

Ambassador Jesper Vahr – CV



Ambassador Jesper Vahr (born 1962) assumed his position as Ambassador of Denmark to Malaysia in November 2017 with a mission to promote bilateral relations between Denmark and Malaysia, including in the commercial field.

From 2013 till 2017 Ambassador Vahr served as Ambassador to Israel. In this position his focus was on the Middle East Peace Process, regional issues in the Middle East, and strengthening bilateral Danish-Israeli relations.

Ambassador Vahr was Chef de Cabinet to the Secretary General of NATO (former Danish Prime Minister Fogh Rasmussen) 2009 – 2013, with rank of Assistant Secretary General. As the Secretary General's closest advisor Ambassador Vahr played a key role in forging consensus on a number of NATO's key achievements in those years, including the 2010 Strategic Concept, NATO's air campaign to protect the population of Libya, and reforming NATO's structure and working methods. On behalf of the Secretary General Ambassador Vahr also managed NATO's International Staff (1,200 staff).

From 2007 – 2009 Ambassador Vahr served as Denmark's Ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan (resident in Ankara, Turkey). Key issues during this assignment included Turkey's aspirations to become a member of the EU, human rights, migration, security policy, and cooperation between Denmark and Turkey in the fight against terrorism.

From 2003 till 2007 Ambassador Vahr was Director for Security Policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen. His portfolio included disarmament and non-proliferation as well as NATO issues and international operations, including Denmark's military engagement in Iraq and in Afghanistan. During this time, at the request of the then Secretary General of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Ambassador Vahr was seconded to NATO HQ to head the Secretary General's Reform Task Force and to elaborate a catalogue of NATO reform proposals.

From 1999 – 2003 Jesper Vahr served as Denmark's Deputy Permanent Representative to NATO. He played a key role in promoting the NATO membership of the Baltic States, for which he was decorated by President Adamkus of Lithuania. Previous assignments include the Middle East Peace Process desk in Copenhagen and Deputy Chief of Mission (1993 – 1996) in Damascus, Syria.

He earned a Master's degree in Political Science and a Bachelor degree in English literature from the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He is married to Ane, who is an intensive care nurse.