

The Ambassador

Joep Wijnands was born in Amersfoort, The Netherlands, on 17 November 1964. He is married and has two sons and one daughter. He studied International Law at the University of Leiden (1991).

Following his military service with the Royal Netherlands Navy, he began his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague in 1993. Until 1996 he served as a policy advisor in the Security Policy Department and from 1996-1998 he was Deputy Head of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia. He served as Deputy Head of the Western Balkans Section at the Ministry from 1998-2002.

Consequently, he was the Deputy Director at the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry from 2002-2005, dealing with the Netherlands EU Presidency in 2004. In 2005 he was appointed as Deputy Head of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy in Budapest, Hungary.

During the first six months of 2009 he was the Civilian Representative of the Netherlands-Australian Taskforce in the province of Uruzgan, Afghanistan. In this capacity he also was the first civilian heading the Netherlands Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Uruzgan.

Joep Wijnands presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Lithuania on 14 September 2009.

