

Alina L. Romanowski
Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
Term of Appointment: 03/09/2015 to present

Alina L. Romanowski assumed her position as the Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia on March 9, 2015. Working in the State Department's Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs, and coordinating closely with the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs and the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance, Ms. Romanowski oversees all U.S. Government assistance to thirty countries in Europe and Eurasia, with primary focus on the Balkans and the former Soviet Union, including Central Asia. She coordinates the programs of multiple U.S. government agencies and State Department bureaus involved in U.S. economic, democratic, security, and humanitarian assistance in the region, and designs and implements assistance strategies that support U.S. foreign policy priorities. She also plays the lead role in allocating foreign assistance budgets appropriated by Congress, and works closely with foreign governments, multilateral institutions, and NGOs to ensure that U.S. foreign aid is used efficiently and effectively.

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Romanowski served from 2011-2015 at USAID as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Bureau, including for 21 months as the acting Assistant Administrator for the bureau. She provided strategic leadership and regional expertise and set priorities for U.S. development strategies and assistance programs to support political transitions and economic reforms in the region. She managed a 50-person staff and activities of the USAID Middle East Washington Bureau, seven USAID Missions and two offices in the Middle East region and directed the allocation of an annual assistance and personnel budget of over \$1 Billion for the region.

Previously, Ms. Romanowski held several senior positions at the Department of State, including two Deputy Assistant Secretary positions in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs where she significantly expanded the Fulbright program, global English language programs, and international high school exchange programs. She also served as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. She joined the Department of State in 2003 to establish the Middle East Partnership Initiative Office and serve as its first Director.

Ms. Romanowski served at the Defense Department from 1990 to 2003 in several senior positions involving the Near East and South Asia. She was the founding Director of the Near East-South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; the Director of the NESO Office and country director for Israel. She served for 10 years at the Central Intelligence Agency as an intelligence analyst on the Near East and South Asia region.

Ms. Romanowski's awards include a Presidential Distinguished Rank Award for Senior Executive Service; two Presidential Meritorious Rank Awards for Senior Executive Service; a Department of State Superior Rank Award; two Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Awards; and a CIA Exceptional Performance Award.

Ms. Romanowski is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds a master's degree in international relations and a bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago. She attended Tel Aviv University in Israel. She speaks French and has studied Arabic and Hebrew.

