HE Ms Stefania Prestigiacomo is a graduate in Public Administration. In 1994 she was elected to the Chamber of Deputies. She served twice as Minister for Equal Opportunities (2001–06), before taking charge as Minister for Environment, Land and Sea in May 2008.

In April 2009, she chaired the G8 meeting of Environment Ministers which resulted in the approval of the ‘Siracusa Charter on Biodiversity’. In the same year, she was elected Co-Chair of the UNEP Ministerial Consultative Group on International Environmental Governance.

In Italy, she promoted several significant initiatives, such as the ‘Pact for Environment’ with eleven large industrial groups; the ‘Charter of Intent’ with the Ministry of Education for the introduction of Environment Education in school curricula; the Protocol of Intent with the National Anti-Crime Directorate for joint action against eco-mafias.