



Xavier Bertrand
President of Hauts-de-France region

Xavier Bertrand was born in 1965 in Châlons-sur-Marne and obtained a Master's Degree in public law and a Postgraduate Diploma in local government from the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Reims. From 1992 to 2004, he worked as an insurance agent in Flavy-le-Martel in the French department of Aisne.

In 1995, he became the Deputy Mayor of Saint-Quentin and was responsible for the activities and development of the town. In 1998, he was elected General Councillor for Aisne and then, in 2002, MP for the 2nd constituency of Aisne.

Xavier Bertrand was appointed Secretary of State for Health Insurance in 2004 and was Minister of Health from 2005 to 2007, before being appointed Minister of Labour from May 2007 to January 2009, and then Minister of Labour, Employment and Health from 2010 to May 2012. As part of his responsibilities, he led major social reforms, including the introduction of minimum service requirements for public transport and the ban on smoking in public places.

He was elected Mayor of Saint-Quentin in 2010 and re-elected MP for the 2nd constituency of Aisne in 2012.

In December 2015, he became the first President of the Hauts-de-France Region (with a population of 6 million). He stepped down as Mayor and MP to devote himself fully to the project he set up for the region, "Notre Région au travail":

- The Region helps people who are looking for work. Proch'Emploi was created to bring together jobseekers and companies that are recruiting, and this has helped thousands of people get into employment.
- The Region supports those who do work. Purchasing power was restored and barriers to work were removed through transport and childcare subsidies, providing a car for €1 a day for those returning to work, and schemes for high school pupils, apprentices and students.
- The Region is here to help job creators and entrepreneurs with tailor-made tools. It provides vocational training, funding for their projects and economically and ecologically-friendly solutions, most notably Rev3, the Third Industrial Revolution.

The Region is taking action today to improve daily life, but it also aims to prepare and build for the future. Xavier Bertrand and the councillors of the Hauts-de-France region have secured the launch of the Seine Nord Europe Canal, which is the project of the century for the Hauts-de-France region, both in terms of economy and environment. This will create a 107 km route to link Compiègne to the Dunkerque-Escaut Canal and will create thousands of jobs.

On 27 June 2021, he was re-elected as President of the Hauts-de-France Region for a second term.