

## **Horst Köhler**

Horst Köhler served as the ninth President of the Federal Republic of Germany between 2004 and 2010. During his term of office he was pushing for domestic economic and education reforms, advocated for stronger sustainability policies and was an early proponent of better regulated financial markets. On foreign issues, Mr. Köhler advocated for a human dimension to globalization with clearly defined rules and was a staunch campaigner for poverty eradication and a better partnership of Europe with the African continent.

Horst Köhler was appointed as State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Finance in 1990. In this position he negotiated the German-German monetary union with the leadership of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) as well as the agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the GDR. He went on to become chief negotiator for the Maastricht Treaty on the European Monetary Union, as well as the Personal Representative (Sherpa) of Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl for the World Economic Summits of the then G7.

In 1993 Horst Köhler left public administration to become President of the German Savings Banks Association.

In 1998 he was appointed President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. The Bank's task was to support the build-up of democracy and the market economy in the former Eastern bloc states. Mr. Köhler changed the bank's policy to give greater support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

In 2000, he became Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC. He held this position until his election as Federal President in 2004. During his tenure at the IMF, he led efforts to resolve financial crises in a number of countries. In addition, he focused the Fund's attention on the HIPC-initiative and macroeconomic stability of African countries, and travelled the continent extensively.

From 2012 to 2013, Horst Köhler was a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. From 2016 to 2017 Horst Köhler co-chaired, together with Kofi Annan, a Special Panel advising the African Development Bank on the implementation of its strategic priorities.

Horst Köhler serves in a number of national and international organisations in honorary positions and is a sought-after speaker on issues of international politics. He was awarded with a number of prizes in the fields of leadership, sustainability, economy and development.

He is honorary professor at the University of Tübingen, where he had also obtained his doctorate degree in economics in 1977.

Horst Köhler is the seventh of eight children of German-Romanian farmers who had been forcibly resettled to Poland, where he was born in 1943. The family subsequently flew to Eastern Germany and later to Western Germany, where Horst Köhler lived in refugee camps until the age of 14.

He has been married to his wife Eva Luise for 48 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.