

John Kerr

Former member of the UK Diplomatic Service



John Kerr was a member of the UK Diplomatic Service from 1966 to 2002, serving abroad, in Moscow, Islamabad, Washington and Brussels, and in London, in the Foreign Office and Treasury, where he was Private Secretary to two Chancellors of the Exchequer. He became UK Permanent Representative to the European Union (1990/95), British Ambassador to the United States (1995/97) and Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary (1997/2002).

On leaving UK Government service he became Secretary-General of the EU Convention (2002/3); and from 2004 an independent member of the House of Lords, where he currently serves on its Economic Select Committee.

He was Deputy Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell from 2005 to 2012, Chairman of Imperial College London from 2005 to 2011, and a Director of Rio Tinto from 2002 to 2015. He currently is Chairman of the Centre for European Reform, Deputy Chairman of Scottish Power, a Director of the Scottish American Investment Company, and a Trustee of the Refugee Council.

He has published a number of articles on European and international affairs.