

Franz Thönnnes
Parliamentary State Secretary –
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Germany



Franz Thönnnes was born in Essen on 16 September 1954.

Following his training as an industrial clerk and his studies at the Dortmund Academy of Social Studies, he worked as regional secretary and managing director at the IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik (Chemical, Paper and Ceramic Industrial Union), now IG Bergbau, Chemie, Energie (Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union) in Hamburg from 1980 to 1994.

From 1986 to 1994 he was a member of the county council of the Stormarn district (Schleswig-Holstein) for the Social Democratic Party. Since 1994 Franz Thönnnes has been a member of the Deutscher Bundestag (constituency of Segeberg/Stormarn-Nord).

From 1998 to 2002 he served in several functions in the SPD Parliamentary Group. These functions included his being spokesman on social policy and Deputy Chairman. From 1999 to 2003 he was Chairman of the SPD in Schleswig-Holstein.

Since 2002 he has been Parliamentary State Secretary, first in the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Security and since November 2005 in the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. He represents and supports the Minister, in particular in issues related to pension insurance, accident insurance, policy for people with disabilities, rehabilitation, social assistance and social integration.