

## **Frans Timmermans**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

### **Personal details**

Full name: Franciscus Cornelis Gerardus Maria Timmermans

Place and date of birth: Maastricht, 6 May 1961

Place of residence: Heerlen

Civil status: married, four children

### **Education**

1972-1980 Secondary school, Rome and Heerlen

1980-1985 Degree in French language and literature, Radboud University  
Nijmegen

1984-1985 Postgraduate courses in European Law and French Literature,  
University of Nancy

### **Career**

Frans Timmermans began his career in 1987 as an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, where he participated in the induction course for diplomats. He subsequently worked as a policy officer in that ministry's European Integration Department from 1988 to 1990. That year, he was appointed Second Embassy Secretary at the Dutch embassy in Moscow.

After a brief period back in The Hague, as deputy head of the Minister for Development Cooperation's EC Affairs Section, Mr Timmermans became a member of the staff of European Commissioner Hans van de Broek. He later became adviser and private secretary to Max van der Stoep, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

From 1998 he was a member of the House of Representatives for the Labour Party (PvdA). In that capacity, he dealt principally with foreign affairs. He was chair of the Permanent Committee on Economic Affairs and represented the House of Representatives in the European Convention.

In the fourth Balkenende government, from February 2007 to February 2010, Mr Timmermans was Minister for European Affairs. After the fall of that government he returned to the House as the PvdA's spokesperson on foreign policy.

On 5 November 2012 Mr Timmermans was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Rutte-Asscher government.

### **Party political positions and outside activities**

Frans Timmermans has held a large number of positions in the areas of politics and culture, including (but not limited to):

- representative of the House of Representatives in the European Convention on the Future of Europe
- member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union
- supervisory director of Roda JC football club
- member of the advisory committee of Kamp Vught National Monument
- member of the advisory committee for the 2012 Treaties of Nijmegen Medal
- member of the advisory council of the European Cultural Foundation
- guest lecturer at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'.