

Ivica Račan – biography

Ivica Račan, one of the greatest Croatian politicians, died on April, 29, 2007 at 3.05 a.m. due to complications caused by kidney cancer.

His work crucially influenced the transformation of Croatia into a modern democracy and he contributed significantly to Croatia's world reputation.

Ivica Račan was the President of the Croatian Government from 2000 to 2003. He was also a member of the Croatian Parliament since its foundation in 1990 and the President of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia.

Born on 24 February 1944 in Ebersbach (Germany), he spent his youth in Slavonski Brod and graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb.

Since 1972, as one of the political leaders, he contributed to the pluralism of Croatian society. He became President of the Croatian Communist Party at the end of 1989, fostering its transition to social democracy.

At the beginning of 1990, he initiated the departure of the Croatian delegation from the 14th Congress of Communists in Belgrade. After that, he initiated the first democratic and multiparty elections in Croatia, and founded the new Party that later became today's Social Democratic Party of Croatia, thus he has been one of the most influential personalities of Croatian democracy.

Ivica Račan leaves behind him wife Dijana Pleština, two sons, Ivan and Zoran, and a two months old grandson Ognjen.