

**Carmelo Abela**  
**Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion**  
**Malta**

A social democrat by conviction, Malta's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Carmelo Abela (born 10th February 1972, Żejtun, Malta), is a strong believer in the capacity of the individual to make a positive difference. Standing out as a soft-spoken, driven politician, he has always led by example and conscientiously progressed through political circles.

Before being first named to Cabinet, Mr Abela was employed with Mid-Med Bank Ltd, today HSBC Bank Malta plc, where he worked as a Manager. He was first elected to parliament in 1996, having served as a local councillor in his hometown of Żejtun, a city in the South Eastern Region of Malta, between 1994 and 1996. He has been returned to Parliament in all subsequent legislations. Over the years he has grown into increasingly senior roles within the Maltese Labour Party as well as Government, serving as Assistant Whip, Opposition Spokesperson for Youth and Sport and, later, Opposition Spokesperson for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture. In 2008, he was unanimously appointed Deputy Speaker of the House of Representative as well as Opposition Main Spokesperson for Industry, Foreign Investment, and Social Policy.

As a Member of Parliament, Mr Abela also served as Regional Representative on the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Head of the Maltese Delegation of the Inter Parliamentary Union, and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Following his re-election in 2013, he was appointed Whip for the Government Parliamentary Group and, later, Government Spokesperson. In 2014, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat handed him his first ministerial appointment when he named him Minister for Home Affairs and National Security. After the general election of 2017, his performance and incisiveness earned him the role of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion. In this onerous role, Mr Abela has represented Malta on the European and global stage, constantly making the case for a Euro-Mediterranean dimension.

Mr Abela has participated in a number of panel discussions related to security including, at the Munich Security Conference, 15-17 February 2019 as well as a side event of the Munich Security Conference organised by the UN Environment and German Federal Foreign office on "Climate Change and Security: Rethinking Multilateralism in a Divided World"; Warsaw Ministerial Conference, 13-14 February 2019; Dubrovnik Forum "Strengthening Resilience: the Mediterranean, Europe, and the Western Balkans", 1 September 2018, Bled Strategic Forum, 11 September 2018; Globsec Forum, 'Global Economy: How Fair and Free Can Trade Just Be?' on 17 May

2018; Warsaw Security Forum (Intervention on 24 October 2018), key note speech on 'Migration, Confrontation, Cooperation – Realities and Relations with the Southern Neighbourhood', on 24 October 2018.

Mr Abela regularly attends security related international meetings and conferences. Recent meetings include, EU - G5 Sahel Ministerial Meeting 13-14 May 2019, Brussels; Commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership , 14 May 2019, Brussels; Eastern Partnership for Minister's Meeting, 13 May 2019, Brussels; Brussels III Conference Supporting the future of Syria and the region, on 12-14 March 2019, Brussels; 5<sup>th</sup> EU-LAS Ministerial Meeting, 4 February 2019, Brussels; EU-African Union Foreign Ministers Meeting, 21-22 January 2019, Brussels; EU-ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting –21 January 2019, Brussels; 15th Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Western Dialogue on 17-18 January 2019 , Malta; High-Level Forum Africa Europe: Taking Cooperation to the Digital Age, 17- 18 December 2018, Vienna; Palermo Conference for Libya: 12-13 November 2018 alongside the Hon. Joseph Muscat, the Prime Minister of Malta); Summit on Libya, 29 May 2018, Paris (alongside the Hon. Joseph Muscat, the Prime Minister of Malta);

Minister Carmelo Abela also participates in meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council, which regularly discusses climate diplomacy, recognising the implications that climate change has for international security and stability.

Mr Abela is married to Melanie and is the proud father to two children.