair of the Coordination Mechanism of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), where parliamentary assemblies worldwide collaborate on counter-terrorism issues. Additionally, Mr Lopatka served as Chair of the Standing Sub-Committee on EU Affairs and Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Austrian National Council from 2017 to 2024.

In the 2024 European Parliament elections, Reinhold Lopatka was the Spitzenkandidat of the ÖVP and was elected as the Head of the ÖVP delegation in the European Parliament. He is also Chair of the Delegation of the European Parliament for relations with the Arab Peninsula (DARP), Vice-Chair of the political committee of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT), EPP shadow Rapporteur for Montenegro, as well as for Switzerland.

He has been elected ten times in his constituency, holding four terms in the Styrian State Parliament and six in the National Council of Austria.

In addition to other positions, he served as Vice-Chair of the Styrian People's Party (2004-2022) and was Vice-President of the Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party (2004-2017).

From 2010 to 2025 he was President of the Austrian-Australian Society and has been Honorary President since then. He was also President of the Institute for Environment – Peace – Development (2010-2016) and Vice-President of the Austrian Sports Federation for the disabled (2010-2016).

Reinhold Lopatka is a passionate marathon runner (Finisher of 100 full marathons). He won the marathon world championship for parliamentarians in 2003, as well as the half-marathon world championship for parliamentarians in 2005.