



Marja Liivala

Director General

Ministry for Foreign
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Ambassador Marja Liivala has worked as Director General of the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 2021.

Prior to this, she worked for three years as Finland's Roving Ambassador in three Central Asian states – Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 2017–2018, Ms. Liivala was Senior Adviser in the Unit for North America of the Department for the Americas and Asia.

Ms. Liivala's career has focused on various tasks and responsibilities related to Russia in both the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Moscow. She joined the diplomatic service in 1997, following four years in export promotion in Finland's Trade Center in Moscow, under the Association for Foreign Trade. As a diplomat, she was twice posted at the Embassy of Finland in Moscow. In 2008–2012, she worked as Head of the Economy and Trade Section at the Embassy in Moscow. In 2013–2016, Ms. Liivala was Director in the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Ms. Liivala, born in 1964, holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences (Political History) from the University of Helsinki. She is married with two adult children.

