Nationality: Swedish
Personal details
Born 28 Sept 1954. Married, two children.
Education
1973 Graduated from high school
Career
1974-1977 Ombudsman, Swedish Social Democratic Youth League
1977-1979 Accountant, Alfa Savings Bank, Karlstad
1979-1985 Member of Parliament
1986-1987 Senior Accountant, Alfa Savings bank, Karlstad
1988-1991 Minister of Civil Affairs (Consumer Affairs, Women and Youth)
1993-1994 CEO, TV Värmland (Regional Television Network)
1993- Member of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Social Democratic Party
1994-1996 Minister of Culture
1996-1998 Minister of Social Affairs
1998-1999 Executive Vice-president, Worldview Global Media, Colombo, Sri Lanka
September 1999- Member of the European Commission, Environment
Other
2001 Honorary doctor at Chalmers University, Sweden
2002 European Commissioner of the Year (by European Voice)
2004 IAIA Global Environmental Award (the International Association for Impact Assessment)
2004 Honorary doctor at Mälardalen University, Sweden
2004 Book (together with MEP Göran Färm): THE PEOPLE' S EUROPE or Why is it so hard to love the EU? ("FOLKENS EUROPA eller Varför är det så svårt att älska EU?")