

**Prime Minister of Portugal and  
President of the European Council  
Anibal Cavaco Silva**

Born in the Algarve region of Portugal on July 15, 1939, Cavaco Silva obtained a doctorate in economics at York University in England in December 1973. After returning to Portugal in 1974, he worked at the Instituto Superior de Economica of Universidade Técnica, taught at the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa in 1975, and later became chair of public finance at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He is the author of several papers, articles and books on economic and financial subjects.

First elected to parliament as a member of the centre-right Social Democrat Party (PSD) in 1980, Mr. Cavaco Silva became minister of finance and then president of the National Council for the Plan from 1981 to 1984. He was elected president of the PSD's National Political Committee in May 1985. That same year, he was elected prime minister of Portugal.

In April 1987, the government was defeated in Parliament, giving rise to early elections that Mr. Cavaco Silva won later that year. In January 1986, Portugal joined the European Community (EC).



On October 6, 1991, the PSD won absolute majority in the parliament, the only party since the 1974 revolution to be in a position (for the second time) to govern without forming a coalition.

Prime Minister Cavaco Silva is married and has two children.