



**PRÉSIDENCE FRANÇAISE**  
FRENCH PRESIDENCY

**2019** MAI - NOVEMBRE  
Conseil de l'Europe  
Council of Europe



## **Redefining Power: Strengthening the rights of the child as the key to a future-proof Europe**

*Conference organised by the Council of Europe in the framework of the  
French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe*

**Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe**

**Strasbourg, France**

**13-14 November 2019**

**SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**



**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, Marija 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. During her time as a Deputy in the Croatian Parliament, she chaired the delegation of the Croatia-EU 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 in the position of Substitute Member of the Croatian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Earlier in her career, Marija Pejčinović Burić held a number of senior positions relating to the Croatia's EU accession process. She went on to be a Negotiator on several chapters in the context of Croatia's EU accession negotiations. She has written, lectured and consulted widely on European affairs, has served as a president and board member for a number of organisations and is a former Secretary General of the Europe House, Zagreb. Marija Pejčinović Burić holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zagreb, and a Master in European Studies from the College of Europe.



**Adrien Taquet** was appointed Secretary of State at the French Ministry of Solidarity and Health in January 2019, in charge of implementing the strategy for the protection of children. As such, he is committed to proposing measures to guarantee children's rights to safety, health and education. He graduated from the Institut d'études politiques of Paris and the Paris Nanterre University, and has been involved in public life since his youth, particularly in issues related to disability, autism and child and youth

protection.



**Liliane Maury Pasquier**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since June 2018, is a Swiss parliamentarian from the city of Geneva. From 1983-1991 she was a municipal councillor in Veyrier (Switzerland) and from 1993-1996 a member of the Grand Council in Geneva. A national parliamentarian since 1995, she has exercised several important functions in the National Council and the Council of States, including Chair of the National Council and of the Federal Assembly in 2002, Chair of the Delegation for the Relations with the French Parliament (2009-2011 and since 2018), Chair of the Committee for Social Security and Public Health (2013-2015). After joining the Parliamentary Assembly in 2007, she chaired the Assembly's Swiss delegation from 2011-2013 and presided over the Group of Socialists, Democrats and Greens (January to June 2018). She was a member of several committees: Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs (chairing from 2016-2018); Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development; Political Affairs and Democracy; as well as Monitoring. She is a qualified independent midwife and from 2009-2013 was Chair of the Swiss Federation of Midwives.



**Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos** - A graduate of the University of Athens, he was awarded a doctorate of law and accreditation to supervise research (habilitation) by Robert Schuman University, Strasbourg, in 1990. Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been Professor of Law at the University of Athens and a member, and subsequently Chairman, of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts for the Improvement of Procedures for the Protection of Human Rights. He has also been a member, and subsequently Vice-Chairman, of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). He was a member from 2000, and Vice-Chairman from 2006 to 2011, of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights, and has also been a member of the European Union Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights and of the Management Board and the Executive Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. In the field of international law, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been a member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law since 2010, and an associate member of the Institute of International Law since 2011. He was also a member of the Board of the European Society of International Law from 2010 to 2012. In addition, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been a member of the Scientific Board of the *Revue trimestrielle des droits de l'homme* (since 2005), the *European Journal of Human Rights* (since 2013), the *Annuaire français de droit international* (since 2015) and the *European Journal of International Law* (from 2007 to 2012). Having been elected as a judge of the European Court of Human Rights as from 18 May 2011, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos served as Section President from 1 February 2017 to 30 April 2017 and Vice-President of the Court from 1 May 2017 to 4 May 2019. He has been President of the Court since 5 May 2019. An associate member of the Academy of Athens since 2017, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos is the author of six monographs, the editor or co-editor of fourteen books and the author of some 100 articles and studies on general international law and international human rights protection, in English, French and Greek. He has been invited to teach at various universities and academies, including the Law Faculties of the Universities of Oxford, Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris-II, Strasbourg, Aix-Marseille, Bordeaux and Geneva, the National University of Ireland, Sciences-Po (Paris), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, the Hague Academy of International Law, the International Institute of Human Rights, etc.



**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. She is the fourth Commissioner, succeeding Nils Muižnieks (2012-2018), Thomas Hammarberg (2006-2012) and Alvaro Gil-Robles (1999-2006). 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.



**Jeroen Schokkenbroek** studied law at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands) where he lectured in Constitutional and Administrative Law until 1993. Other past functions in that period include: President of the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists, representative of the ICJ with the Council of Europe and editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Human Rights Law Journal (NJCM-Bulletin). Since 1993, he has held various functions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mostly in the field of Human Rights, including that of Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights. In November 2010, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues. From October 2013 to February 2014, he also acted as Director ad interim of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation in the Directorate General of Democracy. He subsequently served as Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Ukraine until 1 July 2014, when he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). Since June 2018, Jeroen Schokkenbroek is Director of Anti-Discrimination in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe. Jeroen Schokkenbroek has published various books and articles in the field of human rights and constitutional law, including *Judicial Control of Restrictions on the Fundamental Freedoms of the European Convention on Human Rights, A Study of Strasbourg and Netherlands Case-Law* (Doctoral thesis in Dutch, Zwolle 1996) and contributed to P. Van Dijk and G.J.H. van Hoof, *Theory and Practice of the European Convention on Human Rights* (3rd ed., Kluwer 1998; and 4th ed., Intersentia 2006).



**Ásmundur Einar Daðason**, Minister of Social Affairs and Children since 2018 (Minister of Social Affairs and Equality 2017-2018). Member of Parliament 2009 to 2016 and 2017 to present. Member of the Icelandic Progressive Party. One of his main current priorities is a comprehensive reform of the Icelandic Child Protection System.



**Elena Bonetti**, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family, Italy. Elena Bonetti is Associate Professor of Mathematical Analysis at the University of Milan. Graduated in Mathematics in 1997 at the University of Pavia, in 2002, Elena Bonetti obtained a PhD in Mathematics at the University of Milan. She is committed to the Scout Movement and has experiences in the field of education and youth. On 5 September 2019, Elena Bonetti was appointed as Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family by the President of the Italian Republic.



**Kazimierz Kuberski**, Deputy Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy, Republic of Poland, lawyer, MBA studies. From 2002, he was an expert at Adam Smith Research Centre. From 1993, he worked in the office of the Capital City of Warsaw, in which, from 2003, he became the deputy director of the Social Policy Department and the Plenipotentiary of the President of Warsaw for the "Warsaw without barriers" program. In 2005-08 he was the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy responsible for international relations, social dialogue, migrations and non-governmental organizations. From 2008, he was a director in the Foreign Affairs Office of the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, and in the last three years he worked as a director of the Office for Cooperation with the Polish Diaspora and Poles Abroad.



**Dr Najat Maalla M'jid**, a medical doctor in paediatrics, has over the last three decades devoted her life to the promotion and protection of children's rights. She was Head of the Paediatric Department and Director of the Hay Hassani Mother-Child hospital in Casablanca. Najat Maalla M'jid is a member of the Moroccan National Council on Human Rights and founder of the non-governmental organisation Bayti, the first programme addressing the situation of children living and working in the streets of Morocco. From 2008 to 2014, she served as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child

Prostitution and Child Pornography. Najat Maalla M'jid also works as an Expert-Consultant for national and international projects, strategies and policies relating to child rights' promotion and protection. She has participated in the development of national policies on the protection of the child, and has worked with several governments, non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations. She also works as a lecturer in Moroccan and international universities on child rights' protection, promotion, programming and monitoring, as well as social and development policies. A member of several regional and international non-governmental organisations and networks working for children's rights, Najat Maalla M'jid is also involved in the training of social workers, law enforcement, teachers, judges, and medical staff. Najat Maalla M'jid holds a Doctorate in general medicine from the University of Rabat, a specialization in paediatrics and neonatology from the University of Bordeaux II and a Master of Human Rights from the Human Rights Institute, Geneva. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honours for her strong commitment to protecting the rights of the child.



**Afshan Khan** is the UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, and the Special Coordinator for the Refugee and Migrant Response in Europe. She is based in Geneva. Afshan Khan has been an international public servant for over 28 years. Previously she was the Director of Emergency Programmes for UNICEF, and she has also held other senior positions including Director of Public-Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization; Associate Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa; and the UNICEF Representative in Jamaica. Afshan Khan has extensive field experience including assignments in Kenya; Mozambique; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Colombia. She also has broad United Nations-wide expertise stemming from assignments with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (IASC) in Geneva; the Executive Office of the Secretary- General; and the United Nations Development Group.

From 2012 to 2014, Afshan Khan took leave from the United Nations to become the CEO of Women for Women International. In that role, she was responsible for setting the strategic vision and mobilizing the necessary resources for women rebuilding their lives after war. Ms. Khan was born in Hyderabad, India, and grew up in Montreal, Canada. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from McGill University.



**Koulla Yiasouma** took up appointment as NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) in March 2015. She trained as a social worker and previously worked in probation, NI Women's Aid and prior to her appointment was the Director of Include Youth for almost 17 years. She has also been involved in the boards of a number of voluntary and community-based organisation as well as non-departmental public bodies. She is a passionate advocate for the rights of all children, especially those with the most challenging behaviours, and she represented these issues on these bodies. As a Human Rights institution, the NI Commissioner for Children and

Young People is appointed by the First and Deputy First Ministers and tasked to promote and safeguard the rights and best interests of children and young people across Northern Ireland. This includes advising public authorities, and holding them to account in a variety of ways, on their delivery of children's rights. Koulla Yiasouma set key strategic priorities for her term in Office. These include addressing educational inequalities, tackling child poverty, improving emotional and mental well-being and addressing the on-going legacy of the conflict on children and young people. Koulla Yiasouma is of Greek Cypriot origin and is married with two daughters. She was born in London and is therefore an avid Arsenal supporter.



**Veronica Yates** is the Director of the Child Rights International Network - CRIN, where she has been working for over 15 years. Her firm commitment to rights, not charity for children has laid the foundations for CRIN's recent transformation: from a business-as-usual NGO to a radical new way of operating and behaving, with at its core, the central question which all NGOs should be asking themselves: do we really need to exist? This led CRIN to adopt its very own Code, which sets out the principles that guide the work and how we should behave as human rights organisations. In its new iteration, CRIN defines itself as a creative think tank that produces new and dynamic perspectives on human rights issues, with a focus on

children's rights. Through research, artwork and a vision for the future, we challenge the status quo because the norms that dictate children's place in society need radical change.

**Power Talk 1 – The power of collaboration: stepping up the coordination of global and pan-European agendas to increase their impact on children’s human rights**



**Elda Moreno** is a human rights lawyer specialized in children’s rights and with a passion for communication. She is currently the Head of Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department at the Council of Europe. She oversees the work on the rights of the child, including the right to protection from all forms of violence ([www.coe.int/children](http://www.coe.int/children)). She is also responsible for the promotion of human rights in and through sports, the fight against doping, match fixing and violence in sport ([www.coe.int/sport](http://www.coe.int/sport)). Elda Moreno has over 25 years of professional experience in intergovernmental cooperation. She has designed innovative transversal programmes, strategies and campaigns, promoted the development of legal standards and negotiated important cooperation agreements with key partners in the fields of human rights and nature protection. Between 2006 and 2011, Elda Moreno designed and coordinated the Council of Europe transversal Programme “Building a Europe for and with Children”. She has also supervised the teams responsible for the fight against trafficking in human beings and the elimination of violence against women. In the field of gender equality, she developed a new transversal programme and the first Council of Europe Strategy in this field. During her six years as a member of the Private Office, she advised the Secretary General on issues related to the protection of human rights and children’s rights, gender equality, the information society, migration and the fight against violence. From April 2014 to October 2016, Elda Moreno was the Director of the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Violence against Children in NY. Before joining the Council of Europe in 1995, Elda Moreno was an attorney in Spain specialised in human rights.



**Ann Skelton** is a Professor of Law and holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law at the University of Pretoria. Her LL.D thesis was on restorative justice relating to children. An internationally recognised researcher, Ann has published widely on children’s rights, education law, restorative justice and strategic litigation. For the past 15 years, Ann was the Director of the Centre for Child Law. She is an Advocate, and has argued many landmark children’s rights cases before South Africa’s Constitutional Court. Ann Skelton has participated in several UN expert groups, chairs the Advisory Group of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their liberty, and chairperson of an expert group drafting Guiding Principles on Private Education. She has won several awards for her work, including the Worlds Children’s Prize presented by Queen Silvia of Sweden and the Juvenile Justice without Border prize for her work on reducing the number of children in prisons in South Africa. She is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017-2021).



**Jeffrey Labovitz** has served as the Director of the Department of Operations and Emergencies (DOE) at the Headquarters of the International Organization for Migration since August 2019. The Department leads the response and coordination of all humanitarian and post crisis stabilization programming. In his capacity of Director, Jeffrey Labovitz supports the Director General on the Organization’s activities in response to forced migration and humanitarian crises, including oversight of the specialized divisions in emergency preparedness and response; crisis transition and recovery; land, property and reparations; and refugee resettlement and migrant movement operations. The Department further guides policy-work on the migration dimensions of



crisis and actively engages in global processes, ensuring the concerns of vulnerable groups and mobile populations are adequately reflected in humanitarian programming and post crisis stabilization efforts. In a career that has spanned five continents, Jeffrey Labovitz brings over 25 years of humanitarian and international development experience to the role of Director. He began his professional career with IOM in 1996 as Country Representative for the Bosnian Out of Country Voting Programme. He has since been on the forefront of the Organization’s responses to multiple largescale emergencies – including conflicts and displacement in the Andaman Sea, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan; drought in the Horn of Africa; the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone; among others. Prior to joining DOE, Jeffrey Labovitz was IOM’s Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa for four years. He was also Chief of Mission in Thailand, managing one of IOM’s largest offices. Jeffrey Labovitz has also served the organization as the Regional Representative for South Central Europe, Regional Coordinator for the Western Newly Independent States, IOM Chief of Mission in Ukraine, and as IOM’s global advisor for Out of Country Voting programmes. Jeffrey Labovitz holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from the University of San Diego, USA; Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of California, USA and an International Diploma in Humanitarian Affairs (IDHA) from the Hunter College City University in New York, USA.



**Baroness (Doreen E. Massey)** of Darwen has a BA degree in French (Honours) from Birmingham University and Aix-en-Provence and a Diploma in Education. She holds an MA in Health Education from London University and a Diploma in Counselling to Individuals, Groups and Organisations from the Tavistock Institute. She holds an Honorary Doctorate in Health Education at the University of Birmingham and a Fellowship at the University of Central Lancashire. She is Honorary Professor of Sociology at the University of Nottingham Trent. She speaks regularly at conferences and seminars concerned with children’s rights and welfare and visits schools and Universities to carry out political education with students. She became a member of the British delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2016. In 2017-2018 she chaired the Sub-Committee for Children, within the Committee for Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development. She is an observer to the Lanzarote Committee (violence against children) and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child. She is patron of several charities for young people and women’s rights. These include Brook Advisory Centres for young people’s sexual health, Women and Children First, the Maya centre for women victims of violence, the Child Trafficking Unit at Bedfordshire University, the Amos Bursary, which helps black boys to achieve, and the Lady Taverners, a cricket charity which raises funds for disabled young people to do sport. She is a member of the Royal Society of Arts, a Patron of the British Humanist Association and the National Secular Society. Baroness E. Massey is involved with the following All Party Groups in Parliament: children, breast cancer, cricket (Vice Chair), reproductive health and has recently founded the All Party Group for Young People’s Health. She has been a Labour Peer since 1999.”



**Benoit Van Keirsbilck** is trained in social work and children’s rights. He is the Director of the Belgian section of Defence for Children – International (DCI) and the former President of the International Executive Council (International board) of DCI. He is one of the founders and member of the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child (CIDE) which gathers 4 universities and 2 NGO in the French part of Belgium. The CIDE organises a University degree and conducts academic researches on children’s rights. Finally, he is Chief Editor of

the Journal of Children’s Law (Belgium) and member of the Advisory board of the UN Global Study on children deprived of liberty.

**Power Talk 2 – The power of inclusion: fighting precarity, poverty and exclusion, and promoting equal opportunities for all children**



**Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca** was the ninth President of Malta, after being active in politics for forty years and serving in parliament for 16 years. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Law and Humanities as Notary Public from the University of Malta. She was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University of Warwick, UK, and an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Leicester, UK. She has dedicated her life to the

wellbeing of the most vulnerable in society, and contributed to bring about effective changes in the social policies of Malta. Her major achievements while President of Malta include the setting up of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, The Malta Trust Foundation, and the Emanuele Cancer Research Foundation Malta – foundations that she chairs. In April 2019, she was elected President of Eurochild, a pan-European network of children's rights organisations with over 176 members from over 34 countries. She is an internationally acclaimed speaker covering various areas, including children's rights, women, and vulnerable groups including migration. She is a Member of the Council of World Women Leaders; Adviser to Women Political Leaders; Patron and Ambassador of the International Girl2Leader Campaign; and, an Honorary Member of the Società Italiana di Storia della Medicina. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca is a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, a Champion for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDAIII) and a UNWTO Special Ambassador for Sustainable Tourism.



**Eliane Chemla**, who is currently an Honorary State Councillor, is an eminent magistrate of the French Council of State, the dual role of which is to advise the Government and to act as Supreme Court of the administrative order. Eliane Chemla advised the Government on the drafting of legislative and regulatory texts in the Social Section and was rapporteur for litigation on rights and freedoms cases and then for taxation in the Litigation Section. Since 2013,

she has been actively involved in the work of the European Committee of Social Rights and has been appointed its general rapporteur.



**Aoife Nolan** has been Professor of International Human Rights Law at Nottingham University School of Law since 2012. She joined the European Committee of Social Rights in early 2017. In 2018, she served on the Scottish First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership and is currently a member of the Scottish Government's UNCRC Working Group to input on the best model of incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of

the Child into Scottish law. She has published extensively in the areas of human rights and constitutional law, particularly in relation to children's rights and economic and social rights. Professor Nolan has acted as an expert advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights and poverty issues, including numerous UN Special Procedures, UN treaty bodies, the Council of Europe, the World Bank, and multiple NHRIs and NGOs. Her books include the prize-winning *Children's Socio-economic Rights, Democracy & the Courts* (Hart, 2011) and *Economic and Social Rights after the Global Financial Crisis* (CUP, 2014). She has held visiting positions

at academic institutions in Europe, Africa, the US and Australia. She is an Academic Expert member at Doughty Street Chambers.



**Monica Oltra** was born in 1969 in Neuss (Germany). She lived there until the age of 14 and, together to her family, she returned to Spain in 1984, to Paterna. She studied high school at the Peset Aleixandre Institute, where she met some of the people who have accompanied her politically throughout her career or people who, with their academic or vital teaching, have left an indelible mark of social commitment. She got her Law Degree at the University of Valencia, combining her studies with several jobs. After this, she graduated from the School of Legal Practice of the UNED, in its first promotion in Valencia, and she worked as a lawyer for several years. In addition to this, she specialised in several different aspects of law (such as minors, or gender diversity, among others) in courses organised by the ICAV (Illustrious Bar Association of

Valencia). At the age of 15 she began her political militancy and participated in the foundation of Izquierda Unida, always from the perspective of Valencianism as an expression of the territorial diversity of the State. Diversity and plurality have always been part of her conception of life. In 2007, together with a significant group of militants and public officials, she founded the political party "Iniciativa del Poble Valencià", for which she was the first spokesperson. Shortly after she participated in the creation of Compromís, a stable coalition of parties where she has been characterised by her fight against corruption and in favour of people's rights, especially social rights, but also of the LGTBI collective and, especially for the equality and empowerment of women and against male violence. She is member of the Valencian Parliament since 2007 by Compromís and since 2015 she is spokesperson for the Valencian Government and Regional Minister for Equality and Inclusive Policies, a position from which she has promoted structural changes in social service policies.



**Nejla Peka**, currently, Commissioner for the Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights at the Ombudsperson Institution. Previously, Nejla Peka was a jurist in the Legislation and Regulatory Unit of the Prime Minister's Regulatory and Compliance Department. She completed her studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana, 1993-1997, and completed her postgraduate studies for "European Studies" at the International Center for European Studies, University of Tirana. She has also defended the degree of

"Doctor of Legal Sciences" in Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Tirana, and has earned the title of "Associate Professor" in the field of law. Nejla Peka has completed a series of training and qualifications, both domestically and internationally in the field of public law and on drafting legislation. Also, in 2007, she was invited by the Center for International Studies at Georgia Southern University, Georgia, USA, to deliver open lectures on governance, the political system and the rule of law in Albania, at this University. In addition, Nejla Peka has published a number of scientific articles at home and abroad, as well as a number of presentations at national and international scientific conferences. She is the author of the book "Summary of tax and customs legislation in the Republic of Albania". Nejla Peka has conducted a number of studies in her area of expertise: administrative law, constitutional law, human rights.



**Ioannis N. Dimitrakopoulos** is a social scientist, educated in the UK. From 1984, he taught at the University of Ioannina and Athens College, and conducted or coordinated national and transnational EU funded research projects on a range of human rights issues, for example discrimination, racism, antisemitism, Roma, rights of the child, etc. He is the author of a textbook on Greek legal and political institutions and several articles. He started working for the Agency in 2003 (when it was still the EUMC) and since then has been responsible for many of its major reports.

**Power Talk 3 – The power of media: inform, inspire and mobilise while respecting the rights of the child**



As senior Legal officer Media **Inge Welbergen** is responsible for coordinating and formulating Dutch International media policies, she represents The Netherlands in the EU Council Working Group for audiovisual affairs, in the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Media and Information Society and in the (CDMSI) Committee of experts on quality journalism in the digital age. She studied International and European Law and a master in legislation.



**Ivaylo Spasov** works for the United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF in Bulgaria. He serves as Communication for Social Change Officer, focusing on initiatives, projects and campaigns that use the power of communication to transform negative attitudes and practices into positive social change. C4D (communication for development) is a fastly emerging area of work for UNICEF where Ivaylo Spasov has focused on interventions related to children with disabilities, children victims of violence, early childhood development, adolescent development and participation, etc. Ivaylo Spasov has been with UNICEF for 5 years, prior to that he has 10 years of experience as a journalist in national and international media. Ivaylo Spasov has graduated "TV journalism" in Sofia University and has specialized "European studies" in The Hague University for Applied Sciences. He was also trained in Political and Economic Reporting at Reuters news agency, UK. Beyond his work for human rights and child empowerment and development, Ivaylo Spasov is an animal rights activist, and an opera and comics lover.



A specialised educator and graduated in Islamology, **Bernard de Vos** is the author of several books on childhood and youth issues (including "Les Apaches des parkings, adolescents des villes et des ghettos" published by Labour in 1999). Director for fifteen years of SOS Jeunes-Quartier Libre asbl in Brussels, he was at the origin of the creation of many innovative measures in the field of youth assistance and protection (Samarkand asbl, Solidarité, Synergie 14, etc.). He has held several mandates in decision-making or consultation bodies on the same matters. Since March 2008, he has been the General Delegate of the French Community for the Rights of the Child. Between September 2013 and October 2014, he was President of ENOC, the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, of which he remains a member of the Executive Board. Since January 2019, the General Delegate for the Rights of the Child has been Chairman of the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the Association des Ombudsmans et Médiateurs de la Francophonie (AOMF).

## Power Talk 4 – The power of speaking up against violence: putting an end to violence against children



**George Nikolaidis** was born in Greece; his studies include Medicine; Psychiatry; PhD on *Epidemiology*; MSc in *Philosophy of Mental Disorder*; MA in *Psychoanalytic Studies*. His work focuses on Violence; Child Abuse & Neglect; Public Health Sciences; Epidemiology. Since 09/2005 he is Research Director of Dep. of Mental Health & Social Welfare, Institute of Child Health; since 10/2014 he is Scientific Coordinator of the Day Centre “The House of the Child” of the Association “The Smile of the Child”;

he is also coordinating various international research & intervention projects on the study and prevention of child abuse and in general child protection. He is the national representative of Greece to the WHO for child abuse and neglect issues and to the Council of Europe’s Lanzarote Committee (Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) for which he is currently elected Chairperson.



**Ivor Frank** is a barrister with four decades of experience in child protection, human rights and family law. He was brought up in care himself and has represented and campaigned for children in care as a member of the parliamentary groups Looked After Children and Care Leavers and Care Leavers’ Voice. Ivor has advised the Home Office on the issues of forced marriages and international child abduction. He has served as a Trustee of Buttle

(now Buttle UK) which makes grants to vulnerable children and young people in need. He now serves as a Trustee of the Rees Foundation which has similar objectives.



**Matthias Katsch** - born in Berlin in 1963, was abused by two Jesuit priests being a pupil at the Canisius Kolleg there. In 2010, the philosopher took part in the exposure of child sexual abuse in the context of the Catholic church. He has been active on behalf of the victims ever since, for example as spokesperson for the survivor’s initiative Eckiger Tisch e.V. and as founding board member of the international association Ending Clergy Abuse (ECA). He is now a member of the German Inquiry into CSA.



A lawyer at the CAEN bar and a graduate in victimology, **H  l  ne Kozaczyk** intervenes in the interests of personal injury victims and is particularly interested in defending victims of criminal offences, in particular victims of sexual violence. She is secretary of the association Stop aux violences sexuelles - 14 (SVS 14) and member of the board of directors of the association REPRENVIS, two associations that work to inform and train professionals on the issue of sexual violence, the prevention of such violence as well as the therapeutic support of victims.



**V  ronique Gast  ** holds a Master's degree in management and economic engineering, and is an auditor of the Institut National des Hautes Etudes de la S  curit   et de la Justice (INHESJ). V  ronique Gast   is head of the Office for Health and Social Action at the General Directorate of School Education of the Ministry of National Education and Youth. In this capacity, she participates in the promotion and support of school health promotion, child protection and student safety policy. She works continuously with the Ministries of Solidarity and Health, Interior and Justice. She is involved in the initial training of teachers and in the in-service training of academy executives. She was previously head of school and professor of medico-social sciences. Finally, she is *chevalier dans l'ordre des palmes acad  miques*.

## Power Talk 5 – The power of data: balancing transparency, freedom of expression and privacy of children



**Tamar Kaldani** was appointed as first Personal Data Protection Inspector of Georgia in 2013 and in 2016 she was re-elected by the Parliament. Since 2014, she is a member of Consultative Committee (T-PD) of the Council of Europe Convention 108 and from 2018 she is elected First Vice-Chair of the Committee Bureau. Currently Tamar is invited lecturer at 3 leading Georgian Universities and independent human rights and privacy consultant working with UNDP, OHCHR.



**Sonia Livingstone** DPhil (Oxon), FBA, FBPS, FAcSS, FRSA, OBE is a professor in the [Department of Media and Communications](#) at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She researches media audiences, especially children's and young people's risks and opportunities, media literacy, and rights in the digital environment, and has published 20 books including "[The Class: Living and Learning in the Digital Age](#)." She currently directs the projects "[Children's Data and Privacy Online](#)," "[Global Kids Online](#)" (with UNICEF) and "[Parenting for a Digital Future](#)", and she is Deputy Director of the UKRI-funded "[Nurture Network](#)." Since founding the 33 country [EU Kids Online](#) research network, Sonia has advised the UK government, European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, OECD and UNICEF, among others, on children's internet risks, safety, media literacy and rights in digital environments. She blogs at [www.parenting.digital](http://www.parenting.digital). See [www.sonialivingstone.net](http://www.sonialivingstone.net) and @Livingstone\_S



**Pascale Raulin-Serrier** holds a postgraduate degree in European Community Law and has wide ranging experience in executive positions in institutional and EU Corporate Affairs in a variety of areas. Starting her career at the Directorate General of Information and Communication at the European Commission in Brussels (Responsible for the promotion of Erasmus, and Jean Monnet EU Programmes), Pascale Raulin-Serrier joined the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) in 2005 and has been serving in European and international Affairs for 8 years. In 2013, she joined the Directorate of Relations with Consumers and Research of the CNIL where she has been developing a strategic line of the Institution as a national and international expert promoting collaborative projects in digital education targeted at all types of audiences, in particular towards youth and teachers in cooperation with the French Ministry of Education and a collective of 70 actors from civil society, research and the digital sphere. Finally, leading an international working group in Digital Privacy Education, she facilitated sharing of pedagogical resources between data protection authorities' counterparts globally and has worked on the successful adoption of [2013](#), [2016](#) and [2018 International Resolutions in Digital Privacy Education](#) including a [Personal Data Protection Competency Framework for School Students](#). Since then, she has been promoting its implementation in national curricula with the aim of equipping young children in responsible use of digital technology and the exercise of their rights. Pascale is also currently working as CNIL's expert for the Council of Europe in a Digital Citizenship Education Programme.





Dipl.-Inform. **Julia Stoll**, Head of IT Unit 3.2, The Hessian Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, studied Computer Science and Mathematics at Technical University Darmstadt. She started her career in software engineering by working in different companies, like T-Systems and SuSE. She is interested in technical developments related to the society, especially how to guarantee data protection rights by technical and organizational measures. As part of her current job, she acts as technical expert for the European Data Protection Board. She also has trained employees and volunteers all over Europe at several universities and in NGOs, especially in Finland, in France and in the Netherlands.

## Power Talk 6 – The power of children: shaping or shaking up political agendas for a new generation of activists



**Gerison Lansdown** was the founder director, 1992-2000, of the Children’s Rights Alliance for England, and has since worked as an international consultant and advocate, publishing and lecturing widely on the subject of children’s rights. She has been involved in the development of several general comments for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including on right of children to be heard, to play and recreation, on the rights of children both during adolescence, and, currently, on rights in the digital environment. She was actively involved in the drafting of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as working with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the development of a general comment on inclusive education. She is an adjunct professor at Carleton University Canada, has an Honorary Doctorate from the Open University and Carleton University, an Honorary Fellowship from the University of Central Lancashire, is a member of the Open Society Foundation Early Years Advisory Board, and is on the editorial advisory board of the Canadian Journal of Children’s Rights. She is a former Vice Chair of UNICEF-UK and currently chairs both Child to Child and the ODI Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence Advisory Board.



**Sylvia Kritzinger** is Professor of Social Science Research Methods at the Department of Government. She obtained her PhD in Political Science at the University of Vienna and then held post-doc and visiting positions at Trinity College Dublin, Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS), the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) and at Koblenz/Landau. Her research focuses on Political Behaviour and Electoral Research, Democratic Representation and Political Communication and she has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles on it (inter alia in Political Communication, Electoral Studies, Journal of European Public Policy, British Journal of Political Science, etc.). She is Co-Principal Investigator of the Austrian National Election Study (AUTNES), Deputy Director of the Research Centre “Vienna Centre for Electoral Research – VieCER” and the Austrian Cooperative Infrastructure for Electoral Research (ACIER), as well as Project Director of the Platform of Surveys, Methods and Analysis (PUMA) and the European Value Study (EVS) in Austria. She serves as advisor to the Methods Advisory Board (MAB) of the European Research Infrastructure European Social Survey (ESS).



**George Moschos** was the first Children’s Ombudsman in Greece. He served as Deputy Ombudsman for Children’s Rights at the independent authority “The Greek Ombudsman” between July 2003 and January 2018. In 2006, he was elected Chairman of the European Network of Ombudsmen for Children and since then he has participated ceaselessly in the Bureau of the Network. He has studied Law and Criminology. He has 35 years’ experience working in the fields of defence and promotion of children and youth rights, coordinating discussions and consultation meetings with children, organising activities for the support and empowerment of children in care, young offenders, refugees, school dropouts, disabled, etc. He has participated in committees for the youth parliament, the rights of children on the move, observatory for children’s rights, etc. He has collaborated with the Council of Europe as an expert in initiatives connected with children’s rights. He is a certified trainer of professionals working for and with children. He leads the “Initiative for

Article 12” (InArt12), an association aiming at the promotion and implementation of the right of all children to express their opinion freely, as enshrined in UNCRC.



**Ourania (Rania) Douvou** - I am currently a seventeen-year-old student in my last year of high school. Having believed in the importance of active participation of adolescents and young adults in all decisions concerning them, I have taken part in many initiatives and panels revolving around this issue. Since November 2016, I was a member of the youth advisory panel of the Greek Children’s Ombudsman, during which time I was able to participate in the project “Road to RIO (Respect-Information-Opinion)”. In June 2017 I participated in a consultation that took place in Paris, together with other adolescents from 11 countries,

members of the European Network of Young Advisers (ENYA), where we communicated our thoughts and drafted Recommendations<sup>1</sup> on “Sexuality and Relationship Education” that were addressed to ENOC. In March 2018 I had the opportunity to participate as a delegate in the 21st annual session of the Athens Model United Nations. In November 2018 I participated in the consultation workshop “Zoom in on children’s rights” organised by the Initiative for Article 12 (InArt12) in the context of the programme GlobalChild. Currently, I am member of the community of young advisers of InArt12.



**Sally Proudlove** is Head of Safeguarding for Unicef UK. She has over 20 years’ experience in child protection and safeguarding including 5 years working in the global south. Sally has been working with Unicef UK for 3 years and has led work within the international development sector, in the development of organisational and leadership tools for promoting a positive safeguarding culture within development organisations. Sally spent the previous 8 years of her career supporting sports organisations to meet their safeguarding responsibilities and she currently sits on the FIFA Safeguarding Expert Group.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://enoc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ENYA-recommendations-on-CRSE.pdf>

**Power Talk 7 – The power of family relations: respecting the best interests of the child in divorce and separation**



**Seamus Carroll** works in the Civil Justice and Equality pillar of the Department of Justice and Equality in Dublin on legislative matters. He is Ireland's representative on the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ). Seamus chaired the Group of Specialists that drafted the child-friendly justice guidelines that were adopted by the Committee of Ministers in November 2010



**Dr Louise Crowley** is a qualified solicitor and Senior Lecturer in family law at the School of Law, University College Cork where she is the Director of the LLM (Children's Rights and Family Law). Louise is the author of the leading Irish text Family Law (Roundhall Thomson). Her research focusses on the regulation of family formations and relationship breakdown and the nature of inter parte obligations post-divorce. Separately Louise has published widely on the shortcomings of domestic violence laws and most recently on the adequacy of Irish legislative reforms. At University College Cork, Louise Crowley has developed the online, campus-wide bystander intervention initiative which seeks to educate and empower students to challenge the normalisation of sexual harassment and abuse and actively demand a zero-tolerance approach to such unacceptable behaviour. The Irish government is funding the roll-out of this programme across all Irish Higher-Level institutions over the next three years.



**Frédéric Mauche** is currently First Vice-President at the Court of First Instance of Strasbourg and coordinates the family chamber of this court and, as part of his duties, is in charge of the fight against domestic violence and mediation in the jurisdiction of this court. He exercises his daily function as a judge in family matters in matters of divorce and family litigation. He joined the judiciary in 1997 and previously served as a magistrate, family judge and then as a judge of freedoms and detention. Previously a member of the Metz Bar, he was involved in the creation and training of the group of lawyers specialising in the representation and information of children.



For more than three decades Judge **Lana Petö Kujundžić** has contributed extensively toward the protection of human rights, especially children. As a judge, she has worked actively on protecting the rights of children and juveniles, both as offenders and victims, in the cases pending before her and in the development of the new laws. She is president of department for juveniles on County Court of Zagreb. As the president of Association of juvenile and family judges and specialist she has organized more than 50 seminars on topic of children rights and two international conferences, introduced the Stop program in 2012 -2018 restorative justice in the area of Zagreb for misdemeanour

treatment of children. She participated in the drafting of the following laws: the Juvenile Courts Act, the Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions for Juveniles and the Ombudsman for Children Act. Since she became a judge at the Municipal Court of Zagreb in 1984, she has not only actively presided over the cases involving juveniles, but she has also devoted substantial efforts toward continuing education at home and abroad. At the same time, she has played a critical role in the continuing education of other lawyers and human rights activists in her country and across the world. She has presented papers and participated in conferences from Tunisia to Japan, and from Canada to Argentina. She has delivered numerous talks on the topic, as well as published the book "Children Court Protection" and more than a dozen papers in various journals about minors, children rights and juveniles. Occasional lecturer at the Faculty of Law Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka and Split, School of Social Work, Judicial Academy, the Bar Academy and Police Academy and regular participant and presenter on international conferences and congresses of criminologists, victimology, criminal and juvenile laws. Professional consultant to UNICEF Montenegro, Slovenia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, Ministry of Justice of Montenegro, Kosovo, Slovenia and Montenegro, Council of Europe, European Commission TAIEX for the Juvenile Law. An active member of the Committees, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Social Affairs and Youth, related to children's rights and a member of the ethics committees of the Polyclinic for Child Protection of the City of Zagreb and the Psychiatric Hospital for Children of Zagreb.

## Power Talk 8 – The power of support: Responding to and preventing sexual violence by children



**Christel De Craim** holds a master degree in criminology from the University of Leuven. She works for the Belgian Justice Federal Public Service since 1997. She currently is in charge of the Service for Criminal policy. This is a multidisciplinary service that prepares policy, advises on policy, evaluates policy and coordinates policy. Scientific, legal, criminological and statistical insights are a basic requirement for achieving this goal. A distinction is made between general policy development and policy development within specific policy areas (like crimes against persons (adults and children), trafficking in human beings and smuggling of human beings, etc.) In the field of policymaking she has expertise relating to violence towards children, child abuse, child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, trafficking in children, etc. During the Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (2014) she was for the Justice FPS in charge of the organisation of the Conference "*The Best Interests of the Child*": a dialogue between theory and practice. Currently she's the vice-chair of the Lanzarote Committee (Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse) and member of the bureau of the Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child for the Council of Europe.



**Simon Hackett** is Professor of Child Abuse and Neglect at Durham University, UK. He has worked in the field of harmful sexual behaviours for over 25 years. His previous research in this area includes a funded study of long-term outcomes for children and young people between ten and twenty years after the initial identification of their sexually abusive behaviours. Simon's practice base with children and young people with sexually abusive behaviours extends back to the early 1990s. He was previously Programme Director of G-MAP, a leading UK community-based specialist service for young people. Simon is the author of four books and a wide variety of other publications relating on this topic, including the (2014) publication 'Children and Young People with Harmful Sexual Behaviours' published by Research in Practice. Simon was a significant contributor to the 2016 UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines on Harmful Sexual Behaviour among children and young people. Simon is first author of the NSPCC's operational framework for responding to children who have displayed harmful sexual behaviours and is co-author of the 2019 AIM3 assessment model which is widely used across the UK and internationally.



**Claudia van Diessen:** Strengthening forces to empower children and their parents for a brighter future, has always been an import goal in her work and live. As a senior advisor at Stichting Halt, a nongovernmental organization which prevents and combats juvenile crime, Claudia focusses on children who committed small offences, by offering them a diversional approach. Working together with the police, public prosecutors, the Ministry of Justice, the Council of Child Protection, Victim support, but of course also with parents and schools, Halt is aiming to offer children an alternative

intervention. In 2017 Claudia started together with Rutgers (for sexual and reproductive health and rights) a new intervention for children who committed online sexual misbehaviour, like non-consensual sexting. The project reflects to a need for a different, diversional approach for children in the age of 12-18 years. Last year, at the request of the ministries of the Netherlands and Curaçao, she also trained social workers and police and public prosecutors in Curaçao. It is with enthusiasm, expertise on youth and with a creative perspective that Claudia connects and motivates people on different levels for the greater cause. Before working at Stichting Halt, Claudia worked for the Council of Child protection for more than 9 years. She studied Social Sciences in Utrecht and participated in different volunteer work with vulnerable children, for example children in asylum centres and children with Aids. *Claudia lives together with her husband and three children in IJsselstein, The Netherlands.*



**Anna Kristín Newton** is a trained and certified Clinical and Forensic psychologist. From 2009 she has worked for Barnaverndarstofa assessing and treating children and young people (6-18 years) with harmful sexual behaviour, mainly in an outpatient setting. The treatment takes a holistic approach where the focus is on reducing sexual harm, strengthening prosocial behaviours and improving the overall wellbeing of the child. This includes working with family, teachers, youth/child protection workers as well as other meaningful persons in the child's environment. Anna Kristín Newton heads the Forensic Division of the Icelandic Psychological Society, is a member of NOTA (National Organization of Treatment for Sexual Abusers), a member of the Nordic Network for research in Psychology and Law (NNPL) and the JANUS Project, a prevention and treatment group of Scandinavian specialists in the field of harmful sexual behaviour.

## Power Talk 9 – The power of technology: seizing opportunities and responding to new challenges in the relations between children and technologies



**Alexander Seger** has been with the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France) since 1999. He is Head of the Cybercrime Division and in that function he is the Executive Secretary of the Cybercrime Convention Committee in Strasbourg as well as Head of the Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe in Bucharest, Romania ([www.coe.int/cybercrime](http://www.coe.int/cybercrime)). Prior to this he headed for many years the Economic Crime Division where he was responsible for the Council of Europe's cooperation programmes against cybercrime, corruption, organised crime and money laundering. From 1989 to 1998 he was with

what now is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna (Austria), Laos and Pakistan and a consultant for German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in drug control matters. Alexander Seger is from Germany and holds a PhD in political science, law and social anthropology after studies in Heidelberg, Bordeaux and Bonn.



**John Carr** writes and consults about internet safety and security. He is one of the world's leading authorities on children's and young people's use of the internet and associated new technologies. Based in London, John Carr works extensively across the UK and in many parts of the world. More recently, John Carr has also been working on issues of digital inclusion, particularly around older people's use of technology.

John is or has been a Senior Expert Adviser to the United Nations (International Telecommunication Union), an Expert Adviser to the European Union and the European Network and Information Security Agency and has been an adviser to the Council of Europe in relation to the online aspects of the Lanzarote Convention. He acts as an adviser to the UK Government on matters connected with domain name registrations in relation to the remit of the Public Safety Working Group of the Governmental Advisory Committee of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). John Carr is Technical Adviser (Online), to Bangkok-based global NGO [ECPAT International](http://www.ecpat.org), Expert Adviser to the [European NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online](http://www.e-nacso.org) (eNACSO), which is administered by Save the Children, Italy, and Secretary of the UK's [Children's Charities' Coalition on Internet Safety](http://www.chis.org.uk) (CHIS).



**June Lowery** has worked for the EU Institutions in Luxembourg for over twenty years, and in a variety of positions. Born in the North-East of England, she is very happy to now have Luxembourgish nationality. In July 2018, she took over as head of the unit in DG CONNECT responsible for Accessibility, Multilingualism and Safer Internet for Children.





**Christiane Yavuz** is Head of Monitoring and Research at jugendschutz.net, the joint centre at federal and state level tasked with the promotion of children's rights to protection and participation on the internet. The Monitoring and Research Department analyses the areas of political extremism, self-harm behaviour, sexual exploitation of children, cyberbullying, positive content for children and technical protection measures. For many years, she was Head of Department Political Extremism. Christiane holds a university degree in social education. She has published several essays on issues related to youth protection on the internet, especially with regard to right-wing extremism and Islamism.

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**Closing session - Children's rights as a key to a future-proof Europe: redefining priorities for 2020 and beyond**



**Regína Jensdóttir** holds a law degree from the University of Iceland where she specialised in human rights and has obtained a post graduate degree (D.E.A.) from the University of Strasbourg in international public law. Since 2010, she has been the Council of Europe Coordinator for Children's Rights and is currently heading the Children's Rights Division. In these capacities she follows the implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021) which promotes equal opportunities for children, the participation of children, a life free from violence and a justice system accessible to all children. It finally focuses on developing a strong agenda to strengthen children's rights in the digital environment.

**Roxana Maracineanu, Minister of Sports, France**



**Snežana Samardžić-Marković** is the Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe since 2012. Under her responsibility, the Directorate General works to help our member states in creating a favourable environment for sustainable democracy and democratic security in Europe. Three directorates and eight partial agreements under her responsibility are providing guidance, assistance and innovation in the areas of democratic 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, work against discrimination, democratic citizenship and democratic responses to crisis situations. Previously, Snežana Samardžić-Marković has held numerous positions in the Serbian Government including as 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.



**Christos Giakoumopoulos** was appointed Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe on 1 August 2017. He was previously Director of Human Rights from 2011 – 2017 and also Director of Monitoring in the same Directorate General between 2006-2011. Before joining the Directorate General of Human Rights, he was General Counsel and General Director 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, the Venice Commission and Director in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, A. Gil Robles.



**Emmanuel Crabit** is director of the directorate "Fundamental rights and rule of law." Previously, he was head of unit for "Fundamental right and rights of the child", and then for "Justice policy and rule of law" in the European Commission's DG for Justice and Consumers. Before working for DG Justice and Consumers, Emmanuel Crabit worked in the Internal Market and Services Directorate General and, inter alia, dealt with Commission initiatives in the field of data protection, media pluralism, e-commerce and services. Emmanuel Crabit holds a PhD in public law and was senior lecturer in public law before joining the European Commission.



**Stefan Schennach** is a member of the federal chamber of the Parliament of Austria and since June 2011, a member of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. Since January 2018, Stefan Schennach has been Chairperson of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development; also, in his previous work within the Assembly, he has chaired the Sub-Committee on Conflicts between Council of Europe Member States as well as the Monitoring Committee, has headed the election-observation mission to Macedonia in May 2019 and is co-rapporteur for Azerbaijan. He has participated as rapporteur in many fact-finding visits, notable ones being the one in the Jordan valley regarding water supplies in the region, the Syrian refugee situation in Turkey or the prison situation in the Republic of Moldova. He was Rapporteur on child-friendly juvenile justice and on lessons from the "Panama Papers" to ensure fiscal and social justice, and is currently preparing a report on organ transplant tourism. Within his own Parliament in Austria, Stefan Schennach is Chairperson of the Committee for Future, Innovation and Science, as well as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for EU Affairs. Previously he has worked extensively with the UFM (Union for the Mediterranean) Committee for energy and water, and he is an active member of COSAC (Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union). He was at the origin of the creation of the Children's Rights Committee in the Austrian Parliament in 2014. Stefan Schennach is also a published author having written books on various topics and is also the Director of the Austrian Baroque Academy. "



**Geneviève Avenard**, senior Territorial Administrator, was appointed Children's Ombudsman, Deputy Human Rights Ombudsman, in September 2014. She is also Vice-President of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). She has dedicated her professional career and personal commitments to the world of childhood: first, by managing for 21 years the social action services of two departments recognised for the quality of their policies for children; second, by assuming, as Deputy Director General of ODAS, the responsibility for work and studies on child protection and disability; and finally, by taking the lead for six years of Acodège, an association in Bourgogne composed of 26 bodies in the social and medicosocial field and welcoming more than 6,300 people. Geneviève Avenard was rapporteur of the national working group on improving the care of protected minors, chaired by Senator Louis de Broissia. She also served as President of the Côte d'Or Health Conference for the ARS of Bourgogne.



**Nuala Mole** founded the AIRE Centre and has worked for more than 25 years in the field of human rights. Initially specialising in immigration and asylum, she has broadened her work to include all aspects of international human rights law. She has written extensively on all aspects of the European Convention on Human Rights and on the free movement of persons under European Union law, with special attention to the interface between the two legal orders. She is on the Board of the European Human Rights Law Review and co-edits the Centre's monthly

Bulletin of ECHR caselaw. She has been part of the legal team in more than 100 cases before the ECtHR, the ECJ and landmark cases in the UK. She was the Law Society's Human Rights Lawyer of the Year in 2001. She also received the 2005 Prix de l'Ancien - this Alumnus of the Year Prize is awarded each year to a former student of the College of Europe who has made a significant contribution to the promotion of the European ideal, the promotion of excellence, generosity, tolerance and respect for diversity, friendship and solidarity and open-mindedness. Nuala received a doctorate from the University of Essex in 2009. Nuala has conducted training for the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the AIRE Centre for judges, public officials, lawyers and NGOs in 40 of the 47 member states of the Council of Europe on a wide range of topics including immigration, prisoners' rights, children's rights and family law. Since 2001, she has been assisting in curriculum development and implementation for judicial training centres in South East Europe. She works with national and international judges and public officials throughout Western, Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, but particularly in the Balkans, promoting familiarity and awareness with human rights standards and providing assistance in applying them in practice. Before setting up the AIRE Centre she was the Director of the NGO Interights for a number of years. Nuala read law at St Anne's College, Oxford and European law at the College of Europe. She speaks English, French, Spanish and Greek.



**Prof. Dr. Ton Liefwaard** is Vice-Dean of Leiden Law School and holds the UNICEF Chair in Children's Rights at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He is the Director of the Master's Programme (LL.M) [Advanced Studies in International Children's Rights](#). He also coordinates the [Leiden Summer School on International Children's Rights](#). In 2015, he received the award for [best lecturer of Leiden Law School](#). He teaches and publishes widely on issues related to international children's rights, juvenile justice, child friendly justice, deprivation of liberty of children, violence against children and access to justice for children. Recent publications include: *Litigating the Rights of the Child* (Springer 2015, edited with J.E. Doek), *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Taking Stock after 25 Years*

*and Looking Ahead* (Brill | Nijhof 2017, edited with J. Sloth-Nielsen) and the Reference Work *International Human Rights of Children* (Springer Nature 2019, edited with U. Kilkelly). Ton Liefwaard is a Substitute Justice at the Court of Appeal in The Hague and a member of the Council for the Administration of Criminal Justice and Protection of Juveniles (*Raad voor Strafrechtstoepassing en Jeugdbescherming*). He regularly works as a consultant for international organizations, including UN agencies, the Council of Europe and the European Union. Ton Liefwaard holds a Master and a PhD in law from the VU University Amsterdam.

## Closing of the conference



**Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou** is a human rights lawyer. She is the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Council of Europe for the Rights of the Child (CAHENF) and the Chairperson of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Responses to Violence against Children (CAHENF-VAC). She is a member of the GREVIO (Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence) and a member of the Consultative Board of the European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) of the Council of Europe. She holds four Masters' degrees: in Family Law, Faculty of Law, University of Strasbourg (mention Très Bien), in Civil Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens (first-class honours), in Private International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens and in Labour Law, Faculty of Law, University of Athens (first-class honours). Her PhD thesis, for which she has been

granted a scholarship by the State Scholarship Foundation following a national competition, is in the field of ECHR and family law, with a special emphasis on the principle of the best interests of the child. She is the author or co-author of several publications on human rights issues, including the recent book "The individual application under the European Convention on human Rights: Procedural guide", Council of Europe Editions, 2019 (co-authored with L.-A. Sicilianos, President of the European Court of Human Rights).