



## **MARGRETHE VESTAGER**

**Denmark ( RE)**

### **Background**

Margrethe Vestager was born 13<sup>th</sup> of April 1968 (aged 51 ). The past five years she has been European Commissioner for Competition, and for the next five years she will be one of the two senior vice presidents of the European Commission. She was the lead candidate for Renew Europe for the position of President of the Commission.

Margrethe Vestager is a former minister and political leader of the Social Liberal Party of Denmark. At the end of her political career in Denmark, she was a popular figure but her popularity peaked when she became Commissioner for Competition.

From her European career she is especially known for fighting tech-giants like Facebook and Google and for not accepting the Siemens/Alstom merger.

### **Her time as a Commissioner**

In her confirmation hearings, Vestager said she favored settlement of cases before they come to a final executive judgment, for reduced fines or negotiated concessions from the companies.

Vestager has been focusing on state aid cases. She has also initiated investigations into the tax affairs of Fiat, Starbucks, Amazon.com and Apple Inc. under competition rules

### **Biography**

- 2014- European commissioner for Competition
- 2011-2014 Minister for Economic Affairs and the Interior (DK)
- 2007-2014 Political leader of the Social Liberal Party of Denmark
- 2001-2014 Member of the Danish parliament
- 2000-2001 Minister for Education
- 1998-2000 Minister for Education and Ecclesiastical Affairs

1997-1998 Head of secretariat with the Agency for Financial Management and Administrative Affairs

1995-1997 Special consultant with the Agency for Financial Management and Administrative Affairs

1993-1995 Head of section at the Ministry of Finance

1993 Master of Science in Economics, University of Copenhagen

### Other insights

Vestager served as an inspiration for the main character in the TV series Borgen, who tries to juggle family life and politics. Her parents were both Lutheran ministers.

Vestager was not in everyone's good books on Wednesday though, as US President Donald Trump said in an interview that the EU is out of line in hitting American tech companies like Apple and Google with hefty fines.

"She hates the United States perhaps worse than any person I've ever met," Trump told Fox News, in a clear reference to the Danish official. "What she does to our country. She's suing all our companies. We should be suing Google and Facebook, and all that, which perhaps we will."

One of her political heroes is Madeleine Albright - she was the US Secretary of State at the time of the Balkan wars.