



Further to our recent notice of the upcoming AGM, we are delighted to confirm our Guest Speaker

Mr George Cunningham
Chargé d'Affaires
European Commission's Delegation to New Zealand

**We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday, 5th May, at 5.30pm
at the offices of the British Consulate General,
Level 17, IAG House, 151 Queen Street, Auckland
(Corner of Queen and Wyndham Street)**

If you have not already registered or sent in your apology please simply reply to this email



Mr George Cunningham
Chargé d'Affaires
European Commission Delegation to New Zealand.

Previously, he was coordinator for bilateral trade relations with the United States at the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade. He has served as the number two and Head of the Accession Process and Cooperation Section at the European Commission's Delegation in Nicosia (2003-05) and was Head of Press and Public Affairs and political counsellor at the EC's Delegation to the United Nations in New York (2000-2003).

Mr Cunningham has been an EC official for 14 years, having started his career in the Commission in the external information, EU enlargement and trade fields.

Before joining the European Commission, Mr Cunningham served as a United Nations official in New York (1987-1990) and was also an advisor to the Polish Council of Ministers in Warsaw (1992).

At the start of a busy and varied career, he served as an officer in the British Army, worked in marketing for British Petroleum and British Telecom as well as founding and running a non-governmental organisation *PACE International Affairs* educating young people in the UK about international affairs. He is a graduate from Oxford University (MA Oxon Modern History).

During his youth, he undertook a major expedition in Africa, walking most of the way on a 7,000 mile journey from Alexandria in Egypt to Cape Town in South Africa over a period of 27 months (1979-81).

He is an Honorary Fellow of the Foreign Policy Association in New York, as well as being a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. His book - *Journey to Become a Diplomat* - was published in 2005 in the United States by the Foreign Policy Association.

Mr Cunningham was born in 1956 and is a British national. He is married to Florence and has two children, Constance and Curran.