



## BIOGRAPHY

### PERMANENT SECRETARY, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ESA PULKKINEN

Mr Esa PULKKINEN, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence of Finland and the Chair of the Security Committee, was born in 1957.



Mr Pulkkinen joined the Finnish Armed Forces in 1977. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1980, Lt Gen Pulkkinen served in a wide range of leadership positions. A specialist in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the EU, he has an extensive background in National Defence. Lt Gen Pulkkinen has also commanded the Sodankylä Jaeger Brigade, the most northern army unit in the EU, and served as the Assistant Chief of Staff in the Plans and Policy Division of the Defence Command.

From 2011 until 2016, he served as Director General for Defence Policy in the Ministry of Defence of Finland. He was responsible for developing Finnish Defence Policy, participation in International Defence Cooperation, developing the basis for the Defence Forces' planning, and the direction of strategic research. He engaged in consultations in EU capitals and the United States, but also in China, Russia and other countries. Having participated in most of the EU Defence Ministers' and Defence Policy Directors' meetings in 2011-2016, in 2013 he chaired the Policy Steering Committee of Nordic Defence Cooperation (NORDEFECO).

In 2008-2010, Lt Gen Pulkkinen served as the Director of Operations in the EU Military Staff (OF-6) as responsible for planning and political-strategic level implementation of the anti-piracy operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA. After assignments in the EUMS as Branch Chief (OF-5), and as Seconded National Expert (SNE) within the Interim Military Staff, in 2000-2003, he chaired the Defence Policy working group for Finland's EU Presidency in 2006.

Mr Pulkkinen served as Director General of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) for four years 2016 - 2020.

In the EUMS he was responsible for early warning, situation assessment and strategic planning for EU military missions and operations. In 2017, he also assumed responsibility as Director of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) within the EUMS. Under this title he had responsibility for delivering the functions of mission commander for the EU training missions in Mali, Central African Republic and Somalia.

In 2021 Esa Pulkkinen returned to his former post as Director General of the Defence Policy Department and was appointed Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence of Finland 1st January 2022. He is also the Chair of the Security Committee. The Security Committee is a permanent and broad-based cooperation body for proactive preparedness and its role is to assist the Government and ministries in matters of comprehensive security. From 2021 to 2022 Pulkkinen has been a member of the Irish Defence Commission.

Lt Gen Esa Pulkkinen was a post-graduate student in the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1995-1996 and studied in Harvard during 2014.

He speaks Finnish, English, French and Swedish. He is married and has two grown children.