



## Jaap De Hoop Scheffer

### NATO Secretary General 2004 & 2009

An experienced former politician who was the Secretary General of NATO between 2004 and 2009.

## Jaap's biography

### Jaap De Hoop Scheffer's Background

Jaap De Hoop Scheffer is a former Dutch [politician](#) who has occupied the role of Dutch Foreign Minister and has been Secretary General of NATO.

- Former leader of the Christen-Democratisch App-I (CDA)
- Former Dutch Foreign Minister
- Former Secretary General of NATO (2004 – 2009)
- Awarded the Prince Maurice Medal (1989)
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Orange-Nassau (2009)

Jaap is known for his diplomatic but honest way of speaking. He does not let emotion cloud his insight into his subjects and his years of experience make him a knowledgeable speaker.

Jakob Gijsbert de Hoop Scheffer (often called Jaap de Hoop Scheffer) was born on the 3rd of April 1948 in Amsterdam. He studied at Leiden University, graduating in 1974, after which he joined the air force, eventually becoming a reserve officer.

After leaving the air force in 1976, De Hoop Scheffer began working for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He remained in the job for a decade, initially working in Ghana at the Dutch Embassy, before taking on a role at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels.

In 1997, De Hoop Scheffer became the party leader of the Christen-Democratisch Appl (CDA), a position he retired from in 2002, prior to the elections. The CDA (under the [leadership](#) of De Hoop Scheffers

successor, Jan Peter Balkenende) went on to win the majority role in the new coalition [government](#). De Hoop Scheffer was appointed Foreign Minister, a role in which his experience was invaluable. During his time as Foreign Minister, De Hoop Scheffer offered political support to Operation Iraqi Freedom, contributing 1,100 servicemen to the Stabilisation Force.

De Hoop Scheffer was appointed Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2003.

In 2004, De Hoop Scheffer became the 11th NATO Secretary General. In this role, he was not afraid to say what he felt needed to be said, commenting on the security of oil lines and infrastructure, and encouraging Canada to continue to keep some of their forces in Afghanistan after their initial withdrawal date (2009).

De Hoop Scheffer remained the Secretary General of NATO until July 2009, when he suffered from a heart attack and required emergency surgery.

After making a full recovery, he was invited to take Leiden University's Pieter Kooijmans Chair for Peace, Law and Security.

De Hoop Scheffer has been awarded numerous accolades from countries throughout Europe in recognition of his work with NATO.

### **Personal Life**

De Hoop Scheffer lives with his wife Jeannine; the couple have two daughters.

## **Jaap's talks**

- **Security Issues**
- **The Europe / USA Relationship**
- **High Diplomacy**
- **The Middle East**

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