



## **Rovana Plumb**

### **Romania ( S&D)**

#### **Background**

Rovana Plumb is a well-known Romanian politician, having been active on the Romanian political scene for the past 20 years. She has been a present figure in the Romanian political landscape and is credited as one of the most influential politicians in the Social Democratic Party.

Rovana Plumb attended Politehnica University of Bucharest, where she graduated with a degree in Chemical Process Machinery and Engineering. She has also a PhD in the field of industrial systems management from the same university. Prior to having a career in politics, Rovana Plumb worked as an engineer at the Gerovital Cosmetics Factory in Bucharest, later being appointed as the General Manager of Gerovital. Also, Rovana Plumb was distinguished with the National Order of the Faithful Service in the rank of Knight and also holds a patent: Methods of cosmetic treatment with Gerovital H3 cosmetic products.

Plumb made her first steps in politics in 1994, when she joined the Social Democracy Party in Romania (PDSR), which later became the Social Democratic Party. She held several positions in the party, from Member of the National Council of PSD, to Secretary and later President of the Women's Organization and Vice-President of the Social Democrats.

In 2001, Rovana Plumb started working in the central administration, being appointed as President of the National Authority for Consumer Protection, with the rank of Secretary of State.

#### **Work within the EU**

A couple of years later (2004), she ran for her first mandate as **MP in the Parliament of Romania**. After three years of mandate in the Parliament, in 2007, she was elected as **MEP from the Social Democrats of Romania** and focused mainly on gender issues. In her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as an MEP:

- She was rapporteur for a report on the face of female poverty in the EU
- She gave opinions as rapporteur on Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond, on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy and on a Proposal for a directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding.
- As a shadow rapporteur, she worked on the European pension systems
- She have asked parliamentary questions on Packaging and Packaging waste and a ban on plastic carrier bags; free movement of workers

Until 2012, Rovana held the position of Vice-President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament.

### Political Experience

In 2012, she was appointed as **Minister of Environment and Forests** in the Government (Ponta Cabinet I - May 7 - December 21, 2012) and **Minister of Environment and Climate Change** in (Ponta Cabinet II - December 21, 2012 - March 5, 2014). She also held the position of **Minister of Labor, Family, Social and Elderly Protection** in the Ponta Cabinet III and IV (2014-2015).

In 2016, Rovana Plumb ran for her second mandate in the Chamber of Deputies, and was also elected as Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies. After one year of mandate as MP, she was appointed **Minister of European Funds** for two short mandates (23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2017 – 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 – 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2019). She was re-elected as MEP again in May 2019.

Known as the „**Iron Lady**” of the Social Democrats, Rovana Plumb’s political career has not been protected from **scandals and controversies during the years**. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Plumb introduced an environmental tax for cars, but failed to mention in her wealth statement that she has purchased a luxury car which was later registered in Bulgaria to avoid the payment of this tax. She was also involved in controversial decisions at both Governmental and Parliamentary level on special social measures for high state representatives.

In 2017, National Anticorruption Directorate sent the Parliament the **request for criminal prosecution against** Rovana Plumb under the accusation of complicity to abuse in office. Although she was investigated in the file, Parliament did not approve the prosecution charges and rejected lifting her immunity for the investigation to continue.

Also, in 2019, Rovana Plumb donated 800,000 lei (169,162.45 euro) for the Social Democrats in the campaign for the European Parliamentary elections but the donated amount was six times higher than the revenues of Rovana Plumb in 2018, which were only of 140,000 lei (29,603.43 euro).

### Personal Insight

Rovana Plumb is a very important figure in the Social Democratic Party. She maintained close collaboration with all the party leaders and managed to avoid major conflicts in the party.

### Education

Graduated with a degree in Chemical Process Machinery and Engineering from Politehnica University of Bucharest.

Holds a PHD in industrial systems management from the same university.

She also graduated from several improvement courses in the country and abroad in the field of management, consumer protection and environmental impact.

### General Work Experience

She started as trainee engineer at I.P.C. Mirage Bucharest which later was transformed into the Gerovital Cosmetics Company.

Rovana Plumb was later head of the Organizing Plan compartment at I.P.C. Mirage Bucharest, commercial director and president of S.C. Gerovital Cosmetics S.A.

### Political Experience

1994 - present: Member of the Social Democratic Party (PSD)

2003 - 2005: Secretary General of the PSD Women's Organization

2004 - 2007: Head of the Department of Environmental Protection, PSD

2005 - 2015: President of the Organization of Social Democratic Women

2006 - 2015: PESW Vice President

2015 – present: member of PES Presidency

2015 - 2016: President of the PSD National Council

2016 - Present: Vice-president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD)