

ISRAEL

Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology

Ministry for Innovation, Science and Technology

Ofir AKUNIS

Born on 28 May 1973. He is married to Adi and the father of two children. He is a resident of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Ofir Akunis was born in Tel Aviv on May 28, 1973, and educated at Herzliya Hebrew High School between 1987 and 1991. He served as a youth correspondent for the weekly Ma'ariv LaNoar magazine. During his national service, he served as a military correspondent for the Chief Education Officer of the Education and Youth Corps. After the army, he served as music editor of the radio program "Youth Club" on Reshet Gimmel, and on other programs. He completed his bachelor's degree in political science and international relations.

In January 1996, he joined the Likud party and began working in the information department at Metzudat Ze'ev in Tel Aviv. In June 1996, when Binyamin Netanyahu became Prime Minister after winning the elections, Ofir Akunis served as Deputy Media Advisor to the Prime Minister. He subsequently became spokesman for the Likud party. In 2003 he won the Menachem Begin Award for his thesis "Morals and Realism in Israeli Politics". He later worked as a spokesman for the Minister of Justice, and in 2004 was appointed Media Advisor for Netanyahu in the Ministry of Finance. He continued to serve as his advisor until 2008 before being appointed as Deputy Director of Communications and Information for the Likud.

Prior to the 2009 elections, Akunis participated in the primaries for the Likud and reached 28th place. He submitted a petition to the election committee of the Likud together with other candidates. On December 12, 2008, the petition was accepted and subsequently was promoted to the 26th place on the list, which is reserved for the Tel Aviv district. Post factum, it turned out that if the petition was not accepted, he would not have been elected to the Knesset, as the Likud won 27 mandates in the elections. Akunis was subsequently moved up to twenty-sixth place, and entered the Knesset as Likud won 27 seats.

During his first two years as a Knesset member, Ofir Akunis served as Chairman of the Economic Committee. He was also appointed Deputy Speaker of the House. After the flotilla to Gaza, Ofir Akunis confronted the Knesset members of the Balad party several times, and even announced several times that as the Likud's representative to the Central Elections Committee, he would

demand the disqualification of their list and the disqualification of MK Hanin Zuabi, who participated in the flotilla. According to the statistics of the Knesset Ofir Akunis is considered a very active member, both in the Knesset plenum and in the committees in which he participates.

On December 9, 2014, Akunis was appointed Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection. Prior to the 2015 elections, Akunis participated in the primaries for the Likud and reached 15th place. On May 15, 2015, Akunis was sworn in as a Minister in the 34th Government of Israel.

On December 29, 2022, he was appointed Minister for Innovation – Science and Technology in the 37th government.