

## **Simonetta Sommaruga**

### **President of the Swiss Confederation**

#### **Personal details**

- Born 14 May 1960 in a hospital in Zug as the third of four children.
- Place of origin: Lugano (Canton Ticino) and Eggwil (Canton Bern)
- Mother: avid gardener and dedicated housewife. Father: plant manager of LONZA AG
- Married to Lukas Hartmann

#### **Education and training**

- 1980: High school leaving certificate (Type B) from the Bethlehem Grammar School, Immensee (Canton Schwyz)
- 1980: Trained as a pianist at the Lucerne Academy of Music
- 1983-1984: Further education in California (Stanford) and in Rome
- 1988-1991: Studied English and Spanish literature at the University of Fribourg (did not graduate)

#### **Career history**

- 1985: Concert appearances and educational work at the Academy of Music and the cantonal teacher training college in Fribourg; Organist at St.Jean's Church
- 1985: Worked in a home for battered women in Fribourg
- 1993: Manager of the Swiss Consumer Protection Foundation in Bern
- Since 2000: President of the Swiss Consumer Protection Foundation
- 2003: President of SWISSAID
- Since 2008: Board member of SWISSAID
- 2002: Co-President of the Women's Music Forum in Bern
- Since 2008: President of EQUAM (Foundation for External Quality Assurance in Medicine)
- Since 2008: Board member of Energieallianz
- Since 2009: Member of the foundation Slow Food Schweiz
- Since 2009: Board member of the Bärenpark Bern
- Since 2010: Member of the Board of Directors of Concret AG

Following her appointment as Federal Councillor, Simonetta Sommaruga resigned from all offices.

#### **Political career**

- Since 1986: Member of the Socialist Party of Switzerland
- 1997-2005: Municipal Councillor, head of the fire brigade and civil protection of Köniz; Officer for Cultural Affairs
- 1999: National Councillor, member of the Committee for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy
- Since 2003: Member of the Council of States; member of the Committee for Economic Affairs and Taxes, 2008-2009 president of the Committee for Economic Affairs and Taxes, vice president of the Committee for Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, member of the Committee for Social Security and Health, vice-president of the EFTA Delegation / European Parliament, Member of the Office of the Council of States
- 22 September 2010: Election as Federal Councillor
- Since 1 November 2010: Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police
- 3 december 2014: Election as president of the Swiss Confederation for 2015

#### **Languages**

Spoken: German, French, Italian, English, Spanish

Written: German, French, English, Spanish