

Short biography :

Olaf Kjelsen was born in 1967 in New York, USA. He graduated in electrical engineering from the Federal Institute of technology in Zurich. In 1994 he joined the Swiss Federal Department of foreign affairs and worked in Bern and at the Swiss Embassy in Ottawa. In 1995 he was then transferred to the Swiss Embassy in Moscow. In 1999 he started working in the unit in charge of the relations with the EU in Bern and in 2000 he became the executive assistant to the Swiss State Secretary for foreign affairs Franz von Däniken. In 2004 he took up the position of deputy head of mission and minister at the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi and from 2008 he worked in the same capacity at the Swiss Embassy in Warsaw. In 2010 he was posted as deputy head of mission and minister at the Swiss Mission to the EU in Brussels, in charge more specifically of economic and financial matters. In 2014 he returned to Bern as ambassador for the cross-border cooperation and relations with the neighboring States. Since August 2015 he was in addition the Swiss Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein. From 2018 to 2022 Olaf Kjelsen was the Swiss Ambassador to the Hellenic Republic with residence in Athens. Since October 2022 he serves as Ambassador to Canada and to the Commonwealth of The Bahamas with residence in Ottawa. Olaf Kjelsen is married and has three adult children.