

MICHAEL MERTES
STATE SECRETARY (RET.)
RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ISRAEL
KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

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November 2011

CURRICULUM VITAE

Born 26 March 1953 in Bonn

Childhood (1955-1966) in Marseille, Paris and Moscow

Married to Barbara Rembser-Mertes (mathematics and physics teacher)

Four children (1980, 1984, 1987, 1990)



Education

- 1972 Graduation from high school (Abitur, classical languages):
Aloisiuskolleg, Bonn
- 1972-1974 Military service, reserve officer training
- 1974-1980 Law studies at Bonn and Tübingen Universities and
at the London School of Economics and Political Science
(with a focus on Public International Law, Philosophy of Law,
Philosophy of Science)
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung scholarship (1975-1980)
- 1981/83 First/Second State Examination in Law

Career

- 1981 **Parliamentary Assistant** to Carl Otto Lenz MP
- 1984 **Federal Ministry of Defense:**
Counsellor, Contracts Department at the
Federal Office of Defense Technology and Procurement

- 1984-1985 **Federal Chancellery:**
Counsellor, Personnel Section
- 1985-1986 **Federal Chancellery:**
Deputy Head, Cultural and State-Church Affairs Section
- 1986-1987 **Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety:**
Office Manager, Minister's Office
- 1987-1993 **Federal Chancellery:**
Head, Speech Writing Section
- 1993-1995 **Federal Chancellery:**
Director, Policy Planning
- 1995-1998 **Federal Chancellery:**
Director-General, Policy Planning and Cultural Affairs
- 1998 Interim retirement after change of government
- 1998-2002 **Weekly "Rheinischer Merkur":**
Deputy Editor-in-Chief and domestic affairs editor,
then foreign affairs editor
- 2003-2006 **Political consultancy "dimap consult":**
Partner; at the same time work as a freelance author
- 2006 **State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia:**
Plenipotentiary of North Rhine-Westphalia to the Federation (Berlin)
and State Secretary for European and International Affairs
(Düsseldorf/Brussels)
- 2008 Additional responsibility: Media Affairs
- 2010 Interim retirement after change of government
- 2010-2011 Work as a freelance author
- 2011 **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung:**
Resident Representative of to Israel (Jerusalem)

Publications

Since the mid-1980s, Michael Mertes has continuously published articles and book chapters on European and international affairs, inter-religious dialogue, and (comparative) government.

The newspapers and journals to which he contributed include *Aufbau*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, *The*

Independent and several newspapers belonging the *Project Syndicate* network, as well as *Dædalus*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Internationale Politik/Transatlantic Edition*, *Obshchaya Tetrads*, *Politique étrangère*, *Prospect*, *The Washington Quarterly* and *Transit*.

He is the author of *German Questions – European Answers* (*Немецкие вопросы – европейские ответы*), Moscow 2001, and he co-authored and co-edited (with Steven Muller and Heinrich August Winkler) *In Search of Germany*, New Brunswick and London 1996. Mertes also published a German translation of William Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, Bonn 2006, and of selected *Elegies* and *Songs & Sonnets* by John Donne (Berlin 2009 and 2011).

Selected political and voluntary involvements

Member of the *CDU* since 1971

Member of the *Kuratorium, Freunde und Förderer des Leo Baeck Instituts e.V.* (<http://www.leobaeck.de/>) since 1988

Member of the International Advisory Council of the *Moscow School of Political Studies* since 2000 (<http://eng.msps.su/advCouncil.html>)

Member of the International Board of Directors of the *Institute for Human Sciences at Boston University* 2001-2009 (<http://www.bu.edu/euforyou/IHS/ihs.html>)

Member of the *Commission for Contemporary History* since 2002 (<http://en.kfzg.de/>)

Member of the *Drafting Committee for the CDU's new party platform* (Grundsatzprogramm) 2006-2007 (<http://www.grundsatzprogramm.cdu.de/page/35.htm>)