

Tomas Niklasson

Special Envoy of the European Union for Afghanistan

Head of Division – Afghanistan and Pakistan (European External Action Service (EEAS))

Mr Niklasson graduated from the Swedish Defence Language School in Uppsala (Russian and English) and from Lund University with a Ph.D. in political science.

After having worked as a Senior analyst at the Swedish Armed Forces HQ (Stockholm) specialising in the Balkans and the Middle East, he joined the European Commission in 1998 where he worked as a policy officer in various policy fields and Directorates-General– Lifelong learning (DG Education and Culture, 1998-2002), Human and social development – Health and education (DG Development, 2002-2005) and Strategic planning and programming (the Secretariat General, 2005-2007).

He was posted as Head of Political, Trade and Communication Section in Islamabad, Pakistan (2007-2010) and in Monrovia, Liberia (2010-2013) before returning to the European External Action Service (EEAS) HQ as Deputy Head of Division for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives (2013-2016).

From 2016 to 2020, he was posted in East Jerusalem as Deputy EU Representative to the West Bank, Gaza and UNRWA.

In 2020, he returned to HQ as an Adviser for security policy and legal issues to the Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific, before taking up the position of EU Special Envoy and Head of Division in 2021.

In addition to his native Swedish, Mr Niklasson is fluent in English and has a very good command of French. He reads and understands German, Spanish and Russian and has a solid foundation in Arabic.