

**KNUT VOLLEBAEK**  
**THE OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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Ambassador Knut Vollebaek was appointed to the post of High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe on 4 July 2007. He was born on 11 February 1946 in Oslo, Norway and is married to Ellen Sofie Aadland Vollebaek and has one son.

**DIPLOMATIC CAREER**

- Norwegian Ambassador to the United States of America, 2001-2007.
- Assistant Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1994-1997.
- Director General, Department of Bilateral Co-operation, 1993-1994.
- Norwegian Ambassador to the Central American States, based in Costa Rica, 1991-1993.
- Director of UN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1986-1989.
- Norwegian Delegate to the UN General Assembly, 1982-1983, and 1986-1988.
- Joined the Norwegian Foreign Service in 1973. Served at Norwegian Embassies in India, Spain and Zimbabwe.

**POLITICAL OFFICES**

- Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, October 1997 – March 2000.
- Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), 1999.
- Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, October 1989 - November 1990.
- Primus inter Pares of the Panel of Eminent Persons on Strengthening of the Effectiveness of the OSCE, 2005.
- Chairman of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, 1997-1998.
- Chairman of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, 1999-2000.

**UN POSITIONS**

- Deputy Co-Chairman, International Conference on Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), 1993.
- Rapporteur to the Anti-Apartheid Committee of ILO, Geneva, 1988 and 1989.
- Organizer of the SARRED Conference (Southern Africa Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons Conference), 1988.
- Governor, Inter-American Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank, 1994-1997.

**EDUCATION**

- M.Sc. in Economics from the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration, Bergen, 1972.
- Studies in Political Science at the University of Oslo, 1966-1967 and postgraduate studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, 1972-1973.
- Studies in the French language and culture at l'Institut Catholique de Paris, 1965-66.
- Studies in the Spanish language and culture at Universidad Complutense, Madrid, 1969.

**HONORARY DEGREES**

- Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, St. Olaf College, Minnesota, USA, 2003.
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa, Concordia College, Minnesota, USA, 2003.