



SHORTLISTED 1

KAUTHAR BOUCHALLIKHT

DUTCH POLITICIAN AND CLIMATE ACTIVIST

Kauthar Bouchallikht is a figurehead of the climate movement in Europe. Kauthar started at the climate strikes that have filled streets around Europe in recent years, and now she has become one of the first climate strikers to be elected into a national parliament and the first hijabi MP in the Netherlands, always addressing the intersection between gender, age, race in all of her pursuits. She is a determined, inspirational woman who continues conquering historical firsts and defeating prejudices against women and against women of colour in particular. Kauthar Bouchallikht is the personification of a new kind of politics. While always empowered, at 27 she became a Woman in Power by being elected into the Dutch Parliament, a historical first for a climate striker and for a hijabi woman in the Netherlands.

HIGHLIGHTS: [ACTIVISM](#); [POLITICIAN](#); [MINORITIES](#)

SHORTLISTED 2

ANGELA MERKEL

CHANCELLOR OF GERMANY

Dr Angela Merkel has been Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany since 2005. In this capacity, she has worked to promote understanding among the peoples of Europe and contributed to fostering European integration. Values such as democracy and the rule of law guide Merkel's commitment. In the 16 years of her German chancellorship, she played a decisive role in the guidance of the European Union. Dr Merkel's leadership qualities were particularly evident in her exceptional crisis management, in which she acted with reason, reliability and in the European spirit, as she is convinced that a bright future is only possible in a strong Europe. She demonstrated this in particular at crucial moments for Europe, such as in managing the Euro crisis, in the refugee crises and in finding European solutions to the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS: [POLITICS](#); [EUROPEAN VALUES](#); [LEADERSHIP](#)

SHORTLISTED 3

SILVIA COSTA

EXTRAORDINARY COMMISSIONER OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

Silvia Costa started her career as a journalist and editor of Il Popolo from 1978 to 1985, before getting involved in Italian politics, first as Municipal Councillor of Rome, then as a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and of the National Council for Economics and Labour.

In 2009, she was elected as member of the European Parliament for the Italian Democratic Party in the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. During her second mandate in the European Parliament, she was Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education (2014 - 2017), during which one of her main achievements was the designation 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage. This Year was an unprecedented mobilisation of heritage stakeholders (decision-makers, experts, civil society and citizens) at all levels of governance (EU, national, regional, local) to celebrate, raise awareness and safeguard the shared heritage and values.

Silvia Costa also served in the European Parliament as Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Iraq, member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, and of the Delegation to the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

She is currently Extraordinary Commissioner of the Italian Government for the recovery and enhancement of the former bourbon prison of Santo Stefano located on the island of Ventotene. This highly symbolic monument is the birthplace of the famous Ventotene Manifesto calling for European integration, which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. Santo Stefano is being revived through a refurbishment project inspired by the European Commission's New European Bauhaus initiative to promote culture and history through sustainable architecture and art. It will become a high-level European think-tank, academy and open-air museum aimed at boosting European integration by training EU youth, scholars, and politicians, and contributing to the Conference on the Future of Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS: CULTURAL HERITAGE; EUROPEAN VALUES; NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS