

Massimo D'Alema

Prime Minister of Italy

Massimo D'Alema was born in Rome on April 20, 1949. He studied philosophy at the University of Pisa, worked as a journalist and chief editor, and is the author of several books.

After joining the Youth Federation of Italian Communists in 1963, Mr. D'Alema became a member of the Italian Communist Party in 1968. He served as national secretary of the Youth Federation from 1975 until 1980. He was elected to the party's Central Committee in 1979, to its Executive Committee in 1983, and to its Secretariat in 1986.

Mr. D'Alema was elected to the Lecce-Brindisi-Taranto constituency of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in 1987. In 1988, he began working to transform the Italian Communist Party into the Democratic Party of the Left and became the new party's first political co-ordinator in 1990.

Named president of the party's parliamentary group in 1992, Mr. D'Alema was elected general secretary in 1994. In 1997, he was elected president of the Parliamentary Commission for Constitutional Reforms.

On Oct. 21, 1998, Mr. D'Alema was elected Prime Minister of Italy.

Mr. D'Alema is married and has two children.