

ULRIK V. KNUDSEN

Denmark's candidate for the post of Secretary-General of the OECD. Currently OECD Deputy Secretary-General



Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen is an economist with more than 25 years of experience in international cooperation. He has served as Permanent Secretary of State/CEO of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to the Danish Prime Minister and as Ambassador to the OECD. During his five years as CEO he spearheaded a change-management process, brought the Ministry of Foreign Affairs successfully through a period of budgetary constraints and defined the strategic direction for the organisation in increasingly complex and unpredictable times. In 2019 he was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD, covering a wide-ranging portfolio.

He combines unique OECD knowledge and experience with genuine abilities to seek solutions through compromise, build agreements from facts, and constantly strive to deliver excellence and innovation.

2019-2020: OECD Deputy Secretary-General

Part of the Senior Management Group and giving strategic direction on Employment, Labour, Social Affairs and Health (ELS), Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Entrepreneurship, SME's, Cities (CFE), as well as on Education (EDU), Skills, Well-being, Inequalities and Sustainability (WISE); previously also on Trade, Agriculture and Fisheries (TAD).

2013-2018: Permanent Secretary of State, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Deputizing for the Foreign Minister, representing and negotiating on behalf of Denmark at Ministerial level in the UN, EU, OECD and other organisations. Also CEO of the MFA, and in that capacity driving a number of management reforms, increasing efficiency and savings, improving gender diversity as well as strengthening communications. Also spearheaded Denmark's OECD MCM-Presidency in 2017.

2013: Group Director for International Policy at Vodafone, London

Representing Vodafone in relation to governments and international organisations.

2010-2013: Chief Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Denmark

Advising two Danish Prime Ministers (Lars Løkke Rasmussen's centre-right government and Helle Thorning-Schmidt's centre-left government) on a wide range of foreign policy issues, both global and European (including as EU Sherpa). Instrumental in the development of the OECD Global Strategy Group (GSG) in 2012; elected chairperson of the first five GSG meetings.

2009-2010: Under-Secretary of State for Strategy and Policy Planning

Responsible for strategic foreign policy planning in the Danish MFA and also part of the EU network of Political Directors.

2008-2009: Danish Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO

Chaired the Working Party on Priorities agreeing on the 2009 OECD budget procedure reforms still in place. Spearheaded successful Danish campaign for a seat on UNESCO's Executive Board.

2004-2008: Chief of Staff to the Danish Foreign Minister

Advising the Foreign Minister and responsible for Communication and Press. From 2006 title of Ambassador.

2003-2004: Economic Advisor, Danish Embassy, London

Responsible for bilateral relations in the area of Economic and European Affairs.

2000-2003: Private Secretary to three Danish Foreign Ministers.**1998-2000: Secretary of Embassy, Danish Embassy, Washington**

Dealing with economic and trade issues.

1994-1998: Various positions in the Danish MFA

Including half a year at the Danish Embassy in Moscow, covering economic reform and trade, and working on OECD-issues, both in the Trade Committee and in OECD/DAC.

He has lectured on trade issues at the University of Copenhagen. Also co-authored a book on WTO and trade policy (in Danish) and published numerous articles on globalisation, trade and ASEAN.

Languages:

Fluent in English and Danish (Scandinavian). Proficient in French and German.

Born:

On 14 February 1969. Married with three daughters.

