

Margus Tsahkna

Minister of Defence



Margus Tsahkna is the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia since 23rd of November 2016.

Mr Tsahkna has been the chairman of the conservative, centre-right party Pro Patria and Res Publica Union since 2015.

Prior to taking office as the Minister of Defence, Mr Tsahkna served as the Minister of Social Protection from 9th of April 2015. Before that, Mr Tsahkna was a member of the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) from 2007. In the Parliament he served as a member of the Finance Committee and Social Affairs Committee, holding the position of the Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee from 2011 until 2014.

After joining the Pro Patria party in 2000, Margus Tsahkna held the position of chairman at Noor-Isamaa, the party's youth organisation. From 2001 to 2003 he was a member of Tartu City Council. From 2003 to 2006 he was the party's political secretary. After the merger of the Pro Patria and Res Publica parties into Pro Patria and Res Publica Union, he was the party's secretary general from 2007 to 2010, and political secretary from 2010 to 2013. In 2013 he became the assistant chairman of the party.

Mr Tsahkna was born on 13th of April 1977 in Tartu, Estonia. After graduating from high school in Tartu in 1995, he studied theology and law at the University of Tartu from 1996 to 2002 and international law at the University of Toronto from 1999 to 2000.

In 2000, Mr Tsahkna founded the Christian Adolescent Home in Tartu. He is a member of the Estonian Defence League, the General Johan Laidoner Society and of the Korp! Sakala academic fraternal organisation.

Margus Tsahkna speaks Estonian, English and Russian.

Mr Tsahkna is married and has a son and a daughter.