



# Lawrence Meredith

I bring the best out of dedicated professionals, maintain high team spirit under pressure & effectively communicate the EU's positive impact.

**Wellington**      **European Union Delegation to Aotearoa New Zealand**  
From 01.2024      **Ambassador-Designate**

**Brussels**      **European Commission**  
2015 - 2023      **Director**      Neighbourhood East & Institution Building      DG NEAR

I managed our relations and cooperation with Eastern Partnership countries to promote EU values and interests.

To this end, I led 180 passionate and motivated civil servants, of which 90 worked in EU Delegations, and oversaw an annual cooperation budget of EUR 500 million. In response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified full scale invasion of Ukraine, I redirected EU support to help meet immediate humanitarian needs.

To showcase the EU's positive impact in the region, I launched the Young European Ambassadors programme. Together with 900+ young multipliers, we communicated on the EU in local languages across major social media platforms.

2013 - 2014      **Acting Director**      Policy & Strategy      DG Enlargement  
Negotiated European Council conclusions on the new EU enlargement strategy.

2013 - 2015      **Head of Unit**      Policy & Strategy      DG Enlargement  
Shaped a team of 18 people to deliver high quality briefings, reports and speeches under tight deadlines.

2009 - 2013      **Head of Unit**      Kosovo Issues      DG Enlargement  
Negotiated politically sensitive issues related to Kosovo's European perspective shortly after the unilateral declaration of independence. Laid the groundwork for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

2006 - 2009      **Assistant to the Director-General**      DG Enlargement  
2004 - 2006      **Cabinet Member**      Commissioner for Development  
Advised on co-operation policies between the EU and its partners in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

2001 - 2004      **Team Leader**      Former USSR & Balkans Directorate      EuropeAid  
2000      **Programme Manager**      Former USSR Directorate      DG External Relations  
1997 - 2000      **Programme Manager**      Training & Youth, International Unit      DG Education

**London**      **UK Government**  
1993 - 1996      **Civil servant**

At the start of my career, I worked on economic & development cooperation with former Soviet Union countries. I was responsible for technical assistance programmes that supported independent media, human rights and rural development.

## Education

1989-1993  
**The Queen's College, Oxford** | B.A.  
Faculty of Modern Languages:  
Russian and French  
First Class Hons

## Languages

English    native  
French    C2  
Russian   C2  
Spanish   C2  
German   B2  
Italian    B1

## Hobbies

I enjoy biking, birdwatching and supporting Bradford City through thick – and mainly thin.