

Thomas Schneider was born in St. Gallen in 1972 and studied history, national economy and English literature at the University of Zürich. He wrote his final paper on the political discussion from the late sixties to the early eighties about opening up the Swiss radio and television monopoly to private broadcasters. Until 2002, he was working in different media and communication companies in Switzerland. Since 2003, he works at the international affairs service of the Swiss Federal Office of Communication, where he was coordinating the Swiss activities and positions with regard to both WSIS 2003 (Geneva) and 2005 (Tunis) on behalf of state secretary Mr. Marc Furrer, director of OFCOM and head of the Swiss delegation for WSIS. Since 2006, he coordinates the Swiss activities with regard to the implementation and follow-up of WSIS. Since 2007, he is the Chairperson of the Council of Europe Group of specialists on human rights in the information society and Co-Chairperson of the ITU Council Working Group on the Study of the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the Activities of the Union related to WSIS. He lives near Zürich.