

## **Thomas Friis Konst**

Thomas Friis Konst is the Vice-President of EREF – European Regional Economic Forum in Brussels and Nova Gorica in Slovenia. Board member of, besides others, the Anders Gustav Memorial Fund in Solna, Sweden. The M-O Foundation in Wassenaar, The Netherlands and the Maren Bugge-Konst Initiative in Oslo, Norway for socio-cultural charity, and also active in geo-political networks in several countries.

Thomas Friis Konst is a real European with a mixed Scandinavian and Dutch background. After a solid academic education in International Affairs and Law and service in the Royal Guards of H M King Olav 5<sup>th</sup>, he focused his professional life on European Affairs. Now with 25 years experience of which nearly 20 years in Brussels at management level. As Vice-President of West Sweden for 5 years and as Head of the Mission of the Stockholm Region for a period of nearly 10 years, which included Stockholm, St. Petersburg and Warsaw.

Parallel with this he was the EU representative for the Norwegian ENS – Environmental Northern Seas in Brussels as well in charge of the UBC Brussels Antenna – Union of Baltic Cities, Gdansk in Poland. Based on this solid knowledge from local and regional authorities in approx. 40 countries on four continents he has given more than 1.600 thematic European Affairs presentations.

His ongoing PhD research within European Integration concerning regional representations in Brussels is strengthened in combination with lectures at several universities over the years. His commitment resulted in more than 50 external publications in different languages.

A major part of his knowledge is related to his participation in more than 50 EU projects within the EU Framework programs et cetera, like INFO VILLE, CENTURI 21, ENREC, R4R, BIS RTD and POWER.