

Curriculum Vitae

I have a 40 year long experience as a Manager and Negotiator in the European Commission. I started my career in the Commission in 1977 as textiles negotiator. I have dealt with international fisheries issues and since 1985 with the GATT. I represented the EU in the Uruguay Round negotiations that established the WTO. I negotiated extensively both the trade in Goods and trade in Services issues and led negotiations for the first Protocols on Telecommunication and Financial Services.

In 1990, I served as foreign policy advisor to EU President Jacques Delors, with particular focus on the German unification process.

As Deputy Director General for Trade I was in charge of the EU's bilateral trade policies with North America, Japan, the Mediterranean area and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries as well as sectoral trade issues such as agriculture.

In January 2009, I took up the position of Director General of the Environment, covering the EU's environmental policy in both its domestic and international dimensions. I was EU lead negotiator for Climate, Biodiversity and a range of other international agreements. I developed the EU's circular economy approaches and negotiated the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN. I wrote a widely seen report on Sustainability in the EU.

I retired from the EU Commission in 2017 and have since worked as a Senior Fellow at Oxford University. I have lectured at LSE, Aberdeen, Parma, the College of Europe and the Collegio of Mexico. I have also worked as an adviser to the European Aluminium Federation and as Senior Advisor for APCO International. I was a Member of the International Peer review for German sustainability policies.