

Speakers' Biographies

Young Bled Strategic Forum

Opening of the Young BSF 2019



Katja Geršak

Executive Director of the Centre for European Perspective, co-organiser of the Bled Strategic Forum, and Editor-in-Chief of the Bled Strategic Times. She previously worked as Vice-President of Business Angels of Slovenia. She is the co-founder of Regional Dialogue, a non-governmental organisation working on the justice sector reform in Uzbekistan.



Peter Grk

Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum and Western Balkans Coordinator at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, he chaired the Committee on the Civilian Aspect of Crisis Management in Brussels, and was Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister. He holds a degree in political science.



Meliha Muherina

Project manager at the Centre for European Perspective, where she focuses on the role of youth and the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans. She graduated in international relations from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She is also Vice President of Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for the United Nations.



Dejan Židan

President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and President of the Social Democrats. His previous positions include Chairman of the Board of the Panvita Group, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, and Member of Parliament. He has a Master's degree in Veterinary Science.

Young BSF Chat "Future of Work"



Mart Dekleva

Managing Director at ABG – Adriatic Business Group LTD with a demonstrated history of working in the logistics and supply chain industry. Skilled in entrepreneurship, event management, manufacturing, and production planning.



Nikola Vuković

A partner and member of the senior leadership team for SEE in the Boston Consulting Group. He has over 13 years of experience in strategy management consulting with the primary focus on strategy, commercial excellence and transformation topics in consumer goods and retail industry. A senior core team member of BCG Global & CEE Consumer Practice Area.

Empowering Creative and Responsible Youth Towards a Better Future



Caroline Assaf

Founder of Young Speakers, a social initiative empowering youth through communications and connections. She served as President for Sustainable Cities International and led a government-funded youth internship programme in Latin America and Africa. She is Member of the Advisory Board to the World Economic Forum and about to graduate with a Master's degree in Sustainable Development at Harvard Extension School.



Ann Godart

Project Manager at Luxembourg-City Incubator, in charge of communication and providing young entrepreneurs with driving solutions in scaling their business. Her previous positions include Communication and Digital Coordinator, HR Business Partner at Indosuez Wealth (Europe), Career Development Manager at Crédit Agricole Luxembourg focusing on high potentials and women heading for C-suite positions, Training Manager in Swiss and Dutch banks.



Jerca Legan Cvikl

President of the international women's foundation Femmes Sans Frontières, anthropologist, lecturer, publicist and philanthropist. Strategic communication expert for institutions within the public and private spheres, locally and internationally. Author of several books, including monographs on the media phenomenon, focusing on gender and elites in contemporary society. Her multilingual fairy-tale was put up as a theatre play.



Lucija Mulej Mlakar

Business anthropologist, sociologist, public speaker and writer. Under the motto "Perceive, Awaken" she combines hard-core science with subtle spiritual and subconscious concepts. Her paradigm is Budnjani 4Q, (IQ, EW, SQ, PQ), the connectivity of intelligences, engaged in the ideas of "insight economy".



Nadja Štante Furlan

An Associate Professor of religious studies and Senior Research Fellow at the Science and Research Centre of Koper. A Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley for the 2008–09 academic year. She is a member of the Commission for Women in Science and Equal Opportunities, an expert body at the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Let's Talk about Cross-Regional Cooperation: WB6 and V4



Jan Beneš

Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Slovenia. He previously served as Head of Office of the State Secretary at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held several positions in academic institutions. He graduated in international relations from Charles University in Prague.



Kamilla Duda-Kawecka

A lawyer specialised in the institutional law of the EU. A diplomat since 2002, she has served both at Polish embassies abroad and at the EU Delegation, dealing with the law of treaties, human rights and the Western Balkans.

Mirjana Jeremić

N/A



Lukáš Kajan

Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Ljubljana. For several years he worked for an NGO that promoted EU and NATO membership. He has held several positions at the Slovak Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, and served at the Slovak Embassy in Warsaw.

Ilir Shqina

N/A



Mak Selimović

A passionate advocate for regional reconciliation and cooperation. He graduated from Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service where he developed a strong interest for Peace and Justice Studies, regional cooperation and sustainable development. Previously, he served the UN - ICTY and was a member of BiH's delegation to the UNODC. He currently chairs the BiH Association for the UN.

Mirela Tuzović

N/A

Krisztina Varju

N/A

Let's go on a Networking Scavenger Hunt



Dino Kovačević

Programme Director at The Ypsilon Institute, responsible for business development through sales and partnerships, and passionate about building communities for young, purpose-driven professionals. He was previously Account Manager at Belgium's Fielddrive, now Community Brands, world's leading technology provider for purpose-built organisations, based in the US.



Nejka Šegatin

Director of The Ypsilon Institute. She started her professional career as Head of the mentoring programme of The Ypsilon Institute. She has a Bachelor's degree in comparative literature and is preparing her Master's on the youth sector in Slovenia. Her goal is to enable young people to find their own paths in life.

Youth and Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Western Balkans and the Role of V4 – Preparing Policy Recommendations



Miran Lavrič

Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Maribor. He has participated in a number of research projects focusing on youth in Slovenia and Southeast Europe and has published a number of scientific articles in international journals on sociological topics.

Working Lunch



Juraj Hajko

Researcher and project manager at the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) with the main focus on the EU, France and the Balkans. Before entering SFPA, he worked in several media and in the NGO sector. As a foreign correspondent in Brussels, he reported on EU topics and continued his career as a reporter of the Radio and Television of Slovakia. He holds a degree in International Relations from Masaryk University, Czech Republic.



Lilla Judit Bartuszek

A Hungarian law student and Relations Officer at V4SDG, a youth-led international organisation striving to give a brand new, sustainability-based profile to the Visegrad Group and the countries involved in it. Besides the UN Sustainable Development Goals, her main fields of interest are international law, international relations and European public law.



Jana Juzová

A Research Fellow in the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. Her research focuses primarily on regionalism, Visegrad cooperation, democratisation and European integration of the Western Balkan countries, and EU enlargement. Her previous work experience includes the EULEX Mission to Kosovo, GLOBSEC or Institute of International Relations in Prague.



Anna Korienieva

An international relations student at the University of Economics in Prague. The desire to make this world a better place to live motivated her to join the MUN Prague organisation, and she has been its active member for the last three years. She has taken part in numerous MUNs around Europe, among others in Germany, France and the UK.



Meliha Muherina

Project manager at the Centre for European Perspective, where she focuses on the role of youth and the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans. She graduated in international relations from the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She is also Vice President of Bosnia and Herzegovina Association for the United Nations.



Ferenc Németh

Research Fellow at the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT) in Budapest. He was previously a journalist of a Hungarian political newspaper, covering the politics of Southeast Europe, and an intern within the Press Office of EULEX. He is strongly committed to media freedom and to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans.



Aleksandra Pikus

Chair of the Polish branch of BETA Europe, BETA Poland, the organiser of the annual conference Model European Union Warsaw offering participants from all around Europe an insight into the functioning and aims of the European Union and encouraging them to participate in decision-making processes. She is graduating in International Economics with a Master's thesis on regional convergence processes across EU regions.



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Connecting Youth



Krisela Hackaj

Since 2011 Director of the Cooperation and Development Institute – CDI, an independent think tank based in Tirana that focuses on research in regional cooperation, economic and social development dynamics, and institutional governance. Her main research topics relate to the EU integration process, regional cooperation, connectivity agenda and youth in the Western Balkans.



Dafina Peci

A young political scientist, Secretary General for NYC Albania and an Associated Professor of Classic and Contemporary Political Philosophy at the University of Tirana. For 7 years she has been contributing on community development and youth engagement in politics. She is the representative of Albanian youth on the RYCO Governing Board.



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Providing Accessible Information for Diverse Populations



Martina Bofulin

Research Fellow at the Slovenian Migration Institute at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. She was previously a JSPS postdoctoral fellow at Osaka University and Erasmus Mundus Basileus fellow at Belgrade University. Her research interests include various forms of Chinese mobility, migrant integration, and migrant heritage.



Markland Starkie

Head of Content for GOV.UK, based at the UK's Government Digital Service. His previous position was Deputy Head of Digital at the University of Bristol and he has spent over 10 years working in digital teams for universities and the public sector. He has a particular focus on content design, content strategy and product management.

Digitalisation for Boosting the Youth Sector and Education – Hackathon



Anja Fortuna

President of the National Youth Council of Slovenia. Before that, she was Vice President for international cooperation. In her years as a youth activist, she was a scout, rural youth vice president, board member of the Slovenian rural youth, president of the Idrija student club, board member of Youth Centre Idrija and others.



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Tjaša Sobočan

Project Manager at Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia, supporting digital innovations within education and civil society. She holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy with a special focus on social innovations and public diplomacy. She is a Professional Tech Fellow Alumni by WorldChicago (2018) and IVLP Alumni in Digital Economy and Emerging Technologies for Social Good in U.S. (2019).

Digitalisation for Boosting the Youth Sector and Education – Policy Recommendations



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President of the National Youth Council of Slovenia. Before that, she was Vice President for international cooperation. In her years as a youth activist, she was a scout, rural youth vice president, board member of the Slovenian rural youth, president of the Idrija student club, board member of Youth Centre Idrija and others.



Jernej Pikalo

Slovenia's Minister of Education, Science and Sport. In 2003 he obtained a PhD in Political Science from University of Ljubljana. During his academic career, he was also a Marie Curie fellow at the University of Warwick in the UK. In 2013 he became Full Professor of Political Science at the University of Ljubljana. He was Minister of Education, Science and Sport during 2013/2014.



Peter Ribarič

Managing Director of Silicon Gardens Fund, a micro angel fund focused on supporting tech start-ups, and Planet GV, a business events and business publishing company. Editor-in-Chief of HR&M Magazine, producer of business events, mentor, and business angel. His professional experience ranges from education, IT, banking and finance to publishing, manufacturing, and agriculture industry.



Emilija Stojmenova Duh

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana and coordinator of the national FabLab network. She is Director of Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia, the national one-stop-shop for digital transformation and digital competence development. She coordinates several projects on digitalisation for innovation and rural development.

“State of the World” with H.E. Ms María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the General Assembly of the UN



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, the fourth woman – and the first woman from Latin America – to hold this position. She has over 20 years of multilateral experience, as Ecuador’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Defence, Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and Geneva.



Sabina Carli

Diplomat trainee, assistant to the Director-General for Economic and Public Diplomacy at the Slovenian Foreign Ministry. She was the UN Youth Delegate of Slovenia in 2017/2018. She finished her MA programme at University of Kent and postgraduate specialisation programme in diplomacy at the China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing.

Closing of Young BSF 2019



Andor Dávid

Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Hungary in Slovenia, 2014–2018. Adviser to the Secretary General of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Head of consular section at the Hungarian Embassy in Kosovo, 2011–2012. Diplomat (EU/NATO) integration affairs and Deputy Consul at the Embassy in Montenegro, 2009–2011. Department for the Western Balkans at the Foreign Ministry, 2006–2009.



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A Hungarian law student and Relations Officer at V4SDG, a youth-led international organisation striving to give a brand new, sustainability-based profile to the Visegrad Group and the countries involved in it. Besides the UN Sustainable Development Goals, her main fields of interest are international law, international relations and European public law.



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Conflict and Cooperation in the Mediterranean: Mare Nostrum or Global Space?



Emiliano Alessandri

An international security expert with a focus on Euro-Mediterranean security and transatlantic relations. He currently serves the OSCE Secretary General in Vienna where he is in charge of the Mediterranean and migration portfolios. He also a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges.



Andrej Logar

Ambassador-at-Large, Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister for Strategic Issues. His previous positions include State Secretary, Slovenian Ambassador to Denmark, Norway, Lithuania and Iceland, Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva, as well as Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.



Sibelle El Labban

Executive Assistant for Research Support at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), American University of Beirut (AUBPilgram). Prior to her current position, she worked as a Senior Research Assistant at FAFS, focusing her research on food and nutrition security and sustainable food consumption in MENA. She aspires to drive societal change through food and nutrition policies.



Ettore Greco

Executive Vice President of Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and Head of the Multilateralism and global governance programme of the institute, which he managed from 2008 to 2017. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution from January 2006 to July 2007.



Djallil Lounnas

Professor of international studies in Al Akhawayn University, specialist for Jihadi organisations in North Africa-Sahel. Author of the upcoming book Jihadi Movements in North Africa-Sahel (Editions l'Harmattan) and of several academic articles, including in Middle-East Policy, Political Violence and Terrorism.



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Gregor Perič

Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia since 2018 (Modern Centre Party, SMC), Head of the parliamentary delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Chair of the Committee on the Economy, Member of the Committee on European Union Affairs and of the Committee on Infrastructure, Environment and Spatial Planning. Holds a BA in Political Science.



Neil Quilliam

Associate Fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House. He was previously Senior Research Fellow heading the Programme's Future Dynamics in the Gulf project. Prior to that, he was project director of Syria and Its Neighbours policy initiative and acting head of the MENA Programme, having first joined Chatham House in January 2014.



Musa Shteivi

He has over 27 years of experience as a Professor at the University of Jordan, teaching in Sociology, Human Rights, Development and Gender Studies programmes. An adviser to government bodies, the World Bank, the UN, and other international organisations and research institutions. He obtained his PhD in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati.



Ekaterina Stepanova

She heads the Peace and Conflict Studies Unit and is a lead researcher at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) in Moscow. She edits the journal Pathways to Peace and Security and teaches on international programmes at MGIMO University, the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Moscow, and at the European University at St. Petersburg.



Paolo Trichilo

Career diplomat since 1990, currently the Italian Ambassador to Slovenia. His previous postings abroad include Mulhouse (Consul), Ankara, New Delhi, and the OECD. Previous assignments in Rome: CSCE/OSCE; International Antiterrorism, Iraq Task Force, Crisis Unit; Diplomatic Adviser to Labour Minister. Other previous activities: scholarship at the University of Iowa (Political Sciences Department); University Assistant to the Italian Judge at the ECHR; Lieutenant in the Carabinieri.

Bled Strategic Forum

Opening of the 2019 BSF



Miro Cerar

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. Between 2014 and 2018, he served as Slovenian Prime Minister. Before entering politics, he was a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, and legal adviser to the National Assembly. He has authored and co-authored numerous Slovenian and foreign books and scientific papers.



Marjan Šarec

Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia from 2018. He enrolled at the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television in Ljubljana, where he graduated in 2001. He was Mayor of Kamnik from 2010 to 2018. By running in the presidential election of 2017, he caught much attention on the national political stage.



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, the fourth woman – and the first woman from Latin America – to hold this position. She has over 20 years of multilateral experience, as Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Defence, Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and Geneva.



Peter Grk

Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum and Western Balkans Coordinator at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, he chaired the Committee on the Civilian Aspect of Crisis Management in Brussels, and was Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister. He holds a degree in political science.

A Conversation with Presidents



Kersti Kaljulaid

As of 2016 she is President of the Republic of Estonia. From 2004 to 2016, she was a Member of the European Court of Auditors, responsible, inter alia, for the research and development funds and structural policies. Prior to that she served as Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. She also worked for various Estonian companies.



Borut Pahor

During his long political career, he was member of the European Parliament and served as President of the National Assembly and as Prime Minister of Slovenia. In the 2012 presidential ballot, he became the fourth elected President of Slovenia by winning the support of 67.37 per cent of voters. In 2017 he was re-elected for a second term.



Ali Aslan

Internationally renowned TV presenter and journalist with over 20 years' experience. His journalistic career includes work for CNN, ABC and Deutsche Welle TV. He regularly moderates at high-level global conferences and has shared the stage with top world leaders, including Angela Merkel, Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau and Bill Clinton. He studied International Politics and Journalism at Columbia University and Georgetown University.

Multilateralism at a Crossroads



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President of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, the fourth woman – and the first woman from Latin America – to hold this position. She has over 20 years of multilateral experience, as Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of National Defence, Coordinating Minister of Natural and Cultural Heritage and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and Geneva.



Josep Borrell Fontelles

Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation since 2018. Aeronautical engineer, economist and professor of mathematics who served as Secretary General in the Government, Minister of Public Works and Transport, and as President of the European Parliament. He is nominated to become the next High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey. He is a founding member of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party). He was elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) during 2010-2012. He was granted the title of Honorary President of the PACE in 2014. He served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 62th, 64th and 65th Government of the Republic of Turkey. He speaks English, German and Japanese.



Miro Cerar

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. Between 2014 and 2018, he served as Slovenian Prime Minister. Before entering politics, he was a Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, and legal adviser to the National Assembly. He has authored and co-authored numerous Slovenian and foreign books and scientific papers.



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Georgetown University.

Winning the '20s: A Leadership Agenda for the Next Decade



Martin Reeves

Managing Director and Senior Partner at Boston Consulting Group. He is the global director of BCG Henderson Institute (BHI), BCG's strategy think tank, which explores ideas beyond the world of business, ideas which may have implications for business strategy. He has led strategy assignments in healthcare, consumer goods, financial services, and industrial goods in Japan, the US, and Europe.

Presentation of the Bled Strategic Forum Distinguished Partner 2019 Award



Iztok Mirošič

Ambassador-at-Large, Special Envoy of the Minister and Programme Director of the BSF. He previously served as Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary, Ambassador to the UK, Italy, Libya, Tunisia, Malta and San Marino and Permanent Representative to the UN IMO, FAO and WFP. He worked as policy adviser to the Prime Minister, Director General for European affairs and bilateral political relations and as negotiator for the Arbitration Agreement on the state boundary with Croatia.



Alenka Bratušek

Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure. From March 2013 until May 2014 she was Prime Minister of Slovenia, the first woman to hold this position. She took charge of the Government at the most challenging period for independent Slovenia as yet. She also served as a Member of Parliament.



Enrico Letta

Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po and President of the Jacques Delors Institute. In June, he was appointed President of APSIA (Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs). He was the Prime Minister of Italy from April 2013 to February 2014.

Let's Talk About Sustainability



Andrea Illy

Chairman of illycaffè, a family-established business founded in Trieste, Italy in 1933, with the singular mission of producing the world's highest quality coffee. Honorary Chairman of the Association for Science and Information on Coffee (ASIC), from 2012 to 2016 Chairman of the International Coffee Organisation's Coffee Market Promotion and Development Committee, and since 2013 Chairman of the Fondazione Altagamma.



Janez Potočnik

Former EU Commissioner for science and research and for the environment. He is currently Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and SystemIQ Partner, as well as a member of the European Policy Centre's Advisory Council. In 2013 he received the United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.



Jeffrey D. Sachs

University Professor and Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, where he directed the Earth Institute from 2002 until 2016. He is also Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and a commissioner of the UN Broadband Commission for Development. He has been adviser to three United Nations secretaries-general.



Ladeja Godina Košir

Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change. She is currently Chair of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform in Brussels and co-author of the first Roadmap towards the Circular Economy in Slovenia. She was finalist of the Circular Leadership Award 2018 (Davos WEF), recognised as the regional engine of circular economy transition.

The (Soft) Power of Creativity: The Entertainment Industry in International Relations



Sebastjan Cavazza

Slovenian actor, known for his successful national and international career in theatre and film. Some of his major projects in recent years include Serbian TV series Shadows over Balkan, Bosnian drama film Men Don't Cry, and German film Winnetou – Der letzte Kampf. He is also the President of the Actors Guild of Slovenia.



Katarina Čas

Slovenian actress who regularly acts in international film and television productions. She has worked with some prominent names, including Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino, Christopher Plummer, Brendan Gleeson, Mike Myers, Ashley Judd etc. She is also active in her home country.



Bill Elliott

A Grammy- and Emmy-nominated composer, arranger and conductor, Tony Award winner, Professor at Berklee College of Music. He has worked with such diverse artists as Beyoncé, Tony Bennett, Donna Summer, Stevie Nicks, and Smokey Robinson, conducted the Chicago, Pittsburgh, and Detroit symphonies, among others, and contributed original songs/arrangements to numerous TV shows and films.



Zlatko Šabič

Professor of International Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, and a Senior Researcher at the Centre of International Relations. He is also Director-General of the East Asia Resource Library (EARL). His current research is dedicated to the role of parliamentarians as international actors, with a focus on Europe, North America and East Asia.



Žiga Pirnat

An award-winning musician who left a promising diplomatic career to pursue music. His creative work includes projects with artists such as Barbra Streisand, Josh Groban, Andrea Bocelli, and Rihanna. He holds three Bachelor's and a Master's degree in diverse fields, including international relations and music; currently, he is a PhD candidate in linguistics, his other love.

Networking Reception



Janez Fajfar

Mayor of Bled. He graduated in Ethnology and Geography from the University of Ljubljana in 1979. After travelling the world in the '80s, he joined the Iron Forging Museum in Kropa as a curator. In 1984, he became a reception manager at Hotel Vila Bled and, in 1991, he was appointed the hotel director. In 2006, he was elected mayor of Bled, to be re-elected in 2010, 2014, and 2018.



Janez Škrabec

Founder and Managing Director of Riko, today recognised as the most successful engineering company in the wider region. Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Morocco and of the Republic of Belarus and a member of many diplomatic and business clubs.



Peter Grk

Secretary-General of Bled Strategic Forum and Western Balkans Coordinator at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously, he chaired the Committee on the Civilian Aspect of Crisis Management in Brussels, and was Adviser to the Foreign Minister and Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister. He holds a degree in political science.

Night Owl Session



Cecilia Barja

For 20 years, she has led complex programs in her home country of Bolivia and in the US. Currently, she is a community organiser in North Carolina, creating collective power to ensure fair treatment of immigrants. Former councilwoman of La Paz and national secretary of Movimiento Sin Miedo, a political party. She writes regularly for Bolivian media.



ElsaMarie D'Silva

Founder & CEO of Red Dot Foundation (India) and President of Red Dot Foundation Global (USA), whose platform Safecity crowdsources personal experiences of sexual violence and abuse in public spaces. Since Safecity was launched in 2012, it has become the largest crowd map on the issue in India, Kenya, Cameroon, and Nepal.

Badria Zeino Mahmalat

N/A



Elizabeth Maloba

She has twenty years' experience working in cross-sectoral, trans-professional, multistakeholder settings to enable people make decisions, solve problems, exchange ideas and information, and learn. She has wide experience in international cooperation, development cooperation, and private sector development. She has worked in cross-cultural groups to develop leaders, teams, policies, strategies, plans, and business models.



Lilla Judit Bartuszek

A Hungarian law student and Relations Officer at V4SDG, a youth-led international organisation striving to give a brand new, sustainability-based profile to the Visegrad Group and the countries involved in it. Besides the UN Sustainable Development Goals, her main fields of interest are international law, international relations and European public law.



Ivan Nikolovski

Central European University graduate with a Master's degree in Political Science with a specialisation in Comparative Politics. His main academic and professional interests include European integration/Europeanisation, international affairs, divided and post-conflict societies, and social movements.

NATO: What's Next? – Views on Euro-Atlantic Security 70 Years after the Washington Treaty



Karl Erjavec

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Slovenia since September 2018, he previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning. During his term as Defence Minister between 2004 and 2008, he presided over the Summit of NATO ministers and co-shaped the EU's defence policy during Slovenia's EU Council presidency. He holds a university degree in law.



Damir Črnčec

State Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister. He served as director of the Slovenian Intelligence and Security Agency and was an adviser for defence policy to the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces. Holder of a PhD in Political Science, he is the author or co-author of numerous professional and scientific articles.



Sven Sakkov

Between 2015 and 2017 he served as Director of NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence and between 2008 and 2015 as Policy Director at the Ministry of Defence of Estonia. Previously he was posted to the Estonian Embassy in Washington and Mission to NATO, and worked as a national security adviser to the President and as Director of policy planning at the MOD.



Pedro Serrano

Deputy Secretary General for the Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service. His previous positions include Managing Director for Crisis Response and Operational Coordination at the EEAS, Principal Advisor on External Affairs to the President of the European Council, Head of EU Delegation to the UN in New York, and Head of Civilian Crisis Management Directorate at the General Secretariat of the Council.



Radmila Shekerinska

Minister of Defence and Deputy Prime Minister of North Macedonia. She was the Deputy Prime Minister who succeeded in making the country an EU candidate. Previously a four-term MP; she headed two OSCE/ODIHR EOMs. She received her MA in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.



Róbert Vass

Founder and President of GLOBSEC, a Bratislava-based think tank committed to enhancing global security, prosperity and sustainability. Its mission is to shape the future by generating new ideas and solutions for a safer world. Ranking among the top 5 conferences in the world, the GLOBSEC Forum is regularly attended by influential politicians, businesspeople and thought leaders.



Scott M. Weber

President of Interpeace, an international organisation for peacebuilding. Previously, he worked in the Office of the United Nations Director-General in Geneva and in disaster preparedness. He holds a BA in International Relations, Economics and Russian from Georgetown University; Certificates of Executive Education in Leadership from Harvard University's JFK School of Government and Oxford University's Saïd Business School.



Emir Hasanović

N/A



Jelko Kacin

Special Adviser to the Foreign Minister on security policies. In the early years of Slovenia's independence, he served as Secretary of Information and later as Minister of Defence. As a two-time Member of the National Assembly he chaired the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee (1996 and 2004). He was Member of the European Parliament for two parliamentary terms and Rapporteur on Serbia (2004 and 2009). During his second term, he was Vice Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Southeast Europe. From 2015 he served as Slovenia's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to NATO.

(Re)sources on the Move



The Hon. Carmelo Abela

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta. In 1990, he joined the Mid-Med Bank, today HSBC Bank Malta, where he worked as a Manager until April 2014. He then worked with the Prime Minister as Government Spokesman and Whip until December 2014, when he was appointed Minister for Home Affairs and National Security. In June 2017, he was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.



Nina Gregori

In June she took over her duties as Executive Director of Malta-based European Asylum Support Office (EASO). She previously occupied senior management posts in the area of asylum, migration, integration and internal administrative affairs at the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior. She has a university degree in political science from the University of Ljubljana.



Shada Islam

Director for Europe and geopolitics at Friends of Europe, she is also Visiting Professor at the College of Europe (Natolin) and a Fellow at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Politico has named her as one of twenty most influential women in Brussels. She is the author of Friends of Europe's much-read Frankly Speaking commentary.



Karin Kneissl

From December 2017 to June 2019 she served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria. She studied law and Arabic at the University of Vienna, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at GU. She is a graduate of ENA. Served in the MFA between 1990 and 1998, then turned into a freelance analyst; she has authored several books on energy and geopolitics.



Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson

Cardinal Peter Turkson, former Archbishop of Cape Coast, served as Relator during the II Synod for Africa in 2009 and is President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. He has been appointed by Pope Francis as first Prefect of the new Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development.



Matteo Villa

Research Fellow for the Migration Programme at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). He is an expert for the T20 Task Force on Forced Migration and has contributed extensively to policy analyses on migration topics for the European Parliament, the Italian Parliament, the Lombardy Region, and the Municipality of Milan.



Amélie Jaques-Apke

Head of the Franco-German Department at the think tank EuropaNova and a teacher at SciencesPo Paris. She previously held several positions in the public sector (the French Parliament, Franco-German Youth Office, the Ministry of Interior (migration, asylum), and the EU Delegation in Washington). Her PhD deals with the post-Berlin Wall security environment.



Martijn Pluim

Director for Migration Dialogues and Cooperation at the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). He supervises the ICMPD's project portfolio and the secretariats of the intergovernmental migration dialogues supported by the ICMPD, including the Prague Process, the Budapest Process, the Khartoum Process and the Rabat Process. He previously worked for the European Commission and was a member of the EU advisory board on trafficking in human beings.



Camino Mortera-Martinez

Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Reform in Brussels. Prior to joining the CER, she advised the European Commission and worked at a law firm and a large German company. A qualified lawyer; holds a MA from the College of Europe.

Protectionism as a Source of Global Instability



Lawrence Agyinsam

With over 20 years' experience in banking, finance and investment management, he assumed office as CEO of the Ghana Export-Import Bank in March 2017, effectively collaborating with export credit agencies and EXIM Banks across the globe for SME and industry development, capacity building, strategy development, export promotion and reduction of Ghana's import bill in specific sectors.



Sandra Gallina

Having joined the European Commission in 1988, she is today Deputy Director General at DG TRADE and the EU chief negotiator for the EU-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement. Between 2014 and 2018 she was Director for Sustainable Development, Economic Partnership Agreements – ACP, Agri-food and Fisheries at DG TRADE.



Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen

Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD from January 2019. His portfolio includes strategic direction of several OECD policies. Until 2018, he was Permanent Secretary of State at the Danish Foreign Ministry. Prior to this, he served as Chief Diplomatic Adviser to two prime ministers and as Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO. In 2013 he was Group Director for International Policy in Vodafone, London.



Rem Korteweg

Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute in the Netherlands. His current research interests include the future of the global trade system, Brexit, and Europe's relations with China and the US. He has worked at the Centre for European Reform in London and the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was a Fulbright scholar at Johns Hopkins SAIS.



Mojmir Mrak

Full Professor at the School of Economics, University of Ljubljana and Visiting Professor at universities in Austria and France. His main research fields include public finances as international trade and capital flows. He has served as a consultant to international organisations and to governments of several SEE countries.



Tim Yeend

Principal Adviser and Chef de Cabinet to the Director-General of the WTO since 2013; serves as WTO's Sherpa to the G20. He previously occupied senior positions with the Australian Government in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Ambassador to the WTO and other IGOs in Geneva 2010–2013; First Assistant Secretary, Office of Trade Negotiations.



Guy De Launey

Balkans Correspondent for BBC News since 2012. He was previously BBC correspondent in Southeast Asia, based in Phnom Penh, for 8 years. He is also a correspondent for Monocle magazine and presents The Globalist and Daily programmes on Monocle 24. He has lived and worked in Japan, reported from dozens of countries around the world and interviewed everyone from Ban Ki-Moon to Jackie Chan.

Tax Them If You Can: Fiscal (Re)sources in a Globalised World



Marko Mršnik

Senior Director in the European Sovereign Ratings Group at S&P Global Ratings, focusing on the eurozone sovereigns, the ECB and the EFSF. Before joining S&P Global Ratings, he was an economist in the European Commission specialising in the euro area macroeconomics and a consultant for the EIB. He is the author of S&P reports on the impact of demographic and climate changes on sovereign ratings.



Sarah Perret

An Economist and Deputy Head of Unit at the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration. Her unit is responsible for following global tax reform trends and for conducting assessments of countries' tax systems. She is also the author of a number of studies on wealth taxation and on tax design for inclusive growth.



Frank-Jürgen Richter

Chairman of Horasis, a global visions community dedicated to inspiring our future. Horasis hosts the annual Horasis Global Meeting as well as regional summits focusing on China, India, and South East Asia. Richter has gained extensive experience and knowledge of the world's economic, business and political scene and of its key players.



Karl Soukup

Since 2013, he heads the directorate in charge of state aid control in fiscal aid, research, development and innovation aid, as well as regional development aid at the European Commission's DG Competition. This includes work on aggressive tax planning, in particular investigating selective fiscal schemes and individual tax rulings.



Paul Tang

Dutch MEP for the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament since 2014, a member of the parliamentary Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. In the European Parliament, he battles for more jobs, a healthy financial sector at the service of society and more legitimacy for Europe.



Martin Sandbu

N/A

Rules-Based International Order or the Return of Geopolitics?



Seyed Abbas Araghchi

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and a main negotiator in nuclear negotiations. He started his diplomatic career in 1988 and held numerous important positions in the Foreign Ministry, including Deputy for Legal and International Affairs, Deputy for Asia-Pacific and the CIS, Speaker, Dean of Faculty of International Relations, and Ambassador to Tokyo and Helsinki. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Kent.



Babafemi Badejo

An Attorney by profession, CEO of Yintab Strategy Consults. He retired from different roles at UN peace operations: Deputy Special Representative of UN Secretary-General; Chief of Staff and Political Affairs. Recently, he has consulted at the African Union on the implementation of the African Humanitarian Agency roadmap. He is Senior Adviser to former presidents and President, Court of the Prime Minister, Bahrain.



Jean-Christophe Belliard

Currently the EEAS Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs. As a career diplomat he previously served as French Ambassador to Madagascar to Ethiopia and to the African Union, as well as Director for Africa and the Indian Ocean at the French Foreign Ministry and as Special Envoy for Africa of former EU High Representative Javier Solana.



Chang Jae-bok

Ambassador for Public Diplomacy at the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Having joined the Ministry in 1988, he was appointed Chief of Protocol (Deputy Minister) in 2018. Prior to that, he served as Consul-General in Milan from 2014 to 2018 and Minister Counsellor in the Korean Permanent Delegation to UNESCO from 2009 to 2012.



Theresa Fallon

Founder and director of Centre for Russia Europe Asia Studies in Brussels. She is concurrently a member of Council for Security Cooperation in Asia-Pacific and Nonresident Senior Fellow of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Previously she was a member of the Strategic Advisors Group for NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and worked in both Russia and China.



Walter Kemp

Head of the Strategic Policy Support Unit in the OSCE Secretariat. His previous positions include spokesman and speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vice President of the International Peace Institute, and a senior adviser to both the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE High Commissioner on national minorities.



Iztok Mirošič

Ambassador-at-Large, Special Envoy of the Minister and Programme Director of the BSF. He previously served as Deputy Foreign Minister and State Secretary, Ambassador to the UK, Italy, Libya, Tunisia, Malta and San Marino and Permanent Representative to the UN IMO, FAO and WFP. He worked as policy adviser to the Prime Minister, Director General for European affairs and bilateral political relations and as negotiator for the Arbitration Agreement on the state boundary with Croatia.



Richard Moore

Currently Director General for Political Affairs at the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Previously served as Deputy National Security Adviser; British Ambassador to Turkey; Director for Europe, Latin America and Globalisation; Director for Programmes and Change; and at posts in Vietnam, Turkey, Pakistan and Malaysia. He read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, followed by a post-graduate study at Harvard University and the Stanford Executive Programme.



Tobias Flessenkemper

Head of the Office of the Council of Europe in Belgrade. His previous postings include the EEAS in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Council of the EU in Brussels, Skopje and Sarajevo, the OSCE and ZIF-Berlin. In 2012-13 he was visiting fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). In 2013 he co-founded elbarlament.org. From 1998 to 2001 he was Secretary General of the European Youth Forum in Brussels.

State of Human Rights: A Conversation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights



Michelle Bachelet Jeria

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (since September 2018); two-time president of Chile (2006–2010, 2014–2018), Defence Minister, Health Minister. First Executive Director of UN Women. She has chaired the ILO/WHO Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and co-chaired the High-Level Steering Group for Every Woman Every Child.



Dan Damon

He has presented the daily BBC World Update radio programme since 2003. Earlier, with his wife Sian, he set up a news agency in Budapest covering the collapse of Communism across Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Reporting the war in Yugoslavia, they adopted their daughter Lejla as a baby in Sarajevo in 1992. Lejla now campaigns against sexual violence in war.

Climate Change – Saving the Planet by Going Circular



Pekka Haavisto

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. During his career, he has held several high-level positions both within the UN system and in the EU with a focus on conflict-affected settings. He served twice as Minister in the fields of environment and international development prior to his current appointment, and has been a Member of Parliament of the Finnish Green Party for over 24 years.



Alejandro Adler

Director of Well-being Science and Policy at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. Associate Editor for two of SDSN's annual publications: the World Happiness Report and the Global Happiness Policy Report. He is also Deputy Director of the Global Happiness and Well-being Council and an Associate Research Scientist at the Center for Sustainable Development in the Earth Institute at Columbia University.



Cathrine Barth

Co-founder of Circular Norway, a business NGO set to accelerate the transition to the circular economy in Norway and drive global and local collaboration. She holds an Executive Master of Management degree in green growth and sustainable business modelling from Oslo Business School. She is a former journalist, has an extensive corporate background and years of experience as an innovation adviser.



Freek van Eijk

CEO of Holland Circular Hotspot, a public-private initiative that wants to make Circular Economy happen by sharing knowledge and innovation, and stimulate international partnerships by connecting governments, knowledge institutions and businesses. For over a decade he was Director of Strategy & PA at SUEZ and served on the board of the Dutch Waste Management Association.



Bernard Fautrier

He served as Minister for Public Works and Social Affairs of Monaco (1984–1995) and Minister for International Cooperation (1995–2003). Until 2003, he chaired the Barcelona Convention. He presently chairs the Monaco Committee of the World Energy Council, the Med Fund, the Be Med NGO (on plastic in the Mediterranean) and co-chairs the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).



Kari Herlevi

A versatile multi-talent in the field of the circular economy. He is currently leading the circular economy area at Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund. Previously, he was responsible for the Resource-efficient economy area at Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation. He also worked in the Tekes Silicon Valley office for a few years.



Marjeta Jager

Deputy Director-General in the European Commission's DG DEVCO. She started as Director for Security in 2005, later becoming Director for International Energy Affairs, and Head of Cabinet of the Transport Commissioner. Before joining the Commission she worked for the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1991 and was the first Deputy Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU



Ben Macpherson

Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development in the Scottish Government from 2018. His previous employment also includes working in the renewable energy sector, in a school, for an NGO and in financial services. He studied at University of Edinburgh and University of York. He was elected MSP in May 2016.



David B. McGinty

Global Director of PACE, a public-private collaboration platform and project accelerator towards a global circular economy. Launched during the 2018 World Economic Forum to drive public-private action and collaboration on the circular economy, PACE convenes global leadership committed to advancing the circular economy transition and working together to overcome specific barriers to progress.



Jack Pineda Dale

Microsoft's Legal Director for Baltics, Slovenia and Serbia based in Helsinki. He specialises in AI, technologies and legal issues arising from those. Prior to his role as Legal Director, he was an Attorney Lead in Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit specialising in Cybersecurity and Cybercrime. He holds a Master's in International Business Law from the University of Helsinki.



Ladeja Godina Košir

Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change. She is currently Chair of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform in Brussels and co-author of the first Roadmap towards the Circular Economy in Slovenia. She was finalist of the Circular Leadership Award 2018 (Davos WEF), recognised as the regional engine of circular economy transition.

What Lies Ahead for the New European Commission?



Gordan Grlić Radman

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia. Started diplomatic career at the Croatian Foreign Service in the early 90's, served in embassies in Switzerland and Bulgaria. He held numerous positions including Secretary General of the MFA, Ambassador to Hungary and Federal Republic of Germany.



Melania-Gabriela Ciot

State Secretary for European Affairs at the Romanian Foreign Ministry since September 2017, PhD Associate Professor at the Faculty of European Studies of the Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, coordinator of the Centre for International and European Negotiations and of the Cultural Diplomacy Section. She held the position of European Affairs Adviser in the Cabinet of Ministers for Information Society, European Funds and Public Finance.



Pierre Heilbronn

Member of the EBRD Executive Committee responsible for the Bank's economic, policy and reform agenda, coordination within country strategies and European member states and institutions, managing bilateral and multilateral donor partnerships and ensuring the inclusive engagement of civil society. Before joining the EBRD in 2016, he was deputy chief of staff for the French Minister of Economy and Finance.



Guillaume Klossa

A major Europe-thought opinion leader. Former special adviser to the Vice President of the European Commission and ex-adviser to the European Council, he was also director of the European Broadcasting Union. Author, Professor at SciencesPo Paris, he created the EuropaNova think tank and the European Young Leaders programme. He chairs the transnational opinion leaders' movement Civico Europa.



Enrico Letta

Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po and President of the Jacques Delors Institute. In June, he was appointed President of APSIA (Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs). He was the Prime Minister of Italy from April 2013 to February 2014.



Igor Mally

State Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister. He was involved in negotiations on Slovenia's accession to the EU and served as Head of the Office of the State Secretary for European Affairs. In 2013 he became Head Adviser to the Prime Minister on EU affairs. In 2018, he was appointed Head of the Slovenian EU Presidency 2021 preparations.



Andreas Peschke

Since July 2018 he has been Director-General for European Affairs at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. His previous positions include German Embassies in Nigeria and Russia, and the Minister's Office. He was Deputy Spokesperson as well as Spokesperson of the Federal Foreign Office. He served as Ambassador to Kenya and Director for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, Berlin.



Dimitrij Rupel

Obtained his PhD in sociology at Brandeis University in the US. Served as Slovenian Foreign Minister during the first years of Slovenia's independence, later as Mayor of Ljubljana and Ambassador to Washington. In 2005, he was Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE. During the Slovenian EU Council presidency in 2008, he was in charge of the General Affairs and External Relations Council of the EU. Currently, he teaches at Ljubljana's New University.



Klajdi Kaziu

Board Member and Head of the Projects Department at the United Nations Association of Albania; Senior Rapporteur for the Young Ideas for the Future of Europe Manifesto. He holds a Master's degree in European Integration and Global Studies from CIFE – Centre International de Formation Européenne and a BA in Political Science and International Relations from Epoka University.



Alojz Peterle

Co-founder and former President of the Slovenian Christian Democratic Party, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Slovenia, MEP 2004–2015, representative of the then candidate countries in the Praesidium of the European Convention, former Special Envoy of the OSCE for Central Asia, Chief Observer of the EU Election Observation Missions in Nigeria, Kenya, and Kosovo.



Charles Powell

Director of the Elcano Royal Institute and Professor of Contemporary History at CEU San Pablo University. He holds a BA in History and Modern Languages from Oxford University, where he also obtained his D. Phil for a thesis on Spain's transition to democracy. He has published six books and dozens of articles on Spanish history, politics and foreign policy.

Data – (Re)source of the Future



Julian King

EU Commissioner for the Security Union. He joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1985 and held various positions, including UK Ambassador to France (2016); Director General Economic & Consular (2014); DG of the Northern Ireland Office London and Belfast (2011); UK Ambassador to Ireland (2009); Chef de Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Trade (2008); UK Representative on EU Political and Security Committee, (2004). A graduate of Oxford University and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Paris.



Levente Juhasz

A public policy manager at Google for Central and Eastern Europe. He leads on the topics of digital transformation, economic contribution and sustainability in the region. Prior to joining Google, he spent five years in the energy sector working in EU affairs, strategy and business development, and innovation management.



Gregor Pilgram

Supervisor of the financial performance and strategic development of ten CEE countries out of the Generali CEE Holding. He was CEO of Generali Slovenia and President of the Supervisory Board of Generali Croatia. Recently he has become President of the Supervisory Board of Adriatic Slovenica insurance company. He graduated from Vienna Economic University with a Master's degree in Business Administration in 2001.



Uroš Salobir

He has been employed by the Slovenian transmission system operator ELES for more than 20 years. During this period he has worked in the field of power system operations, electricity markets, infrastructure projects and technical information systems. He started with ELES's strategic innovation actions and was responsible for the implementation of challenging innovation projects and helped to establish Strategic Innovation Department. He is also the Slovenian representative in the ENTSO-E Research and Development Committee.



Samir Sharma

CEO of datazuum, a data strategy and analytics consultancy. As a thought leader, he works with private and public sectors creating and delivering sustainable data strategies for growth and efficiency. He has been elected the Faculty Lead for Data Strategy at the PWC Leadership Academy.



Jolene Creighton

Editorial Director of Boma Global. Prior to this, she was the founding Editor-in-Chief of Futurism, recently acquired by Singularity University. Over the course of her career, she has taught over a dozen university courses on digital publishing and provided strategic consultancy to governments, non-profits, and start-ups with a wide variety of communications needs.

(Re)sources in Women's Hands: Tapping the Potential



Lady Barbara Judge CBE

A trained commercial lawyer with a successful international career as a senior executive, chairman and non-executive director. She was Chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority and UK Pension Protection Fund. Currently she holds the chairmanship of the Astana Financial Services Authority and the UK fraud prevention agency. In 2010 she was awarded Commander of the British Empire.



Nasser Kamel

Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean. He served as Ambassador to the UK and France and was Assistant Minister for Arab and Middle Eastern Affairs and Director of Egypt's Public Information Service. He took part in the drafting of the Joint Declaration of the 2008 Paris Summit that marked the launch of the Union for the Mediterranean.



Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen

Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD from January 2019. His portfolio includes strategic direction of several OECD policies. Until 2018, he was Permanent Secretary of State at the Danish Foreign Ministry. Prior to this, he served as Chief Diplomatic Adviser to two prime ministers and as Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO. In 2013 he was Group Director for International Policy in Vodafone, London.



Monica McWilliams

Chairperson of Interpeace and Emeritus Professor at Ulster University. She was signatory of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; co-founded the Women's Coalition and represented South Belfast on the Legislative Assembly. She was Oversight Commissioner for prison reform and serves on the Independent Reporting Commission for Disbandment of Paramilitary Organisations.



Melanie Seier Larsen

A Managing Director and Partner at the Boston Consulting Group. She is the first and only female CEE partner at BCG. With 15 years' experience in management consulting, her primary focus is on consumer products, retail, people and organisation functionality topics. Since 2014, she is President of Women Managers at the Managers' Association of Slovenia.



Aleksander Zalaznik

President of the Managers' Association of Slovenia, Chairman of the Management Board and Senior Vice President of Commercial Controls at Danfoss Heating and General Manager of Danfoss Trata. Recipient of awards for extraordinary achievements in the economy in 2012 and for exemplary business and entrepreneurial achievements in 2007. A long-time member of the Managers' Association of Slovenia, he has been on its Management Board since 2008.



Simona Leskovar

State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A career diplomat, she served as Ambassador to Japan and the Republic of Korea. In 2013, the Government appointed her R2P National Focal Point. Prior to that she was Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and the Foreign Minister's adviser in his Cabinet during Slovenia's first EU Council Presidency in 2008. Between 2001 and 2004 she served at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington.

Disinformation Campaigns – A Source of Instability in Eastern Partnership Countries



Angelina Gros-Tchorbadjiyska

Member of Security Union Task Force Secretariat at DG Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. Her previous positions include Member of the Cabinet of Kristalina Georgieva, the Commission Vice-President for Budget and Human Resources, member of the Legal Service of the European Parliament, and researcher with the Institute for European Law at KU Leuven, Belgium.



Elina Lange-Ionatamishvili

She has worked for the NATO StratCom Centre of Excellence since its establishment in 2014, focusing on the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, the Nordic-Baltic region, and the Arctic. Her previous posts include Manager of the NATO-Georgia Professional Development Programme and Head of the Public Diplomacy Division at the Latvian Ministry of Defence.



Vakhtang Makharoblishvili

He has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia since graduation and has held increasingly important positions within its structure, including Director of the Department for International Organisations, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Alexandr Roitman

Spokesperson, Head of the Public Diplomacy, Strategic Communication and Interaction with the Press Service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. Previously held different positions at the MFAEI and the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to Moscow accredited concurrently in Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.



Veronika Vichová

Co-author of a study on how Kremlin propaganda portrays European leaders published by The Atlantic Council and the annual Kremlin Watch Ranking, she compiles the Kremlin Watch Briefing, a newsletter on influence operations for more than 7,000 European experts, journalists and officials. She participated in the Transatlantic Fellowship Program in Washington at the office of Senator Rob Portman.



Mark Vlašič

N/A



Oana Popescu-Zamfir

Former Romanian State Secretary for EU Affairs and currently Director of GlobalFocus Center, an independent foreign policy think-tank. She is an international consultant, media commentator, writer and lecturer specialised in geopolitics and security in the EU/NATO neighbourhood, political risk and strategic analysis, EU policies, democratic transformation, asymmetric threats and shifting models of governance.

Western Balkans – Europeisation, Democratisation, Shared Responsibility



Pekka Haavisto

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. During his career, he has held several high-level positions both within the UN system and in the EU with a focus on conflict-affected settings. He served twice as Minister in the fields of environment and international development prior to his current appointment, and has been a Member of Parliament of the Finnish Green Party for over 24 years.



Majlinda Bregu

Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council. From 2007 to 2013, she served as Minister of European Integration. As a Democratic Party member (Centre Right), she was elected Member of Parliament of Albania for three consecutive legislatures (2005–2017). During the 2013–2017 Parliamentary term, she initiated several legal initiatives against gender-based and domestic violence which are currently in force.



Igor Crnadak

Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH. Former member of the European Integration Committee of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. Served as Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH and Chairman of the BiH NATO Coordination Team. Between May and November 2015, he was Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe.



Ivica Dačić

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia since 2014. He was Delegate in the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992–2004), Minister of Information (2000–2001) and Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia (2008–2014), and was appointed Prime Minister in the 2012–2014 period. He became the leader of the Socialist Party of Serbia in 2006.



Srdjan Darmanović

Montenegrin Foreign Minister, Professor at the University of Montenegro, and a member of the Venice Commission and the European Council on Foreign Relations. His previous positions include Ambassador to the US, founding father and the first dean of the Faculty of Political Science, founder and President of the Podgorica-based think-tank CEDEM and a founding member of the Diplomatic Academy.



Nikola Dimitrov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia. His past engagements include Deputy Foreign Minister, as well as Ambassador to the US and the Netherlands. He was a national coordinator for NATO integration. Between 2014 and 2017, he was a distinguished fellow at The Hague Institute for Global Justice. He holds a LL.B (Saints Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje) and LL.M (Cambridge University).



Vedran Džihic

Senior Researcher at oip – Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Co-Director of Center for Advanced Studies, South East Europe (CAS SEE) and Senior Lecturer at the University of Vienna. He is a member of BIEPAG and an advisory board member of the European Forum Alpbach. He is the author of four monographs and editor/co-editor of further 17 edited volumes/books.



Behgjet Pacolli

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo. He started his political career as a Member of the Parliament in 2007 and was re-elected in 2011. The same year he served for a short period of time as President of Kosovo. From 2010 until 2014 he was First Deputy Prime Minister.



Matthew Palmer

Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the US Department of State with responsibility for the Western Balkans and the Aegean. His earlier tours included Belgrade, Nicosia, the US Mission to the United Nations, and various positions in Washington, including on the Secretary's Policy Planning staff and at the National Security Council. He is a distinguished graduate of the National War College.



Péter Szijjártó

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. He has been a Member of Parliament for Fidesz since 2002, and in 2018 began his fifth term in Parliament. From 2006 to 2010 he was Fidesz Communications Director, the Prime Minister's Spokesperson from 2010 to 2012 and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations from 2012 to 2014.



Nina Kodelja

N/A



John O'Brennan

Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration and Director of the Maynooth Centre for European and Eurasian Studies at Maynooth University, he specialises in the politics of the EU's enlargement policy and has published widely on this topic in academic journals. He is also a regular contributor to media discussions of the European Union.



Goran Svilanović

Served as Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council (2013–2018) and was Co-ordinator of the OSCE's economic and environmental activities (2008–2012). Between 2004 and 2007, he chaired the working table for democratisation and human rights of the Stability Pact for SEE. From 2000 to 2004 he was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro.

Closing of the 2019 BSF



Simona Leskovar

State Secretary at the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A career diplomat, she served as Ambassador to Japan and the Republic of Korea. In 2013, the Government appointed her R2P National Focal Point. Prior to that she was Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York and the Foreign Minister's adviser in his Cabinet during Slovenia's first EU Council Presidency in 2008. Between 2001 and 2004 she served at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington.

Brexit: Where Next?



Chris Cook

Partner and editor at Tortoise, a slow news startup, and the author of "Defeated by Brexit", a new book charting the failure of the UK's Brexit strategy. He previously served for five years as the public policy editor on BBC Newsnight, where he won three Royal Television Society awards, including 2019's Specialist Journalist of the Year.



Stefaan De Rynck

Senior Adviser to Michel Barnier, Chief EU Negotiator for Brexit, in charge of strategy, relations with think tanks and public engagement. Previously, he was Head of Unit in the department for the single market and financial regulation. He has worked on various other EU policies, including transport, labour markets, the environment, and regional development.



Martin Sandbu

N/A



Gisela Stuart

Chair of Change Britain, successor organisation to the official Leave campaign in 2016. She was a Labour MP from 1997 to 2017 and a minister in the Blair government. Focused on foreign affairs and security. Since 2018 she is Chair of Wilton Park, an executive agency of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.



Thomas Raines

Head of the Europe Programme at Chatham House. Previously, he was manager and research fellow with the programme. Prior to joining Chatham House, he worked as an analyst in the Strategy Unit of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. His research interests lie in British foreign policy, EU politics, and public attitudes to international affairs.

Side-events

Resources of Modern Diplomacy: Honorary Consuls and Their Renewed Role



Marko Smole

Holder of a PhD in non-career diplomacy. An honorary consul, founder and two-time President of Slovenian Consular Corps. Between 2004 and 2012 he was Vice President of the European Federation of Consular Corps. In 2016 he was elected Director of FICAC, the World Federation of Consuls. He is the Founder and Director of the AC Investment company.



Klemen Jaklič

Judge of the Constitutional Court of Slovenia and Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law and Business Studies, Ljubljana. Former Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, Harvard University, and full member of the European Commission for Democracy through Law. Author of Constitutional Pluralism in the EU, Oxford University Press 2014.



Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos

Secretary General of the International Federation of Consular Corps and Associations. Managing Partner of Scientia Legis Law Firm in Thessaloniki and Athens. Honorary Consul of the Philippines in Thessaloniki since 1995. He has been bestowed the title of cavaliere by the Italian President. Member of boards of directors of bilateral chambers, various private sector companies and non-profit institutions.



Ernest Petrič

Former diplomat, Ambassador to the UN, Judge, past President of the Constitutional Court, a member and President of the International Law Commission, past President of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.



Leif-Kristian Sverstad

Honorary Consul of Yemen in Norway, Chairman and President of Corps Consulaire de Norvège, FICAC Director and Chairman of the Trade & Economic Development Committee, FICAC delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. He is the owner and Managing Director of Falk Maritime, a shipbroking and investment company, and holds several national and international board and counsellor positions.



Katja Geršak

Executive Director of the Centre for European Perspective, co-organiser of the Bled Strategic Forum, and Editor-in-Chief of the Bled Strategic Times. She previously worked as Vice-President of Business Angels of Slovenia. She is the co-founder of Regional Dialogue, a non-governmental organisation working on the justice sector reform in Uzbekistan.

Start:up Slovenia Meet-up with Yossi Vardi



Yossi Vardi

One of Israel's early entrepreneurs with an extensive Government career, including the post of Director General at the ministries of development and of energy. Chairman of the Israel National Oil Company and of Israel Chemicals, with 86 high tech investments. Exits to AOL, Cisco, Microsoft, Ebay, Yahoo, IAC; instant messaging pioneer. Co-chairman of the DLD conference. Participated in Israeli peace talks with the Palestinians, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.

Business Bled Strategic Forum

AmCham Reinvention Breakfast – Predicting the Unpredictable: How to Win in the Flow of Constant Change?



Ina Kukovič Borovnik

Having started out as a lawyer, she went to live and work in China as a sustainability consultant, came back to Slovenia to be the Prime Minister's Spokesperson, later finished her MBA, and became a professional yoga instructor. She is a business owner, facilitator, speaker, chief reinvention officer. She works in, for and with Nature.



Niko Slavnič

An MBA Professor, CEO, serial entrepreneur, angel investor, author and most of all, a creative soul always open to new challenges. As the founder of IQbator, he has supported more than 1000 startups since 2001. CEO of global InYourPocket Guides, founder of The Slovenia Institute, creator of The Slovenia Restaurant Awards. Lecturer at ESSCA and IEDC - Bled School of Management.



Joseph Dumoulin

Professional programmer since 1985. For the last 15+ years, most of his work centres around machine learning and natural language processing, and managing a research team at Verint, the Customer Engagement Company. He has helped create some of the earliest and most widely-used commercial automated conversational applications and a number of early commercial prototypes in the conversational AI space.



Marten Kaevats

N/A



Josko Mrndze

Country manager at Google Adriatic, helping businesses in the region be successful online. His previous positions include Board Member at InBev Croatia, Managing Director of Blitz Film and Video distribution, Managing Director of McCann Erickson Croatia, and Member of Supervisory Board of InBev Croatia.



Gregor Potočar

Managing Director for SouthEast Europe at SAP, manages SAP SEE's operations in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He previously held various leadership positions in Microsoft and other IT and financial services companies in Slovenia and SEE countries.



Matthias Sachs

Director of Corporate Affairs and Government Affairs Lead for Microsoft in Central & Eastern Europe since 2015. Before joining Microsoft as Government Affairs Manager for Germany in 2012, he worked as a business and public affairs consultant and as political adviser to a MP of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.



Uroš Majcen

Head of the Security Operation Center Department at S&T Slovenia, dealing with ever-increasing cyber security threats and response to them at the local and regional levels. His responsibilities include consulting, building up capabilities and services to prevent, control and respond to cyber security disruptions for organisations and institutions. Member of a number of industry-related organisations.



Ajša Vodnik

CEO of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovenia – AmCham Slovenia and Vice Chair of AmChams in Europe. Previously she worked in the media, first as a journalist, then as editor-at-large and TV host, and went on to launch TV Paprika television station at the early age of 29.

Tourism for All Destinations: Dispersal over Place and Time



Zdravko Počivalšek

In 2014, and again in 2018, he was appointed Minister of Economic Development and Technology. He has a degree in Agricultural Engineering. For 15 years, he managed the Terme Olimia spa resort. He won the Chamber of Commerce and Industry award for outstanding economic and entrepreneurial achievements in 2004 and was declared Manager of the Year 2010.



Maja Pak

For over 20 years she has worked for the Slovenian Tourist Board and led the transformation of Slovenia into the world's first green destination and a leader in sustainability in tourism. Her vision of Slovenia as a green boutique destination for 5-star experiences has gained unanimous support among stakeholders in Slovenian tourism.



Daniela Wagner

Regional Director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at PATA, responsible for driving strategic relationships with international institutions and private companies. She is also responsible for coordinating European PATA chapters, recruiting and retaining members, coordinating key events (including the PATA Advocacy dinner), and securing sponsorship.



Eva Štravs Podlogar

She holds a university degree in Economics. Owing to her wide experience in tourism, in September 2016, the Government appointed her State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; following the inauguration of the new Government, she was in October 2018 again appointed State Secretary.



Andrew Agius Muscat

Entrepreneur, currently Secretary General of Mediterranean Tourism Foundation and CEO of Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association. His previous positions included consultant within the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta and Chairman at the Public Broadcasting Services Ltd, policy consultant to various Ministries and adviser to the World Bank and the European Parliament.



Marjan Beltram

A pioneer in implementing a digital strategy in the traditional travel agency, he has over 20 years of experience in the travel and tourism industry. He currently serves as Chief Travel and Mobility Officer at Nomago. His main focus is reinventing the company from transport- to mobility-oriented, embracing new technologies, creating innovative products, and developing customer-centered services.



Valeria Duflot

Co-founder of Venezia Autentica and Overtourism Solution, whose goals are to make tourism a driver of sustainable development by leveraging digital technologies and collaborating with governments. She is an advocate of the use of tech and innovation to create impact and has been leading projects empowering communities for the past ten years.



Tanja Mihalič

As Professor at the University of Ljubljana, she leads two world's top ranked tourism management master programs. Her current positions include board member of Tourism Ljubljana, member of the World Committee on Tourism Ethics at the UN World Tourism Organisation and expert research evaluator for the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission.



Jaka Repanšek

Founder and managing partner of RePublis Consulting. He has been working for various TIME (Telecom, Internet, Media, Entertainment) companies. He obtained his graduate degree from Cambridge University and Faculty of Law in Ljubljana (European Community Law) and completed two-year MBA graduate studies at the University of Kansas.

The Three Dimensions of Artificial Intelligence: Science, Business & People



Yossi Vardi

One of Israel's early entrepreneurs with an extensive Government career, including the post of Director General at the ministries of development and of energy. Chairman of the Israel National Oil Company and of Israel Chemicals, with 86 high tech investments. Exits to AOL, Cisco, Microsoft, Ebay, Yahoo, IAC; instant messaging pioneer. Co-chairman of the DLD conference. Participated in Israeli peace talks with the Palestinians, Egypt, Syria, and Jordan.



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Julian King

EU Commissioner for the Security Union. He joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1985 and held various positions, including UK Ambassador to France (2016); Director General Economic & Consular (2014); DG of the Northern Ireland Office London and Belfast (2011); UK Ambassador to Ireland (2009); Chef de Cabinet to EU Commissioner for Trade (2008); UK Representative on EU Political and Security Committee, (2004). A graduate of Oxford University and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Paris.



Michael May

Heads the Company Core Technology Data Analytics & AI at Siemens. In Siemens Corporate Technology, Munich, he is responsible for fourteen research groups in Europe, the US, and Asia. He drives in AI & data analytics research at Siemens. Before joining the company in 2013, he was Head of the Knowledge Discovery Department at Fraunhofer IAIS in Bonn, Germany.



Jernej Pikalo

Slovenia's Minister of Education, Science and Sport. In 2003 he obtained a PhD in Political Science from University of Ljubljana. During his academic career, he was also a Marie Curie fellow at the University of Warwick in the UK. In 2013 he became Full Professor of Political Science at the University of Ljubljana. He was Minister of Education, Science and Sport during 2013/2014.



Matthias Sachs

Director of Corporate Affairs and Government Affairs Lead for Microsoft in Central & Eastern Europe since 2015. Before joining Microsoft as Government Affairs Manager for Germany in 2012, he worked as a business and public affairs consultant and as political adviser to a MP of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia.



Emilija Stojmenova Duh

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana and coordinator of the national FabLab network. She is Director of Digital Innovation Hub Slovenia, the national one-stop-shop for digital transformation and digital competence development. She coordinates several projects on digitalisation for innovation and rural development.



Pika Šarf

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana and is a junior research fellow at the Institute of Criminology at her alma mater, interested in questions of law and technology; her research focuses on human rights implications of artificial intelligence and big data.

Invest Talk Slovenia 3.0: Trends and Challenges of Global FDI: A Threat or an Opportunity?



Zdravko Počivalšek

In 2014, and again in 2018, he was appointed Minister of Economic Development and Technology. He has a degree in Agricultural Engineering. For 15 years, he managed the Terme Olimia spa resort. He won the Chamber of Commerce and Industry award for outstanding economic and entrepreneurial achievements in 2004 and was declared Manager of the

Year 2010.



James Zhan
N/A



Aleš Cantarutti

He has a degree in Sociology. In 2008, he took employment at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and became Director of the Centre for International Relations at the Chamber in 2009. The Slovenian Government appointed him State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology in December 2014; following the inauguration of the new Government in September 2018 he was again appointed State Secretary.



Rastislav Chovanec

After obtaining his PhD from the University of Economics in Bratislava in 2006, he was Adviser to the Prime Minister for FDIs. In 2012, he became State Secretary responsible for the business environment, investments, trade and innovation. He is also Chairman of the Supervisory Board of SPP – Distribúcia, the largest Slovak distributor of natural gas.



Valerio De Luca

Founder and Executive Chairman of the International Academy for Social and Economic Development and Executive Director of the Global Sustainability Forum. Executive President of Global Investors Alliance and President of the Strategic Council, Universal Trust Global Advisory. He is Pro-Chancellor and Visiting Professor at the University of Kigali, Rwanda. Formerly, he was legal adviser at CONSOB, the public authority responsible for regulating the Italian financial markets.



Miha Polak

Principal Banker, Acting Head of Slovenia, EBRD. Before joining the EBRD in 2014, he was Director of Corporate Banking at SID Bank. Previously he held various positions in New York, Ljubljana and London with LBS Bank, Deloitte, and Erste Bank. He holds a MIEM degree from SDA Bocconi, an MBA from American University and BA from Florida Southern College.



Boštjan Skalar

CEO of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), the umbrella organisation of IPAs established in 1995 under the auspices of UNCTAD. Previously he served as Director of SPIRIT Slovenia – Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology as well as Slovenian Consul for Economic Affairs in Istanbul.



Luka Vesnaver

A Financial Advisory Services Partner at Deloitte with more than 18 years of experience in providing services to clients across the Central European region. During his career he has managed and successfully closed a number of complex corporate restructuring transactions involving multiple stakeholders and some of the largest M&A transactions and privatisations in the region.



Sebastian Shehadi

Global markets reporter for fDi Magazine, a specialist publication from the Financial Times that focuses on global foreign investment. Prior to joining fDi, he was a political risk analyst at Citibank, London. He grew up in London and Beirut, where he learnt French and Arabic. He earned his MSc at the London School of Economics, reading History of International Relations.

A Climate-Neutral Smart Economy – Greentech



Saša Bavec

Group Marketing Director and Member of the Executive Management Committee of Knauf Insulation. He also manages the Systems Division, the business unit selling insulation to industrial customers. Previously he was Marketing Director EUMEA in the pharmaceutical company Sandoz and Assistant Professor of Intellectual Property at the Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana.



Gregor Benčina

CEO of the EBS Group since 2002. Manager of the Year of St. & C. Europe (2010), Young Manager of the Year in Slovenia (2006). Member of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and of the Governing Board of the European Athletic Association. Partner at the Athletic Diamond League in Monaco. Since 2015, he has been Honorary Consul of Finland in Slovenia.



Bernard Fautrier

He served as Minister for Public Works and Social Affairs of Monaco (1984–1995) and Minister for International Cooperation (1995–2003). Until 2003, he chaired the Barcelona Convention. He presently chairs the Monaco Committee of the World Energy Council, the Med Fund, the Be Med NGO (on plastic in the Mediterranean) and co-chairs the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).



Tom Fux

The Slovenian Tom Fux is CEO of Toyota Fleet Mobility Europe and has more than 20 years' experience in the company. His previous positions include President of Toyota Germany, Director of sales operations of Toyota Motor Europe, and Managing Director of Toyota Adria.



Janez Potočnik

Former EU Commissioner for science and research and for the environment. He is currently Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and SystemIQ Partner, as well as a member of the European Policy Centre's Advisory Council. In 2013 he received the United Nations Champions of the Earth Award.



Ana Roš

A self-taught chef, she has been named the world's best female chef in 2017 by the Restaurant magazine. She and her life partner Valter Kramar own Hiša Franko (Kobarid, Slovenia), one of the leading restaurants in Europe which in June 2019 was ranked 38th on the 50 World's Best Restaurants list.



Rok Vodnik

Member of the Management Board of the Petrol Group, holds a Master's degree in management and organisation. He started his business career at Avtotehna-Canon and later joined Kolektor. In 1999, he moved to the US to manage the founding of Comtrade USA. His areas of expertise and responsibility include sales, trading, energy, and the environment.



Martin Porter

He joined the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership as Executive Chair of CISL Brussels from the European Climate Foundation, where he was Europe Group Co-ordinator, having been an EU Public Affairs consultant on industry, environment and sustainability issues since 1996. He is a representative on the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change of the European Economic and Social Committee, a member of UCL's European Institute Advisory Board and on Board of the Sustainable Biomass Programme.

Pitch your Green Idea!



Jernej Hočevär

Member of the Mebius team since its founding in 2008, he has worked on various business tasks of a start-up company, such as general administration, business communication and representation, pitching, as well as in website design and deployment. His technical knowledge includes catalyst ink formulation, gas-diffusion electrode preparation and manufacture, MEA assembly, and industrial ink-jet printer operation.



Jaromir Dzialo

IT Architect, built and successfully exited a company in the Silicon Valley. In the Internet business since 1994, he is the founder of three successful start-ups and provided IT solutions for the Swiss banking domain. A UI/UX evangelist passionate about ergonomics, usability, and clear communication. Co-author of a semantic analysis patent, but also an open-source committer. Seasoned CTO, Product Manager, Software Engineering Manager, and IT consultant.



Erik Šifrer
N/A



Dejan Lešnik
N/A