

Sven Alkalaj

Curriculum Vitae Short

On 08 March 2012, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of Mr. Sven Alkalaj of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the new Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Prior to taking up his current assignment, Sven Alkalaj served as Foreign Affairs Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2007 to 2012. During his tenure, Minister Alkalaj accomplished many achievements. Noteworthy was the accession of his country as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina's active involvement with NATO and the European Union (EU), enhancing its status within both organizations.

Earlier in his career, Mr Alkalaj successively held the position of Ambassador to the United States of America, the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Kingdom of Belgium and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). During this time, Ambassador Alkalaj actively participated in two historic negotiations: the Washington Agreement and the Dayton Peace Accords which ended the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ambassador Alkalaj played a key role in the post-war reconstruction of his country, led by UN, World Bank, IMF and EU.

Prior to his ambassadorial work, Sven Alkalaj enjoyed a successful career in the private sector as managing Director of a multinational engineering company. He successfully negotiated numerous multi-million dollar contracts in the fields of energy, mechanical and process technology, oil, environmental protection and water utilities.

Sven Alkalaj was the recipient of the Freedom Award in appreciation for his contribution to human rights; he has also been awarded an award from the Centre for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights in Sarajevo as well as the Sarajevo City Memorial Plaque.

Mr. Alkalaj has submitted his PhD thesis on the Policy of the United Nations Security Council in the Process of International Recognition and Peace-Building in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-2010); in 1999, Mr. Alkalaj completed the Executive Development Program offered at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration; he holds a Masters Degree in International Relations (1987) as well as a mechanical engineering degree (1974), both from the University of Sarajevo

Sven Alkalaj is fluent in English and French.