



Kurzinformation

Appointment of Ambassadors

- Procedures

An ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany acts as the personal deputy of the Federal President. Several steps are to be taken before a diplomat can be appointed ambassador. There are two kinds of possible candidates: “career diplomats” that have joined the Foreign Office when they were young and have risen within the Foreign Service over the course of their career and “political” candidates. Most candidates for ambassadors to other countries are from the first category, but every now and then political candidates are appointed.

1. The Foreign Office makes a proposal to the Cabinet which then decides whether the candidate should be approved of and appointed as ambassador to another country. The decision must get the approval of the Federal President.
2. The Foreign Office then asks the receiving country whether it consents to the diplomat becoming the ambassador, i.e. whether it gives its so-called agrément.
3. After receiving the agrément, the Federal President appoints the candidate ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and signs an official letter of credentials.
4. The new ambassador formally hands over the credentials to the head of state of the receiving country and is thus accredited, giving him or her full powers as ambassador.

The procedure is in accordance with and regulated by legal stipulations found in the Constitution, the Law on Diplomatic Service, the Vienna Accord, and the Rules of Procedure of the Federal Government.

- Parliamentarian recommendations

Parliament does not take part in the proceedings.
