



Lars Karlsson

Swedish citizen

Married, three children

International Customs expert



Lars Karlsson is Global Head of Trade and Customs Consulting Maersk. Before joining Maersk he was Managing Director and co-owner of KGH Global Consulting, KGH Customs Services – a Maersk Company - with 1300 experts and Government and Private Sector clients worldwide.

Karlsson is acknowledged as one of the most well-known and experienced customs leaders in the world, with an extensive background over three decades in customs, borders and international trade policy.

Lars serves as Senior Advisor to Governments, international institutions and multinational companies all around the world, including as independent senior advisor to both EU and UK on Brexit.

Previously Mr. Karlsson was Director of the World Customs Organization (WCO), a multinational organization with headquarters in Brussels, organizing 184 countries and 99% of world trade setting the international standards for customs and world trade, leading the work on the SAFE Framework of Standards and its implementation.

During his three decades as executive leader he has spearheaded a number of innovations that today are global best practices, like Authorized Economic Operators, Single Trade Window and Coordinated Border Management. He has been involved in the design, development and implementation of more than seventy AEO programmes globally. Prior to the WCO, Karlsson was Director General of Swedish Customs.

He is Doctor of Education (honoris causa), holds a Masters in International Customs Law and Administration and is honorary fellow and Board Member of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI), a leading academic research and development network globally. He is also Chair of the International Advisory Board for Border Management and Technology Association (IBMATA) and a Member of the International Advisory Board of the International Summit on Borders - the leading think tanks in the area of customs, borders, security and international cross border trade.

Lars Karlsson is an acknowledged speaker, author of several books and has been published in various academic journals. He has visited 169 countries and has worked in more than 120 nations in all regions of the world.