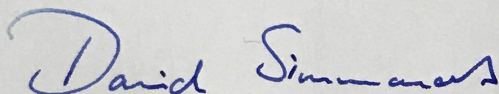


## Motivation letter

It is my pleasure to offer myself as candidate for Vice-Chairman of the Current Affairs Committee.

Serving on the committee since my appointment to the Congress has been an opportunity to develop further my work in the areas of asylum and migration, especially for children, and to support other members in their work as participants in the committee. I look forward to helping the committee to progress its future work.



David Simmonds  
European Conservatives and Reformists Group Member  
Representative of the Chamber of Local Authorities  
1st full member of Current Affairs Committee  
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**David Simmonds** is Leader of the Conservative Group at the LGA.

His LGA work has included chairing the LGA Children and Young People Board from 2011-15 and the Improvement and Innovation Board 2015-16. He undertook a high media profile leading work on various areas of children's services including child protection, adoption, and improving council performance. As chairman of the Asylum and Refugee Task Group he led the political work with government developing the Syrian resettlement programme and the National Transfer Scheme to support refugee children.

David's professional background is in finance, where he worked for high street banks after qualifying with the Chartered Institute of Insurers in 1997. Born in Kent and educated at a comprehensive school in Pontypridd, then at Durham University, he has been Hillingdon's Deputy Leader since 2002. He was the youngest councillor in London when elected aged 22, and served as a committee chairman and cabinet member covering planning, housing, social services, and education and children's services.

He was previously a non-executive director at NHS Hillingdon, and at European level, he was a founding member and chairman of the education employers' organisation for Europe. He also served as co-ordinator for the Education Commission of the Committee of the Regions and in negotiations with accession states and potential members on local government matters.

In politics, as well as being a councillor, he contested two parliamentary elections and serves as treasurer of the national Conservative Councillors' Association.

His voluntary work includes services as a magistrate in North West London, as a trustee of the Early Intervention Foundation, and as a member of the Congress of the Council of Europe.

He was awarded a CBE in the 2015 Birthday Honours List