



European
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HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

**60th anniversary of the European Social Charter
18 October 1961 – 18 October 2021**

18 October 2021, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg

Presentation of speakers *(in order of appearance)*



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, Ms Pejčinović Burić was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, having served previously, on two occasions, as State Secretary for EU Affairs. She has also served as a Deputy in the Croatian Parliament.



Péter SZTÁRAY took up office as State Secretary for Security Policy of Hungary in 2018. Prior to this, Mr Sztaray has held various positions with NATO, including permanent representative of Hungary to NATO from 2013 to 2018. From 2010 to 2013, he held the position of Political Director and Deputy State Secretary. He has also fulfilled the function of Deputy Director for Western Europe Department (2000 – 2002) and has been acting as Director for the Americas Department since 2000. He has studied in the Vienna Diplomatic Academy and the ELTE University Budapest, Faculty of Law.



Telecommunication.

Rik DAEMS is the current President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). 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



Nicolas SCHMIT took up office as European Commissioner responsible for Jobs and Social Rights in December 2019. Prior to this and following a long career of public service in his native Luxembourg, he took up duty as Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the EU in 1998 for a six-year term. In 2004, he was appointed Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration.

From 2009 to 2018, he held the position of Minister for Labour and Employment in the Luxembourgish government. He served as a Member of the European Parliament for the social-democratic *Lëtzebuurger Sozialistesche Aarbechterpartei* following his election in May 2019. Nicolas Schmit holds a Doctorate in International Economic Relations and a Masters in French Literature from the University of Aix-Marseille.



Leendert Verbeek (The Netherlands, SOC/G/PD) is born on 5 March 1954 in Leiderdorp (the Netherlands). He was elected President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on 23 March 2021 for a mandate of two years and a half. He is currently the King's Commissioner for the Province of Flevoland in the Netherlands and he had previously held office as President of the Monitoring Committee of the Congress.



Dunja MIJATOVIĆ was elected Commissioner for Human Rights on 25 January 2018 by the Parliamentary Assembly and took up her position on 1 April 2018.

National of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she has been working to promote and protect human rights for the past two decades, thus acquiring extensive knowledge in the field of international monitoring, in particular as regards freedom of expression.

Prior to her appointment as Commissioner for Human Rights, she has served as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2010-2017), Director of Broadcast of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001-2010), Chair of the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies (2007-2010) and of the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on Freedom of Expression

and Information in Times of Crisis (2005-2007).

Dunja Mijatović has regularly given lectures in national and international fora and has been awarded several human rights prizes. She has also been active in supporting NGO activities in the field of human rights education and asylum.



Christos GIAKOUMOPOULOS has been Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe since 1 August 2017. He was previously Director of Human Rights from 2011 to 2017 and also the Secretary General's Advisor for Ukraine from June 2014 to September 2016. He was Director of Monitoring in the same Directorate General between 2006 and 2011.

Before joining the Directorate of Human Rights, he was General Counsel and Director General for Legal and Administrative Affairs of the Council of Europe Development Bank (Paris).

Since joining the Council of Europe in 1987, he held posts in the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights and the Directorate of Legal Affairs. He was Deputy Executive Secretary of the Venice Commission (1994-2002) and Director of the Office of the first Commissioner for Human Rights, Alvaro Gil Robles (2002-2004).



Karin LUKAS is a senior researcher and head of department at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights. In 2011, she joined the European Committee of Social Rights of the Council of Europe and is Vice-President of the Committee since 2017. She has been a consultant for various national and international organisations, such as the UN Development Programme and the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She has done research as well as project-related activities in the field of human rights, in particular women's rights, development cooperation and business since 2001. Ms. Lukas holds an LL.M. in Gender and the Law (Washington College of Law), an E.M.A. in Human Rights and Democratisation (University of Padova) and a PhD in Law (University of Vienna). She currently works on trade regimes and human rights, non-judicial grievance mechanisms in the business context, and economic, social and cultural rights in Europe.



Michael O'FLAHERTY is Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights since 2015. He is a former Professor of Human Rights at the University of Nottingham and the [National University of Ireland](#), Galway. From 2004 to 2012 he was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, latterly as Vice-Chair. Mr O'Flaherty has held a variety of other positions at the United Nations, both at headquarters and in the field, in which connection he witnessed, reported on, and sought to mitigate human rights abuses in such places as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone. He has also served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, as Chairperson of the Irish Penal Reform Trust, and as Vice-Chair of the Universal Rights Group. A solicitor of the Irish Courts, O'Flaherty received his Doctor of Laws from the National University of Ireland and holds degrees in international relations, philosophy, and theology.



Michael WINDFUHR is a political scientist, educated at the University of Heidelberg. Since 2011, he is the Deputy Director of the German Institute for Human Rights, the national human rights institution of Germany. Beginning of 2017 he started to be a member of the UN-Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In 2020 he was re-elected for a second term (up to 2024) and currently he is vice-chair of this Committee. Since 2015 he is also member of the Independent Complaint Mechanism of the then European Development Finance Institutions DEG, FMO and Proparco (from Germany, Netherlands and France).

For the five years prior to this, he served as Human Rights Director of Bread for the World, the development organisation of the Protestant church of Germany. Between 1988 and 2006 he co-developed FIAN-International (FoodFirst Information and Action Network), an international human rights organisation that focuses on the realisation of the right to adequate food.