

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Pertti Paasio

Pertti Paasio was born on April 2, 1939 in Helsinki, Finland. He was educated in Turku where he received a Master of Science degree in Political Science.

Mr. Paasio has spent his career in municipal and federal politics. In 1965 he was elected member of the Turku City Council; from 1967 to 1973 he served as Tourism Secretary, and was head of the Turku Labour Exchange from 1973 to 1987.

Mr. Paasio entered federal politics in 1972 when he was appointed Political Secretary to the Minister of Finance; in 1975 he served the Prime Minister in the same capacity.

First elected as a member of parliament in 1975, Mr. Paasio was re-elected in 1982 and in every subsequent election. He has been a member of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee since 1983, and Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Finland since 1987. He was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1989.

Mr. Paasio has been active in a number of youth organizations, including The Social Democratic Youth League and the Young Falcons Federation.

Mr. Paasio is married to Kirsti Johansson and has four children.

