



## **TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS IN A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**

A CONVERSATION WITH ANDRÉ HASPELS,  
AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THE  
NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED STATES

**Monday, March 14, 2022 | 4:00 PM EST**  
**In-Person and Live Webinar**

Join the Green School for a conversation with Dutch's Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency André Haspels, about Netherlands and transatlantic relations in a global environment.

**PARTICIPANTS' BIOGRAPHIES**

## GUEST SPEAKER



### **His Excellency André Haspels**

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
to the United States

André Haspels is the ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States based in Washington, D.C.

Haspels grew up in Uithoorn in the province of Noord-Holland. His father was a flower trader who imported flowers from all over the world, including ferns from Florida. Since he was a young boy, Haspels has always seen flowers, and that's how he learned about agriculture and trade.

Haspels studied politics at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam. In 1987, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he served in many capacities. In 1997, he became head of the Political Department at the embassy in South Africa (Pretoria), where he was involved in the cooperation between the two nations, among others in the setup of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

He later served as ambassador in Vietnam and South Africa and most recently as director general of political affairs in the Hague.

Education: 1982 Completed pre-university education

1986 Graduated from VU University Amsterdam with a degree in Political Science, specializing in International Relations. Dissertation on Dutch development cooperation policy between 1973 and 1986

Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 and followed its diplomatic service training program.

Held the following posts:

1988 – 1990 Policy officer, Political and Economic Affairs Section at the embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Writing political reports, maintaining contacts, focus on economy and trade.

1990 – 1992 Press secretary to Minister for European Affairs Piet Dankert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

1992 – 1994 Seconded National Expert (SNE) at the European Commission in Brussels, DG 23 (business policy/SMEs). Preparing and implementing partnership programmes for European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) focused on cooperation within the EU and with SMEs in non-member states (e.g. EuroMed partnership).

1994 – 1996 Secondment to the office of the Committee on International Policy/European Affairs at the House of Representatives. Responsible for setting up a monitoring system for new Committee proposals and promoting knowledge and understanding within the Permanent Committee on EU Affairs.

1997 – 2000 Head of the Political Affairs Section at the embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. Responsible for drawing up political reports, maintaining networks and coordinating political partnership programmes (e.g. democratization projects, Truth and Reconciliation Commission).

2000 – 2005 Head of the External Affairs Division of the European Integration Department (DIE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. EU external relations (enlargement, association agreements, European development cooperation). Also involved in 2004 Dutch EU Presidency in an implementing role (preparing events, including a ministerial meeting).

2005 – 2008 Ambassador in Hanoi, Vietnam. Bilateral ties between Vietnam and the Netherlands, and embassy management.

2008 – 2009 Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa Department. Bilateral Africa policy (on politics, security, development cooperation and economic affairs), setting the department's course.

2009 – 2011 Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation (Plv-DGIS). Setting the Directorate-General's course, policy adviser to the Minister for Development Cooperation, deputy member of the Ministry's Senior Management Board. Jointly responsible for staff-related and financial matters within the Directorate-General.

2011 – 2014 Ambassador in Pretoria, South Africa. Bilateral ties between South Africa and the Netherlands (also accredited to Namibia, Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana).

2014 – 2016 Deputy Director-General for Political Affairs (Plv-DGPZ), helping set the Directorate-General's course, policy adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, deputy member of the Ministry's Senior Management Board.

2016-2019 Director-General for Political Affairs (DGPZ), setting the Directorate-General's course, policy adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, member of the Ministry's Senior Management Board.

2019-present Ambassador in the United States of America. Bilateral ties between the United States and the Netherlands.

## MODERATOR



### **Markus Thiel**

Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence  
Associate Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations  
Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs  
Florida International University

Markus Thiel is associate professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations at Florida International University, Miami and director of FIU's Jean Monnet Center of Excellence. Dr. Thiel's research interests are the political sociology of the EU and European (Union) Politics more generally, as well as Nationalism & Identity Politics. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami in 2005 and has published several EU-related articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, his research on the political sociology of the EU produced the monograph, 'The Limits of Transnationalism' (Palgrave, 2011), and 5 co-edited volumes on: 'Diversity and the European Union' (with Lisa Pruegl, Palgrave, 2009), 'Identity Politics in the Age of Globalization' (with Roger Coate, Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010), 'European Identity & Culture: Narratives of Transnational Belonging' (with Rebecca Friedman, Ashgate, 2012), 'Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations' (with Manuela Picq, Routledge, 2015) and 'EU Development Policies between Norms and Geopolitics' (with Sarah Beringer & Sylvia Maier, Palgrave, 2019). Most recently, he published a book on the linkage of European transnational civil society groups with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency: 'EU Civil Society and Human Rights Advocacy' (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). He supervises doctoral students in the areas of EU Politics and International Organizations.

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