



Matthew Bryza

Ambassador (ret.) Matthew Bryza is a Board Member of Overgas, Bulgaria's largest private natural gas distribution company. He also serves on the Board of Asarel Medet, Bulgaria's largest copper mining company, Turcas Petrol here in Turkey, and several other energy and information technology companies with operations from the Greater Caspian Region to the UK to Texas. Bryza currently resides in Istanbul where he heads the regional office of Ballard Partners, a major US public affairs firm.

Bryza completed a 23-year career as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in 2012, culminating as Ambassador to Azerbaijan. Earlier, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (2005-2009) and Director on the National Security Council Staff at the White House (2001-2005) for U.S. relations with Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus, as well as Eurasian energy security.

During 1998 to 2001, Ambassador Bryza was the Deputy Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Caspian Basin Energy Diplomacy.

He served in the U.S. Missions to Russia (1995-1997) and Poland (1989-1991).

Bryza is a frequent commentator on media outlets that include CNN International, Al Jazeera, BBC, Fox News, Financial Times, Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Bloomberg, as well as numerous outlets in Turkey, Poland, and the South Caucasus.

Additionally, Bryza is a Board Member of the Jamestown Foundation, a think tank in Washington, DC. He was Director of the International Center for Defense and Security in Tallinn, Estonia, during 2012-2015, and a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council during 2013-2021.

He is the recipient of Estonia's Cross of Terra Mariana and Georgia's Order of St. George.

Ambassador Bryza received his bachelor's degree in international relations from Stanford University and his master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.