

Olli RUUTU

Deputy Chief Executive



Mr Olli Ruutu was appointed Deputy Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency on 15 November 2017; he took up his duties on 16 March 2018.

Previously Mr Ruutu served as Deputy National Armaments Director at the Ministry of Defence of Finland and Director of Materiel Unit at the Resource Policy Department. He also chaired the Defence Administration Commercial Board and the Export Control Advisory Group and was Deputy Chairman of the Defence Materiel Steering Group, as well

as a member of the Defence Forces' Technology Board and the Defence Administration's Industrial Cooperation Group.

Between 2009 and 2014 Mr Ruutu worked at the European Defence Agency, first as Principal Officer and subsequently as Deputy Head of Strategy and Policy Unit. Appointed by Dr Jussi Niinistö, the Minister of Defence of Finland, Mr Ruutu took part in the European Defence Agency's Long-Term Review in 2016-2017.

From 2006 to 2009 Mr Ruutu worked as Defence Counsellor at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union, dealing with EU's Common Security and Defence Policy and defence capability development.

Between 2007 and 2009 he worked also as National Armaments Director Representative (NADREP) at the Mission of Finland to NATO.

From 2003 to 2006 Mr Ruutu held different positions at the Ministry of Defence of Finland, dealing with arms export controls and international armaments cooperation.

During 2001 and 2002 he worked for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, dealing with international arms export controls and disarmament issues.

Mr Ruutu was born in Espoo, Finland, in 1976. He is married and has three children. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science (International Relations) from Helsinki University, Finland. In addition to his mother tongue Finnish, Mr Ruutu is fluent in English and Swedish and speaks French and German.

Mr Ruutu has been awarded the decoration of a Knight of the Order of the White Rose of Finland and a Medal for Military Merits.