

MARIE-ANNE CONINSX



Ambassador of the European Union to Canada

Marie-Anne Coninx is the Ambassador of the European Union to Canada. She began her posting as the European Union's top diplomat in Canada in September 2013, after serving four years as Ambassador of the European Union to Mexico. She has been an official of the European Union since 1984.

She started her career in the European Commission at the Legal Service in 1984. From 1985 to 1996, she was a Cabinet Staff Member of the following Commissioners: Commissioner Willy De Clercq, responsible for External Relations and Trade; Commissioner Martin Bangemann responsible for Internal Market and Relations with the European Parliament (EP); and Commissioner Pinheiro, responsible for Development Policy and Relations with the EP.

Ambassador Coninx has extensive experience dealing with multilateral issues, having served as Minister-Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union in New York (US) from 1996 to 2000 and as Minister-Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union in Geneva (CH) from 2000 to 2004.

Prior to heading the European Union Delegation to Mexico, Ambassador Coninx was Head of Unit at the External Relations Department of the European Commission, overseeing relations between the European Union and Latin America from 2004 to 2009.

Ambassador Coninx studied law at Gent University in Belgium and did post-graduate studies specialising in international law and European law respectively at Cambridge University (UK) and at European University Centre in Nancy (France).

Ambassador Coninx is Belgian and her interests include painting, travelling and sports (tennis and skiing). She is fluent in Dutch, French, English and German. She has excellent knowledge of Spanish; basics of Portuguese and Italian.