

Matthias Berninger

Matthias Berninger joined Bayer in January 2019 as senior vice president of public affairs, science, and sustainability, responsible for the company's global public affairs practice and for making Bayer's approach to sustainability a pillar of its business strategy. In his role, he has strengthened Bayer's global public affairs practice and leads the development of a coherent global sustainability strategy published in December 2019. Since 2020, an independent external sustainability council is in force and advises the Bayer board of management on the consistent implementation of the company's sustainability goals.

Prior to Bayer, Berninger was the vice president of public affairs at Mars Incorporated leading the global public affairs organization and developing Mars's sustainability strategy, including leadership on climate change and establishing key sustainability performance indicators for Mars's leadership circle. In 2008, as global head of public policy, he led a team to develop a cocoa sustainability strategy for the corporation. He first joined Mars in Europe to build a public affairs team and globally facilitate the development of Mars's health and nutrition strategy.

Before joining the private sector, Berninger was elected four times as a member of the German Federal Parliament Green Party from 1994 to 2007, where he focused on agricultural reform in Germany and Europe, including trade policy, food safety, and renewable energy. He was appointed vice minister for the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Nutrition, and Agriculture, serving from 2001 to 2005, and led the Green Party in Hessen, Germany, from 2004 to 2007.

Berninger studied chemistry and political science at the University of Kassel, Germany.