

Karen Donfried

Director of Congressional Research Service



Dr. Karen Donfried was appointed as Director of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in September 2024. A noted foreign policy expert, she was a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government prior to joining CRS. She served as Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs from 2021 to 2023; in that role, she developed and implemented U.S. foreign policy for 50 countries in the region.

From 2014 to 2021, Donfried was the president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening transatlantic cooperation. Prior to that, she served on the National Security Council at the White House, and as a member of the Department of

State's Policy Planning Staff.

Donfried started her career at CRS, covering European affairs for 10 years. She earned a bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University, a Magister from the University of Munich, and a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy and a Ph.D from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.