

Dr Peter Fernandez



Dr. Peter Fernández is Minister-Counselor for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Service (APHIS) in Brussels, Belgium and as such coordinates APHIS trade strategy and policy issues referent to the European Union while providing technical support to APHIS Offices covering Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. A native of Long Island, New York, Peter Fernández received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Science from Southampton College, New York in 1980. Dr. Fernández received his Veterinary degree in 1986 and that same year began studies in Epidemiology at Yale University's School of Medicine, completing his Masters in Public Health in 1988. Peter Fernandez has served APHIS in Hyattsville, MD; Mexico City, Mexico and Santiago, Chile. Dr. Fernandez served as the Associate Administrator of APHIS in Washington, DC from 2002 to 2005. During his tenure as Associate Administrator, Dr. Fernandez assisted in the development of agency regulatory policy and negotiation strategies, including: the US Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Response Plan; US-Japan negotiations for reestablishment of US beef trade due to detection of BSE in Canada and the US; international negotiations to reestablish US poultry exports as a result of low-pathogenic avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease detections; and transfer of Agriculture Quarantine Inspection programs and USDA Plum Island assets to the Department of Homeland Security. He has also served as the US Chief Veterinary Officer and US Delegate to The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) for five years. In Brussels, Dr. Fernández presently serves as the US designate animal disease expert to *NATO's Food and Agriculture Planning Committee*. Dr. Fernández happily resides in Brussels, Belgium, with his wife, Roberta, and his daughter, Belén.