

Mr. Bernhard ZEPTER becomes Head of the European Commission's Delegation in Tokyo.

The European Commission today decided to transfer Mr. Bernhard ZEPTER, Commission official of German nationality, from the Secretariat General to the post as Head of the Tokyo Delegation in Japan under the Directorate General of External Relations. Mr. Zepter will be working closely with the relevant services in Brussels Headquarters in deepening political, economic, social and commercial relations with the host country.

Mr. Zepter, 57, studied law and economics and graduated from the University of Freiburg in 1973. He has a long track record in various diplomatic and international relations positions, including postings as First Secretary of the German Permanent Mission to NATO and Deputy Head of the German Delegation to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round), Geneva.

Mr. Zepter joined the European Commission in September 1990 as diplomatic advisor and then Deputy Head of the cabinet of President Jacques Delors. After going back to the German Foreign Ministry in 1995 to head the task force on enlargement, he returned to the Commission in 1997 to become Deputy Secretary General. This appointment is part of the series of rotations announced in January 2002.

The CV of Mr. Zepter is attached.

Curriculum Vitae

Bernhard Zepter, born 30 July, 1944; Prien (Bavaria), Germany
Nationality: German
Married with Ghislaine Dine
Two daughters

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| 1965 - 1967 | Military service, Lieutenant |
| 1967- 1971 | Studied law and economics at the University of Freiburg |
| 1971 - 1973 | Law graduate: preparation for public service |
| 1973 | Entered the German diplomatic service, Attaché |
| 1974 - 1976 | Member of Cabinet of State Minister for European affairs Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Auswärtiges Amt) |
| 1976 - 1978 | Second Secretary at the German Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, dealing with economic cooperation, press and legal affairs |
| 1979 - 1982 | First Secretary at the German Permanent Mission to NATO, Brussels, dealing with questions of nuclear planning (NPG, TNF-modernisation), disarmament (SALT, START) and the work of regional experts |
| 1982 - 1983 | German representative and "Troika"-member at the Secretariat of the European Political Cooperation during the Danish, German and Greek EC-Presidencies; responsible for Eastern Europe, Middle East, Non- proliferation and CSCE |
| 1984 | Auswärtiges Amt, Deputy Head of Section, dealing with the revitalisation of the Western European Union (WEU) |
| 1984 - 1987 | Counsellor for foreign and security affairs of the Social Democratic Party's Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag |
| 1987 - 1990 | Counsellor and Deputy Head of the German Delegation to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round), Geneva. Dealing in particular with issues linked to trade in services, intellectual property rights, the functioning of the GATT and dispute settlement procedures |

- 1990 - 1995 Diplomatic Counsellor and, from 1994, Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, responsible for European External Economic Relations and Common Foreign and Security Policy
- March 1995 – Aug. 1997 Deputy Assistant Secretary for European (Community) Affairs in the Auswärtiges Amt, Bonn; Head of the Task-Force “enlargement” at the Foreign Ministry; Chief-negotiator of the Treaty on Transborder Cooperation (“Karlsruher Abkommen”)
- Sept. 1997 - Feb. 2002 Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission; spokesman of the Commission in COREPER. G7/G8-Sous-Sherpa for external relations (1999 – 2001)
- Feb.-Apr 2002 On leave from the Commission
- Since May 2002 Special Counsellor at the Secretariat General of the Commission