



GUNN MARIT HELGESEN

President
The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)



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📄 <https://tinyurl.com/y8g29so4>

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Date of Birth: 30 October 1958

Gunn Marit Helgesen has extensive experience in both national and international political leadership. She served as President of KS – the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities – from 2012 to 2020. From 2020 to 2021, she held the position of First Deputy President of KS and acted as its spokesperson on international affairs. She was re-elected as President in 2021 and again in 2024 for a new four-year term.

PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Ms. Helgesen is a qualified chemical engineer and previously worked as a Senior Engineer at Statoil and Norsk Hydro. She chaired the Telemark County Council from 2003 to 2011, following two terms as Vice Chair. Currently, she serves as a member of the Telemark County Council and leads the Conservative Party group. Earlier in her career, she was a municipal councillor in her hometown of Porsgrunn and served as a substitute Member of Parliament for the Telemark constituency.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Since 2012, Ms. Helgesen has been a delegate to the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, where she leads the Norwegian delegation. She has served as Vice-President of the Congress and was President of the Chamber of Regions from 2016 to 2021. She has played a key role in promoting the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She has also acted as rapporteur for monitoring the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in Moldova, Ukraine, Cyprus, Armenia, and Ireland. Additionally, she has participated in election observation missions in Albania, Denmark, the Netherlands, Armenia, and Morocco.

EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL COOPERATION

Ms. Helgesen has served as President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) since December 2022, following previous roles as Vice-President and Co-President. She represents KS in the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Council and its Executive Bureau.

She has been First Vice-President of the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) since 2000 and was President of the North Sea Commission from 2004 to 2012.