

TIMO PESONEN



Timo Pesonen is the current Director-General of DG DEFIS (Defence Industry and Space).

After graduating in 1989 in International Politics from the University of Tampere, he stayed in his home country to serve as an attaché at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He then left for Brussels and the Embassy of Finland, where he worked with Foreign and Security policy including accreditation to NATO and WEU for four years.

The year 1995 marked his appointment as national expert for DG RELEX (External Relations) and then he worked as the spokesman for Commissioner Erkki Liikanen, 1996-1997.

From 1997 to 2002, he served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Finland, Paavo Lipponen. He also undertook an advisory mission during the Kosovo peace negotiations for the President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari.

After working at the European Commission Representation in Helsinki as Acting Head between 2003-2004, he acted as Head of Cabinet of Vice-President Olli Rehn for 10 years. He became Deputy Director-General of DG COMM (Communication) in 2014 and was appointed as Director-General the following year. Taking the helm of DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs) in March 2019, he accompanied the creation of DG DEFIS in 2020 as the head of the new Directorate-General.

In addition to his native Finnish, Timo Pesonen speaks English, Swedish and French.

