



**BIRTH DATE:** 15 April 1953  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Zakynthos, Greece  
**NATIONALITY:** Greek  
**CURRENT OCCUPATION:** First Vice-President of The European Parliament

**Mrs. Rodi Kratsa** was born and brought up on the Greek island of Zakynthos, a crossroad of influences and cultures, which broadened her scope of a multicultural identity.

She studied Sociology (specialising in political sociology) at the University of Geneva (Switzerland) where she explored the vision for her future career. During this period she became familiar with the global problems and challenges. Her postgraduate studies followed at the Institute of European Studies of the same University.

“Gender Equality demands political willing and a multi-dimensional strategy for combating stereotypes and discriminations and at the same time for promoting new challenges and opportunities.”

Her proactive mission of Gender Equality and the promotion of women in building the European Union began at an early stage in university. She was a founding member and now the chairperson of the International Association for the Promotion of Women of Europe - Women of Europe Award, based in Brussels with the aim to promote women's contribution and the importance of their involvement in the building of Europe of the Citizens.

In 1999 she was first elected member of the European Parliament. And in January 2007, she was elected First Vice President of the European Parliament, in charge of the Euro-Med relations. She is also the Chairperson of the High Level Group on Gender Equality in addition to other institutional and parliamentary positions including Vice President of Ad-Hoc Committee for Women's Rights in the Euro-Med Parliamentary Assembly, which was originally her proposal.

In the framework of her parliamentary work Rodi Kratsa has taken several initiatives regarding promotion of women's rights and gender equality in the Euro-Med Region. She is the rapporteur of her own initiative report on "the policy of the EU towards the Mediterranean countries for the promotion of women's rights and equal opportunities in these countries".

From 1999 – 2004, Rodi was a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Parliamentary. Since 2000 Mrs. Kratsa has created a permanent contact and cooperation with many political and civil actors in Mediterranean countries and especially with the Women's Committee of Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union in order to promote a platform of dialogue and common action. In March 2004, she was honoured the "Chevalier de l' Ordre national de la Légion d' Honneur" by the President of the French Republic.