

Mr. Mehmet Burçin Gönenli, Deputy Director General for NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defence Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkey

Mr. Gönenli is a career diplomat with 22 years of experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. He joined the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995. He served at the Turkish Embassy in Poland, as Third Secretary (February 1999 to September 2003), and at the Turkish Embassy in Azerbaijan, as Second Secretary (October 2001 - September 2003). Mr. Gönenli attended the NATO Defence College in Rome (September 2003 - February 2004) before returning to the General Directorate for International Security Affairs at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as First Secretary. Between September 2005 and October 2009 he served at the Turkish Permanent Representation to NATO.

Mr. Gönenli was assigned as the Head of Department for Afghanistan and Pakistan at the Deputy Directorate General for South Asia of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (October 2009 - September 2011). Between September 2011-September 2015 Mr. Gönenli was once again posted to the Turkish Permanent Representation at NATO, as the Defence Counsellor.

Mr. Gönenli returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ankara in September 2015 and was appointed as the Head of Department for NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defence Affairs. As of 1 December 2017 he was designated as the Deputy Director General for NATO and Euro-Atlantic Security and Defence Affairs, underneath the Directorate General for International Security Affairs.

Mr. Gönenli holds a Bachelors Degree of Science in international relations from the Faculty of Administration and Political Sciences of the Middle East Technical University. He is fluent in English. He was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1973. He is married to Anetta Afekt. They have a daughter and a son.