

June 2019



**Ambassador Nina VASKUNLAHTI**

After graduating from the University of Turku in 1983 with a Master's Degree in Political Sciences, Ms. Nina Vaskunlahti joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in 1984. Her first posting was to Canberra, Australia, between 1985 and 1988. From January 1989 to August 1992, she served as First Secretary at the Representation of Finland to the European Communities and then as the first Finnish National Expert at the European Commission, Directorate General for External Relations, in Brussels.

Ms. Vaskunlahti then held a Counsellor's position at the Unit for Cooperation with Neighbouring Areas at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for three years, before her secondment to the Office of the High Representative of the International Community in Sarajevo in 1996. Thereafter she served as Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union in Brussels and contributed to the first Finnish Presidency of the Council in 1999.

Between September 2000 and May 2004, Ms. Vaskunlahti was posted as Deputy Head of Mission to the Finnish Embassy in Moscow. In September 2004 she moved back to Brussels and served as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative (COREPER 1) at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union until autumn 2008 including the second Finnish Presidency of the council. In September 2008 she assumed the position of Director General of the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Vaskunlahti served as Finnish Ambassador to Turkey between September 2012 - August 2016 and to India & Bangladesh from September 2016 – 17 June 2019.

As of 24 June, 2019 she will be serve as Under Secretary of State, Department for External Economic Relations at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Ms. Vaskunlahti was born in 1959 in Huittinen, Finland and is married to Dr. Andreas Herdina.