

KRISTJAN MÄE

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia

Kristjan Mäe assumed the position of Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Estonia since 1 October 2026.

As Permanent Secretary, Mäe is responsible for managing the work of the Ministry's structural units, coordinating the activities of agencies within the Ministry's area of governance, and overseeing the Ministry's administrative operations.

Before being appointed as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Mäe served as Director of the Defence Policy Planning Department from spring 2022. In this role, he oversaw the analysis and long-term planning of Estonia's security and defence policy, cooperation with intelligence agencies within the Ministry's area of governance, and Estonia's participation in international military operations.

Mäe joined the Ministry of Defence in 2012 and has since held various positions in the field of defence policy. During his career at the Ministry, he has also served as Director of the NATO and European Union Department.

Mäe graduated from the University of Tartu with a degree in Political Science and obtained a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He has also completed future leaders' programmes organised by the Estonian and French Ministries of Defence.

In 2009, Mäe completed his compulsory military service in the Artillery Battalion of the Estonian Defence Forces. He is also a member of the Estonian Defence League.

Mäe has received several national and departmental decorations. In 2023, he was awarded the Order of the White Star, Fourth Class, by the President of the Republic of Estonia. In 2021, he received the Ministry of Defence Cross of Merit, Third Class.