

# FIGHTING INSECURITY AND INEQUITY THROUGH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

## Dr. Herbert Kröll - Profile



**Herbert Kröll** has always been deeply committed to issues of international development cooperation, aimed at promoting more justice, peace and human dignity. This commitment became clearly evident when he served for 3 years with the OECD and UNIDO; it continued throughout a prominent career with the Austrian Foreign Service, in several developing countries (Chargé d’Affaires in the Philippines, Ambassador to Indonesia, Vietnam and Cambodia, Israel and the Palestinian Authority), the European Union, and many UN conferences.

As the Austrian **Ambassador to Greece** (2004/07), Dr. Kröll was able to promote the development of sustainable energy in the Balkans; he was a delegate to the 3rd Ministerial of the Energy Community South East Europe in Athens (2004) and participated in the Signing Conference of the Energy Community Treaty.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to Greece, Herbert Kröll headed Austria’s Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation (1999/2004), focusing on global development, the international aid agenda, the definition and financing of multilateral development programs with the EU and the whole UN-System, including UNDP and its Executive Board Meetings. He opened the First Meeting of the Global Forum on Sustainable Energy (GFSE, 2000) and successfully advocated Austrian and EU-initiatives as negotiator for the EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement and the Least Developed Countries Conference (LDC III, 2001). He organised the Round Table on Energy for LDC III.

Herbert Kröll was **head of the Austrian delegation and negotiator for UNCTAD XI in Sao Paolo** and was a delegate to many UN Conferences including, among others, the Second Committee, the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development and the WTO Conference in Cancun. He was a guest and panelist at many NGO Conferences and media meetings concerning development policies; he published development-related articles and helped new EU Member States to adopt and implement EU best practice in development activities. In cooperation with UNIDO and Swiss-Austrian co-financing, a number of cleaner production centers at national and regional level were set up in Africa and Central America. Dr. Kröll was also involved in the creation of an African conflict prevention network.

In 1998 Herbert Kröll was Chairman of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership between the then EU-15 and the 12 countries on the Southern rim of the Mediterranean. This collaboration led to a significant increase in the scope and financing of the Barcelona Process. Dr. Kröll was also the negotiator for two EU-MED Ministerial Conferences, one of which was focused on industrial development. Subsequently, Herbert Kröll was EU-SADC Co-Chairman, negotiator for a EU-SADC Ministerial Conference in Sub-Sahara Africa and was given overall responsibility for the formal 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-SADC Ministers' Conference in Vienna. By focusing on concrete steps and actions, Dr. Kröll helped to broaden the appeal of Austrian and European policy positions such as trade and productive capacity development or cleaner production programs. In doing so, he emphasized the need for national “ownership” of initiatives without overselling fashionable concepts and theories. For more than 5 years he participated in many of the formal and informal EU Development Ministers meetings. He strongly advocated closer cooperation between the EU and the UN system, aiming at improved coordination, coherence, complementarity and aid effectiveness in order to efficiently combat poverty.

Prior to the **EU-MED and EU-SADC Chairmanships**, Herbert Kröll was the Austrian Ambassador to Israel and, concurrently, to the newly established Palestinian Authority in Gaza and the Westbank (1994/97). He oversaw the participation of Austrian military in UNTSO- and UNDOF peacekeeping operations. Amid extreme political uncertainty, he was directly involved in humanitarian aid, while promoting important housing projects and clean water supply for Palestinians. Mr. Kröll participated actively in the international donors' coordination meetings in Gaza and assisted in the preparation of the first elections held in the Palestinian territories.

Prior to his appointment as **Ambassador to Israel and the Palestinian Authority**, Herbert Kröll was the Austrian Ambassador to **Indonesia** (1989/94) and also to **Vietnam** and **Cambodia**. In these countries, he was also in charge of development programs and fund mobilisation, undertook two political fact-finding missions in that region shortly after the demise of the Soviet Union, visited political prisoners in East Timor as well as boat people camps in Indonesia and the Philippines with a view to humanitarian assistance and its co-financing. He was actively involved in the UNTAC operation including an Austrian police contingent, de-mining, post-conflict reconstruction and the UN-organised elections in Cambodia.

Mr. Kröll holds a doctorate in business administration from the Vienna University of Economics and a diploma in economics of development from the University of Glasgow. He is married to a former politician, daughter of a Prime Minister of Cambodia and has three children. He speaks English, French, German and Indonesian.