

# THOMAS COLE

## POLITICAL ADVISOR & ANALYST - CV

### Key Points

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- Close to 15 years' experience in EU and UK political affairs, policy, consultancy work and communications
- Public outreach, advocacy, and diplomatic experience in Brussels, London and Washington DC
- Senior public and private sector advisory experience, including European Commissioners and CEOs
- Team leadership experience in private sector, European Commission and UK political campaigning
- Foreign language skills: Fluent in German with good levels of French, Italian and Spanish
- Public speaking and interview experience with leading international broadcasters & publications
- UK passport holder with Luxembourg/EU citizenship & Indian visa-for-life anticipated in 2023

### Career aims & objectives

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- A role allowing me to use my interest, experience and background in international relations & foreign policy
- A position in an organisation with international reach, with opportunities for career progression
- To be part of a global network, working with colleagues from a variety of cultural and career backgrounds
- To work in an advisory and consultancy position, advising leading international and global clients
- To work on political advisory issues, including political analysis & assessments
- For personal reasons at this stage in my career, looking for a role based out of London

### Professional Experience

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#### **International Political Analyst/Journalist/Career-break, London, UK 2016/2017 + 2020 – Present**

- Expert-analyst on international TV networks on EU & UK politics (Examples: [BBC World](#), [CNBC](#), [Cheddar](#), [Euronews](#), [Sky](#))
- Interviewing [experts](#), producing [video packages](#), [explainer pieces](#) and [writing](#) about international political events
- Taken career-break to pursue journalism degree, whilst learning new skills such as [website](#) design & video/audio editing
  - *Key achievement:* Obtained Distinction in International Journalism Masters' degree at City University
  - *Key achievement:* Interviewing leading international experts on EU foreign policy
  - *Key achievement:* Appearing as outside expert on leading broadcasters to discuss UK and EU politics

#### **Head of Policy, People's Vote Campaign/Open Britain, London, UK 2017 - 2019**

- Managed policy team, drafting briefings for MPs (examples [here](#) & [here](#)) and led organisation's [diplomatic outreach](#)
- Represented organisation publicly, via broadcast interviews (Examples: [BBC](#), [Cheddar](#), [Euronews](#), [Sky News](#))
- Led campaign's international media outreach, including organising press conferences and [drafting](#) & [placing](#) op-eds
- Spokesperson for organisation towards international media (Examples: [Al Jazeera](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [France24](#), [die Zeit](#))
  - *Key achievement:* Expanded international awareness of campaign, through diplomatic and media channels
  - *Key achievement:* Increased political support for campaign through effective lobbying and networking
  - *Key achievement:* Producing and sourcing reports from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties demonstrating impact of Brexit

#### **Policy Officer, DG NEAR (EU Enlargement & Neighbourhood), European Commission, Brussels, Belgium 2012 – 2016**

- Managed and led briefings' teams on speeches, speaking points & backgrounders for senior officials on EU foreign policy
- Worked on EU accession negotiations (variety of policy & technical areas) with Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey
- Attended monthly EU Foreign Ministers' meetings and briefed member state diplomats on EU accession negotiations
- Worked on EU neighbourhood policy, including 2015 policy review of EU relations with MENA and Eastern Europe
  - *Key achievement:* Advancing EU accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia
  - *Key achievement:* Continuously providing high-quality briefings for senior staff on EU foreign policy
  - *Key achievement:* Attending highest possible foreign policy forums in the EU

#### **Political Consultant, g+Europe Brussels, Belgium, 2009 – 2011**

- Advised, accompanied & briefed clients on meetings with politicians, advisors and regulators across the European Union
- Monitored legislative developments in the EU institutions and in member states for private sector clients
- Drafted and placed opinion pieces for clients in outlets across the EU and set up interviews with relevant journalists
- Provided clients with daily media wrap-up reports of EU-wide coverage of their businesses, operations and sectors
  - *Key achievement:* Developing successful media campaigns for clients across the EU
  - *Key achievement:* Successfully working on political engagement campaigns for clients on EU legislation
  - *Key achievement:* Initiating and leading on research projects for clients of relevance to their sectors

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### Professional Experience (continued)

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#### **Policy Researcher, Periodical Publishers' Association, London, UK, 2008 -2009**

- Undertook Policy & Business Research for UK magazine industry, organised events and developed industry contacts
- Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive, assisting with diary management, attending meeting and taking notes
  - *Key achievement:* Successfully organised industry event in House of Commons
  - *Key achievement:* Part of organisational team for the 2009 World Magazine Awards in London

#### **Intern, Political Section, European Union Delegation to the United States, Washington DC, USA 2008**

- Drafted reports on hearings & events at Congress/think tanks/IMF/World Bank & assisted with Delegation public outreach
- Assisted with drafting of reports on US political developments as well as drafting speeches for Delegation Ambassador
  - *Key achievement:* Assisted with congressional outreach programmes including with office of Joe Biden
  - *Key achievement:* Having my own political reports sent back to Brussels as part of Delegation reporting

### Education

### Languages

<b>City, University of London, UK</b> <i>MA, International Journalism, Grade: Distinction</i>	<b>2020 - 2021</b>	<b>English</b> <b>German</b>	Mother Tongue Fluent
<b>London School of Economics, UK</b> <i>MSc, Global Politics, Grade: Merit</i>	<b>2006 - 2007</b>	<b>French</b> <b>Italian</b>	Advanced Intermediate
<b>University of Edinburgh, UK</b> <i>MA, History &amp; Politics, Grade 2:1</i>	<b>2002 - 2006</b>	<b>Luxembourgish</b> <b>Spanish</b>	Intermediate Elementary
<b>Ludwig-Maximilians Universität, Germany</b> <i>ERASMUS Exchange</i>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>Portuguese</b> <b>Dutch</b>	Passive Passive

### Boards/Memberships/Voluntary roles

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- Member of Chatham House think tank since 2016
- Volunteer for 'Britain Stronger in Europe' in 2016, leading phone-banking operation out of Canary Wharf
- Board Member of the 'Young Professionals in Foreign Policy', Brussels, organising Ambassadors' event series, 2012-2015
- Board member of LSE University alumni society, organising events for members in Brussels, 2009-2013
- Volunteer, Catherine Bearder Liberal Democrats, Successful European Parliament election campaign, 2009
- Volunteer on building site for home for street children in Eswatini 2003
- Volunteer on gap-year project with street children in Lima, Peru 2002

### Personal interests/hobbies

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- Reading: Modern political history and contemporary politics books; *the FT*; *the Economist*; *Foreign Affairs*
- Sports (passively): keen international rugby, football and tennis armchair follower
- Sports (actively): walking/hiking; gym (when family time allows)
- Cooking: Cuisine from all over the world, with keen interest in Italian food, including pasta-making

### Citizenship

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- UK passport holder
- Luxembourg/EU citizenship anticipated by end Q1 2023
- Indian-visa-for-life "Overseas Citizenship" anticipated in 2023

### Contact/Personal Details

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