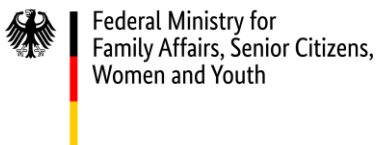


# Gender equality and the Istanbul Convention: a decade of action

Conference organised by the Council of Europe in partnership with the  
German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth in the framework of the  
German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

11 May 2021  
Berlin, Germany  
Online

## SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES





**Astrid Frohloff** (Conference moderator) is a very experienced German TV moderator, politics journalist and a sought-after moderator of conferences, panel discussions and other events in the conference and business sector - also in English. She is specialised in complex economic, political and technical topics. Besides this, she is a well-recognised business coach for business executives and Start-Ups. Currently she is hosting a series of solution-driven reportages in German TV RBB. Previously she has been presenter of the prestigious magazine "Kontraste"/ARD and chief anchor of the "SAT.1-News". She also moderated "N24 Wissen" and hosted her own talk show "Im Palais. Zu Gast bei Astrid Frohloff"/rbb. She holds a degree in politics, literature and a diploma in communication science. She has spent many years in the United States and in Israel. As a TV correspondent, she lived in the Middle East and built up a TV studio in Jerusalem. Astrid Frohloff is a member of the jury of the Marion Dönhoff Prize, and a jury member of the "Deutsche Wirtschaftsfilmpreis". She is member of the advisory board of the Digital Journalism Fellowship by the Hamburger Media School and the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium.

\*\*\*

### High-level opening: The Istanbul Convention today and its achievements



**Franziska Giffey** has been Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth since March 2018. Prior to this, she was Mayor of the Berlin district of Neukölln. From 2010 to 2015 she worked in the District Administration of Neukölln, Berlin, in the role of Councillor for Education, Culture and Sports. Before this, she worked as Representative for European Affairs for the same district. In addition to a Diploma of Public Administration, Franziska Giffey has also obtained an M.A. in European Administrative Management and in 2009 was awarded a Ph.D. in political science. Franziska Giffey was born in Frankfurt an der Oder on 3 May 1978. She is married and has one son.



**Marija Pejčinović-Burić** is the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the pre-eminent Pan-European international organisation in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Prior to being elected to her current position in 2019, Ms. Pejčinović Burić was deputy prime minister and minister for foreign and European affairs of the Republic of Croatia, having served on two previous occasions as state secretary for EU affairs. During her tenure as a deputy in the Croatian Parliament, she chaired the delegation of the Croatia-E.U. Joint Parliamentary Committee, headed the delegation of the Croatian Parliament to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and served on a range of foreign and European-themed committees, including as substitute member of the Croatian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She has written, lectured and consulted widely on European affairs and has served as a president and board member for a number of organisations, and is a former secretary general of Europe House in Zagreb.



**Rik Daems** is the current President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). He graduated from Brussels Solvay Business School and holds a Masters' degree in Industrial Location & Development from the Free University in Brussels. He started his career as associate expert for the UN in Central America. After serving as financial and economic advisor to the Belgian Minister of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME), he became a member of the Belgian Parliament in 1987. Initially elected to the Chamber of

Representatives, since 2014 he has been a member of the Belgian Senate, where he has also chaired the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Committee on Alternate Financing of Public Investment. He first became a member of the Belgian delegation to the PACE in 2007 and was appointed Chairperson of the delegation in 2015 and group's leader in 2017. Mr Daems also served as Belgian Minister for State-owned enterprises, Public Holdings, Telecom and SME from 1999 until 2003. He was Mayor of the City of Aarschot from 1989 until 1995. In 2000, he was Chairperson of the European Council of Ministers for Telecommunication. Along with politics, his interests include contemporary art and winemaking.



**Mariana Vieira da Silva**, Minister of State of the Presidency, was born in Lisbon in 1978. With a degree in Sociology from ISCTE-IUL, Mariana Vieira da Silva has completed the coursework for the PhD in Public Policy at ISCTE and is currently finishing a dissertation on health and education policies in Portugal. She worked as a researcher at CIES-IUL in the area of public policies, health policies, education policies and justice policies, with several publications on these topics. She also worked as a trainer at INA and IPSS-IUL. From 2009 to 2011, Ms Vieira da Silva served as Advisor to the Secretary of State Assistant to the Prime Minister, and between 2005 and 2009 worked in the cabinet of the Minister of Education Maria de Lurdes Rodrigues. She was

part of the organising team of ISCTE's Public Policy Forum and was a member of the Advisory Board of "Descobrir" - Gulbenkian Programme for Culture and Science, from Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. She served in the XXI Constitutional Government as Secretary of State Assistant to the Prime Minister, from November 2015 to February 2019, and as Minister of the Presidency and of Administrative Modernisation in February and October 2019.



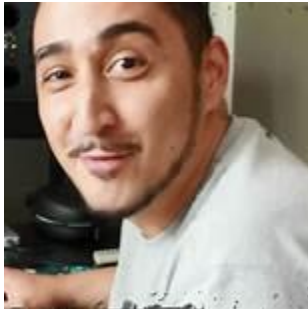
**Dr Marceline Naudi** (Ph.D. Manchester), is the President of GREVIO (Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence). She is a social worker by profession and Head of the Department of Gender and Sexualities at the University of Malta. She lectures and supervises student research on gender issues, violence against women, LGBTIQ+ and other anti-oppressive issues at Diploma, Bachelor, Master and Doctoral level. She is Regional Editor of the Journal on Gender-Based Violence and is active on the issues of gender equality and violence against women, LGBTIQ+, as well as wider human rights issues, both in Malta and in Europe. She is President of GREVIO, the Council of Europe monitoring body of the Istanbul Convention, and a member of the Women Against

Violence Europe (WAVE) Advisory Board, as well as part of the core co-ordinating group for the European Observatory on Femicide. She has led European Union-funded research projects in Malta on the Bystanders Approach to Sexual Harassment, and on Barriers to Reporting for victims of Violence against Women and is currently involved in two European Union-funded projects on Femicide.



**Marcella Pirrone**, President, Women Against Violence Europe is a feminist lawyer who has worked for over thirty years in Italy and at the international level to promote and advocate for the rights of women, specifically women victims of violence. She works as a family and criminal lawyer, public service Commissioner for Sexual Harassment and Discrimination; she has formerly held roles including Co-Founder and President of a women's shelter, Co-Founder and Board member of D.i.Re - Donne in Rete contro la violenza (the Italian umbrella association for autonomous women's shelters), and University Law Professor. At the international level, she has participated in several projects and has been, for the last 25 years, an active member of WAVE. In collaboration with lawyer Elena Biaggioni, and on behalf of D.i.Re and ca. 40 other Italian women's NGOs, she co-ordinated in 2019 the shadow report for GREVIO outlining Italy's response to Istanbul Convention; the same role that she and Elena Biaggioni have now in the name of D.i.Re adr for 2021 Italian civil society's shadow CEDAW Report.

\*\*\*



**Eko Fresh** needs no introduction, his debut single "König von Deutschland" (King of Germany) hit the shelves like a bomb and made Germany's youngest ever Major-Rapper a star overnight at the age of only 17. His second single "Ich bin jung und brauche das Geld" (I'm young and need the money) took off, making him a legend and his hit single an evergreen of German music, even reaching pop royalty. Further, all-time German rap hit singles including "Gheddo" and "L.O.V.E." kept our favourite Turkish guy busy till adulthood. Eko is still considered one of the most creative artists in the country, writing the lyrics for many other famous artists such as Yvonne Catterfeld (Du hast mein Herz gebrochen/You broke my heart), Pietro Lombardi, Joko & Klaas and many more. Nowadays Eko - nicknamed Freezy by loving fans - is probably the youngest German rap legend to date. His viral hit "Aber" was awarded the Web Video Prize for Social Responsibility in 2018. Peaks of his career include million selling records, a gold BRAVO-Otto and several gold records. Eko is no longer only known for his rap music but as an entertainer, presenter and TV personality. In 2015, Eko found a new passion: acting and film making. He released his own Netflix sitcom "Blockbustaz" and starred in the motion picture film "Drei Türken und ein Baby" (Three Turks and a Baby). In 2020, Eko Fresh was part of Stefan Raab's Free Eurovision Song Contest and performed the song "Günaydin" together with Umut Timur. Eko Fresh, real name Ekrem Bora, is likely the most famous Turkish-born German in the entertainment business. And his unique career has not ended yet; he is still living and working on his "German Dream".

\*\*\*

## The Istanbul Convention: the gamechanger for women and girls



**Feride Acar** is professor emerita of political sociology and of gender and women's studies in Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey. She received her BS from METU, and her MA and PhD from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, United States of America. Since the mid-1990s, she has been actively involved in standard setting and monitoring of gender equality and women's human rights at the global (United Nations) and regional (European) levels. Professor Acar took part in the different stages of the drafting and monitoring of the Istanbul Convention, as either an independent expert or a representative of Turkey. She was a member of the Council of Europe Task Force on Violence against Women (2006-2008) and later served as the Turkish delegate to CAHVIO (2009-2010), the Council of Europe body that drafted and negotiated the Istanbul Convention. In 2015, she was elected as member of GREVIO, the monitoring organ of the Istanbul Convention. She served as its first President for two terms. Professor Acar has also been a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) for four terms. She served as CEDAW Chairperson from 2003 to 2005. Feride Acar is a recipient of Government of Canada's Human Rights Award (2018) and the Council of Europe's Pro Merito Medal (2019) for her work in the area of gender equality and women's human rights.

\*\*\*

## The Istanbul Convention: Gold standard, useful tool or dangerous ideology?



**Nils Muižnieks** (Panel moderator), is a political scientist and human rights expert. Born, raised and educated in the US (BA Princeton University 1986, MA & Ph.D. University of California at Berkeley 1993), he moved to Latvia, the former home of his refugee parents, soon after independence. In the 1990s, he ran a human rights NGO, did human rights programming for a philanthropy, and co-ordinated production of the first three human development reports for UNDP Latvia. He served as Minister of Integration in two governments from 2002 to 2004, then ran a social science research institute at the University of Latvia from 2005 to 2012. At the same time, he served as Latvia's expert, then Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe's independent anti-racism monitoring body. From 2012 to 2018 he served as the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights. Since summer 2020, he is the Director of the Europe Regional Office at Amnesty International.



**Dubravka Šimonović** was appointed as United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in June 2015 by the UN Human Rights Council for an initial three-year tenure (maximum tenure of six years). She started her tenure on 1 August 2015 and had her mandate renewed in 2018 for three additional years. Ms Šimonović was a member of the CEDAW Committee between 2002 and 2014, and served as its Chairperson in 2007 and 2008, its follow-up Rapporteur from 2009 to 2011 and as the Chairperson of the Optional Protocol Working Group in 2011. At the regional level, in 2006 and 2007, she was the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council of Europe's Task Force to combat violence against women, including domestic violence, that proposed the adoption of the new Council of Europe Convention on violence against women. Between 2008 and 2010, she co-chaired the Ad hoc Committee (CAHVIO) that elaborated the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). For a number of years, she headed the Human

Rights Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia and was posted as the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations in New York. She was also the Ambassador to the OSCE and United Nations in Vienna, Austria. She was the Chairperson of the UN Commission on the Status of Women between 2001 and 2002, and also worked as a member of the UNIFEM Consultative Committee. Ms Šimonović holds a PhD in family law from the University of Zagreb. She is the author of several books and articles on women's rights and violence against women. She also lectured at the Harvard Law School, Nottingham University, Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights (University of Cincinnati) and at the Women's Human Rights Training Institute organised by the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation. Dr Dubravka Šimonović was a Visiting Professor in Practice in the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at LSE from 2016 to 2018.



**Dr Nina Nordström** is currently Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Finland to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Previously, she served as Director of the Unit for Human Rights Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. Dr Nordström has been a diplomat since 1999, serving *inter alia* at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York and at the Finnish Embassies in Tallinn, Stockholm and Bucharest, as well as at the Unit for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation at the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Nina Nordström has

also served as Director at UNICEF Headquarters in New York, where she headed the Secretariat of the UNICEF Executive Board. She has also served as Vice-Chair of the Executive Board of UNICEF. Dr Nordström is currently Chair of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. She holds several post-graduate degrees in international politics and law, from Åbo Akademi University and the London School of Economics, and most notably a Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree in public international law from the European University Institute in Florence.



**Neil Datta** founded the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights with a select group of parliamentarians and with the support of International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in 2000, becoming Secretary in 2004. He has also been responsible for its growth into a network of over 30 all-party parliamentary groups on population and development issues. Throughout this period, he has also conducted in-depth research on anti-choice activity in Europe, publishing a report in 2018 that continues to receive worldwide media attention.



**Beka Dzamashvili**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Justice, was born in 1989, in Rustavi, Georgia. In 2006, after graduating from Rustavi № 11 public school with honours, according to the results of Unified National Examinations he was number one rated university entrant among 39,000. After graduating from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University in 2010, Mr Dzamashvili received the degree of Bachelor of Law. Followed by being awarded a Masters' Degree in public (constitutional) law by Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Mr Dzamashvili graduated from Queen Mary University of London with honours, specialising in international human rights and armed conflict law in 2012. In 2017, Beka Dzamashvili received a PhD in law from Tbilisi State University. From 2008-2013, Mr Dzamashvili was Secretary General and the President of the European Law Students Association in Georgia. From 2009-2011, he held the lawyer's position at the National Centre for Accreditation (now the National Centre for Educational Quality Enhancement). From 2013-2016, he held the position of Deputy Head and Head of the Department of Public International Law in the Ministry of Justice. At the same time, Mr Dzamashvili was the contact person in Georgia for the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Council of Europe Gender Equality Commission, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice. From 2016-2020, he was the Head of Department of State Representation in International Courts in the Ministry of Justice and was State Representative at the European Court of Human Rights and at the International Criminal Court. Starting from the 2011, Mr Dzamashvili pursued his academic career at several universities in London and in Georgia. Nowadays, he is Professor at the Georgian-American University and lecturer at the Tbilisi State University and Sokhumi State University. At different times Mr Dzamashvili was representative/member of the delegation to the International Criminal Court's Assembly of States Parties, at the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, within the UN Universal Periodic Review and to OSCE Human Dimension Meetings, to meetings during visa liberalisation process. Mr Dzamashvili is author of two textbooks (The Law of Equality; The Law of Armed Conflict) and up to 20 publications.

\*\*\*

## Combating gender stereotypes and sexism: tackling the roots of gender inequality and violence against women



**Andreia Lourenço Marques**, Chair of the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Commission. She holds a degree in International Relations and a master's degree in the same area. She holds a Post-Graduate Degree in European studies and a specialisation on gender Issues. She is currently Advisor for International Relations of the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality in Portugal. Prior to working in gender equality, she has worked in the Ministry of Social Affairs on disability policy.



**Juliane Seifert** has been State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany since 2018. From 2016 until 2017 she held the position of Federal Manager of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). Before, she worked at the State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate and two federal ministries. She studied history in Berlin, Düsseldorf and Florence and completed the German-French course "Master of European Governance and Administration" in Paris and Potsdam. State Secretary, Germany



**Emily Yiolitis** was appointed Minister of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus on 29 June 2020. She graduated from Foley's Grammar and Junior School in Limassol in 1994 and went on to study in the Law Department of Oxford University (Trinity College), from which she obtained a Law Degree in 1997. Between 1997-1998 she practiced law at Chrysses Demetriades Law Office in Limassol, after which she continued her practice at Directorate General 10 of the European Commission in Brussels. She continued to obtain her post graduate degree "Legal Studies in Comparative European Law" from the European University Institute in Florence and she was awarded the postgraduate degree in Jurisprudence from Oxford University (Trinity College). She was a Robert Schuman scholar in the Legal Service of the European Parliament in Luxembourg, in the Department of Internal Regulations. Emily Yiolitis has repeatedly been included in the Citywealth IFC Power Women Top 100 list which "recognises women with achievements that shape public opinion, contribute to the promotion of business excellence in their jurisdiction and consolidate the reputation of the financial services sector". Emily Yiolitis' main areas of activity were corporate, competition, trust and tax law. She is a Member of the Cyprus Bar Association since 1998 and founding member of the Cyprus branch of the International Organisation "Internationale pour la Promotion des Femmes d' Europe (AIPFE)" regarding the promotion of women's rights. Beyond the Greek language, Emily Yiolitis speaks English, French and Italian.





**Élisabeth Moreno**, Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities reporting to the Prime Minister. Born in Tarrafal, Cape Verde, Élisabeth Moreno is the Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities reporting to the Prime Minister. With a Masters' degree in Business Law from the Paris-Est Créteil University as well as a double Executive MBA from ESSEC and the Mannheim Business School in Germany, she rounded off her education and professional training at the National School of Magistrates to qualify as judge at the Tribunal de Commerce. Élisabeth Moreno has spent most of her professional career in business. In 1990, she cofounded a company specialising in thermal rehabilitation that she managed for seven years before making a shift and joining France Télécom to manage the SME-SMI division for the southern region of Paris. In 2000, she joined the Dell group where, for twelve years, she held successive positions until she

became commercial director in charge of strategic accounts for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Following on from this experience, she joined the Lenovo Group in 2012, where she was responsible for key accounts in southern Europe before extending this responsibility to cover the Europe, Middle East and Africa region in 2015. A year later, she was appointed Chairman and CEO of the French subsidiary of the IT group. As a socially conscious woman, she also invests her time in associations focusing on education, inclusion and professional diversity. On 6 July 2020, she was appointed by the President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron, as minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, reporting to the Prime Minister.



**Joanna Maycock** is the Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby. She is responsible for providing overall leadership, strategic direction and management of the organisation. She works to ensure that EWL's members can participate and engage in our collective work for a Feminist Europe through our governance structures, working groups, campaigns and lobbying. Joanna also represents EWL's vision and work to external partners and decision makers at UN, EU and civil society level. Joanna joined EWL as Secretary General in 2014. Prior to joining EWL, Joanna worked in Brussels for over 20 years in Civil Society organisations, integrating a feminist perspective into the fight against global poverty and

inequality. She held the position of Regional Director for Europe at ActionAid International, and was also elected President of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs. Joanna is a leading figure in women's networks discussing women in leadership and feminist leadership in Brussels and was named one of the most influential women in Brussels by Politico newspaper in 2016. In 2018 and 2019, Joanna was named one of Apolitical's Top 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy. She has recently been nominated as the first Fellow at the Political Science Department at the Université Libre de Bruxelles.



**Alexandra Timmer**, Associate Professor, Utrecht University School of Law, the Netherlands. She teaches human rights law and non-discrimination law. In 2017 she was awarded a prestigious Veni grant by the Dutch Scientific Organization (NWO) for her research project on gender justice in European human rights law. She has published a paper on the Council of Europe's sexism recommendation and has published extensively on equality and non-discrimination in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. In addition, she is acting specialist co-ordinator gender equality of the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination ([www.equalitylaw.eu](http://www.equalitylaw.eu)). This Network consists of gender equality and non-discrimination from 36 European countries, which is set up by the European Commission in Brussels to support its work by providing independent information and advice on relevant developments in the member States. As part of this work, Alexandra has co-authored '[A comparative analysis of gender equality in Europe](#)' which she and her co-authors update yearly.

\*\*\*

### Keynote Speech



**Elif Shafak** is an award-winning British-Turkish novelist. She writes in both Turkish and English, and has published 18 books, 11 of which are novels. Her work has been translated into 55 languages. Her latest novel *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and RSL Ondaatje Prize; and chosen Blackwell's Book of the Year. Her previous novel, *The Forty Rules of Love* was chosen by BBC among 100 Novels that Shaped Our World. Shafak holds a PhD in political science and she has taught at various universities in Turkey, the United States and the United Kingdom, including St Anne's College, Oxford University, where she is an honorary fellow.

Elif Shafak is a Fellow and a Vice President of the Royal Society of Literature. She is a member of Weforum Global Agenda Council on Creative Economy and a founding member of ECFR (European Council on Foreign Relations). An advocate for women's rights, LGBTQ+ rights and freedom of speech, Elif Shafak is an inspiring public speaker and twice TED Global speaker. Elif Shafak contributes to major publications around the world and she was awarded the medal of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. In 2017 she was chosen by Politico as one of the twelve people "who will give you a much-needed lift of the heart". Shafak has judged numerous literary prizes and chaired the Wellcome Prize and is presently judging the PEN Nabokov Prize. [www.elifshafak.com](http://www.elifshafak.com)

\*\*\*

## Concluding remarks



**Professor Christine Chinkin** FBA is Emerita Professor of International Law, Professorial Research Fellow and Founding Director of the Centre of Women Peace and Security at the London School of Economics. She is L. Bates Lea Global Law Professor at the University of Michigan Law School, a barrister and member of Matrix Chambers. She has held visiting appointments in Australia, the United States, Singapore and the People’s Republic of China. She was a co-editor of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Commentary* (2012) and author of the chapter on violence against women. She is co-author of “The Boundaries of International Law: a Feminist Analysis (2000)”, “The Making of International Law” (2007) and “International Law and New Wars” (2017). Together with Hilary Charlesworth, she won the American Society of International Law, 2005 Goler T. Butcher Medal 'for outstanding contributions to the development or effective realisation of international human rights law'. She was a member of the Human Rights Advisory Panel in Kosovo\* for six years and Scientific Advisor to the Council of Europe’s Committee for the drafting of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.



**Bjørn Berge** serves as the Council of Europe’s Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. As the Deputy Secretary General, he is involved in a number of key areas of the work of the Organisation, including advising and overseeing the implementation of the Secretary General’s reform agenda, in line with the decisions and priorities of the Committee of Ministers. His priorities include shaping the Programme and Budget, while ensuring that the Organisation’s activities have maximum impact in advancing democracy, human rights and the rule of law. He also oversees the Council of Europe’s staff policy, as well as other key areas of the work of the Organisation. Before taking up his post, Bjørn Berge was, for a period of four years, Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Between 2009-2017, he served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, co-ordinate and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Organisation. Bjørn Berge has over thirty years of international professional experience. As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister’s Cabinet responsible for all matters related to Parliament. He also served as speechwriter to three Norwegian Foreign Ministers. Bjørn Berge has published several books on a range of issues relating to speech writing and speeches, as well as articles on the Council of Europe’s mandate and work. He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a M.A. in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.

---

\* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



**Michael Roth**, Special Representative of the Federal Government for the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office, has been since 1998 a directly elected member of the German Bundestag; 2010 to 2013 spokesperson on Europe of the SPD parliamentary group; 2009 to February 2014 Secretary-General of the SPD in Land Hesse, since 2017 Member of the SPD Executive Committee. Since 2014 Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation, member of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for European Politics and member of the board of the Franco-German Institute in Ludwigsburg, Chairman of the supervisory board of the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation and Special Representative of

the Federal Government for the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.