

Barbara Lezzi
Minister for the South
Italy

Biography

Barbara Lezzi was appointed Senator in 2013, within the Seventeenth Legislature of the Italian Republic in the Apulia Region (Five Star Movement). She thus became Vice-President of the Permanent Commission on Budget and Economic Planning, and member of the Permanent Commission on European Policies. On the occasion of the 2018 political elections, Senator Barbara Lezzi was re-elected within the Eighteenth Legislature of the Italian Republic.

Senator Lezzi became Minister for the South within the Conte Government on 1 June 2018. Minister Lezzi is Italy's Political Authority for Cohesion, in charge of: promotion, coordination, direction, supervision and control of cohesion policies and actions aimed at Southern Italy's development; coordinating the use of EU Structural Funds and the strategies for implementing and reviewing 2014-2020 EU programming; direction and definition of 2021-2027 EU programming; liaising with EU institutions; encouraging and guiding inter-institutional concertation and exchange (subjects and competences) on the economic development of territories; ensuring synergy and coherence of relevant policies; and accomplishment of environmental rehabilitation and urban regeneration interventions of national interest sites. To this end, Minister Barbara Lezzi ensures ongoing and systematic monitoring over the economic dynamics of territories, to promote acceleration of economic development processes; and identifies instruments to support Italy's Southern Regions and reduce their socio-economic disparities versus Central and Northern Regions.