

**Lord Ashdown** was appointed EU Special Representative in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** on 11 March 2002 (Joint Action 2002/211/CFSP, [OJ L 70 of 13.03.2002](#), Joint Action 2005/97/CFSP, [OJ L 31, 4.2.2005](#)). His new mandate (Joint Action 2005/825/CFSP, [OJ L 307, 25.11.2005](#)) aims at establishing a follow-on mission refocused on supporting the fight against organised crime in a more proactive way and implementation of police reform, working closely with other EU actors and local law enforcement agencies.

## 1. Curriculum Vitae of Lord Ashdown

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*Rt Hon Lord Ashdown of  
Norton-sub-Hamdon  
KBE*

[OHR website](#) (Office of the High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina)

[EUSR website](#) (EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina)

### **EU special representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Paddy Ashdown was born in New Delhi on 27 February 1941, the eldest of 7 children. He comes from a family of soldiers and colonial administrators who spent their lives in India, but when he was 4 years old, his family returned to Britain to buy a farm in Ulster. He went to Bedford School where his Irish accent earned him his nickname "Paddy". Between 1959 and 1972 he served as a Royal Marines Officer and saw active service as a Commando Officer in Borneo and the Persian Gulf. After Special Forces Training in England in 1965, he commanded a Special Boat Section in the Far East. A gifted linguist, he went to Hong Kong in 1967 to undertake a full-time course in Chinese, returning to England in 1970. He was then given command of a Commando Company in Belfast.

In 1972 Paddy left the Royal Marines and joined the Foreign Office. He was posted to the British Mission to the United Nations in Geneva where he was responsible for Britain's relations with a number of United Nations organisations and took part in the negotiation of several international treaties and agreements between 1974 and 1976. He was also involved in some aspects of the European Security Conference (the Helsinki Conference).

After leaving the Foreign Office Paddy worked in local industry in the Yeovil area between 1976 and 1981, firstly with the Westlands Group (Normalair Garrett) and then with Morland's Yeovil-based subsidiary called Tescan. Tescan closed down in 1981 and, after a period of four months unemployment, Paddy got a job as a Youth Worker with Dorset



County Council Youth Service (aged 41), where he was responsible for initiatives to help the young unemployed.

He stood as the Liberal candidate for Yeovil in 1979 and raised Liberal vote to the highest ever level. He then fought the 1983 election in Yeovil and won with a 3,600 majority.

Shortly after entering Parliament, Paddy was appointed as the Liberal spokesman on Trade and Industry Affairs within the Liberal/SDP Alliance team at the House of Commons. He became Education spokesman in January 1987. In the 1987 election, he increased his majority to nearly 6,000. He was elected Leader of the Liberal Democrats in July 1988. He was appointed as a Privy Councillor on 1 January 1989. In the 1997 General Election he further increased his majority to over 11,000. Paddy stood down as the leader of the Liberal Democrats in 1999 and retired from the Commons in 2001. He was knighted in 2000 and was made a peer in 2001.

He is married to Jane and they have two children and two grandchildren.