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NEW ICELANDIC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO OECD

Ambassador Sverrir Haukur Gunnlaugsson has taken up his post as Head of the Permanent Delegation of Iceland to OECD in succession to Ambassador Albert Gudmundsson. Mr. Gunnlaugsson is also Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iceland to France.

Born in Reykjavik in 1942, Ambassador Gunnlaugsson graduated in law from Iceland University and entered the Foreign Service in 1970. He was Deputy Permanent Representative to both OECD and UNESCO from 1971 to 1974, when he returned to the Ministry to head the division for Administration, Information and Consular Affairs. Posted to Washington in 1978, he served first as Counsellor, becoming Minister-Counsellor in 1980. He returned to Reykjavik in 1983 to Head the Defence Department in the Foreign Ministry. He presided, inter alia, the Icelandic Council for Defence and represented his country at meetings of the NATO Heads of Defence (1984-1987). He was nominated Ambassador in 1985.

Posted to Geneva in 1987, Mr. Gunnlaugsson was Permanent Representative to EFTA and the UN, and Ambassador accredited to Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania until 1989, when he returned to the Ministry to head the department of External Trade.

From 1990 until his present appointment, Mr. Gunnlaugsson was Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council in Brussels, with, from January 1993, parallel accreditation as Permanent Representative to the Western European Union.

Ambassador Gunnlaugsson is married, with three children.

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