

MATTHEW J. BRYZA

Board Member



Ambassador (ret.) Matthew J. Bryza is the Regional Managing Partner in Istanbul for Ballard Partners, a leading US governmental affairs firm and the founding managing director of EBD Strategic Consulting in Istanbul. Bryza additionally serves on the Board of Nobel Upstream, an oil and gas producer based in the UK, as well as Overgas, Bulgaria's largest private natural gas distribution company, and Paxson Engineering, one of the fastest-growing privately held companies in the United States.

Matthew is also a Board Member of the Jamestown Foundation, a think-tank based in Washington, DC. He was Director of the International Center for Defense and Security in Tallinn, Estonia, from 2012-2015. Bryza completed a 23-year career as a U.S. diplomat in January 2012 as Ambassador to Azerbaijan. During 2005-2009, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, with responsibility for Eurasian energy security, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia. During 2001 to 2005, Ambassador Bryza served in the White House as Director for European and Eurasian Affairs on the National Security Council Staff, covering the same areas as mentioned above. Earlier assignments included Deputy Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Caspian Energy, Russia Desk Officer and Political Officer at the U.S. Missions to Russia (1995-97) and Poland (1989-91). Matthew holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University and a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, both in international relations.