

RELEASE IN FULL

BIO of YAŞAR YAKIŞ

Yaşar Yakış, a founding member of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party), has been the Deputy Chairman of AK Party in charge of international relations from the date of its foundation until the November 2002 elections and member of the governing board of the party until the General Congress of the party in 2005.

In 2002 was elected Member of Parliament from the province of Düzce and became the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 58th government.

He served as the Chairman of the EU Committee of the Turkish parliament during the 22nd parliamentary term. At the July 2007 general elections, he was re-elected as the Deputy for Düzce.

- Chairman of EU Committee of the Turkish Parliament
- Co-Chairman of the Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee
- Chairman of Turkey-France Friendship Group
- Deputy-Chairman of Turkey-Egypt Friendship Group

Mr. Yaşar Yakış, who was born in Akçakoca in 1938, graduated from Ankara University, Political Sciences Faculty. After holding various positions abroad and within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he followed courses in the NATO Defence College in Rome. He was appointed as Counsellor of Permanent Delegation of Turkey to NATO and Counsellor of Turkish Embassy in Damascus. He founded and chaired the Coordination Office established in order to provide secretarial services to the President of the Republic of Turkey in his capacity as the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

He was Ambassador to Riyadh, Deputy Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador to Cairo and Permanent Representative of Turkey in UN Vienna Office.

He taught Foreign Policy of Turkey in the Bilkent and Hacettepe Universities.

He has been bestowed the decoration of "The King Abdelaziz" by the Saudi Government and the decoration of "Ordine della Stella della Solidarieta Italiana" by the President of the Republic of Italy.

Mr. Yakış speaks French, English and Arabic, is married and has one child.