

Eduard KUKAN
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic

Degree: Doctor iuris (JUDr.)
Date of Birth: December 26, 1939
Nationality: Slovak



Having graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1964, he went on to receive a Doctorate in Law from the Faculty of Law of Charles University, Prague. He began working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague on 1st August 1964. He worked at headquarters in the Department of Sub-Saharan Africa (1964-1968), and at the Secretariat of the Minister (1973-1977); he went on to become the Director of the Department of Sub-Saharan Africa (1981-1985) and of the Department of Latin America (1988-1990).

He worked at the Czechoslovak Embassy in Lusaka from 1968 to 1973 (as an attaché, and later as the Second Secretary and Chargé-d'Affaires, amongst other posts), at the Embassy in Washington from 1977 to 1981 (as Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Ambassador), and at the Embassy in Addis Ababa from 1985 to 1988 (as Ambassador). In 1990, he was appointed Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic to the United Nations in New York.

After the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic on 1st January 1993, he became the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the UN. He was elected to various posts at the UN during his time in New York. At the 48th Session of the UN General Assembly, he was elected Chairman of one of the main committees - the Committee for Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Affairs.

In March 1994, the President of the Slovak Republic appointed him Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He held this post until December 1994.

In the elections to the National Council of the Slovak Republic in September 1994, he was elected a Member of Parliament for the Democratic Union of Slovakia (DU). He began carrying out his parliamentary mandate in December 1994, and was a member of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, the Committee for European Integration, and the Mandate and Immunity Committee. He was a member of the Slovak Group of the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Union and the Slovak Republic. He was also a member of the Slovak Delegation to the Assembly of the Western European Union and the Deputy Chairman of the Slovak Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

He was a member of the Democratic Union of Slovakia from March 1995 to June 1998, and its Chairman from March 1997 to June 1998. On 26th June 1998, he suspended his membership of the DU and became a member of the Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK). At the SDK Congress on 4th July 1998, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Coalition.

In the parliamentary election of September 1998, Eduard Kukan was elected a Member of Parliament for the SDK. However, he did not apply his parliamentary mandate, because on 30th October 1998, he became a member of the Slovak Government, once again as the Minister of Foreign Affairs - a post he held until 15th October 2002.

On 7th May 1999, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, appointed Eduard Kukan as his Special Envoy for the Balkans. He remained in this function until 30th June 2001.

On 19th February 2000, he left the DU and became a member of the Slovak Democratic

and Christian Union (SDKÚ) on 4th June 2000. At its Congress in Bratislava on 18th November 2000, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the SDKÚ for Foreign Policy. In the parliamentary elections of September 2002, he was elected a Member of Parliament for the SDKÚ. He will not apply his parliamentary mandate, because on 16th October 2002, he was again appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, the position that he holds today.

Eduard Kukan is married, with two grown-up children. He speaks English, Russian, Spanish, and Swahili. In 1993, he was awarded an honorary law degree by Upsala College, New Jersey, USA.

Formanden for Europaudvalget

Christiansborg, 20. marts 2003

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Ja, jeg ønsker at deltage i ovennævnte konference

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**Returneres senest fredag
den 28. marts 2003**