



ALYSON BAILES

Alyson Bailes is Visiting Professor at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, teaching on general security topics and on Nordic and European security, and also carries out personal projects in the field of security analysis. From July 2002-August 2007 she was Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the first woman ever to hold that post.

Alyson Bailes' former career was spent largely in the British Diplomatic Service which she joined in 1969 after graduating from the University of Oxford. After brief stints away, in 1984 she returned to the FCO as Deputy Head of Policy Planning Department. She was selected in 1986 to be the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Beijing and began work there in 1987 after seven months learning the Chinese (Mandarin) language. On return to the UK she took a short academic sabbatical at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London. From 1996 to 1997 Alyson was a Vice-President responsible for security policy programmes at the New York-based East West Institute, and from 1997 to June 2000 the Political Director of the Brussels-based European defence institution, Western European Union. From November 2000 to June 2002 she was British Ambassador in Helsinki, Finland, but resigned from the British service to take up her post at SIPRI. She remains a member of the Boards of several think-tanks, academic organizations and periodicals.