

Věra Jourová

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Věra Jourová (Czech pronunciation: [ˈvjɛra ˈjoʊrovaː]; born August 18, 1964, Třebíč, Czech Republic) is a Czech politician, businesswoman, and lawyer. She was confirmed as the European Union's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality as a part of the Juncker Commission in October 2014.^[1] Previously, she was the Czech Minister for Regional Development and Member of Parliament (MP) for Vysočina Region.

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Early life and education

Jourová grew up in Třebíč, a small town in which her parents, a kindergarten teacher and caterer, ran a folk troupe. She studied cultural anthropology in Prague, while raising two children. Upon graduation, she returned to work in Třebíč's local council.^[2]

Czech politics

Jourová served as secretary and spokesperson of the Municipal Office of Třebíč, Vysočina Region, Czech Republic, from 1995 until 2000 and as Head of the Department of Regional Development for the Vysočina Region from 2001 to 2003. She entered national politics when she was tapped to work as Deputy Head of the Ministry of Regional Development, where she led the European Integration Section until March 2006. Her responsibilities included leading the Czech team that negotiated EU funds with the European Commission and European Investment Bank as well as managing EU funds in the Czech Republic.^[3]

In October 2006, Jourová was accused of accepting a 2 million Kč bribe from Ladislav Pěťa, mayor of Budišov, South Moravia, for securing EU subsidies to the

Věra Jourová



European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

Incumbent

Assumed office

1 November 2014

President Jean-Claude Juncker

Preceded by Martine Reicherts (Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship)
Neven Mimica (Consumer Protection)

15th Minister of Regional Development

In office

29 January 2014 – 8 October 2014

Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka

Preceded by František Lukl

Succeeded by Karla Šlechtová

Member of Parliament for Vysočina Region

In office

26 October 2013 – 21 October 2014

Personal details

Born 18 August 1964
Třebíč, Czechoslovakia
(now Czech Republic)

Political party ANO 2011

reconstruction of the Budišov Chateau.^[4] Although she was fully exonerated, she spent more than a month in pre-trial detention, which "brought divorce and anguish to her family".^[5] Her prosecution was halted in mid-2008, when the police came forward and said that the bribery had never happened.^[4]

Children	2
Alma mater	Charles University

Between 2006 and 2013, she was an independent consultant providing advice on EU matters to the Czech Republic, Romania, Russia, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and Moldova.^[3]

Jourová has been a member of the ANO political party since 2012, and since 2013, she has been the movement's deputy chairwoman. She was elected as a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament in October 2013, and became Minister for Regional Development in January 2014 in the government of Bohuslav Sobotka.^[6] Her popularity ratings remained consistently high, helping to drive the party to second place in the 2013 national elections and to victory in the 2014 European elections.^[2]

Member of the European Commission, 2014–present

In July 2014, the three parties in the Czech government agreed that the country's next European commissioner should be Jourová.^[7] At the time, there was speculation she would vie for the important posts of European Commissioner for Regional Policy or the European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services.^[7]

After an EU Parliament hearing (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/hearings-2014/en/schedule/01-10-2014/vera-jourova>) she was confirmed as the European Union's Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality as a part of the Juncker Commission.^[1] The Corporate Europe Observatory "expressed serious doubts" about her possible conflicts of interest due to her ties with ANO Chairman Andrej Babiš, who is also the Czech Finance Minister and a billionaire businessman.^{[4][8]} Her party, ANO, belongs to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament.

Her responsibilities include gender equality, judicial cooperation within the EU, and privacy concerns, including concluding negotiations on a comprehensive EU-U.S. Safe Harbor Agreement and working with the Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus Ansip to pass "EU data protection reform and by modernis[e] and simplify[] consumer rules for online and digital purchases".^[9] In addition, her portfolio includes "overseeing remuneration rules across the City of London, enforcing EU pay curbs and bonus caps", something that was explicitly carved out of Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union Jonathan Hill's portfolio "amid concerns that members of the European Parliament will try to veto his appointment".^[5]

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6. "Minister of Regional Development" ([http://www.mmr.cz/en/Ministerstvo/Ministerstvo/Kontakty-\(1\)/Mgr-et-Mgr-Vera-Jourova](http://www.mmr.cz/en/Ministerstvo/Ministerstvo/Kontakty-(1)/Mgr-et-Mgr-Vera-Jourova)), mmr.cz, retrieved 27 May 2014
7. Andrew Gardner (July 21, 2014), Czechs choose Věra Jourová for European commissioner (<http://www.politico.eu/article/vera-jourova-to-be-czech-republics-european-commissioner/>) *European Voice*.
8. "More prospective commissioners with questions to answer" (<http://corporateurope.org/revolving-doors/2014/09/more-prospective-commissioners-questions-answer>)
9. Juncker, Jean-Claude. "Mission Letter: Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality (10 September 2014)" (PDF). European Commission.

External links

- www.parlamentnilisty.cz (<http://www.parlamentnilisty.cz/profily/Mgr-et-Mgr-Vera-Jourova-32351>)
- [Twitter account](https://twitter.com/VeraJourova) (<https://twitter.com/VeraJourova>)



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Political offices		
Preceded by Štefan Füle	Czech European Commissioner 2014–present	Incumbent
Preceded by Martine Reicherts <i>as European Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship</i>	European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality 2014–present	
Preceded by Neven Mimica <i>as European Commissioner for Consumer Protection</i>		

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