

Jouko Leinonen

Ambassador to Belgium
and Luxembourg

Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



Mr. Jouko Leinonen leads currently the Finnish Embassy in Brussels, responsible for Finland's relations with the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. The bilateral Embassy's duties cover largely the political, economic and cultural relations as well as country branding issues and consular services.

Before his current position Mr. Leinonen served as the Ambassador of Finland to Brazil in Brasília (2018–2022). He has also worked as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassies of Finland in Paris, Brasília and Abu Dhabi as well as the Counsellor for trade policy and foreign policy committees at the Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU.

In the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki Ambassador Leinonen has served as Director for Southern and Western African countries in the Department for Africa and the Middle East as well as Counsellor for Trade and Development issues at the Department for Global Affairs. He has worked in the Ministry also with development cooperation and EU issues.

Ambassador Leinonen was born in Pello, Finland in 1967 and started in the Ministry in 1996 after some years as a consultant in the private sector. He graduated from the Helsinki University of Technology with Master's in Engineering in 1993 and holds also a Master's of Political Sciences from the Univ. of Helsinki and Bachelor degrees in history and economics from the Univ. of Montpellier. He has also studied history of Brazil and Latin America at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Enthusiast of languages, literature and philately.

