

ISRAEL

Minister of Science and Technology

Ministry for Science and Technology

Orit FARKASH-HACOHEN

Born on 29 December 1970

Education

- Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Hebrew University, 1994
- Master of Public Administration, Harvard University in Cambridge, 2007
- Visiting fellow, Harvard University

Biography

Orit Farkash-Hacohen was born in Israel. She holds an LL.B from the Hebrew University and an MPA from Harvard University. She is also a visiting fellow at the Harvard Electricity Policy Group (HEPG).

Farkash-Hacohen interned with District Court and Supreme Court Justice Dalia Dorner and subsequently at the law firm of E.S. Shimron, I. Molho, Persky & Co., where she continued working after her internship. Five years later, she started working at the Antitrust Authority's legal department, where she served as head of a litigation team and managed cases involving harm to competition caused by commercial entities.

In 2003, she was appointed legal counsel of the Israeli Public Utilities Authority (the Electricity Authority). In September 2011, she was appointed chair of Israeli Public Utilities Authority—the first woman to be appointed to the position—and she served in that post until 2016.

Farkash-Hacohen's term as the chair of Israeli Public Utilities Authority saw several historic breakthroughs:

1. Competition in electricity production in Israel was launched for the first time, and private electricity producers began operating to a significant extent;
2. For the first time, a solar power plant was established and advanced in Israel;

3. The Authority advanced a plan to advance longtime private electricity distributors, through which the operations of hundreds of kibbutzim and four Druze villages were regulated. This created the basis for reform and the proceedings that are advancing in the Ministry of Energy.

Adv. Farkash-Hacohen was a full partner in developing and consolidating the growing scope of private electricity production, as well as in assisting in starting and developing the Israeli renewable energy industry.

In 2015, Farkash-Hacohen, in her capacity as the chair of the Israeli Public Utilities Authority, warned the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources of the urgent need to address the high gas prices that the public is charged by the Israeli gas monopoly. She was the only official who spoke out publicly on this issue.

In 2017, she joined the offices of Goldfarb Seligman & Co and became a partner. She established and headed the law firm's Energy, Infrastructure, and Regulation Department.

Alongside her activities, Adv. Farkash-Hacohen was a visiting lecturer at the Florence School of Regulation, the European University Institute (FSR). She was a lecturer at the Energy Law and Regulation course at the Faculty of Law, The College of Law and Business, Israel, and recently she was a guest lecturer at the Hebrew University on economic regulation.

In 2019, she joined Israel Resilience and was given the ninth slot. After the party decided to run in a joint electoral list with Telem and Yesh Atid, under the label Blue and White, she was given the 15th slot on the joint list. In April 2019, she was elected to serve in the 21st Knesset, and in October 2019 she was elected to serve in the 22nd Knesset.

In the 23rd Knesset and in the 35th Government, Orit Farkash-Hacohen serves as Minister of Strategic Affairs.

On 13 June 2021 she was appointed as Minister of Science and Technology.

Orit Farkash-Hacohen is married and has four children.