



## **George Cunningham**

George Cunningham is Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the European Union's Delegation to New Zealand, which is now part of the European External Action Service.

Previously, he was coordinator for bilateral trade relations with the United States at the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade. He served as the number two and Head of the Accession Process and Cooperation Section at the European Commission's Delegation in Nicosia (2003-05) and was Head of Press and Public Affairs and political counsellor at the EC's Delegation to the United Nations in New York (2000-2003).

Mr Cunningham has been an EC official for 17 years, having started his career in the European Commission in the external information, EU enlargement and trade fields.

Before joining the European Commission, Mr Cunningham served as a United Nations official in New York (1987-1990) and was also an advisor to the Polish Council of Ministers in Warsaw (1992).

At the start of a busy and varied career, he served as an officer in the British Army, worked in marketing for British Petroleum and British Telecom as well as founding and running a non-governmental organisation *PACE International Affairs* educating young people in the UK about international affairs. He is a graduate from Oxford University (MA Oxon Modern History).

During his youth, he undertook a major expedition in Africa, walking most of the way on a 7,000 mile journey from Alexandria in Egypt to Cape Town in South Africa over a period of 27 months (1979-81).

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association in New York, as well as being a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. His book - *Journey to Become a Diplomat* - was published in 2005 in the United States by the Foreign Policy Association.

Mr Cunningham was born in 1956 and is a British national. He is married to Florence and has two children, Constance and Curran.

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