

# ANNA DIAMANTOPOULOU

**Greece's candidate** for the position of Secretary-General  
of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## CURRICULUM VITAE

ANNA DIAMANTOPOULOU is a Greek politician and public figure who has led a distinguished career in public service in Greece and in Europe. Ms. Diamantopoulou was a European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and has held several significant portfolios as a Minister in the Greek government as well. She was Minister of Development, Competitiveness and Shipping, and, prior to that, Minister of Education, Research and Technology, and Lifelong Learning.

Her policy expertise and practice encompass a wide spectrum of areas: trade and industrial strategy, social insurance and social security systems, competitiveness and development, gender equality, education, and research-innovation and technology. More specifically, Anna Diamantopoulou has led work on the challenges and opportunities brought about by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IT & AI) at national and global levels. She also has considerable experience in the private and non-profit sectors.



She is currently the **President of DIKTIO – Network for Reform in Greece and Europe**, a leading independent, non-partisan, Athens-based think tank, which she founded in 2013. DIKTIO undertakes cutting-edge policy research, develops practical policy recommendations, and hosts high-level conferences, roundtables and lectures. DIKTIO's research focuses on economic, social, and industrial policy reforms, while also producing important work on the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. As President and Founder of DIKTIO, Anna Diamantopoulou has overseen the organisation of more than 85 high-profile events as well as the publication of over a hundred policy and research papers. She has established collaborations and partnerships with 15 major institutes and foundations worldwide, while spearheading DIKTIO's interaction with governments, corporations, and non-governmental organisations in Greece and abroad.

As the **European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs** (1999-2004), Anna Diamantopoulou oversaw the conception, organisation, and implementation of important legislative reforms, such as the adoption of the EU "Social Policy Agenda", and the completion of the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). She also established the regular issuance of EU-guidelines of the "European Strategy for Employment". She successfully brought about a consensus on the White Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility, which resulted in making CSR a high-priority topic on the

European business agenda. Last but not least, Anna Diamantopoulou led the adoption of two EU anti-discrimination Directives, and the enactment, for the first time at the EU level, of binding legislation that defines sexual harassment and categorises it as a form of sex discrimination.

As **Minister of Development, Competitiveness, and Shipping** (2012), Ms Diamantopoulou introduced and passed the “Competitiveness Bill”, a legislation removing administrative barriers for entrepreneurship, export, tourism, as well as other economic sectors.

As **Minister of Education, Research and Technology, and Lifelong Learning** (2009-2012), she introduced a major legislative package, which included reforming primary and secondary education in cooperation with OECD, the introduction of “Digital School” at all levels of education, and the development and implementation of an unprecedented “Framework for Lifelong Learning”. This groundbreaking legislation on higher education, also known as the “Diamantopoulou Law”, was adopted by 85% of MPs – a record majority in the Greek Parliament and a remarkable example of political consensus.

Anna Diamantopoulou also served as **Deputy Minister of Industries** (1996-1999), in charge of industrial policy and privatisations. During her tenure, she introduced Greece’s new industrial restructuring framework and oversaw the privatisation of 100 State companies. Additionally, she served as President of the Hellenic Organisation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises and Handicraft.

Ms. Diamantopoulou was a **Member of the Hellenic Parliament** for 11 years (1996-1999, 2004-2012), affiliated with the PASOK (Greek Socialist Party). In this capacity, she was Shadow Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence, and Shadow Minister of Education and Research.

Before Ms. Diamantopoulou served in the national government, she served at the regional government level. At 26, she was the youngest prefect appointed in the country’s history, serving as **Prefect of Kastoria region** in Northern Greece (1985-1987).

In addition to her years of public service, **Anna Diamantopoulou has extensive experience in academia**. She was a Distinguished Scholar at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, where she taught undergraduate & postgraduate seminars on the European financial crisis. She was a Fisher Family Fellow at the John S. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where she taught a postgraduate seminar on the European social model and its necessary reforms. Ms. Diamantopoulou was also a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow at the Robert Bosch Stiftung, where she conducted research on the impact of Chancellor Schröder’s Agenda 2010. In this capacity, she oversaw the organisation of high-level policy panels on topics such as education as well as global political order and governance.

Ms. Diamantopoulou has lectured at prestigious academic institutions including Bocconi University, Boston University, Harvard University, Goethe University Frankfurt, London School of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Queens College, and City University of New York.

She holds an MA degree in Regional Development from Panteion University of Athens, and an MA degree in Civil Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Anna Diamantopoulou serves as an **Independent Non-Executive Director at Coca-Cola HBC AG**, an FTSE 100 company. In this capacity, she sits on the Compensation Committee, as well as on the Corporate Social Responsibility Committee. Her private sector experience also includes positions as CEO of a consulting company focusing on regional development, and as senior advisor in public affairs.

**Ms. Diamantopoulou is actively involved in international think tanks and not-for-profit organisations.** She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brussels-based think tank Friends of Europe, a Council member of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), and a member of the Scientific Council of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS). She sits on the Advisory Board of the Delphi Economic Forum and of the Bussola Institute, a Brussels-based platform for independent research and dialogue between Gulf Countries and Europe. Additionally, Anna Diamantopoulou is a member of the Honorary Council of the European Movement International (EMI), the largest lobbying association promoting European integration.

She is the recipient of several awards and decorations, including the title of *Officier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur*, awarded by the French Government, and the international Award granted by the Confederation of Danish Industry for her leading role in producing the EU White Paper on Corporate Social Responsibility.

A regular contributor to some of the world's leading publications such as the *Project Syndicate*, *Europe's World*, and *The Annals of the American Academy of Social Sciences*, Anna Diamantopoulou is also the author of three books in Greek. Her latest book, *From 2CV to Drones - Progress and Peace in the 21st Century* (in Greek), published in 2020, has a foreword by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy & Vice-President of the European Commission, Josep Borrell.

Ms. Diamantopoulou is married and has one adult son.

tel.(+30) 2109247814  
email:anna@diamantopoulou.gr  
Twitter:@adiamantopoulou