

## Viktor Orbán

Viktor Orbán was born on 31 May 1963 in Székesfehérvár. He spent his childhood in Alcsútdoboz and Felcsút.

In 1977 his family moved to Székesfehérvár. He attended the Teleki Blanka Grammar School, where he took his school-leaving examination in 1981. From 1981 to 1982 he performed compulsory military service in Zalaegerszeg. Since childhood, Orbán has been very fond of sport, and has played for several football teams.

In 1987 he graduated from Eötvös Loránd University, where he received an MA in Law. After university, from 1987 to 1989, he lived in Szolnok but commuted to Budapest. Between November 1987 and March 1988, he worked as a sociologist for the Management Training Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



In April 1988 he became a member of the Central European Research Group sponsored by the Soros Foundation. In 1989-90 he received a scholarship from the Soros Foundation to study at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he focussed his attention on English liberal political philosophy. In 1983 he became a founder member of the Juridical Sociological College (which was renamed István Bibó College in 1988). In 1984, he and several other members of the College established a sociological journal called Századvég. He became one of the editors of this journal.

Orbán was a founding member of the Federation of Young Democrats (Fidesz), which was officially formed on 30 March 1988. From March 1988 to October 1989, he was a spokesman for the organisation. In October 1988, at the first Fidesz conference, he was elected as a member of the national board, a function he held until October 1989. On 16 June 1989, Viktor Orbán gave a speech at Heroes' Square, Budapest, on the occasion of the reburial of Imre Nagy and other national martyrs, in which he demanded free elections and the withdrawal of Soviet troops. The speech brought him wide national and political acclaim. In the summer of 1989 he took part in the Opposition Roundtable negotiations.

Since 1990 he has been a member of the Hungarian parliament. From May 1990 to May 1993 he served as leader of the Fidesz parliamentary group. In May 1993 he was elected as president of Fidesz, and was confirmed in that office at party congresses held in July 1994 and April 1995. At the latter congress, Fidesz changed its name to Fidesz -Hungarian Civic Party.

Under the direction of Mr Orbán, Fidesz was transformed from a radical student movement into a moderate, conservative centre right people's party. In September 1992, he was elected as vice-chairman of the Liberal International, and in January 1993 he was elected to serve on the executive board of the organisation. However, in parallel with its transformation into a centre-right people's party, Fidesz left the Liberal International in 2000 and approached the European People's Party.

After the parliamentary elections in 1994, he became chairman of the Parliament's European Integration Committee, and a member of the legal harmonisation sub-committee. From September 1995 to November 1995 he also took part in the work of the Commission on Parliamentary Immunity and Conflict of Interest. He became the chairman of the Hungarian national committee of the New Atlantic Initiative (est. April 1996).

At the 1998 parliamentary elections Mr Orbán was the candidate of the Fidesz - Hungarian Civic Party for the post of Prime Minister. He was elected as Member of Parliament on the Party's national list. He was the Prime Minister of the coalition government Fidesz-MPP - FKGP - MDF between 1998-2002. Since then, he is working on the strengthening of the centre-right alliance. In 2002, he was elected as vice-president of the European People's Party. He was elected as president of Fidesz - Hungarian Civic Union in May 2003.

In March 1999 he signed the deed of accession establishing Hungary's membership of NATO. In February 2000 he was elected honorary senator of the European Academy of Arts. In May 2001 he received the Freedom Award of the American Enterprises Institute and the New Atlantic Initiative. He has held the Polak Award since August 2001. In November 2001 he received the Josef Strauss Award of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. In December 2001 he received the Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit, in Paris. In January 2002 the German Club of Economics presented him the „Förderpreis Soziale Marktwirtschaft“, the Price for the Social Market Economy. In March 2004, he was awarded the Mérite Européen prize by the European Peoples's Party. In April, 2004. he was awarded the Papal Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

He was elected as vice-president of the European People's Party In October 2002.

Prime Minister Orbán is married with five children. His wife is a jurist