

## **Ambassador BESNIK MUSTAFAJ**

Ambassador Mustafaj is one of the founders and the first President of the Council of Albanian Ambassadors.

Ambassador Besnik Mustafaj served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Albania in 2005-2007, leading the 170-person Albanian diplomatic corps and over 150 Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff.

His diplomatic service also includes a posting as Albanian Permanent Representative to UNESCO and an appointment as Albanian Ambassador to the Republic of France.

Ambassador Mustafaj was one of the founding members of the Democratic Party of Albania, the first opposition party in Albania, and has served as an elected member of parliament through four election cycles from 1991, the first ever democratic election since the fall of the Communism to the present.

Ambassador Besnik Mustafaj is a native Albanian of Tropoja, elected as member of Albanian Parliament for 4 mandates and served in several committees while chairing the committee on Foreign Policy.

In 1999 he was appointed as the Secretary for International Relations for the Democratic Party of Albania and was further selected in 2001 as Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Albanian Parliament, and Deputy Chairman of the Albanian Parliament Permanent Delegation to the European Parliament.

Ambassador Mustafaj's professional career includes a position as Professor of Foreign Literature at Tirana University from 1983 to 1991.

Additionally, Ambassador Mustafaj has authored many publications in the field of poetry and esthetics. He is a co-founder of the Albanian Helsinki Committee as well as the co-founder and first elected Chairman of the Albanian Writers' Pen Club.

HE, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, an outstanding leader, a moderate politician, promoting a peaceful good neighbor policy in the Balkan region, well-known for his intellectual capacity and his very active role in the war against organized crime, corruption and global terrorism.

Besnik Mustafaj is married to the former Ms. Donika Greva (journalist, for the Albanian main National Television, and they have two sons.