

## **Lazăr Comănescu**

Date and Birthplace: 04/06/1949- Horezu/Ursani, Valcea Department, Romania

Current Address: 12, Jogastrului St, Bucharest 1, Romania

Tel: (+40)731799003

Married; one daughter

### **Professional Experience**

1972–1981 Junior Diplomat, Department of International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (MFA)

1982–1990 Lecturer Professor of Regional / International Economic Organisations Economic University (ASE), Bucharest

June 1990–Nov 1994 Counsellor, subsequently Minister-counsellor- Mission of Romania to the European Union (EU)

Dec 1994– Dec 1995 Director General (European affairs)-MFA

Dec 1995–March 1998 State Secretary for European and Euro-Atlantic Affairs and International Organizations- MFA

Oct 1995- March 1998 Associate Professor, ASE Bucharest

March 1998–May 2001 Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Romania to NATO

May 2001–April 2005 Ambassador, Head of the Romanian Mission to the EU and Deputy Chief negotiator for EU Accession

April 2005- April 2008 Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Romania to the EU

April - Dec 2008 Minister of Foreign Affairs

May 2009–Feb 2015 Ambassador of Romania to Germany

Feb 2015–Nov 2015 Foreign Policy Adviser to the President

Nov 2015–Jan 2017 Minister of Foreign Affairs

Since Feb 2017 Senior Adviser (foreign relations) to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Associate Professor with The National School of Public Administration

Holds rank of Ambassador since 1998

### **Higher Education:**

Faculty of International Economic Relations- ASE Bucharest (1968–1972)

Cours de langue et civilisation françaises contemporaines (Contemporary French Language and Civilization), Paris-Sorbonne (1973)

PhD in International Economics - ASE Bucharest (1983)

## Memberships

Scientific Board of the European Institute of Romania - member

Scientific Board of the New Strategy Center- Bucharest - member

Academic works and other publications: author (or co-author) of: World Economy (Ed: S Dumitrescu, Bucharest, 1995); The EU and Romania: Accession and Beyond (Ed. D. Phinnemore, Belfast, 2006); The World of Tomorrow - What follows after the Pandemic (Eds: O. Todorean, S. Celac, G. Scutaru, Bucharest, 2020); numerous articles/interviews on international relations and foreign policy.

Foreign Languages - English and French (C2 level), German (B2-C1), Spanish (B1), Russian (A1)

## Distinctions and Awards

Order of Loyal Service with Great Cross- Romania

Virgil Madgearu Golden Medal (Doctor Honoris Causa)- ASE Bucharest

Order of Merit with Great Cross (Grosses Verdienstkreuz) -Germany

Legion d'Honneur au Grade d'Officier- France

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Over nearly forty years of diplomatic and fifteen years of academic activity, Ambassador Comănescu dedicated most of his knowledge and efforts to the multilateral diplomacy, both at regional and global level. The international economic relations and particularly regional economic integration and cooperation have constantly been at the centre of his activity. He was involved from the very outset in Romania's drive toward EU integration and directly contributed to the elaboration and implementation of Romania's strategy for integration into the European Union and played a key role in the accession negotiations. As permanent representative to the EU and as Foreign Minister, he has been an active promoter of a close cooperation between the European Union and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation. As Chair-in-Office of BSEC Council of Ministers in 2015 and currently as senior foreign policy adviser to the President of the Romanian Chamber of Commerce, he has been actively promoting the need of a consolidated projects-based activity of BSEC. That includes and requires a stronger direct involvement of business communities from the BSEC Member States in the elaboration of policies and projects. Further reinforcing the role of BSEC Business Council would bring an important contribution in this sense. All the more so as BSEC approaches its 30th anniversary (2022), there is scope and need for the Organization to increase its capacity of catalysing economic cooperation and development, and through this, of stimulating synergies, a cooperative environment and stability in the region. Building on the accomplishments so far, including through appropriate adaptations and reforms, while developing and /or strengthening partnerships with other regional and international actors and institutions, would definitely and significantly help in such an endeavour. The role of BSEC PERMIS is of paramount importance in this respect.

Ambassador Comănescu's most valuable diplomatic abilities as well as his high level expertise in top governmental positions would certainly enable him, at the helm of BSEC PERMIS, to contribute to the increase of the profile of BSEC Organisation and of its capacity to face the challenges of a world

which, in many respects, including in economic terms, will probably be significantly different of the today's one, as a consequence of the current pandemic.