

Riccardo Sessa

Italian Ambassador (rtd.), former career diplomat



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Ambassador Riccardo Sessa was born in Massa (Italy) on September 23rd, 1947. He attended the Institute of Political Studies at the University of Paris and graduated in Law from “La Sapienza” University in Rome with a specialization in International Law and International Relations.

In July 1973 he joined the Italian diplomatic service and since then he has held many prestigious positions. In Italy, he was Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister (1989-1992); Deputy Chief of Cabinet of the Foreign Minister (1992); from 1993 to 1994, Deputy Director General for Consular Affairs (1993-1994) and Diplomatic Adviser to the Defense Minister (1994-1997).

Abroad, at the beginning of his career he served at the Italian Delegation to NATO in Brussels and at the Italian Embassy in Brasilia as Commercial Counselor. More recently he served as Ambassador of Italy in Belgrade (1997-2000), and as Ambassador in Teheran (2000-20003). He then returned to the Foreign Ministry as Director General for Mediterranean and Middle East.

In January 2006, he was promoted to the rank of full Ambassador. Then he was Ambassador of Italy to the People’s Republic of China, accredited also to Mongolia (2006-2010) and finally Ambassador Permanent Representative of Italy to the North Atlantic Council (NATO) in Brussels (December 2010-January 2013).

Currently Amb. Sessa is President of the Italian company for the Mount Blanc Tunnel, President of the Italian Tobacco Manufacture, President of the Italy-Serbia Association and Vice President of the Italian Society for the International Organization (SIOI).

Ambassador Sessa served as Officer in the Carabinieri Corps and has experience as a journalist and as University Assistant in International Law and in History of Treaties and International Relations. He has been decorated Knight of the Grand Cross of the Italian Order of Merit and has been awarded with several high foreign decorations.

Ambassador Riccardo Sessa is married to Mrs. Stefania Butera and has a son, Alessandro, and a daughter, Ludovica.