

## David O'Sullivan Biography

Mr. O'Sullivan has a long and distinguished career spanning over three decades. He has served in a number of senior official posts in the European public service.



He was the Ambassador of the European Union to the United States from 2014-2019.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the US, he was the Chief Operating Officer of the 'European External Action Service' and responsible for establishing this new EU diplomatic service. The Service is one of the largest diplomatic networks with 140 delegations across the globe.

Mr. O'Sullivan's career includes a number of notable and senior positions within the European Commission: Chief of Staff to Commission President Romano Prodi (1999-2000) and Secretary General of the European Commission (2000-2005). He has extensive trade experience as Director General for Trade (2005-2010) and Chief Negotiator for the Doha Development Round. He was responsible for overseeing the launch of a number of free trade agreements and concluded the EU's agreement with South Korea. Before joining the Commission, he started his career with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1977-1979).

### Early European Commission Career Timeline

- 1999 – Director General for Education and Culture.
- 1996 – Directorate General for Employment
- 1994 – Deputy Head of Commissioner Flynn's Cabinet.
- 1993 – Member of Commissioner Flynn's Cabinet (Social Dialogue and Labour Law).
- 1989 – Head of Unit in the Task Force for Education, Youth and Training.
- 1985 – Member of Commissioner Sutherland's Cabinet (Social Affairs and Relations with the European Parliament).
- 1981 – First Secretary, Delegation of the European Commission in Japan.
- 1979 – Directorate General for External Relations.

## Academia

Mr. O'Sullivan graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with a degree in Economics and Sociology (1975) and completed post-graduate studies at the College of Europe, Bruges (1976).

While at Trinity, he was Auditor and debating Gold medalist of the College Historical Society and winner of the Irish Times debating competition.

He holds an Honourary Doctorate from the Dublin Institute of Technology (2005). He has been a visiting Professor at the European College of Parma. He was awarded a second Honorary Doctorate from his alma mater Trinity College, Dublin (2014).

## Honours and Awards

- EU Transatlantic Business Award by the American Chamber of Commerce (June 2014).
- Alumnus of the Year by the College of Europe (2013).
- European of the Year by the European Movement of Ireland (1999).

## Personal Biography

Mr. O'Sullivan was born in 1953 in Dublin, Ireland.

He is no stranger to the US having travelled extensively across the States and spent his early life attending grade school in California.

He speaks English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese and Irish.