



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS



**CHAIRMANSHIP OF ESTONIA**  
Council of Europe  
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**PRÉSIDENTE DE L'ESTONIE**  
Conseil de l'Europe



**Council of Europe Conference organised in co-operation with the  
Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia**

**Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action – the Council of  
Europe Gender Equality Strategy  
2014-2017**

**Tallinn, Estonia  
30 June – 1 July 2016**

**Speakers' biographies**

## Opening Session



**Taavi Rõivas** has been Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia since 26 March 2014. His second government took office on 9 April 2015. He is a member of the Estonian Reform Party. From 2012–2014, Taavi Rõivas was the Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and from 2011–2012, he was a member of the 12th Riigikogu, the Chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee, and a member of the Finance Committee. From 2007–2011, Taavi Rõivas was a member of the 11th Riigikogu and first, a member of the Social Affairs Committee for two years and then the Chairman of the Finance Committee. From 2005–2007, Taavi Rõivas served as the Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia and previously from 2004–2005, he was the Elder of the Haabersti City District Government. He has previously performed the duties of Adviser / Office Manager for the Minister of the Population Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, Customer Account Executive for large corporate companies in the AS IT Grupp, and Adviser to the Minister of Justice. Born on 26 September 1979, in Tallinn, Taavi Rõivas graduated from Tallinn Secondary Science School and from the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Tartu in international economics and marketing.



**Snežana Samardžić-Marković** is, since 2012, Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe, in charge of the Organisation's action promoting democratic innovation, governance, participation and diversity. Her responsibilities include the policy areas of education and youth, local democracy, cultural policies, election assistance, the protection of human dignity, gender equality, children's rights, and the rights of minorities, societal defences against discrimination, democratic citizenship, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and democratic responses to crisis situations. Previously, Snežana has held numerous positions in the Serbian Government including Deputy Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Neighbouring Countries, Assistant Minister of Defence (2005-2007) and Co-President of the Serbia-NATO Defence Reform Group, member of the Foundation Board of WADA, Minister of Youth and Sports (2007-2012) and President of the Fund for Young Talents.



**Lakshmi Puri** (India) is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, responsible for the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships, and was the interim head of UN Women from March to August 2013. She has steered UN Women's engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, including the landmark outcomes of the 57th and 58th sessions, as well as the historic 59th session on the 20-year anniversary of the

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which resulted in a Political Declaration by which member states pledged to take concrete steps to ensure the full, effective and accelerated actions to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Ms Puri has been at the forefront of UN Women's intergovernmental work on Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Financing for Development, Health, Information Society, Youth, Migration, Women, Peace and Security, the Urban Agenda and Humanitarian Action. She was previously Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and a Director at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Prior to joining the UN, Ms Puri had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service.



**Salla Saastamoinen** is the Director in charge of Equality in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers since 2014. The Equality Directorate develops implements and coordinates the EU policy to combat discrimination and to promote equality on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. It promotes awareness on gender equality and non-discrimination and coordinates policy developments in respect of the Roma. Previously, Salla Saastamoinen headed the Unit for Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child (2013-2014) and the Civil Justice Policy Unit (2007-

2013) in the same Directorate-General in the Commission. She is a lawyer from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Salla Saastamoinen was Member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency between 2013 and 2014, and she is the Member of the Management Board of the European Institute for Gender Equality since 2014.

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## Panel 1



**Liri Kopaçi-Di Michele** is Head of the Equality Division at the Council of Europe in charge of promoting and implementing Council of Europe standards and activities in the area of gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. Since joining the Council of Europe in 1997, she has worked in a variety of positions including the Private Office of the Secretary and Deputy Secretary General, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Private Office of the President as well as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Ms Kopaçi-Di Michele graduated with a MSc. in Management from the University of Surrey in England, and a BA in English Language from the University of Tirana in Albania.



**Pamela Morinière** joined the International/European Federations of Journalists in 2002 and has been responsible for running campaigns on authors' rights, gender, ethics, press freedom and labour rights. She wrote several publications on gender and media, including the Council of Europe's latest Handbook on the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2013)1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on gender equality and media.



**Hillary Margolis** is a researcher with the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch. Her work focuses on violence against women in Europe, Central Asia, and Central Africa. She has documented and conducted advocacy on domestic violence and sexual violence in and outside of conflict. Her work at Human Rights Watch has included investigation of state failure to address domestic violence in Kyrgyzstan, and the impact of the conflict in Syria on women and girls, including exploitation and harassment in refugee settings, abuse of women in detention, and risks facing female activists and household heads. She has appeared on BBC Woman's Hour and her work on violence against women has been published in the EU Observer, Global Post, MSNBC. Hillary earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

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**Sylwia Spurek** - doctor of Law, legal counsel and legislator, co-founder of the Foundation Governance Clinic. Since 1999 involved in the protection of human rights. Fellow of the Legal Fellowship Program and participant of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic (City University of New York, 2000). Between 2002 and 2005 lawyer in the Secretariat of the Government Plenipotentiary For Equal Status of Men and Women. Participated in

preparing the first act on the prevention of domestic violence. Until 2014 counsel at the Office of the Prime Minister (Legal Department), later serving as deputy head of the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment. Between 2008-2015 member of the Unit for European Court of Human Rights issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and between 2010-2012 representative of the Office of the Prime Minister at the Committee of the Protection of Rights. University lecturer of Gender Studies at the University of Warsaw and post-graduate studies of Gender Mainstreaming at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Author of numerous publications on domestic violence, as well as equal treatment and discrimination issues. Currently Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of Republic of Poland responsible for equal treatment issues.



**Elena Centemero** (Italy, EPP/CD), Member of Parliament since 2008, was born in Milan in 1968 and studied at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan and at the New York City University's Hunter College. She taught classical studies and languages in high schools from 1993 to 2012 and then became a head teacher. Since 2005 she has been a volunteer at Our Lady of Lourdes in France and is a member of

Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. Ms Centemero is a member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Culture of the Italian Parliament (and chairs her political group Forza Italia within the latter). She is in charge of school and education policies for her party. In 2013 Ms Centemero was appointed as a member of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In January 2016 she was elected Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination.

## Panel 2



**Léa Clermont-Dion** is a PHD candidate in political science at Laval University (Québec) aiming her thesis on cyber violence against women for which she was awarded a prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. She has published two essays, *Lettres à un souverainiste* (2014) and *La revanche des moches* (2014), the latter exploring the matter of corporal diversity, a concern which brought her to co-initiate the Charter for a Healthy and Diverse Body Image promulgated by the *Gouvernement du Québec* in 2009. She has served on missions with women organisations and Oxfam-Québec, was member of Council on the Status of Women, worked for the *Secrétariat des femmes du Québec* and has worked at consciousness awareness for the last ten years in lectures and conferences. She is currently working on a book, *Les Superbes*, and a documentary, *Misogynie 2.0*, to be released in 2017.



**Charlotte Proudman** is a Barrister in family law and human rights law at The Chambers of Michael Mansfield QC. She is a fearless advocate for women's rights, an expert in female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and honour-based violence, and a media commentator on progressive social issues. Charlotte is a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Cambridge researching FGM in England and Wales, and she was a Visiting Researcher at Harvard Law School. As a Barrister and a feminist, Charlotte is a prominent advocate who speaks out against male domination in the law and the legal profession by drawing on examples of anti-women biases in law, such as abortion, prostitution and pornography legislation. Recognising that the Judiciary is disproportionately skewed towards one gender, one class, and one ethnicity to the detriment of our democracy, Charlotte is campaigning for the introduction of quotas amongst the Judiciary. Her media work includes BBC 4 Woman's Hour, BBC2, BBC5, BBC London, LBC Radio, Sky News, Channel 4 News, Newsnight, London Evening Standard, the Guardian, the Independent, New Statesman, the Times, and the Huffington Post, among many others.



**Emma Holten** is a feminist and human rights activist. She is co-founder and editor of the standard critical feminist magazine *Friktion* and a student at the University of Copenhagen. She speaks both nationally and globally about contexts of feminism, digital activism and why privacy on the internet is crucial to a democracy, where everyone is equal. Introducing social justice concepts into the technological sphere is not only urgent, it is vital if we want to create a dynamic and powerful movement for equality across gender, race and class.



**Kurt Ole Linn** is a senior advisor on gender equality in the Norwegian Ministry of Children and Equality. The Ministry of Children and Equality has the overall responsibility for children welfare services, family affairs, childhood development, equality, anti-discrimination and consumer affairs. Mr Linn completed his master's thesis (M.A.) in history at Oslo University 1995 focusing on political history post WW2 and economic and social change 1800-1900. Besides being employed by

the Norwegian Foreign Service in Turkey, and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights in Washington D.C., he has worked as a teacher and writer. In the field of Gender Equality, Mr Linn was the project manager of the Norwegian Centenary for Women's Right to Vote. Mr Linn is responsible for gender equality on a national level, as well as for Norway's engagement in the Nordic Council of Ministers and UN/CSW. He will be the project manager for the Norwegian presidency in 2017 for the Nordic Council of Ministers.



**Katrin Nyman-Metcalf** is Head of the Chair of Law and Technology at Tallinn University of Technology and Head of Research at the Estonian e-Governance Academy. She is furthermore active as an international consultant, working globally primarily in the area of communications law in the wide sense, including ICT regulation, privacy and data protection, media law, e-governance and various cyber issues. Her PhD (Uppsala University, Sweden, 1999) is on the law of

outer space and Katrin represents Estonia in the International Relations Committee of the European Space Agency.



**Nataša Briški**, CEO of Slovenian digital media network Meta's List. Journalist by profession, with strong media credentials and 20 years of experience working for various media, mostly TV. Also co-host of a podcast on the media Meta's tea. Strategic communications adviser when needed, social media aficionado 24/7. Nataša is also a member of Expert Council on Gender Equality, founded by Slovenian Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Working to encourage active citizenship, advocate for gender equality and promote science. Actively involved in various NGO projects in Slovenia and EU, guest

lectures at various Institutes, Universities and Faculties in Slovenia and educates on topics such as Communication Strategies, use of New & Social Media. In her previous life Natasha was a host of a popular television sports programme, Washington DC based foreign affairs correspondent for top news channel in Slovenia and BBC World Report.



**Daria Manshina** is a 25 year old feminist and human rights activist who received a BA in German and has been studying Transnational Literature in Bremen, Germany. She lives in St. Petersburg, Russia. For the last two and a half years she has been leading an online page for survivors of gender-based violence, an analogue of the Everyday Sexism project.

### Panel 3



**Elisabeth Prügl** is Professor of International Relations at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva where she directs the Institute's Gender Centre. In the course of her academic career in the US and Switzerland her research and teaching have focused on gender politics in international governance. She has published extensively on issues including the regulation of home-based labour, gender and agriculture in the European Union, and the neoliberalization of feminism. She currently directs several research projects, including the DEMETER project on land commercialisation, gendered agrarian transformation and the right to food, a project on the gender dimensions of violent conflict, and another on gender experts and gender expertise. She is a member of the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Civic Participation.



**Carolina Lasén Diaz** has worked at the Council of Europe since 2005 and is currently the Head of the Gender Equality Unit. Her previous post was in the secretariat of the Council of Europe's monitoring mechanism on action against trafficking in human beings (GRETA). Prior to her arrival at the Council of Europe, Carolina lived in the United Kingdom from 1997 to 2004, where she provided legal advice on international and EU law. She holds a law degree from Madrid's Complutense University and a Master in EU law.



**Lakshmi Puri** (India) is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, responsible for the Bureau for Intergovernmental Support, UN System Coordination, and Strategic Partnerships, and was the interim head of UN Women from March to August 2013. She has steered UN Women's engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, including the landmark outcomes of the 57th and 58th sessions, as well as the historic 59th session on the 20-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which resulted in a Political Declaration by which member states pledged to take concrete steps to ensure the full, effective and accelerated actions to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women.

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**Barbara Limanowska** works as a Senior Gender Mainstreaming Expert at the European Institute for Gender Equality. Before that she worked for the regional UNDP office in Bratislava as their Regional Gender Coordinator and prior to that as a Special Advisor on Trafficking in Human Beings to UNHCHR.



**Maaike van Adrichem** is Adviser on Gender Issues in the Gender Section of the Office of the Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Before joining OSCE, Ms Van Adrichem worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Middle East. As a Gender & Rights Officer, she supported the implementation of the Gender Action Plan and gender mainstreaming in the Country Offices in the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office in Amman, Jordan. From 2014-2015 she was responsible for the design and implementation of the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response programme as part of the Syria refugee response and the regular development programme, in the Child Protection team of the UNICEF Jordan Country Office. Ms Van Adrichem started her career working for NGOs in the Netherlands on human rights, democratization and gender issues and gained experience with the Netherlands Red Cross supporting the humanitarian response at the Southern Africa and Middle East desk. Ms Van Adrichem has a master degree in International Relations from the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen in the Netherlands and an Advanced Master in International Development from the Center for International Development Issues in Nijmegen (CIDIN).



**Filip Kochan** is Communications Officer at the World Bank responsible for Poland and the Baltic Countries. Prior to joining the World Bank in November 2015, he worked as a consultant in Poland's oldest communications consultancy company NBS Communications. Before that, between 2008-2012, he was Warsaw-based correspondent for Reuters covering monetary policy, fiscal policy and financial markets. He holds Master Degrees in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Warsaw. He also finished

postgraduate studies in the fields of financial markets and the Eurozone.

## Panel 4



**Dr Alba Alonso** is a postdoctoral research fellow of the Political Science Department at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). She has been a researcher of the EU FPVI project QUING (Quality in Gender + Equality Policies) and various studies driven by the European Institute for Gender Equality of the EU. She has been Visiting Fellow of the University of Edinburgh, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Washington State University. Alba is currently a member of the core group of the 'Gender Equality Policy in Practice' project and co-leader of its Issue

Network on Care Policies. Her main research areas refer to the implementation of gender equality policies – with a particular focus on gender mainstreaming, the women's movement, and the promotion of equality in science. She is the author of *El mainstreaming de género en España* and co-editor of *Ciencia Política con Perspectiva de Género*. Her work has been published in international journals like *Social Politics*, *European Journal of Women's Studies*, and *European Political Science*, as well as in collective books like *Institutionalizing Intersectionality?: The Changing Nature of European Equality Regimes*.



**Lillemor Dahlgren** is the head of operations of gender equality at the Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research at the University of Gothenburg, and in charge of the GMGA programme (gender mainstreaming in government agencies) and the web portal [includegender.org](http://includegender.org). The programme offers support to 60 government agencies, as well as the Government offices in their work with gender mainstreaming. She has previously worked as a gender equality expert within several different government agencies, such as the Swedish Police and the County Administrative Board, with the main focus on gender mainstreaming, but also areas such as men's

violence against women, human rights, discrimination and gender equality in general. Her educational background is within gender studies, but she has also worked at the Sociology department as a research assistant in a Nordic project: *Welfare Policy and Employment in the Context of Family Change*.

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**Liisa-Ly Pakosta** is the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner of Estonia whose responsibilities are to monitor compliance with the Gender Equality Act and the Equal Treatment Act with surveillance over both the public and private sectors. From 2009-2015, Ms Pakosta was a member of the Estonian Parliament and during this time was a member of the European Union Affairs Committee, a member of the Social Committee and a member of the Cultural

Committee. She was also Head of the Estonian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. From 2002 – 2008, Ms Pakosta was a member of the board, author and producer at the Estonian National Broadcasting authorities. She holds an MA in Pedagogics, anthropology and history from Tartu University. She speaks many languages besides Estonian, such as English, Swedish, and Russian. Ms Pakosta has co-authored or authored several education articles book booklets and TV series she is a mother of five children.



**Blerina Xhani** is a UN Women National Consultant to the Ministry of Finance of Albania for the introduction of Gender Responsive Budgeting in the Medium Term Budget Program. She graduated in Business Administration at “La Sapienza” University Rome, Italy in 2006. After graduation, she worked in the Ministry of Finance of Albania for nine years in different key positions such as: Human Resources Officer, Financial & Budget Analyst and Financial Administrator. She currently is pursuing a PhD Programme at the Faculty of Economy of the University of Tirana with a research focus on Gender Equality in Start-Up Businesses in Albania.



**Romain Sabathier:** Having been an active citizen from an early age, Romain Sabathier first held various positions in the voluntary sector, trade unions and politics. Following studies in France and Norway, he holds a double master’s in political science and gender studies. From 2009 to 2013, he worked for several members of the French National Assembly, in particular on gender & regional equality issues. He is currently Secretary General of the High Council for Gender Equality (HCE), a position he has held since the body was set up by presidential decree in 2013.

This independent national advisory agency has four main tasks in the gender

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equality field: ensuring dialogue, evaluating public policies, making recommendations and raising awareness by disseminating know-how and stimulating public debate. From 2013 to 2015, on the basis of nine ministerial requests and several initiatives of its own, the HCE issued 7 reports and 10 opinions. This helped to keep gender equality at the top of the agenda in public debate and prompt various government plans and laws on gender policies.



**Unnur Ágústsdóttir** works as a Special Advisor at the Department of Analysis and Budget at the Ministry of Welfare in Iceland. She represents the Ministry in the Steering Committee for Gender Budgeting and is responsible for the Implementation Plan for Gender Budgeting at the Ministry of Welfare. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration with focus on Sick Pay in Iceland, a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and is currently studying for a Post Graduate Diploma in Gender Studies. Before her career in the Public Sector she had a broad experience

both in budgeting and financial management, publishing companies and non-profit organizations. Main Interests: welfare-politics, social theory, literature, gender studies.

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## Panel 5



**Margus Tsahkna** has been the Minister of Social Protection of the Republic of Estonia since 9 April 2015. Since 6 July 2015, he has been chairman of Pro Patria and Res Publica Union. In 2007–2015, Margus Tsahkna was a member of the XI and XII Riigikogu. In the same parliament, he was a member of the Monetary and Social Affairs Committee. In 2011–2014, he was Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee. During the same period he was the Vice Chairman of the Board of the Estonian Health Insurance Fund. In 2007–2011, Margus Tsahkna was a member of the Board of the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre and in from 2003–2007, he was a member of Tartu City Council. Margus Tsahkna has been a member of Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL) since 2000 and has held the roles of Chairman of Noor-Isamaa, Political Secretary, Secretary General and Vice Chairman. Born in Tartu on 13 April 1977, Margus Tsahkna graduated from Tartu Secondary School No. 7. He studied in the faculty of theology and the faculty of law in the University of Tartu, and studied international law in the University of Toronto.



**Antigoni Pericleous Papadopoulou** is a member of the Democratic Party (DIKO-Cyprus), and since 1994 has been the President of the Women Organization of the Democratic Party (GODIK). She is a former member of the European Parliament (S&D) (2009-2014) and she was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2001 – 2009). She holds a Postgraduate Degree in Social Sciences (Gender Equality) from the University of the Aegean, Rhodes, Greece. During her political career, Antigoni was the first elected female Mayor of Morphou (1996-2001). She was previously a member of the House of Representatives and of the Municipal Council of Strovolos. Since 1994 she has been a member of the National Machinery for Women’s Rights, and since 1994 has been co-ordinator of the Committee on European Affairs. She is also a member of the Central Committee and the Executive Bureau of the Democratic Party DIKO (1978-present) and since 2011 President of the Non-Governmental Organization “Palmos Zois” (Pulse of Life). Antigoni was granted various scholarships by Fulbright, Lancaster University and the British Council and received distinctions in her post graduate degrees and honours for her parliamentary work at the European Parliament. She was one of the first two Cypriot women elected as Members of the European Parliament (2009), the first female Chair of the Committee of Economic Affairs and Budgeting of the House of Representatives, Cyprus (2006–2009).



**Jiří Dienstbier**, Minister for Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation of the Czech Republic is a long-time member of ČSSD and served as the chairman of the Young Social Democrats for two years. From 1990–1992 he was a member of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly; from 1994 to 1998 and again from 2006 member of the Prague 2 district council. In July 2010, Jiří Dienstbier became the Shadow Minister of Justice for ČSSD. In 2010 he headed the ČSSD list of candidates for the elections to the Prague City Assembly and from March 2011 to March 2013, served as the Vice-Chairman of ČSSD. In March 2011, he was elected the Senator for the Kladno district. Before becoming Minister in January 2014, Jiří Dienstbier served as the Vice-Chairman of the ČSSD Senate Club and a member of the Legal and Constitutional Committee and Organisation Committee of the Czech Senate. He was also a member of the Standing Senate Commission on the Czech Constitution and Parliamentary Procedures. In 2013, he ran for the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. In January 2014, Jiří Dienstbier was appointed Minister of Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Legislation and Chairman of the Government's Legislative Council in the Government of Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. In 2014, he was re-elected to the Senate in the Kladno district.



**Kira Appel** is Chief Adviser and Deputy Head of Department at the Gender Equality Unit in the Ministry of Children, Education and Gender Equality of Denmark, and has been working with gender equality issues in eight different ministries over the last 16 years. Kira's areas of expertise are governmental gender equality policy-making, including combating violence in close relations, trafficking in human beings, gender roles and breaking down of gender stereotypes, the gender segregated educational system and labour market, gender mainstreaming, men and gender equality, as well as international negotiations on gender equality. Kira is a Board member and member of the Standing Committee in the European Institute for Gender Equality, a member of the Board of the Nordic Council of Ministers gender equality executive committee, Denmark's representative to the EU/High Level Group, the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Danish National Focal Point on Gender Equality to the Council of Europe, as well as the Vice-Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe.



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which resulted in a Political Declaration by which member states pledged to take concrete steps to ensure the full, effective and accelerated actions to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women. Ms Puri has been at the forefront of UN Women's intergovernmental work on Sustainable Development, Climate Change, Financing for Development, Health, Information Society, Youth, Migration, Women, Peace and Security, the Urban Agenda and Humanitarian Action. She was previously Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and a Director at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Prior to joining the UN, Ms Puri had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service.



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She is a lawyer from the University of Helsinki, Finland. Salla Saastamoinen was Member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency between 2013 and 2014, and she is the Member of the Management Board of the European Institute for Gender Equality since 2014.

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**Joanna Maycock** has been Secretary General of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) since May 2014. Founded in 1990, the European Women's Lobby (EWL) is a credible source of expertise and experience on women's rights and equality between women and men, representing the diversity of the women's movement across the European Union. Since joining the EWL in 2014, Joanna has been leading work with the membership to define a dynamic new strategic vision for the women's movement in Europe, to strengthen its joint vision and work towards a feminist Europe. A lifelong feminist, Joanna has 20 years' professional experience in senior leadership and governance positions in European and International Civil Society. She led ActionAid International's work in Europe: Developing and implementing EU campaigns on aid effectiveness, women's rights, and policy coherence for development. Joanna is also a former President of CONCORD, the European Confederation of Development NGOs. She has also been involved in strengthening organisational development and civil society governance. She is particularly interested in the concept and practice of feminist leadership, and has established a network of women CSO leaders in Brussels and is working with others to establish a global network of women leaders in CSOs. @JoannaMaycock



**Anne Nègre** is a doctor of law, lawyer and mediator who teaches in the Law Faculty at the University of Paris 1-Panthéon-Sorbonne. She played an active part in the French constitutional reform on parity, the amendment of the Lisbon Treaty concerning gender equality and the work at the EU concerning women's position on boards. She chairs various women's associations and previously headed an INGO with federations or associations in 70 countries, GWI, of which University Women of Europe is a member, and stood for election to the post of Gender Expert of the Conference of INGOs in January 2015.



**Sergiy Kyslytsya**, a career diplomat in the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the 1st class, entered the Foreign Service in 1992. He has held various diplomatic posts in Ukraine, Belgium, and the United States, including head of the Council of Europe Desk; second, first secretary (political), Embassy of Ukraine in Brussels, and Mission of Ukraine to NATO; contact point for WEU-Ukraine; Chief of Staff of the Foreign Minister; Minister-counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy to the USA. In 2006-2014 Sergiy Kyslytsya held the post of Director-general of the Directorate for International Organizations at the MFA of Ukraine. In March, 2014 he was appointed as Deputy Foreign Minister. From 2007-2011 Sergiy Kyslytsya was a member of the Steering Committee for the Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) of the Council of Europe (CoE), as well as of its Bureau. In 2012 he was elected to the Gender Equality Commission of the CoE and has been its Vice-Chair in 2012-2013, and Chair since July 2014. Sergiy Kyslytsya has a degree in International Law cum laude. He speaks Ukrainian, English, Russian and Spanish. Currently he resides with his son, Ian, in Kyiv (Ukraine).

## Closing Session



**Pauline Moreau** retired in 2014 after a long career in the Irish Civil Service, with over 40 years of service in a wide range of roles and Departments (Ministries). Pauline served as a Director in Ireland's Department of Justice and Equality since 2000, heading its Gender Equality Division since 2005. In that capacity, she oversaw the development and implementation of Ireland's National Women's Strategy 2007 - 2016 and the Gender Equality Programme within the Irish Presidency of the EU Council of Ministers in 2013. Pauline also represented Ireland in a number of international fora on gender issues and served as Ireland's representative on the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Equality between men and women (CDEG), its Bureau and subsequently on the Gender Equality Commission. In her retirement, Pauline continues to chair the Management Board of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius in a voluntary capacity, while she has also undertaken some consultancy work in the gender equality field.



**Snežana Samardžić-Marković** is, since 2012, Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe, in charge of the Organisation's action promoting democratic innovation, governance, participation and diversity. Her responsibilities include the policy areas of education and youth, local democracy, cultural policies, election assistance, the protection of human dignity, gender equality, children's rights, and the rights of minorities, societal defences against discrimination, democratic citizenship, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue and democratic responses to crisis situations. Previously, Snežana has held numerous positions in the Serbian Government including Deputy Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Neighbouring Countries, Assistant Minister of Defence (2005-2007) and Co-President of the Serbia-NATO Defence Reform Group, member of the Foundation Board of WADA, Minister of Youth and Sports (2007-2012) and President of the Fund for Young Talents.



**Marina Kaljurand** has been the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia since 16 July 2015. She is not affiliated with any political party. From 2014 to 2015, Marina Kaljurand served as the Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary for Legal and Consular Affairs and before that, as the Undersecretary for Political Affairs. She was also the Estonian expert at the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber Security. From 2011 to 2014, Marina Kaljurand was the Estonian ambassador to the United States and Mexico and in 2011-2013 also to Canada. From 2008 to 2011, she was the Undersecretary for Foreign Economic Relations and Development Aid at the Foreign Ministry. From 2007 to 2011, Marina Kaljurand has a rich diplomatic career and has served as Estonian ambassador to Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Israel. From 2002 to 2005, she was the Undersecretary for Legal and Consular Affairs and Legal Adviser at the Foreign Ministry. Between 1999 and 2001, she was the Director General of the Legal Department at the Ministry. From 1996 to 1999, she was the counsellor at the Estonian Embassy in Helsinki. Prior to this, Marina Kaljurand was the Director of the International Treaties Division in the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1991 to 1996, and III secretary of the Press and Information Department in 1991. From 1986 to 1991, she was a lecturer of law at the Tallinn Economic Technical School. Marina Kaljurand has a Master's degree in Law from the University of Tartu. She has also graduated from the Estonian School of Diplomacy and has an M.A. in international law and diplomacy from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.