



Matti Vanhanen – Speaker of the Parliament of Finland

Matti Taneli Vanhanen was elected the Speaker of the Parliament of Finland in June, 2019.

Matti Vanhanen was born in Jyväskylä on 4 November, 1955. He graduated from the University of Helsinki with a Master of Political Science degree. Prior to his Parliamentary career he was a journalist and later an Editor-in-Chief of newspaper 'Kehäsanomat'.

Mr Vanhanen joined the Centre Party in 1974 and has since held various positions of trust in the party: he was a Chair of the Centre Party Youth League and a Member of the Party's Board of Directors (1980-1983), an Elector of the President of the Republic in elections 1982 and 1988, a Deputy Party Leader in 2000-2003 and a Party Leader in 2003-2010. He has been a Presidential Candidate of the Centre Party twice: in 2006 and in 2018.

Matti Vanhanen is the third-longest served Primer of Finland (2003-2010). Mr Vanhanen chaired the European Council during his Premiership in the latter part of 2006. He served as a Minister of Defence for a time of two months prior to his appointment as the Head of the Government of Finland.

Matti Vanhanen has won a seat at Parliamentary elections seven times being a Member of the Parliament from 1991 until 2010 and from 2015 until present. His elected posts in the Parliament have included chairing the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Grand Committee, which is the Parliament's EU Committee. Between 2010 and 2015 he acted as an Executive Director of the Finnish Family Firms Association and returned to the Parliament in 2015.

On municipal and regional level Matti Vanhanen has been an elected member of Espoo City Council (1981-1984), Helsinki Metropolitan Area Council (Board Member 1983-1984), Nurmijärvi Municipal Council (from 1989 to present) and Uusimaa Regional Council (Board Member 1997-2000).

Matti Vanhanen's activities include a number of significant chairmanships: The Bank of Finland, Parliamentary Supervisory Council (2015-2019), The Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, Board of Directors (2015-2019), Economic Council of Finland (2003-2010), The Science and Technology Council of Finland (2003-2010), Financial Supervisory Authority, the Parliamentary Supervisory Council (2015-2019) and The Paasikivi Society since 2014.

In addition to his political activities in Finland, Matti Vanhanen has been a member of the Council for the Future of Europe since 2010 and a member of the Dialog-Europe-Russia 2010-2015. He was a member of European Family Businesses Management Committee from 2010 until 2015 and he represented the Parliament of Finland in the European Convention on the Future of the European Union 2002-2003.

Matti Vanhanen has two adult children. He enjoys woodworking, skiing, nature activities, reading and writing.