

# Leader or Dreamer?

Europe's Role in a Fragmented  
World Order

January 31 – February 1, 2025  
a student-led conference at  
**Harvard University**



**European  
Conference**

# Welcome to the European Conference 2025.

The European Conference, one of the most important events about Europe in the U.S., is organized by Harvard students to strengthen transatlantic dialogue. It brings together top scholars, policymakers, and leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to explore new pathways for action.



The 2025 edition marks the 11th consecutive year of the conference. Under the theme **Leader or Dreamer? Europe's Role in a Fragmented World Order**, the 2025 edition will bring together over 550 academics, students, and future leaders from around the world. Across 13 panels, flagship sessions, workshops, and fireside chats, the event will address pivotal topics shaping Europe's future.

**We are delighted to welcome you to the European Conference and wish you thought-provoking and inspiring participation!**

*The Organizing Team of the European Conference.*

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# Schedule.

## Friday January 31, 2025

10:00 AM	<p><b>TAUBMAN ENTRANCE</b>  <b>4h Registration</b></p>		
2:00 PM	<p><b>NYE HALLWAY</b>  <b>Welcome Coffee</b></p>		
2:30 PM	<p><b>NYE AUDITORIUM</b>  <b>Opening Ceremony</b>          FLAGSHIP SESSION   Mirjana Spoljaric,          President of the ICRC</p>		
3:30 PM	<p><b>NYE HALLWAY</b>  <b>30' Break</b></p>		
4:00 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>Flagship session</b>          Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium  <i>(4:00 PM – 5:00 PM)</i></p>		<p><b>NYE AUDITORIUM</b>  <b>The Power of Art in Uncertain Times</b>          PANEL</p>
5:15 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>15' Break</b></p>		
5:30 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>Flagship session</b>          Benjamin Haddad, Minister          Delegate for European          Affairs, France</p>	<p><b>WEXNER 434</b>  <b>Fireside Chat</b>          Mirjana Spoljaric, President          of the ICRC <i>(registration          required, max. 30 guests)</i></p>	<p><b>WEXNER 330</b>  <b>Fireside Chat</b>          Alexander de Croo, Prime          Minister of Belgium  <i>(registration required, max.          30 guests – starts at 5:15 PM)</i></p>
6:30 PM	<p>END OF PROGRAMMING DAY 1</p>		
7:30 PM	<p><b>Speakers Reception</b>          INVITATION ONLY</p>		

## Saturday, February 1, 2025 | MORNING

8:00 AM	<b>WEXNER COMMONS</b> <b>Breakfast</b>	<i>Please use Wexner Entrance to enter Harvard Kennedy School.</i>	
9:00 AM	<b>JFK JR. FORUM</b> <b>Flagship session</b> Mateusz Morawiecki, former Prime Minister of Poland, with a response by Prof. Wojciech Sadurski	<b>STARR AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Boosting Europe’s Economy</b> PANEL	<b>WEXNER 434</b> <b>Fireside Chat</b> Madeleine de Cock Buning, Vice President for Public Policy EMEA, Netflix <i>(registration required, max. 30 guests)</i>
10:00 AM	<b>WEXNER COMMONS</b> <b>15’ Break</b>		
10:15 AM	<b>JFK JR. FORUM</b> <b>Fortifying Europe’s Frontlines – Ukraine and NATO</b> PANEL	<b>STARR AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Europe’s Role in Middle East Peace</b> PANEL	<b>WEXNER 434</b> <b>The Future of LGBTQI+ Rights in Europe</b> PANEL
11:30 AM	<b>WEXNER COMMONS</b> <b>30’ Break</b>		
12:00 PM	<b>JFK JR. FORUM</b> <b>Europe’s Role in Global Diplomacy – Connecting the Balkans and Beyond</b> PANEL	<b>STARR AUDITORIUM</b> <b>Pretense or promise? Europe’s Climate Ambition</b> PANEL	<b>WEXNER 330</b> <b>A European Brand: Architecture, Hospitality, and Fashion</b> PANEL
1:15 PM	<b>WEXNER COMMONS</b> <b>Lunch Break</b>		

## Saturday February 1, 2025 | AFTERNOON

2:15 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>The Union under Strain: Democratic Backsliding</b>  <i>(2:15 PM – 3:45 PM)</i>                  PANEL</p>	<p><b>STARR AUDITORIUM</b>  <b>Europe’s Energy Trifecta</b>                  PANEL</p>	<p><b>WEXNER 434</b>  <b>A Career in the European Parliament and European External Action Service</b>                  WORKSHOP</p>
3:30 PM	<p><b>WEXNER COMMONS</b>  <b>30’ Break</b></p>		
4:00 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>Migration – Shaping Elections and Societies</b>                  PANEL</p>	<p><b>STARR AUDITORIUM</b>  <b>Brain Drain and Emerging Tech</b>                  PANEL</p>	<p><b>WEXNER 330</b>  <b>Can Europe Lead the Fight for Human Rights in a Changing World?</b>                  PANEL</p>
5:15 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>10’ Break</b></p>		
5:25 PM	<p><b>JFK JR. FORUM</b>  <b>Closing Ceremony</b></p>		
6:00 PM	<p>END OF PROGRAMMING DAY 2</p>		
8:00 PM	<p><b>HARVARD ART MUSEUM</b>  <b>Closing Gala</b>                  Speakers and Attendees with Gala Tickets</p>		
11:30 PM	<p>END OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2025</p>		

# Flagship Sessions.

## Opening Ceremony Speaker

**MIRJANA SPOLJARIC** | President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Under Mirjana Spoljaric's leadership, the ICRC carries its unique mandate to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve people's suffering in more than 80 conflicts globally. Prior to taking up the presidency in October 2022, Ms Spoljaric served as the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS. With many years of distinguished service with the Swiss Diplomatic Corps, Ms Spoljaric served as Ambassador and Head of the United Nations and International Organizations Division. She has had several assignments in the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern, and was the Counsellor and Head of the Political Team at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. Ms Spoljaric studied Philosophy, Economics and International Law at the Universities of Basel and

Geneva and holds a master's degree. From 2004 – 2006 she was part-time lecturer on Global Governance at the University of Lucerne.

## Flagship Session Speaker

**ALEXANDER DE CROO** | Prime Minister of Belgium



Alexander De Croo is Prime Minister of Belgium since 2020. Before, he served in the Belgian federal government as a deputy prime minister from 2012–2020 in various capacities, among others as Minister of Finance. From 2009 to 2012, he was Chairman of the Flemish Liberal Party. De Croo holds a degree in business engineering from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium) and an MBA from Northwestern University (U.S.).

### Flagship Session Speaker

**BENJAMIN HADDAD** | Minister Delegate of France for Europe



Benjamin Haddad is the French Minister Deputy for Europe. Elected deputy for the 14th Paris constituency in 2022, and re-elected in 2024, he was a member of the Foreign Affairs Commission and the European Affairs Commission and also spokesman coordinator for the National Assembly's Renaissance group. He was the senior director of the Europe Center at the Atlantic Council from 2019 to 2022. He is an expert in European politics and transatlantic relations. Before moving to the Atlantic Council, he was a fellow at Hudson Institute in Washington DC. His work has notably advocated for transatlantic unity in the face of Russian aggression, greater European responsibility, and investment on strategic matters. His recent book *Paradise Lost: Europe in the World of Trump* makes the case for greater European unity in a world of new challenges and threats. He has been published in *Foreign Affairs*, *The American Interest*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Wall*

*Street Journal*, *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Politique Etrangère* and is a frequent guest on France 24, BFM, CBC, CNN, Fox News, and NPR. A graduate of Sciences Po Paris, where he obtained an MA in international affairs and HEC, with an MA in financial economics, Haddad has lectured in international affairs at Sciences Po.

### Flagship Session Speaker

**MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI** | Former Prime Minister of Poland



Mateusz Morawiecki is a Polish politician who served as Prime Minister of Poland from 2017 to 2023 and is currently the incoming leader of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) party. Before his premiership, he held positions as Minister of Finance and Minister of Development and enjoyed a successful career in banking.

**Flagship Session Speaker**

**WOJCIECH SADURSKI** | Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University



Lawyer, political philosopher and commentator on public affairs, Wojciech Sadurski is Challis Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney and Professor at the University of Warsaw Center for Europe. He previously held the chair in philosophy of law at the European University Institute in Florence and has taught regularly at Yale, NYU and Princeton, as well as at universities in Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Global Rule of Law Commission. His most recent books include Poland’s Constitutional Breakdown (Oxford UP 2019), A Pandemic of Populists (Cambridge UP 2022), and Constitutional Public Reason (Oxford UP 2023). He is a co-recipient of the Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award for the “promotion of democracy and the rule of law” for 2023 by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA). Currently (Spring term 2025) he is Laurence S. Rockefeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Teaching at the University

Center for Human Values at Princeton.

## Panels.

The Harvard European Conference brings together influential voices to explore critical transatlantic issues through thoughtfully curated panel discussions. Designed by Harvard students, the panels address the most pressing topics shaping Europe's future, fostering diverse perspectives and constructive dialogue. Each session encourages audience participation, with students actively engaging panelists by posing insightful questions to advance meaningful conversations and identify actionable pathways forward.

### Panel 1

#### **The Power of Art in Uncertain Times**

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This panel will delve into the evolving landscape of European arts and music, examining how traditional art forms and modern innovations intersect to shape Europe's cultural narrative globally. With insights from leaders in classical music, media regulation, and arts festivals, the discussion will explore the transformative power of artistic expression in fostering cross-cultural dialogue and innovation. This conversation will explore how Europe's artistic vision is expanding, adapting, and influencing the global cultural landscape by exploring the balance between tradition and innovation, engaging with cultural and political narratives, and integrating old and new art forms within European contexts.

### **PANELISTS & MODERATOR**

KRISTINA HAMMER | President of the Salzburg Festival



Kristina Hammer became President of the Salzburg Festival in January 2022, following her unanimous selection by the Festival's Supervisory Board in November 2021. With her extensive expertise and international network, she was chosen for her long-standing connection to Salzburg and her role on the board of the Friends of the Zurich Opera House. Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 1968, Hammer holds both German and Swiss citizenship and earned a law degree, bar exam, and a PhD in European law from Vienna (summa cum laude). Hammer's career includes senior roles with Gerngross, Austria's largest department store chain, and as Managing Director of Steffls, Vienna's luxury department store. She also worked with premium automotive brands Aston Martin, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Volvo between 2000 and 2006, before heading global marketing at Mercedes-Benz from 2007 to 2009. Later, she founded her own consultancy, HammerSolutions, based in Zurich. Hammer has served on multiple boards, including Stöckli Swiss Sports AG, and is a certified executive coach (Insead/Fontainebleau). She also lectured at St. Gallen University and ETH Zurich. In 1998, she published the Handbook on the Free Movement of Goods in the European Community. She is married to an Austrian and has two children.

**MADELEINE DE COCK BUNING | Vice President for Public Policy EMEA at Netflix**



Madeleine de Cock Buning is Vice President for Public Policy EMEA at Netflix. She is working with her team to ensure Netflix continues to play an active role in supporting EU institutions and national governments across the region in their efforts to promote and champion the creative industries as a catalyst for innovation, jobs, and creativity. As a leader in the field of media regulation and digital policy, she has chaired the EC European Media Regulators Group (ERGA), was honorary judge to the Court of Appeal in The Hague and Chair of the Supervisory Authority to the Media in The Netherlands. Madeleine is professor at the Florence School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute (EUI) in Italy and at the University of Utrecht Faculty of Law (UU) in The Netherlands. Her academic work centers on the intersection of audiovisual

media and innovation. In 2019 Madeleine received the Royal Distinction Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau by the King of the Netherlands.

**CHAD SMITH | President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra**



Chad Smith, one of the country's leading orchestral music executives, has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boston Symphony Orchestra since early Fall 2023. Smith previously served as the Chief Executive of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, a role he held for four years, and at which he worked in close partnership with Music & Artistic Director Gustavo Dudamel to establish and advance several of the most impactful orchestral programs of the 21st Century. During this tenure, Smith led the LA Phil's artistic and business teams to propel record financial growth year-upon-year and invest in visionary programs to foster a culturally diverse talent pipeline and expand new audiences.

**MODERATOR: RUTH STREETER | Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow**



Ruth Streeter has had an award-winning career working for CBS News, one of the world's most respected news media properties. Most recently, she was a producer at 60 Minutes, where for more than 30 years she covered stories on politics, law, social justice, science, the arts, and culture. Ruth's earlier work at CBS News included producing stories for its documentary unit CBS Reports, On the Road with Charles Kuralt, and Walter Cronkite's Universe. Her work has been recognized with the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Gold Baton, the George Foster Peabody Award, and three Emmys, amongst countless other awards and commendations. She is a member of the board of The America Civil War Museum in Richmond, Virginia and is a past trustee of The Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Connecticut.

## Panel 2

### Boosting Europe's Economy – Strategies for Competitiveness

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This panel will examine Europe's economic challenges in an era of rising geopolitical tensions and internal constraints such as ageing populations and stagnant productivity. Discussions will focus on approaches taken by European institutions, national governments, and the private sector to boost economic growth while sustaining Europe's social model, climate ambitions, and data privacy regulation.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

PIERRE WUNSCH | Governor of the National Bank of Belgium



Guillaume Pierre Wunsch is Governor at the National Bank of Belgium, member of the ECB's Governing and General Council, member of the European Systemic Risk Board, member of the Board of Directors of the Bank for International Settlements, IMF Governor, Chairman of the Resolution College, member of the High Council for Finance, member of the Board of Directors of the National Accounts Institute. He is also Chair of the Board of Governors of the King Baudouin Foundation. He was Director of the Strategic Finance Cell at the Ministry of Finance during the financial crisis of 2008. He holds a PhD in Economics (UCL) and a Master's degree in Public and International Affairs (Princeton).

MARGRETHE VESTAGER | Former Executive Vice President, European Commission, Former Commissioner for Competition



Margrethe Vestager, a Danish politician, served as the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for "A Europe Fit for the Digital Age" (2019–2024). She was also the European Commissioner for Competition from 2014 to 2024. Vestager held national ministerial roles in Denmark, including Minister for Economic Affairs and the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister (2011–2014) and Minister for Education (1998–2001). She was a key figure in the Social Liberal Party, serving as its political leader and chair of its parliamentary group between 2007 and 2014. Vestager was also a Member of the Danish Parliament from 2001 to 2014. From 2025, she serves as chair of the Danish Technical University. Vestager holds an M.Sc. in Economics (University of Copenhagen).

HELGE BERGER | Deputy Director, European Department, IMF



Helge Berger is a Deputy Director at the IMF. He is also an Adjunct Professor of monetary economics at Free University of Berlin. He was educated in Munich, Germany, where he received his Ph.D. and the *venia legendi* for economics. Previously, he taught at Princeton University as a John Foster Dulles Visiting Lecturer, helped to coordinate the Munich-based CESifo network as its Research Director, and served as Full Professor (tenured) at Free University Berlin.

**MODERATOR:** HELENA MALIKOVA | Fellow at the Carr Center, Harvard Kennedy School



Helena Malikova is currently a Technology & Human Rights Fellow at the Carr Center, located at the Harvard Kennedy School. She is also a European Union civil servant at the Directorate General for Competition (DG COMP) at the European Commission in Brussels. Helena was previously a member of the Chief Economist Team at DG COMP advocating for greater use of financial and business data in antitrust economics. Prior to that role, Helena led the investigation under European State aid rules into the tax planning practices of multinational corporations including those of Big Tech firms. Helena practices competition policy across the broad spectrum of European antitrust enforcement. She earned her Masters in Economics from the College of Europe in Bruges. Helena has previously been an EU Fellow at UC Berkeley, and she is also a fellow at the Centre for Digital Governance at the Hertie School, Berlin.

**Panel 3**

**Fortifying Europe's Frontlines – NATO's New Era and the Path to a Unified Defense**

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This panel will examine the evolving landscape of European defense amid ongoing challenges. With Sweden and Finland joining NATO, the alliance's geographic and strategic footprint is shifting, underscoring the need for recalibrated European security and defense strategies. As the EU increasingly pursues defense autonomy, debates over a potential unified European army and the EU's Common Defense Policy gain new urgency. The discussion will also address funding mechanisms for a unified European defense, exploring options like joint defense budgets, member-state contributions, and innovative financing models such as the European Defense Fund. This panel will delve into the complexities of Europe's defense posture, the NATO-EU relationship, and how member states can or should respond collectively to urgent security challenges shaping 21st-century European security.

## PANELISTS & MODERATOR

**MATEUSZ MORAWIECKI** | Former Prime Minister of Poland, President of the European Conservative and Reformist Party



Mateusz Morawiecki is a Polish politician who served as Prime Minister of Poland from 2017 to 2023 and is currently the incoming leader of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) party. Before his premiership, he held positions as Minister of Finance and Minister of Development and enjoyed a successful career in banking.

**DAFNA RAND** | Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor



Dafna Rand is a distinguished expert in international affairs and human rights, having served as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. In this role, she advanced U.S. foreign policy by promoting democratic governance, protecting human rights, and supporting labor rights worldwide.

A seasoned policymaker and scholar, Rand has held senior positions in both government and academia. Prior to her role at the State Department, she served on the National Security Council and as a key advisor on Middle East policy at the Department of State. Her expertise spans democracy promotion, global human rights advocacy, and U.S. foreign policy in complex regions.

**IHOR ZHOVKVA** | Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine



Ihor Zhovkva graduated from the Institute of International Relations of Kyiv Taras Shevchenko National University in 2001 with the degree in International Relations. He held a PhD in Political Science in 2005 and became an Associate Professor in 2014. In 2002, he started his service as an assistant to the Member of Parliament of Ukraine, Chairman of the Committee on European Integration. During 2002–2008, Ihor Zhovkva held various positions in the Foreign Policy Department of the Administration of two Presidents of Ukraine. In 2008, he became Chief of Staff of Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European Integration. During 2010–2014, he headed the Department of International Cooperation and Investment Marketing at the State Agency for Foreign Investment of Ukraine. In 2014, Dr. Zhovkva moved to the Administration of the President of Ukraine to become

Director of the Foreign Policy and European Integration Directorate General. Since September 2019, Dr. Zhovkva serves as Deputy Head of Office of the President of Ukraine.

**MODERATOR:** DAVID HERSZENHORN | Washington Post Russia Ukraine, East Europe Editor



David Herszenhorn is a seasoned journalist and editor, currently serving as the Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe Editor for *The Washington Post*. With decades of experience covering international affairs, Herszenhorn is renowned for his in-depth reporting on the geopolitical complexities of Eastern Europe.

Before joining *The Washington Post*, Herszenhorn held prominent roles at *Politico Europe* and *The New York Times*, where he reported extensively on European politics, the European Union, and major global conflicts. His work has taken him to the heart of critical developments, providing readers with on-the-ground insights and nuanced analysis of the region's rapidly evolving landscape.

#### Panel 4

### Europe's Role in Middle East Peace –Challenges, Opportunities, and a Path Forward

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This panel explores Europe's role in addressing conflicts in MENA region including Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen and Syria reflecting on successes like the Iran nuclear deal. Discussions will emphasize the need for cohesive foreign policies and partnerships with regional powers to enhance Europe's influence in multilateral peace efforts.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

ALEXANDRE STUTZMANN | EU Representative to West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA



Ambassador Alexandre Stutzmann began his tenure as the European Union Representative to West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA, in Jerusalem, on 1 September 2023. He previously served at the European Union Delegation to the United Nations in New York. He was the Special Advisor to the President of the 74th, 75th, and 76th Sessions of the UN General Assembly. In this capacity, he spearheaded key initiatives focused on Our Common Agenda and on Human Rights. Having held several senior positions within the European Union since 2001, he has contributed to shaping external policies, most notably from a parliamentary diplomacy point of view. His term as the Director of External Policies in the European Parliament underscored his strategic vision and commitment to building positive relationships, both intra-institutionally and with key international partners. Prior to that, he served as the Diplomatic Adviser to three Presidents of the European Parliament. Ambassador Stutzmann is a graduate of the Ecole Normale

Supérieure and the Sorbonne in Paris; he further enhanced his expertise as a doctoral researcher at the European University Institute in Florence. His commitment to academic excellence extended to teaching as an adjunct faculty member at New York University, and since then by periodically teaching at several European and American graduate institutions. His extensive experience and academic background make him a key figure in EU diplomacy and international relations. He is fluent in French, English, German, Italian and Spanish and is currently learning Arabic and Hebrew. He has a keen appreciation of contemporary art, music, literature, and culture, and savours the beautiful natural landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of Palestine.

**NATHALIE TOCCI | Director of *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, Former Special Advisor to EU High Representatives Federica Mogherini and Josep Borrell**



Nathalie Tocci is Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, part-time professor at the School of Transnational Governance (European University Institute), Honorary Professor at the University of Tübingen and independent non-executive director of the multi utility company Acea. She has been Special Advisor to EU High Representatives Federica Mogherini and Josep Borrell. In that capacity, she wrote the European Global Strategy and worked on its implementation. She is Europe's Futures fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, IWM). She was Pierre Keller Visiting Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and, prior to joining Acea, she was independent board member first of Edison and then of Eni. She has held research positions at the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, the Transatlantic Academy, Washington, the European University Institute, Florence,

and has taught at the College of Europe, Bruges. Her research interests include European integration and European foreign policy, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, transatlantic relations, multilateralism, conflict resolution, energy, climate and defence. Her major publications include Framing the EU's Global Strategy, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (author); The EU, Promoting Regional Integration, and Conflict Resolution, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (co-editor); Turkey and the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015 (co-author).

**ELLIE GERANMAYEH | Deputy Director of MENA Program, European Council on Foreign Relations**



Ellie Geranmayeh is a senior policy fellow and deputy head of the Middle East and North Africa program at the European Council on Foreign Relations. She focuses on European policy in relation to Iran, particularly on the nuclear and regional dossiers and sanctions policy. Geranmayeh worked extensively on the diplomatic track that led to the 2015 nuclear deal and continues to brief senior policymakers on how to effectively contain Iran's nuclear activities. Her research also covers wider regional dynamics including de-escalation efforts between the GCC states and Iran, and geopolitical trends in the Middle East as a consequence of increasing tensions between global powers. She is regularly quoted by international media outlets including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, and appears on CNN, Al-Jazeera and the BBC to provide commentary on developments in the Middle East.

## Panel 5

### The Future of LGBTQI+ Rights In Europe

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Hungary's anti-LGBTQ law, modeled after Russia's infamous ban on LGBTQ advocacy, has sparked a landmark case before the European Court of Justice. In an unprecedented show of unity, the EU Commission, the European Parliament, and 16 member states have joined forces to challenge Hungary's actions. This pivotal case will determine whether the European Union can uphold its commitment to protecting LGBTQI+ rights across member states and set a precedent for the future of equality within the Union. Leading the session is Rémy Bonny, Executive Director of Forbidden Colours, a pan-European LGBTQI+ organization leading the mobilization effort.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

REMY BONNY | Executive Director, Forbidden Colors



Rémy Bonny is a human rights defender and expert in international relations, specializing in LGBTQI+ rights and foreign policy. He is the executive director of Forbidden Colours, a Europe-wide non-profit advocating for LGBTQI+ human rights and democracy. Bonny is an expert on how ultraconservative and anti-democratic regimes, such as Russia and Hungary, use anti-LGBTQI+ policies in their international relations. In 2019, he exposed a Russian-Hungarian disinformation campaign targeting LGBTQI+ communities in Europe. In 2021, he revealed Hungary's anti-LGBTQI+ propaganda law, modeled after Russia's 2013 law, and in 2023 led a successful campaign urging EU member states to join legal proceedings against Hungary's law, the largest such case in EU history. Bonny has briefed governments on disinformation, foreign information manipulation, and human rights sanctions. He holds degrees in Political Science from the Free

University of Brussels (VUB) and a European Master in Human Rights & Democratization. His work has been featured in major outlets like Time, Politico, The Guardian, and Le Monde.

**MODERATOR: DIEGO GARCIA BLUM | Program Director for the Global LGBTQI+ Human Rights Program, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy**



Diego Garcia Blum is the Program Director for the Global LGBTQI+ Human Rights Program at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School. He advocates for the safety and rights of LGBTQI+ individuals, especially in regions where they face severe oppression. His work is informed by his own experiences as a gay man and his commitment to social change through policy, research, advocacy, and community organizing. Diego previously worked as a Social Change Fellow at the Center for Public Leadership under Governor Deval Patrick and has taught at Harvard since 2020. He also served on the National Board of Governors for the Human Rights Campaign. Before focusing on human rights, he was a nuclear engineer, contributing to zero-carbon energy technologies. Diego holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School, where he was Student Body President, and bachelor's degrees in nuclear engineering and political science from the University of Florida.

**Panel 6**

**Europe's Role in Global Diplomacy – Connecting the Balkans and Beyond**

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This panel will examine the European Union's efforts to work with candidates for EU accession in addressing critical global challenges and discuss Europe's role in preserving influence within an increasingly multipolar world. The conversation will also highlight Europe's dedication to multilateralism and its capacity to build meaningful partnerships. Additionally, panelists will delve into the credibility dilemmas Europe encounters in the Balkans, particularly as it seeks to promote democratic values and regional stability, while addressing concerns about inconsistencies in its integration policies. It will also explore the evolving dynamics of EU-US collaboration in the region and the potential implications of the new U.S. administration's foreign policy priorities for stability and progress in the Balkans.

## PANELISTS & MODERATOR

### TIMČO MUCUNSKI | Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Republic of North Macedonia



Timčo Mucunski is an Assistant Professor at the Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Roman law, rhetoric, corporate ethics, and more. He has co-authored two university textbooks and over 30 papers published in international and domestic journals. He has participated in numerous scientific conferences and been involved in various research projects.

From 2015 to 2017, he served as Deputy Minister for Information Society and Administration, and from 2020 to 2021, he was an MP in North Macedonia's Assembly, chairing the Parliamentary Committee on Financing and Budget and serving on the Committees on Foreign Policy and European Affairs. In October 2021, he was elected Mayor of Skopje's Aerodrom Municipality, serving until June

2024, when he became Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

After graduating from the Iustinianus Primus Faculty of Law in 2009, Mucunski completed a master's in 2011 and a doctorate in 2019 at the same institution. He began his academic career as a lecturer and teaching assistant before becoming Assistant Professor.

### JOHN SHATTUCK | Former U.S. Ambassador to Czech Republic and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor



John Shattuck is a distinguished scholar, diplomat, and human rights leader with a career spanning more than four decades. He served as President and Rector of Central European University (CEU) from 2009 to 2016, where he advanced CEU's global reputation for academic excellence, fostering open debate, and launching interdisciplinary programs, including the School of Public Policy and Roma Access Programs. During his tenure, CEU experienced significant growth in research funding, student applications, and campus redevelopment in Budapest.

Shattuck's government service includes roles as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under President Clinton and U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. He played a pivotal role in creating the

International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and Yugoslavia, negotiating the Dayton Peace Agreement, and advancing NATO integration.

Before CEU, Shattuck was CEO of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and Vice President at Harvard University, where he championed public education and civil rights initiatives. His early career included leadership roles at the American Civil Liberties Union and significant contributions to privacy and civil rights law. A Yale Law School graduate, Shattuck has authored three books and numerous articles on human rights and public policy. He is currently a Professor of Practice at the Fletcher School and a Senior Fellow at Harvard.

## ALBANA SHEHAJ | Program Manager, The Minda De Gunzburg Center for European Studies



Dr. Albana Shehaj is a political scientist specializing in international political economy and democratic developments at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES). She serves as Program Manager at Harvard's CES. Her academic work was conducted previously at Harvard University and the Department of Political Science at the University of Michigan.

As a policy analyst, Dr. Shehaj leverages political science and computational methods to advise policymakers and the United States Department of State on foreign policy initiatives. She previously worked with the United States National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) to develop policy measures that deploy the power of Artificial Intelligence to strengthen international security. She also serves as Co-Principal Investigator for the World Values Survey for the United States, at the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan. Dr. Shehaj holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan, where she also received an M.A. in international relations and methodology, and a B.A. in political science and computer science.

## **MODERATOR:** ILVA TARE | Senior Fellow at The Atlantic Council, Broadcaster with Euronews Group



Ilva Tare is a resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and was most recently a broadcaster with EuroNews Group. Since 2022, she has been hosting Balkans Debrief, a popular social media video interview series produced by the Europe Center. The series is widely shared throughout the region and beyond.

A household name in her native Albania, she has vast experience in the Western Balkans and a track record of unbiased reporting and trustworthy analysis. Tare has covered politics, EU integration, human rights, the judiciary and anti-corruption efforts.

In her wide-ranging interviews, Tare has raised visibility about gender and minorities issues, the effects of disinformation, and the labor rights of journalists. Promoted to leadership positions in newsrooms early in her career, she is a longtime and keen promoter of young journalists.

In 2021, Tare received a lifetime award from the Albanian Association of Journalists "for her tenacity in producing and promoting fair and balanced broadcast journalism, her contributions to the growth of private Albanian broadcasting and her style of informative anchoring." She holds a Master of Science in media and communications from the London School of Economics.

## Panel 7

### **Pretense or promise? – Europe’s Climate Ambition Under Scrutiny**

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This panel will examine Europe’s climate leadership amid geopolitical shifts and criticism over policies like the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Discussions will explore challenges in reconciling ambitious Green Deal goals with equity and global cooperation. Panelists will also address transatlantic tensions and the future of Europe’s role in international climate action.

#### **PANELISTS & MODERATOR**

**TODD STERN** | Nonresident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution



Todd Stern is a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution concentrating on climate change. Stern served from January 2009 until April 2016, as the special envoy for climate change at the Department of State. He was President Obama’s chief climate negotiator, leading the U.S. effort in negotiating the Paris Agreement and in all bilateral and multilateral climate negotiations in the seven years leading up to Paris. Stern also participated in the development of U.S. domestic climate and clean energy policy. Stern served under President Clinton in the White House from 1993 to 1999, mostly as assistant to the president and staff secretary. From 1997 to 1999, he coordinated the administration’s initiative on global climate change, acting as the senior White House negotiator at the Kyoto and Buenos Aires negotiations. From 1999 to 2001, Stern served as counselor to Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers,

advising the secretary on the policy and politics of a broad range of economic and financial issues, and supervising Treasury’s anti-money laundering strategy. Stern graduated from Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**DR. MOHAMMED CHAHIM** | Member of the European Parliament



Dr. Mohammed Chahim is a Member of the European Parliament for GroenLinks-PvdA, currently serving his second mandate as an MEP. He is the Vice-President of the Socialists and Democrats group, responsible for Green Deal on Industry, Energy & Climate and Financing the Just Transition. Prior to his parliamentary career, Dr. Chahim worked as a researcher in the fields of environmental economics and energy transition at the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO). He is a member of the Committee for Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety. In his previous mandate, he has served as the rapporteur for the regulation establishing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

**CAROLYN FISCHER** | Lead Economist and Research Manager, Sustainability and Infrastructure, World Bank



Carolyn Fischer is Lead Economist for Climate in the Development Research Group of the World Bank and Research Manager of its Sustainability and Infrastructure Team. Her research addresses important issues in environmental policy instrument design, including technical change, trade and industrial competitiveness, and interactions with other policies and objectives. She was appointed Professor of Environmental Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and held the Canada 150 Research Chair in Climate Economics, Innovation and Policy at University of Ottawa. She maintains research fellow affiliations with Resources for the Future and the CESifo Research Network. She has served on the boards of both the American and European Associations of Environmental and Resource Economists, as well as expert advisory councils for research institutes in Europe and in North America and editorial councils for

leading journals in environmental economics. She earned her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**MODERATOR: CARRIE JENKS** | Executive Director of the Environmental and Energy Law Program, Harvard Law School



As executive director of the Environmental & Energy Law Program, Carrie leads the EELP team in identifying legally durable strategies to support climate and environmental policies and advance clean energy deployment. With her legal and policy expertise in climate and environmental law, she has worked to build strategic alliances among stakeholders to advance policy solutions. Before joining EELP, Carrie was an executive vice president at M.J. Bradley & Associates where she directed power company coalitions that played a critical role in supporting – and defending in court – air pollution and climate regulations. Carrie was also an associate at Goodwin Procter and Willkie Farr & Gallagher. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and B.A. from Harvard University.

**Panel 8**

**A European Brand: Architecture, Hospitality, and Fashion**

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This panel delves into the European design legacy as a unifying thread in architecture, hospitality, and fashion. From European luxury goods to the visionary elegance of architectural spaces and culinary delights, panelists will discuss how Europe influences cultural identity and consumer experiences.

## PANELISTS

**ALBERTO CANDELLERO** | President and CEO, Dolce & Gabbana for the Americas and South Africa



Alberto Candellero has over 20 years of experience within the luxury industry, covering many managerial and commercial roles. Prior to his current role at Dolce & Gabbana, he served as Chief Commercial & Sustainability Officer at Etro. Before that, among others, Candellero worked for 10 years at Dolce & Gabbana, overseeing commercial development in Latin America and South Africa, and for Ermenegildo Zegna, where he notably took charge of the label's expansion in South America. Candellero holds a law degree from the University of Genova, Italy; a master in marketing from the ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain; and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

**FLORIAN IDENBURG** | Architect and Founder, Solid Objectives Idenburg Liu (SO-IL)



Florian Idenburg is an acclaimed architect and thought leader, known for redefining contemporary design through a global perspective and a commitment to innovation, equity, and sustainability. As the co-founder of SO-IL, Idenburg has shaped projects ranging from world-class museums to transformative social housing, earning recognition for pushing the boundaries of materiality, labor, and community engagement. A Professor of Practice at Cornell University and recipient of prestigious awards including the American Academy of Arts and Letters Architecture Award, Idenburg leads with a vision that architecture can deepen human connections, challenge conventions, and create lasting cultural and environmental impact worldwide.

**DEMETRI TSOLAKIS** | CEO, Xenia Greek Hospitality



Demetri Tsolakis brings an authentic and truly Greek passion for hospitality to Boston's dining scene. Demetri is a Greek-American entrepreneur whose career began in his parent's Greek restaurants in Western Massachusetts. Demetri introduced Committee Ouzeri + Bar to Boston's burgeoning Seaport district in 2015, leading a city-wide resurgence of Greek dining. After a successful launch at Committee that garnered significant local, regional and national media attention, Demetri expanded his vision and introduced a new Greek concept to the city of Boston in the form of Greco Truly Greek, a fast casual eatery that opened its first location on Newbury Street in 2017. In early 2020, Demetri introduced Kراسi Meze + Wine to Boston's historical Back Bay. With Kراسi, Demetri developed a concept that takes guests on a culinary adventure where they can experience Greece, differently, capturing the Greek tradition of philoxenia, which is the art of making a stranger a

friend. Krasi has been featured in local, regional and national and international publications such as USA Today, Forbes, Wine Enthusiast, Conde Nast Traveler, Boston Globe, Time Out Boston and more.

### OCTAVIA MARGINEAN-TAHIROGLU | General Manager, St. Regis New York



Octavia Marginean-Tahiroglu is the General Manager of The St. Regis New York, considered one of the world's finest hotels. She is an accomplished leader with over 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, having previously held leadership roles with The Tribeca Grand Hotel and The Soho Grand Hotel.

## Panel 9

### The Union under Strain – Navigating Populism and Democratic Challenges in the EU

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As populism and democratic erosion test the EU's core principles, this panel will examine tensions between member states and institutions. Panelists will discuss the sustainability of European democratic models and strategies to reinforce legitimacy and cohesion against rising internal divisions.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

VĚRA JOUROVÁ | Vice-Rector for Human Resources Development and New Technologies, Charles University



Věra Jourová is a Czech politician and lawyer who served as Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency from 2019 to 2024. In this role, she focused on safeguarding democracy, strengthening the rule of law, and promoting media freedom across the European Union. Previously, she was the European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers, and Gender Equality from 2014 to 2019, where she played a key role in shaping EU policies on consumer protection, digital privacy, and gender rights.

Before her tenure in the European Commission, Jourová served as Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic in 2014 and was a Member of the Chamber of Deputies from 2013 to 2014. Her work focused on European funding, regional policy, and governance reforms. She was instrumental in the adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), one of the most significant global privacy frameworks, reinforcing data protection rights for millions of European citizens.

Since leaving the European Commission, she has served as Vice-Rector for Human Resources Development and New Technologies at Charles University of Prague, where she leads institutional innovation and talent development. She remains an active voice in European policy debates, advocating for democracy, transparency, and human rights.

## ADRIÁN VÁZQUEZ LÁZARA | Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, European Parliament



Adrián Vázquez Lázara is a Spanish politician and Member of the European Parliament (MEP) since 2020. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) and previously chaired the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI). He is also a member of the Budgetary Control and Human Rights committees, and the delegation for relations with the United States.

A strong advocate for the rule of law and democratic integrity, Vázquez has played a key role in major legislative initiatives, including strengthening corporate transparency on environmental and human rights issues and modernizing Europe's intellectual property and patents framework. His work has been instrumental in shaping European legal standards and defending institutional integrity.

Before joining the European Parliament, Vázquez built a distinguished career in international affairs, working with organizations such as NATO, the OSCE, and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency. He also served as Chief of Staff to former Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio and has extensive experience as a public affairs consultant. In addition to his political career, he remains engaged in academia, contributing as an associate at various Spanish universities.

## YASCHA MOUNK | Professor of the Practice of International Affairs, Johns Hopkins University



Yascha Mounk is a political scientist, author, and public intellectual specializing in democracy and political identity. He is a Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Johns Hopkins University, the Founder of Persuasion, and host of The Good Fight podcast. His work focuses on the challenges facing liberal democracy and the rise of identity politics in contemporary societies.

A prolific author, Mounk has written several widely acclaimed books, including *The Identity Trap: A Story of Ideas and Power In Our Time*, which was recognized as a Best Book of 2023 by The Economist and Financial Times. His research explores the future of democratic governance and the evolving dynamics of pluralistic societies.

Mounk is a regular contributor to leading global media, including The Atlantic, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal, and is frequently featured as a commentator on television and radio. Through his scholarship and public engagement, he has become a leading voice in debates on democracy, populism, and global political trends.

**ALBERTO ALEMANNO | Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law, HEC Paris; Democracy Fellow, Harvard University (2024-25)**



Alberto Alemanno is a legal scholar, policy entrepreneur, and advocate for democratic reform in the European Union. He is the Jean Monnet Professor of European Union Law at HEC Paris and a 2024–25 Democracy Fellow at Harvard University. His research focuses on how law can address social, economic, and political inequalities, promoting more inclusive policymaking.

Alemanno is the founder of The Good Lobby, a nonprofit organization dedicated to democratizing access to power by enhancing civil society’s advocacy capabilities and promoting ethical lobbying practices. His work has earned him recognition as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, an Ashoka Fellow, and one of the top 40 most influential figures in Europe by Politico.

Beyond academia, Alemanno is a regular contributor to The Guardian, Le Monde, Project Syndicate, and Bloomberg, and frequently provides expert commentary for Euronews and BBC World. Originally from Italy, he holds a PhD in International Law and Economics from Bocconi University, a degree from the College of Europe, and is a graduate of Harvard Law School. Through his scholarship, activism, and public engagement, Alemanno continues to shape debates on governance, transparency, and citizen participation in the EU.

**MODERATOR: AMARYLLIS VERHOEVEN | Acting Director, Ecosystems II, European Commission**



Dr. Amaryllis Verhoeven is a legal expert, policy leader, and advocate for digital transformation and industrial policy in the European Union. She is the Acting Director for Ecosystems II: Tourism, Textiles, Digital Transformation of Industry, and Social Economy, as well as the Head of Unit for Digital Transformation of Industry at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs at the European Commission. Her work focuses on strengthening Europe’s industrial competitiveness and fostering sustainable innovation.

Verhoeven has been with the European Commission since 2001, contributing to key Single Market policies and energy policy developments. She played a crucial role in shaping EU industrial strategy and digitalization efforts, ensuring that European businesses remain globally competitive.

Beyond policymaking, Verhoeven is an accomplished academic. She holds a Ph.D. in law and political theory and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School. She teaches at the Law Faculty of KU Leuven and has published extensively on EU law, governance, and regulatory frameworks. Before joining the European Commission, she practiced law at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton.

## Panel 10

### Europe's Energy Trifecta – Independence, Affordability, and Sustainability

This panel will examine Europe's pursuit of energy security, affordability, and decarbonization amid challenges like reliance on imports and rising prices. Discussions will focus on strategies to achieve climate goals, balance socio-economic impacts, and ensure a just energy transition for all EU members.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

AUDRA PLEPYTE | Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States and Mexico



Ambassador Audra Plepytė assumed the duties of Ambassador of Lithuania to the U.S. in May 2021. Prior to her appointment, she was Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations from 2017 to 2021. Ambassador Plepytė served as Director of the European Union Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2017.

She was Lithuania's Ambassador to Spain and the World Tourism Organization between 2010 and 2014, and the Director of the Ministry's Personnel Department from 2009 to 2010. Her other assignments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs included leading the International Missions and Conflict Prevention Division (2008-2009), serving as Deputy Representative to the Political and Security Committee within Lithuania's Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels (2004-2008), and heading the Human Rights and Non-Governmental Organizations Division (2003-2004). Her service also included postings as Deputy Permanent Representative and Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations (1999-2002), Counsellor at Lithuania's Embassy to the United States (1999), Head of the Foreign Ministry's Northern European Division (1998-1999) and Advisor to the CBSS Commissioner for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (1997-1998). Ambassador Plepytė has BA and MA in Philosophy at Vilnius University. She also has a diploma from the Institute of International Relations at Vilnius University, as well as a certificate of Diplomatic studies at Oxford University in UK.

MANFRED SCHUCKERT | Head of Regulatory Strategy & International Hydrogen Strategy, Vice President



Manfred Schuckert is currently Vice President – Head of Regulatory Strategy, & International Hydrogen Strategy – Daimler Truck AG (ex-Mercedes Benz), the largest truck manufacturer in the world. A pioneer in fuel-cell technology, he has been working on establishing a global hydrogen supply chain: from large scale production of green hydrogen in UAE over large infrastructure produced in Japan (recent memorandum of understanding with Kawasaki Heavy Industries, co-testified by European Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson and Ken Saito, Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) to terminals and hydrogen fuel cell truck production in Europe (recently awarded a massive quarter of a billion grant to build 100 fuel-cell trucks in Europe). Since 2007 he has regularly been in exchange with the EU Commission and various other governments incl. the German government on the design of various regulations such as e.g. EU laws on CO2 regulation and criteria pollutants (EURO 7). In 1998 he started his career at the University of Stuttgart.

developing the Life Cycle Approach for the German and later the European Industry, founding the referring software system (GABI) which is today the leading LCA software.

**MODERATOR: EWA KRUKOWSKA | Senior Climate and Energy Reporter, Bloomberg News**



Ewa Krukowska is a senior energy and climate correspondent for Bloomberg News in Brussels. Before moving to Brussels in 2009, she worked for Bloomberg in Warsaw, covering foreign exchange and bond markets in emerging economies. Prior to that, she was a correspondent for Reuters in Poland from 1998 until 2007, reporting on economics, politics, and stock markets as well as climate and energy policies in central and eastern Europe.

**Panel 11**

**Migration – Shaping Elections and Societies**

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This panel will examine migration policy in Europe, exploring the phenomenon from a variety of factors, which will include security, human rights and societal cohesion. Discussions will focus on innovative integration strategies, policies to address disparities, fostering growth and dignity in both host and home countries, and the effects of migration on elections.

**PANELISTS & MODERATOR**

**YLVA JOHANSSON | Former European Commissioner for Home Affairs**



Ylva Johansson is a former European Commissioner for Home Affairs (2019–2024) and a Swedish politician who served as Minister for Employment, Welfare, and Schools. Known for her leadership on migration and employment, she has held key roles shaping both Swedish and EU policies.

IOANNIS KTISTAKIS | Judge of the European Court of Human Rights and President of Third Section



Ioannis Ktistakis is a judge at the European Court of Human Rights and a former professor of public international law. He has held academic roles in Greece, Turkey, and the U.S. and served on key committees addressing racism, equality, and human rights. Ktistakis is a prolific author on immigration, environmental law, and religious freedom.

ESTELLE YOUSOUFFA | Member of Parliament of the French National Assembly



Member of Parliament of the French National Assembly since her election in June 2022, Estelle Youssouffa sits on the Foreign Affairs Commission. She is the representative of the first electoral district of her native island of Mayotte, a French overseas territory located in the Eastern African Mozambique Channel. Estelle is part of the Center-Right political group “Libertés, Indépendants, Outre-mer et Territoires”. Her civic engagement as the head of the citizens movement in Mayotte and her election followed her 20-year career as a TV journalist and communication and international affairs consultant. Among various international companies and institutions, Estelle worked for the World Bank as well as the African Development Bank as a consultant and as a journalist for France 2, TV5 Monde, Al Jazeera English and LCI. She created a conference called The Leaders’

Seminar which gathered 60 Western, Arab and African leaders in Marrakech in 2014, Abidjan in 2016, Kigali in 2017. She is a member of the Africa Leadership Network, an alumna of the Young Leaders program of the French-American Foundation (2011-2012) and the German Marshall Fund’s Atlantic Dialogues Young Leaders program (2013). Born in 1978, Estelle graduated with a degree in journalism studies in Tours, France, before studying international relations and political studies at Quebec University of Montreal, Canada.

**MODERATOR:** MICHELE KLEIN | Former Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, International Organization for Migration



Michele Klein is a global expert on migration policy and refugee protection with 25 years of leadership at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She led IOM's work in the Americas, spearheaded the Global Compact for Migration, and served as the agency's representative to the UN. She also has experience as a principal migration lawyer for the U.S. State Department.

## Panel 12

### **Brain Drain and Emerging Tech – Strategies to Fortify the Science and Innovation Ecosystem in Europe**

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The panel will explore Europe's strategies for advancing its science and technology sectors in an intensely competitive global landscape, with a sharp focus on new technologies. It will address critical challenges such as the migration of European startups and top scientists to the United States and other regions, as well as the implications for Europe's economic and security policies. Panelists will reflect on how Europe can foster innovation, retain talent, and build competitive ecosystems in these cutting-edge fields. This conversation promises to offer a nuanced understanding of Europe's position in the global race for technological leadership and its vision for sustainable growth in science and innovation.

## **PANELISTS & MODERATOR**

JEAN-MICHEL DALLE | Professor, Sorbonne University Paris and Managing Director, Agoranov



Jean-Michel Dalle is a Professor at Sorbonne University and Managing Director of Agoranov, a leading incubator in Paris that has supported over 600 deeptech startups, including 5 unicorns. He co-founded Rise Europe to foster innovation across the continent and serves on several high-level boards, including France 2030.

**TOMASSO CALARCO** | Professor, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Author European Quantum Manifesto (European Quantum Flagship programme), Quantum Community Network, Director



Prof. Tommaso Calarco is considered one of the leading quantum physicists today. At least as important is his role as an instigator and as someone who brings others together. He is one of the founding fathers of the European Quantum Manifesto, which led to the billion-euro EU Quantum Flagship programme. Within the programme, he leads the Quantum Community Network, which brings together theorists and experimental groups as well as science and industry. He was also instrumental in founding “EIN Quantum NRW”, the quantum computing network for science and industry in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

**PAVLINA YANAKIEVA** | CEO Future Unicorns, Founder and Executive Director of Bulgaria Innovation Hub



Pavlina Yanakieva is the founder and executive director of Bulgaria Innovation Hub. She is an ecosystem architect, entrepreneur, board member and strategist. Ms. Yanakieva is an advisor with over 20 years of experience in growth strategies, ecosystem development and partnerships, and raising capital for global technology companies and high-impact organizations

**GIULIA SEMEGHINI** | Assistant Professor, Harvard Quantum



Giulia Semeghini, Assistant Professor of Applied Physics at Harvard University, is an experimentalist whose research centers on quantum simulation of complex materials and quantum information processing on neutral atom platforms. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Florence, and completed her undergraduate and master’s work at the University of Milan. Since 2019, she has been a postdoctoral researcher in Prof. Mikhail Lukin’s group at Harvard.

## Panel 13

### Can Europe Lead the Fight for Human Rights in a Changing World?

In a world facing rising authoritarianism, widespread misinformation, and a shifting U.S. role in global human rights leadership with the Trump Administration, the European Union stands at a crossroads. Can the EU step up as a beacon for human rights leadership on the global stage? This panel will examine the opportunities and obstacles facing the EU as it navigates its internal challenges while striving to defend human rights at this critical moment in history.

#### PANELISTS & MODERATOR

REMY BONNY | Executive Director, Forbidden Colors



Rémy Bonny is a human rights defender and expert in international relations, specializing in LGBTIQ+ rights and foreign policy. He is the executive director of Forbidden Colours, a Europe-wide non-profit advocating for LGBTIQ+ human rights and democracy. Bonny is an expert on how ultraconservative and anti-democratic regimes, such as Russia and Hungary, use anti-LGBTIQ+ policies in their international relations. In 2019, he exposed a Russian-Hungarian disinformation campaign targeting LGBTIQ+ communities in Europe.

In 2021, he revealed Hungary's anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda law, modeled after Russia's 2013 law, and in 2023 led a successful campaign urging EU member states to join legal proceedings against Hungary's law, the largest such case in EU history. Bonny has briefed governments on disinformation, foreign information manipulation, and human rights sanctions. He holds degrees in

Political Science from the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and a European Master in Human Rights & Democratisation. His work has been featured in major outlets like Time, Politico, The Guardian, and Le Monde.

WOJCIECH SADURSKI | Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University



Lawyer, political philosopher and commentator on public affairs, Wojciech Sadurski is Challis Professor of Jurisprudence at the University of Sydney and Professor at the University of Warsaw Center for Europe. He previously held the chair in philosophy of law at the European University Institute in Florence and has taught regularly at Yale, NYU and Princeton, as well as at universities in Europe and Asia. He is a member of the Global Rule of Law Commission.

His most recent books include Poland's Constitutional Breakdown (Oxford UP 2019), A Pandemic of Populists (Cambridge UP 2022), and Constitutional Public Reason (Oxford UP 2023). He is a co-recipient of the Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award for the "promotion of democracy and the rule of law" for 2023 by the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in America (PIASA). Currently (Spring term 2025) he is Laurence S. Rockefeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Teaching

at the University Center for Human Values at Princeton.

**NATHALIE TOCCI | Director of *Istituto Affari Internazionali*, Former Special Advisor to EU High Representatives Federica Mogherini and Josep Borrell**



Nathalie Tocci is Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, part-time professor at the School of Transnational Governance (European University Institute), Honorary Professor at the University of Tübingen and independent non-executive director of the multi utility company Acea. She has been Special Advisor to EU High Representatives Federica Mogherini and Josep Borrell. In that capacity, she wrote the European Global Strategy and worked on its implementation. She is Europe's Futures fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, IWM).

She was Pierre Keller Visiting Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and, prior to joining Acea, she was independent board member first of Edison and then of Eni. She has held research positions at the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, the Transatlantic Academy, Washington, the European University Institute, Florence, and has taught at the College of Europe, Bruges.

Her research interests include European integration and European foreign policy, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, transatlantic relations, multilateralism, conflict resolution, energy, climate and defence. Her major publications include: *Framing the EU's Global Strategy*, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (author); *The EU, Promoting Regional Integration, and Conflict Resolution*, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (co-editor); *Turkey and the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015 (co-author).

**MODERATOR: MATHIAS RISSE | Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School**



Mathias Risse is Berthold Beitz Professor in Human Rights, Global Affairs and Philosophy and Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. His work primarily addresses questions of global justice ranging from human rights, inequality, taxation, trade and immigration to climate change, obligations to future generations and the future of technology, especially also the impact of artificial intelligence on a range of normative issues. He has also worked on questions in ethics, decision theory and 19th century German philosophy, especially Nietzsche.

In addition to HKS, Risse also teaches in Harvard College and the Harvard Extension School, and is affiliated with the Philosophy Department. He has also been involved with executive education at Harvard and in collaboration with international organizations. Risse is the author of *On Global Justice* (Princeton University Press) and *Global Political Philosophy* (Palgrave Macmillan), as well as *On Trade Justice: A Philosophical Plea for a New Global Deal* (Oxford University Press, with Gabriel Wollner) and *On Justice: Philosophy, History, Foundations* (Cambridge University Press). Risse serves as Co-Director of Graduate Studies at the Edmond J Safra Center for Ethics (jointly with Danielle Allen), as well as Director of the McCloy program, a fellowship program for German students. He is also affiliated with the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs.

# Workshops and Fireside Chats.

*Registration required.*

## Workshop

### **A Career in the EU: Insights & Opportunities in Foreign Affairs & European Parliament**

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This workshop will feature Ryan Meilak from the European Parliament Liason Office in Washington DC and Francesco Maria Graziani from the EU delegation to the U.S. to share their professional journeys and insights into working within the European Union.

The discussion will explore career pathways in the EU, drawing on their experiences in policymaking, diplomacy, and external relations. The speakers will first share their backgrounds, past experiences, interests, and their current work and possibly offer reflections on the challenges and opportunities of their roles and advice for the new generation of global young leaders.

After the speakers' opening remarks, the workshop will open up for a moderated discussion. The workshop offers a valuable opportunity for individuals interested in contributing to the EU's work or pursuing a career in Foreign Affairs to engage with experienced and accomplished representatives, while addressing any questions or concerns about this career path.

## **SPEAKERS**

**FRANCESCO MARIA GRAZIANI** | Counsellor, Energy and Climate Delegation of the European Union to the U.S.



Francesco Maria joined the EU Delegation in Washington DC in November 2023 as the Counsellor for Energy and Climate. Prior to his current posting in the U.S., he was Policy Assistant to the Director General at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy in Brussels. He also held the position of Legal Officer for Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy at the European Commission. Francesco Maria holds an LL.M. in International Trade Law from the Georgetown University Law Center and a Master's Degree in Public Law from Luiss – Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali in Rome. He also studied in Helsinki, Finland through the ERASMUS programme. He carried out legal private practice in international law firms as a qualified attorney in New York and Italy before joining the European Commission.

**RYAN MEILAK** | Counselor, Head of Outreach and Congressional Liaison at the European Parliament Liaison Office, Washington D.C.



Ryan Meilak is a diplomatic Counselor. He serves as Head of Outreach and Congressional Liaison at the European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC (EPLO), in charge of the office's outreach to the U.S. Congress and civil society and public diplomacy initiatives. He has been working at EPLO since 2016, with a one-year gap in 2019–2020 as visiting fellow at the Schar School of Policy and Government of George Mason University (VA) and as resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Ryan joined the EU institutions as an EU official in 2004, working in the European Commission in Luxembourg and later moving as an administrator with the Council of the EU in Brussels, in 2005. He joined the European Parliament in 2010 as a lecturer and later as stakeholder relations manager within the Parliament's Directorate General for Communications in Brussels and

Strasbourg. Ryan holds an MA in Diplomatic Studies.

## **Fireside Chats**

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**MIRJANA SPOLJARIC** | President, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

**ALEXANDER DE CROO** | Prime Minister of Belgium

**MADELEINE DE COCK BUNING** | Vice President for Public Policy EMEA, Netflix

## **Diplomatic Representatives**

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**Vladimir Marić** – Ambassador of Serbia

**Andrei Muraru** – Ambassador of Romania

**Audra Plepytė** – Ambassador of Lithuania

**Petra Schneebauer** – Ambassador of Austria

**Paolo Gaudenzi** – Science and Technology Counselor of General Consulate of Italy in Boston

**Brice Gilson** – Consul of Belgium in New York

**Keijo Karjalainen** – Deputy Consul General of Finland in New York

**Sonja Kreibich** – Consul General of Germany in New England

**Arnaldo Minuti** – Consul General of Italy in Boston

**Alessandra Oliva** – Vice Consul of Italy in New York

**Silvia Salomoni** – Deputy Consul General of Italy in Boston

**Mustafa Soykurt** – Consul General of France in Boston

**Filip Vanden Bulcke** – Consul General of Belgium in New York

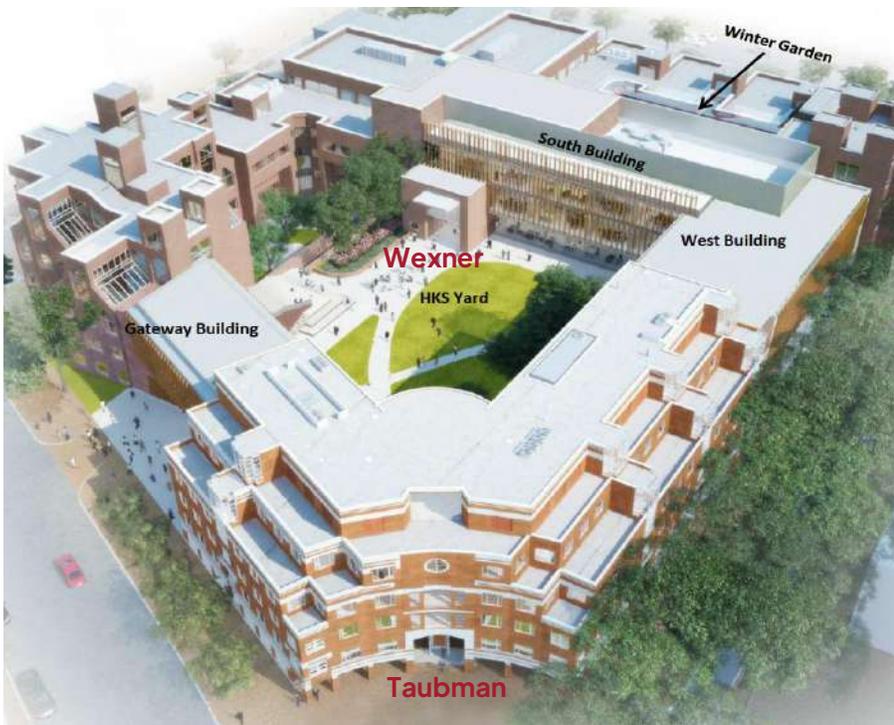
**Maxime Van Cauter** – Counselor of Wallonia-Brussels in New York

**Ana Durán** – Consul of Spain in Boston

# Conference Logistics.

The conference will take place in the **Harvard Kennedy School of Government**, located at **19 Eliot St, Cambridge, MA 02138**.

Trained volunteers will be available nearby to assist with any logistical needs or address inquiries promptly. Additionally, professional security personnel will be stationed to ensure the smooth operation of all conference facilities.



## Closing Gala.

**Date:** Saturday, February 1

**Time:** 8:00 PM – 11:30 PM (*galleries open from 8:00-9:00 PM*)

**Location:** Harvard Art Museum, 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts



The Conference will culminate in an elegant Closing Gala hosted at the prestigious Harvard Art Museum. This event is open to all conference guests, including speakers, dignitaries, and attendees in possession of a Gala ticket, offering a memorable conclusion to the weekend's discussions and connections.

The Closing Gala offers an opportunity to celebrate the success of the conference in a refined atmosphere surrounded by the timeless art and architecture of the Harvard Art Museum. Guests will enjoy an evening of exquisite hors d'oeuvres, stimulating conversations, and cultural enrichment as they reflect on the ideas shared and connections forged during the event.

Located at 32 Quincy Street in the heart of the Harvard campus, the Harvard Art Museums house one of the finest collections of art in the world, providing a perfect backdrop for this distinguished gathering. The gala promises to embody the spirit of innovation, excellence, and community that defines the conference. The galleries will be open for the first hour of the gala between 8:00-9:00 PM, offering attendees a chance to explore masterpieces by renowned artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Paul Cézanne, or Hiroshi Yoshida.

# Conference Team.

Our team is made up of more than 40 Harvard and MIT students hailing from more than 25 countries and attending a variety of programs across MIT policy, business, law, public health, medicine, engineering and others.

## Co-Chair

**ELIF MEMET** | Romania

Elif is pursuing a Master in Business Administration at Harvard Business School and a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Elif was an investment banker at Goldman Sachs and private equity investor at Apollo in New York. She has worked with the Romanian government, NATO DIANA, and UN ECOSOC. [elifmemet@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:elifmemet@hks.harvard.edu)

## Co-Chair

**LILI VESSEREAU** | France

Lili is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Lili has worked as a Public Policy Fellow at Google, as a consultant at the World Bank, and had previous experiences at the French Ministry of Finances, the United Nations and the OSCE. [lversereau@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:lversereau@hks.harvard.edu)

## Content Chair

**FLORIAN DIRMAYER** | Austria

Florian is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, specializing in international affairs and migration policy. He has worked as a migration consultant at USAID, a Schuman Trainee at the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, at the International Organization for Migration and the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC. [fdirmayer@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:fdirmayer@hks.harvard.edu)

## Content Coordinator

**LOANN MARQUANT** | France

Loann is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Loann has worked as a Policy Adviser at the European Union Delegation to the UN in New York, on climate affairs, at the French Mission to the UN in Geneva, at the International Energy Agency and Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs. [loann\\_marquant@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:loann_marquant@hks.harvard.edu)

## Content Coordinator

**MARC BERRUEZO AIS** | Spain

Marc is pursuing a Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School. He has served as Head of Cabinet and as a political and communications advisor in the European Parliament and the Spanish Congress. His professional experience also spans the tech sector, including roles at Google and various startups. [marcberruezoais@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:marcberruezoais@hks.harvard.edu)

## Secretary

**SLAVINA ANCHEVA** | Bulgaria

Slavina is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Slavina has worked as a Policy Adviser and Head of Office for a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels who was one of the lead negotiators on the EU Artificial Intelligence Act, the world's first law on AI. [slavina\\_ancheva@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:slavina_ancheva@hks.harvard.edu)

## Finance Chair

**LOVISA ROMANDER** | Sweden

Lovisa is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Master in Business Administration at Harvard Business School. Lovisa worked in investment banking and asset management at Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan in New York. [lromander@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:lromander@hks.harvard.edu)

## Logistics Chair

**ALEX DRAGHIA** | Romania

Lovisa is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School and a Master in Business Administration at Harvard Business School. Lovisa worked in investment banking and asset management at Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan in New York. [adraghia@college.harvard.edu](mailto:adraghia@college.harvard.edu)

**Logistics Chair****FURKAN PEHLIVANLI** | Turkey

Furkan is pursuing a Master in Public Administration with a focus on International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School. Previously, he worked at McKinsey, Ernst & Young, and Deutsche Bank in Istanbul, Turkey. [furkanpehlivanli@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:furkanpehlivanli@hks.harvard.edu)

**Communications Chair****ERIK DALAKER** | Norway

Erik is pursuing a BA in Government and Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at Harvard College. He worked full-time at Doctors Without Borders and serves as president of the Harvard Undergraduate Nordic Club and co-chair for the IOP Coalition for Global Affairs. He plays for Harvard's varsity men's soccer team. [erikdalaker@college.harvard.edu](mailto:erikdalaker@college.harvard.edu)

**Closing Gala Chair****LUC HILLION** | France

Luc is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. Previously, he worked at the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, served as a student scholar at the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, and was a research assistant to the Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University in New York. [lhillion@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:lhillion@hks.harvard.edu)

**Speakers Reception Chair****NATASZA GADOWSKA** | Poland

Natasza is pursuing a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree at Harvard Law School and a Ph.D. in data privacy and artificial intelligence at Jagiellonian University in Poland. She has worked at the OECD in Paris, the United Nations in New York, and a commercial law firm in Melbourne. [ngadowska@llm25.law.harvard.edu](mailto:ngadowska@llm25.law.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Energy Panel****IPPOLYTI DELLATOLAS** | France/Greece

Ippolyti is a PhD candidate in mechanical engineering at MIT, minoring in energy and public policy. She has previously worked at the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy and at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington, DC. [ippolyti@mit.edu](mailto:ippolyti@mit.edu)

**Law School Representative****JUSTINE HAEKENS** | Belgium

Justine is an LL.M. Student at Harvard Law School and PhD candidate in competition law at the University of Leuven, Belgium. Her PhD project analyzes the different manifestations of market power, and how (competition) law should deal with this. [jhaekens@llm25.law.harvard.edu](mailto:jhaekens@llm25.law.harvard.edu)

**Law School Representative****PIETERJAN HEYENEN** | Belgium

Pieterjan is an LL.M. Student at Harvard Law School and PhD candidate in financial and European Union law at the University of Leuven, Belgium. His doctoral dissertation explores the expanding remit of the European Central Bank. He conducted a research internship at the National Bank of Belgium in Spring 2023 and is member of the editorial board of TRV-RPS, a leading Belgian company and financial law review. [pheynen@llm25.law.harvard.edu](mailto:pheynen@llm25.law.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Middle East Panel****CARLO GIANNONE** | Italy

Carlo is pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, specializing in international affairs and economic development and sponsored by US-Italy Fulbright Commission, BCG and Zegna Foundation. He has worked as a public policy consultant at the Boston Consulting Group in the Middle East and as a public affairs advisor at FleishmanHillard EU in Brussels. He writes for leading Italian newspapers and hosts a top-100 Italian podcast on geopolitics and economics. [carlogiannone@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:carlogiannone@hks.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, NATO & EU Defense Panel****DINKO FRANCESCHI** | Croatia

Dinko Franceschi is pursuing a PhD at Harvard, specializing in AI models to study the genetic basis of human disease. Previously, he was awarded a Research Fellowship as a Visiting Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems in Saarbrücken, Germany. Prior to his doctoral studies at Harvard, Dinko studied mathematics at Columbia University. [dinkofranceschi@g.harvard.edu](mailto:dinkofranceschi@g.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Climate panel**

**EMIL SONDAJ HANSEN** | Denmark

Emil is a Crown Prince Frederik Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, specializing in climate finance and international energy partnerships. He has worked as Political Officer at the Royal Danish Embassy in Berlin in charge of the climate/energy portfolio. He was the Danish Youth Delegate to the Petersberg Climate Dialogue. Emil holds a Master's and BA in International Relations from the University of Cambridge. [emilsondajhansen@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:emilsondajhansen@hks.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Culture panel**

**KAYRA FIKRET-KAYMAK** | Cyprus

Kayra is pursuing a Master of Public Health with a focus on Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Previously, Kayra was a consultant at Strategy& in London, providing advisory services to clients in the healthcare and life sciences industry. [kayrakaymak@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:kayrakaymak@hsph.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Global Diplomacy Panel**

**Amy König** | Germany

Amy is pursuing a BA in Government and Economics at Harvard College. She interned at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education and is a research assistant at Harvard's Center for European Studies (CES). She plays soccer for the German youth national team and Harvard's varsity women's soccer team. [akonig@college.harvard.edu](mailto:akonig@college.harvard.edu)

**Panel Coordinator, Competitiveness panel**

**ADRIEN JOLY** | France, United Kingdom

Adrien is an exchange year student at Harvard College (2024-2025) and finishing his undergraduate degree in Economics at the London School of Economics in 2025-2026. He previously worked as a research assistant to Professor Ricardo Reis at LSE and interned on the Macro team of Bousard & Gavaudan, a London-based hedge fund, in 2024. [ajoly@college.harvard.edu](mailto:ajoly@college.harvard.edu)

