



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Heleen Bakker**  
**Deputy Chief of Mission**  
**Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**  
**Washington, D.C., USA**

Heleen Bakker (1970) is a career diplomat. She joined the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998, after completing a master's degree in public administration and international relations from the University of Twente.

Heleen first worked at the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, and subsequently in the Africa Department at the ministry's headquarters in The Hague. She was posted to Sarajevo from 2000-2002, where she was a political advisor to the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



From 2002-2005, Heleen was based at the Netherlands Mission to the United Nations in New York, where she worked on human rights, social issues, and sustainable development. From 2007-2011, she was the speechwriter for the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Next, Heleen headed the EU External Policy Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, working on EU enlargement, the EU's neighborhood, trade policy, and development cooperation (2012-2015).

Heleen has a broad understanding of foreign policy, security and development issues, and knows her way around the UN and the EU. In August 2015, Heleen moved to Washington, D.C. as Head of the Political Department at the Netherlands Embassy. She assumed the position of Deputy Chief of Mission on 1 July 2017.

Heleen is married to fellow diplomat Lex Gerts. They have three children. Find her on [LinkedIn](#).