

Ilkka Salmi

Director of the Situation Centre of the European Union

Mr Salmi became Director of the Situation Centre of the European Union (EU SITCEN) in February 2011.

EU SITCEN's mission is to provide intelligence analyses, early warning and situational awareness to the High Representative Catherine Ashton and to the European External Action Service, to the various EU decision making bodies in the fields of the Common Security and Foreign Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy and Counter-Terrorism, as well as to the EU Member States.

EU SITCEN does this by monitoring and assessing international events 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, focusing particularly on sensitive geographical areas, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other global threats.

EU SITCEN is part of the European External Action Service (EEAS) since January 2011.

Mr Salmi's work experience is mainly from the Finnish Security Intelligence Service (Supo), the Ministry of the Interior, and the Prime Minister's office where he worked as an adviser.

His career in the Security Intelligence Service started in 2002. The Security Intelligence Service specializes in the prevention of security threats to the State, participates with other authorities in the protection of parliamentary democracy and the security interests of the society. The Security Intelligence Service's key fields of activity are counter terrorism, counter intelligence and counter extremism.

Between 2002 and 2005, Mr Salmi first worked in the Counterespionage Unit and then as the Head of the Security Office. His responsibilities included matters relating to political counterintelligence, State internal security and the security of the members of the Government. Between 2005 and 2007, Mr Salmi acted as the Chief of Cabinet, having responsibility for the legality supervision and international relations of the Service. At the same time, he acted as an adviser to the Director.

In May 2007, Mr Salmi was appointed as a special adviser to the Minister of the Interior in the Prime Minister's Office. In this duty, he e.g. became the architect of the development project of the administrative structure of the Finnish police, while acting as the chairman of the development working group in question.

Mr Salmi was appointed Director of the Security Intelligence Service in December 2007, a post he left in February 2011 when he took up his new duties as Head of the EU SITCEN.

Mr Salmi was born in Turku in Finland in 1968 and graduated from the University of Turku as Master of Laws in 1992. He is married with three children.

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