

MEELIS OIDSALU

**Undersecretary for Defence Planning
Estonian Ministry of Defence**



Mr Meelis Oidsalu is the Undersecretary for Defence Planning at the Estonian Ministry of Defence since February 2016. Up to that point since May 2015 he was the Undersecretary for Legal and Administrative Affairs. The Undersecretary for Defence Planning manages and coordinates the work of the Ministry's Defence Service Department, Defence Readiness Department, Defence Planning Department and Defence Industry and Innovation Department. In that capacity Mr Oidsalu is mainly in charge of drafting the Estonian yearly defence budget, composing the National Defence Development Plan (10-year strategic outlook) as well as a medium- (4 years) and short-term (1 year) view on Estonia's defence planning process and coordinating the development of independent defence capabilities and R&D.

Meelis Oidsalu was born on 5th of April 1978 in Tallinn. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Tallinn's Faculty of Public Administration and a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. Meelis Oidsalu has also graduated from the Baltic Defence College's Higher Command Studies Course.

Meelis Oidsalu joined the Ministry of Defence's International Co-operation Department in 2000. Since then he has held various positions in the MoD, including Director of the Security Department (Director of the Estonian National Security Authority for NATO and EU), Director of Internal Audit Department and Advisor to the Ministry (responsible for innovation and organizational development).

Meelis Oidsalu has been awarded with the Fifth Class of the Order of the White Star by the President of the Republic of Estonia, the Second Class of the Cross of Merit of the Ministry of Defence and the Cross of Merit of the Estonian Defence Forces.

Meelis Oidsalu is a member of the Estonian Writers' Union and a renowned theatre critic.