



Biography

H.E. Kristian Schmidt is the Ambassador-Designate of the European Union to South Africa as of 1 September 2026.

His diplomatic career, initiated at the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, includes postings at the UN New York (1997-1999) as well as EU Ambassador to Uganda (2013-2017) and EU Ambassador to Myanmar (2017-2020).

As a Senior Official of the European Commission, he served as Deputy Head of Cabinet to Vice-President Siim Kallas (2004-2010) and as Deputy Head of Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Poul Nielson (1999-2004). From 2010 to 2013, he was the Director for Human and Society Development at the Directorate-General for International Development Cooperation. From 2021 to 2026, he was the Director in charge of Land Transport at the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

Ambassador-Designate H.E. Kristian Schmidt holds a master's degree in economics from the University of Copenhagen, a bachelor's degree in economics from the Université d'Aix-en-Provence and a master's degree in international relations with distinction from the University of Cambridge. He also studied at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and Università di Bologna.