

Bernard Merkel, PhD



Bernard Merkel retired in 2014 from the European Commission where he had been Head of the Unit for Health Strategy and Health Systems in the Health and Consumers Directorate-General. In that position he was responsible among other things for the first EU health strategy, the EU public health programmes, and the Directive on cross-border care, as well as initiatives on e-health, pharmaceuticals and health technology assessment. From 2009 -2013 he was seconded to the EU Delegation in Washington where he was in charge of bilateral EU-US relations on health, food safety and consumer affairs. While in the US he represented the EU in the negotiation of the UN Political Declaration on non-communicable diseases.

Before joining the European Commission he was a civil servant in the UK Department of Health and Social Security working on various topics including AIDS, poverty programmes, and NHS reform. He is a Visiting Fellow of the London School of Hygiene and has also been a Research Fellow at the LSE. His academic background is in social science where he has an MA(Econ) in government and a PhD in political theory.