



# Artificial Intelligence

Challenges and opportunities  
for media and  
democracy

Ministerial Conference  
10-11 June 2021



## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILES



Republic of Cyprus



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
Conference of Ministers  
responsible for Media  
& Information Society  
NICOSIA 2021

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



# Artificial Intelligence - Intelligent Politics

## Challenges and opportunities for media and democracy

Conference of Ministers Responsible for Media and Information Society  
'Information

10-11 June 2021

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### **H.E. Mr Nicos Anastasiades, *President of the Republic of Cyprus***

Nicos Anastasiades is the President of Cyprus since 2013. He was re-elected in 2018. Previously, he was the leader of Democratic Rally between 1997 and 2013 and served as Member of Parliament from Limassol between 1981 and 2013. In his political course, Nicos Anastasiades actively participates in the international political scene. From his position as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as Head of the Cyprus delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), he represents the Cyprus Parliament since 1991 and takes part in a number of international missions, specialized conferences and visits. Since his election to the Presidency of the Democratic Rally he participates in all the European People's Party (EPP) Summits and Conferences, he represents the Democratic Rally in the European Democrat Union (EDU) and actively participates in all the conferences of the International Democrat Union (IDU).



#### **Mr Peter Szijjártó, *Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe***

Péter Szijjártó is a Hungarian politician, who has been Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade since 23 September 2014. He previously served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In June 2012 he was appointed to State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations of the Prime Minister's Office. He joined Fidesz in 1998. He was elected to member of the municipal government in the same year in the city of Győr, and then he obtained a mandate between 2006 and 2010 again. In 2005 he was elected to president of Fidelitas, the youth organization of Fidesz and he occupied this position until 2009. He first became a member of the National Assembly 2002. He received mandates in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018 as well; currently he is serving his fourth term as Member of Parliament.



## COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEMBER STATES

### CYPRUS



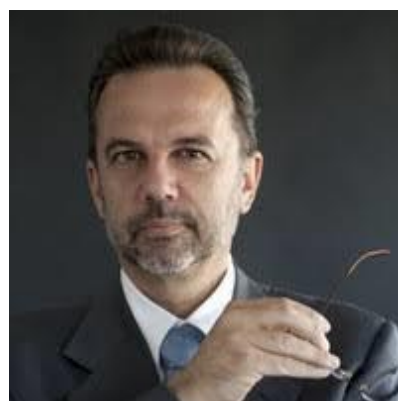
**Mr Nikos Nouris, Minister of the Interior, Chair of the Ministerial Conference**

Mr Nikos Nouris has been Cyprus Minister of Interior since December 2019. From 2013 to 2019, he was a member of the House of representatives in Cyprus for the Democratic Rally. He served as Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Trade and coordinator of the Democratic Rally Parliamentary Group in the Labor and Social Security and Home Affairs Committees. He was Vice President of the Democratic Rally and a member of the Political and the Executive Office of the party. He also served as Municipal Councilor of Nicosia, Deputy Mayor of

Nicosia and Chairman of the Urban Planning Committee of the Municipality. Additionally, he dealt with issues of development of the urban center of the capital, issues of culture, education and entrepreneurship. For a number of years, he was President of the Cyprus Pharmaceutical Association.

**Mr Kyriacos Kokkinos, Deputy Minister to the President for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy**

Kyriacos Kokkinos is the Deputy Minister to the President for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, since March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. He previously served as the Chief Scientist for Research & Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Research & Innovation Foundation and Member of the National Board of Research & Innovation. He is a distinguished professional with 30 years of experience in Executive Management, Technology and Business Consulting, served at senior Executive roles in global corporations such as IBM Europe (Executive Director & Partner) and PwC. He also served at the Board of Directors of many Organisations, including Invest Cyprus (Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency - CIPA), the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Cyprus Port Authority (CPA), and the Board of Trustees of the Cyprus Institute.



**Mr Kyriacos Koushos, Government Spokesman**

Kyriacos Koushos was appointed as Government Spokesman in December 2019. Previously he was the senior partner at the Koushos Korfiotis Papacharalambous LLC law firm. He also served as Deputy Mayor and Member at the Council Strovolos Municipality, Member of the Board of Directors of the Nicosia Water Board and Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Honorary Consul of Liberia in Cyprus, Member of the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Cyprus Football Association, Deputy Chairman of the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Handball Association, Board Member of

the Famagusta Bar Association, President of Anorthosis Famagusta FC, President of the Cyprus Special Olympics, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hellenic Bank.

## ALBANIA



**Ms Elisa Spiropali, Minister of State for Parliament Relations**

Elisa Spiropali is an Albanian politician who is currently serving as the Minister of State for Relations with Parliament in the Rama II Cabinet. Spiropali started her political career in 2009. After becoming a member of the Socialist Party, she was appointed for a brief time as Director General of Customs and later as a spokeswoman for the Party Presidency. She was elected as member of the Albanian Parliament following the 2013 General Elections. On 17 January 2019, she resumed the vacant post of Minister of State for Relations with the Parliament which had previously been held by Ermonela Felaj.

## ANDORRA

**Mr Marc Galabert, Secretary of State for Economic Diversification and Innovation**

Mr Marc Galabert is Secretary of State of for Economic Diversification and Innovation of Andorra since 2019. Prior to his current position, he was professor and coordinator at the University of Andorra. He holds a doctoral degree in economic history.



## ARMENIA

**Mr Hayk Chobanyan, Minister of High-Tech Industry**

Mr Hayk Chobanyan is the Minister of High-Tech Industry of Armenia since April 2, 2021. From 2014-2017, Mr Chobanyan was Deputy Director of the Union of Information technology Enterprises and Director of UIT Expo and Governor of Tavush Marz from 2019-2021. Mr Chobanyan holds a degree from the YSU Faculty of History and a degree from the Armenian Academy of Public Administration.

## AUSTRIA

**Ms Karoline Edtstadler**, *Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery*

In January 2020, Karoline Edtstadler was sworn in as Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery by President Alexander Van der Bellen. She was a judge at Salzburg Regional Court from 2008 to 2011 and was seconded to the Federal Ministry of Justice from 2011 to 2014. Subsequently, Karoline Edtstadler worked as an adviser in the cabinet of the Federal Minister for Justice, Wolfgang Brandstetter, until 2016. In 2016 she was posted to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in Strasbourg as a legal expert (2016 to 2017). From 2017 to May 2019, she was secretary of state at the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Chancellor Kurz's first government. Edtstadler was then a Member of the European Parliament and Head of Delegation of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) from July 2019 to January 2020. Karoline Edtstadler was initially appointed Chancellery Minister without Portfolio on 7 January 2020. She has been Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery since 29 January 2020.



## BELGIUM



**Ms Petra de Sutter**, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Service, Public Enterprises, Telecommunication and the Postal Services, Belgium*

Petra De Sutter was sworn in on the 1st October 2020 as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Public Administration, Public Enterprises, Telecommunication and Post under Prime Minister Alexander De Croo. After a long career as a gynaecologist and fertility expert, she entered politics in 2014, as a member of the Flemish green party Groen, motivated by the desire to combat the use of harmful substances in everyday environments. In the Belgian Senate and the Council of Europe, De Sutter championed women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and tackled bio-ethical questions, including surrogacy and commercial egg donation. She is committed to a socially equitable Europe, and to improving the rights and protections of refugees and the LGBTQI+ community. In 2019, De Sutter was elected to the European Parliament as the leading candidate for her party Groen. She was a member in the Committee on the Environment and Public Health, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, and was the first Green Chair of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

**Mr Benjamin Dalle, *Flemish Minister of Brussels, Youth and Media***

Benjamin Dalle is the Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media. Previously, he was director of the Ceder, of the study department of CD&V and senator. He was also active in various federal cabinets for many years, most notably as chief of staff for state reform. Before entering politics, he was an assistant at the KULeuven and a lawyer at the Brussels bar.



## BULGARIA



**Mr Velislav Minekov, *Minister of Culture***

Mr Velislav Minekov was appointed Minister of Culture of Bulgaria by President Rumen Radev. Political and civil activist, Mr Minekov is also a Professor at the National Academy of Arts (NAA). Mr Minekov graduated from the National Academy of Arts and specializes in Hamburg. He Lectures in sculpture, metal design, artistic metallurgy, artistic stonemasonry and restoration in Bulgaria, Turkey and United Arab Emirates.

**Ms Vesela Kondakova, *Deputy Minister of Culture***

Vesela Kondakova was born in Varna and is a graduate of the Fourth Language School “Frederick Joliot-Curie” in the city. She graduated in Slavic Philology at the Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski” in 2001. Between 2010 and 2017 she has consistently managed the Cultural Contact Point Unit under the Culture Programme of the European Commission and the Creative Europe Bureau, the Culture Office at the Ministry of Culture. She has participated in advocacy campaigns and initiatives for contemporary art: “Dance Advocates” in 2015, 2017; the “Soul for Europe” Sofia Initiative Group in 2013; the Independent Sector Initiative Group for Overcoming the Covid Crisis in 2020-2021. She is an external expert in municipal culture programs.







## CROATIA

### **Ms Nina Obuljen Koržinek, *Minister of Culture and Media***

Nina Obuljen Koržinek, Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, has more than 25 years of professional experience in the fields of international relations, culture and media policies. Prior to her appointment as the Minister of Culture in 2016, she was working as a research associate at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb. She is publishing books and articles as well as expert studies in Croatian and international journals and teaches at the University of Zagreb. Her consultancy and expert engagements include work for UNESCO, Council of Europe, European Cultural Foundation, UNDP, European Parliament etc. Former Assistant Minister and State Secretary, she was a member of the negotiating team for the Croatian accession to the EU responsible for the fields of culture and education as well as information society and media. She was also the head of the Croatian delegation for the negotiations on the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

### **Mr Krešimir Partl, *State Secretary***

Mr Krešimir Partl is State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. From November 2015 to November 2016, he was assistant to the Secretary General of the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia. From 2004 to May 2015, Mr Krešimir was Secretary to the Cabinet of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, Senior Adviser in the Ministry of Culture.



## DENMARK



### **Ms Joy Mogensen, *Minister of Culture and Church***

Joy Mogensen is Minister of Culture and Church of Denmark since 2019. She was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and is educated at Roskilde University. She served as mayor of Roskilde Municipality from 2011 to 2019. She was appointed Minister for Culture and Church in the Frederiksen Cabinet from 27 June 2019

## ESTONIA



**Ms Anneli Ott, *Minister of Culture***

Anneli Ott has been the Minister of Public Administration of the Republic of Estonia since 25 November 2020. She is a member of the Estonian Centre Party. In 2019–2020, she was a member of the fourteenth (XIV) Riigikogu; she was the chairman of the European Union Affairs Committee. In 2016–2019, she was a member of the thirteenth (XIII) Riigikogu; was the Deputy Chairman of the Riigikogu Anti-Corruption Select Committee. In 2011–2014, she was the senior deputy elder of the Nõmme district government in Tallinn. In 2010–2015, she was a member of Võru City Council; in 2014–2015, she was the chairman of the council. Anneli Ott graduated from Tallinn University in 1999 with a degree in exercise and sports sciences; in 2000, she graduated from her additional specialty as a teacher

## FINLAND

**Ms Pilvi Torsti, *State Secretary***

Dr. Pilvi Torsti is State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. Prior to this position she served as an MP of the national parliament in Finland being a member of parliamentary committees on education and future. Torsti has also been an elected member of the City Council of the capital city of Finland, Helsinki since 2012. During 2012-2017 she served as a member of the Board of Directors of the city. Before joining parliament Dr. Torsti founded and served as the CEO of a start-up company, Helsinki International Schools (HEI Schools). HEI Schools offer a global preschool concept based on Finnish educational expertise and a Nordic approach to design in architecture, interior and learning materials. University of Helsinki is HEI Schools' founding partner. Dr. Torsti was appointed as the State Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Culture, and 2011-2013 she served as the Special Advisor to Finland's Minister of Employment.



## FRANCE



**Ms Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, *Minister of Culture***

Roselyne Bachelot has been serving as Minister of Culture in the government of Prime Minister Jean Castex since July 2020, under the Presidency of Emmanuel Macron. During her time in office, she oversaw efforts to stabilise the financial situation of museums, cinemas and theatres affected by public health measures amid the COVID-19 pandemic in France. In the past, she has served as Minister of Solidarity and Social Cohesion. She was a member of the Union for a Popular Movement, which was part of the European People's Party.

## GEORGIA

**Ms Maka Peradze, *Head of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia***

Ms Maka Peradze is Head of the Human Rights Secretariat of the Administration of the Government of Georgia since December 2020, where she works on the elaboration and monitoring of Human Right Protection Strategies, National Action Plans and relevant policy documents. She holds a Master's degree in Law from the Tbilisi State University.



## GERMANY



**Mr Jan Ole Püschel, *Head of the Department Media and Film, International Affairs at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media***

Mr Jan Ole Püschel is the Head of the Department Media and Film, International Affairs at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media since 2014. He studied law with a focus on media law at the university of Hamburg and at the University College Cork/Ireland. From 2007 to 2009 he was a consultant at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), and from 2010 to 2013 head of the office of the Minister of State for Culture and Media in the Federal Chancellery.

## GREECE

**Mr Theodoros Livanios**, *Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister*

Mr Theodoros Livanios is Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister in the Government of the Hellenic Republic since January 2021. He was previously Deputy Minister of Interior from July 2019 to January 2021, and Secretary General at the Greek Ministry of Administrative Reform and eGovernance from 2014 to 2015.



## HUNGARY



**Ms Monika Karas**, *President of the National Media and Info communications Authority*

Dr. Monika Karas is a Hungarian journalist and jurist who has served as President of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH) since 19 August 2013. Before her appointment, she was known as a defense lawyer for Magyar Nemzet, Lánchíd Rádió and Hír TV, Szárhegy-dűlő-Sárazsadány-Tokajhegyalja Kft., Árpád Habony, Antal Rogán, Magyar Fórum and Fidesz.

## ICELAND

**Ms Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir**, *Minister of Education, Science and Culture*

Lilja Dögg Alfreðsdóttir is an Icelandic politician, the Icelandic Minister of Education, Science and Culture since November 2017 and a member of the Althing (Iceland's parliament) for the Reykjavík South constituency since 2016. She has worked for the International Monetary Fund, the Icelandic Central Bank and was an economic advisor to Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson during his time as prime minister. Lilja was the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson's cabinet from 2016 to 2017 and has been the deputy chairperson of the Progressive Party since 2016.



**Ms Karitas Gunnarsdóttir**, *Director of the Department of Culture and Media and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Culture*



## IRELAND



**Ms Catherine Martin**, *Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media*

Originally from Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, Catherine is the Green Party T.D. for the constituency of Dublin Rathdown since February 2016 and has served as Deputy Leader since 2011. In June 2020, she was appointed as Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media upon the formation of Government. In November 2017, Catherine founded the Oireachtas Women's Parliamentary Caucus and was elected as its inaugural Chair for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Dáil term. She now serves as a member on the Caucus' Working Group. A graduate from NUI Maynooth and a classical singer, Catherine taught English and Music in St Tiernan's

Community School in Dundrum, Dublin, for 16 years prior to being elected to the Dáil. She was a Councillor on Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council from 2014 to 2016, and she served on the boards of the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education Training Board, Dundrum and Stillorgan Colleges of Further Education and St. Tiernan's Community School.

## ITALY



**Mr Manlio Di Stefano**, *Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

Mr Manlio Di Stefano is Undersecretary of State in Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation since 2018. After graduating in Computer Engineering he worked as IT consultant for an American company. Meanwhile, he acted as volunteer for an Italian NGO operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Guatemala on projects related to the sustainable development. In 2013 he became member of the Italian Parliament, and he was then chosen by his colleagues as group-leader for Five Star Movement in the Foreign Affairs Committee for the whole legislature. Since 2013 he is member of the Italian delegation to the Council of Europe where he is Chairperson of the Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People and he has successfully concluded and presented two reports on children's statelessness and unaccompanied migrant minors. Since 2014 he is the national supervisor for LEX Parlamento, one of the main tools included into the Five Star Movement's web platform for e-democracy, called Rousseau. In March 2018 he was re-elected Member of the Italian Parliament and a few months later, on June 13th, he was appointed as Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the President Conte Government.

## LATVIA



**Mr Nauris Puntulis, *Minister of Culture***

Mr Nauris Puntulis is the Minister of Culture of Latvia since 2019. From 2012 to 2013 he was an advisor to the Minister of Culture on social integration issues and from 2013 to 2019 Member of the Riga City Council. Mr Puntulis was once the singer of the “Perkons” rock band and became a singer at the Latvian National Opera in the 90's. From 1995 to 2000 he was the head of the singing department of the Latvian Academy of Music (LMA). The politician received his MA degree in singing and teaching from LMA.

## LITHUANIA



**Mr Simonas Kairys, *Minister of Culture***

Mr Simonas Kairys is Minister of Culture in the Šimonytė Cabinet since December 2020. In 2007, Mr Kairys graduated from Vytautas Magnus University with a Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences. In 2011, he obtained a Master's degree in Law at the Mykolas Romeris University. From 2015 to 2019, Mr Kairys worked as the Deputy Mayor of Kaunas and in 2019 as Advisor of the Mayor of Kaunas.

**Mr Vygintas Gasparavičius, *Vice Minister of Culture***

Mr Vygintas Gasparavičius is Vice Minister of Culture since December 2020. From 2014 to 2020, he was a Lecturer at the Art Management Division of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, and from 2002 to 2020, Head of Professional Performing Art Institution "Natų knygynas". Mr Gasparavičius holds a Professional bachelor's degree in the Management of Cultural Activities at Vilnius College and a master's degree in Art Management at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.



## LUXEMBOURG

**Mr Xavier Bettel**, *Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for communications and media, Digitalisation, Religious Affairs and Administrative Reforms*

Following the legislative elections of 20 October 2013, Xavier Bettel was appointed Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and Media and Minister for Religious Affairs on 4 December 2013 in the coalition government formed by the Democratic Party (DP), the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP) and the Green Party (déi gréng). Following the resignation of Maggy Nagel from the government, Xavier Bettel was appointed Minister of Culture on 18 December 2015. After the legislative elections of 14 October 2018, Xavier Bettel was appointed Prime Minister, Minister of State, Minister for Communications and Media, Minister for Religious Affairs, Minister for Digitalisation and Minister for Administrative Reform on 5 December 2018 in the coalition government formed by the DP, the LSAP and déi gréng.



## MALTA



**Mr Carmelo Abela**, *Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister*

Before being first named to Cabinet, Mr Abela was employed with Mid-Med Bank Ltd, today HSBC Bank Malta plc, where he worked as a manager. He was first elected to parliament in 1996, having served as a local councillor in his hometown of Żejtun, a city in the Southeastern Region of Malta, between 1994 and 1996. He has been returned to Parliament in all subsequent legislations. Over the years he has grown into increasingly senior roles within the Maltese Labour Party as well as Government. In 2008, he was unanimously appointed Deputy Speaker of the House of Representative as well as Opposition Main Spokesperson for Industry, Foreign Investment, and Social Policy. As a Member of Parliament, Mr Abela also served as Regional Representative on the

Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Head of the Maltese Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In 2014, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat handed him his first ministerial appointment when he named him Minister for Home Affairs and National Security. After the general election of 2017, his performance and incisiveness earned him the role of Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion.

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**Mr Aureliu Ciocoi**, *Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova*

Aureliu Ciocoi is a Moldovan diplomat who has served as Acting Prime Minister of Moldova since 31 December 2020 and as Minister of Foreign Affairs since 9 November 2020. He also served as foreign minister in 2019 and, prior to that, as the ambassador to Germany, Denmark, China, and the United States.



**Mr Gheorghe Leucă**, *Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration*

Mr Gheorghe Leucă is Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. Prior to his current position, Mr Leucă was Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Azerbaijan and Georgia from 2016 to 2019 and Deputy-Director General for Multilateral Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration from 2012 to 2016.

## MONACO

**Mr Frédéric Genta**, *Interministerial Delegate for the Digital Transition*

Frédéric Genta is a Monégasque government official. Since March 2018 he is the Country Chief Digital Officer of the Principality of Monaco. Prior to his current position, Mr Genta was working at Google as Head of Retail Industry France and United States. Mr Genta holds a degree from ESCP Europe and an MBA from Harvard Business School.





## NETHERLANDS



**Ms Kajsa Ollongren**, *Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations*

Kajsa Ollongren began her career at the Ministry of Economic Affairs. She became the Director of the European Integration and Strategy Department in 2001 and Deputy Director-General for Economic Policy in 2005. Ms Ollongren was appointed Deputy Secretary-General at the Ministry of General Affairs in 2007 and Secretary-General in 2011. In 2014 Ms Ollongren became deputy mayor of Amsterdam and a member of the municipal executive for Democrats '66 (D66) with responsibility for economic affairs, Schiphol airport, the Port of Amsterdam, monuments, culture and the arts, local media, municipal shareholdings and the city centre. On 26 October 2017 Kajsa Ollongren was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the third Rutte government.

**Ms Inge Welbergen**, *Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands, Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee of Media and Information Society (CDMSI)*

Inge Welbergen is a senior legal officer media at the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. She is an expert in media regulation and is responsible for coordinating and formulating Dutch International media policies. Inge is the representative of The Netherlands in the EU Council Working Group for audiovisual affairs, in the EU Contact Committee for audiovisual affairs and in the European Audiovisual Observatory Executive Council. She has been a member of the bureau of the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Media and Information Society since June 2019 and has been member of the CoE's expert group on quality journalism in the digital age (MSI JOQ). She studied International and European Law and has a Master degree in legislation. From 2009-2013 she was seconded national expert to the European Commission (DG Markt), working on the revision of the Professional Qualifications Directive. In 2008 she worked in Brussels for the Netherlands Permanent Representation to the EU. Before that, she was legislator/legal advisor at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, responsible for the legislation on student finance and specialised in the subjects free movement of persons and goods.



## NORWAY



**Ms Emma Lind, Vice Minister of Culture and Equality of Norway**

Ms Emma Lind was appointed as Secretary of State in the Ministry of Culture of Norway on 1 April 2021. Prior to her current position, Ms Lind was Political advisor to the Minister of Culture and Equality Abid Q. Raja from 2020-2021, Deputy city council representative and deputy committee member for urban and environmental planning, Kristiansand municipality from 2019-2020 and City council representative and committee member for arts and cultural development, Kristiansand municipality from 2015 to 2019. Ms Lind holds a MA in International Cultural Policy from the University of Warwick, England, a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from the DeMontfort University, England and a BA in Dance and Culture from the University of Surrey, England.

## POLAND

**Ms Justyna Orłowska, Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for Govtech**

Ms Orłowska gained experience in internationally recognized consulting companies, such as Capital One Advisers, Ipopema Securities, Enterprise Investors, or EY, where she carried out a number of projects related to analytics in the area of investment banking. In October 2016, she joined the team of advisers to the Minister of Development, where she was responsible for managing innovative digital projects - MinFinTech and Lektury.gov.pl. She also acted as the prime minister's advisor on innovation and finance. In April 2018, she was appointed director of the pioneering program GovTech Polska, whose task is to implement innovations and new technologies in the public sector. In March 2020, she was appointed the High Representative of the Prime Minister for GovTech.



**Mr Witold Kołodziejcki, Chairman of National Broadcasting Council**

Mr Witold Czesław Kołodziejcki is Polish journalist, politician and local government official. In the years 2007–2010 and since 2016, he is the chairman of the National Broadcasting Council, in the years 2015–2016 was the secretary of state in the Ministry of Digital Affairs.

## PORTUGAL

**Mr Nuno Artur Silva**, *Secretary of State for Cinema, Audiovisual and Media*

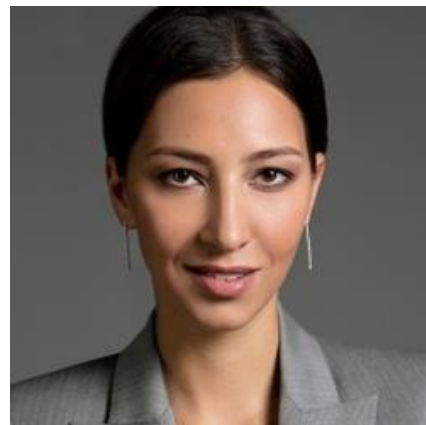
Mr Nuno Artur Silva is Secretary of State for Cinema, Audiovisual and Media. Mr Silva holds a Degree in Modern Languages and Literature from Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa (1985) and was teacher of Portuguese language in High Schools (1985-1992). Mr Silva was founder, Editor and Director of Produções Fictícias, creative agency (1993-2015) and founder and publisher of the satirical newspaper The Public Enemy (2003 -2015). Parallely, he founded and was the Director of the entertainment cable television network Channel Q (2010-2015). He was Creative Advisor to the Program Directorate of the national public television network RTP (1996/1997) and Director of the national public television network RTP, in charge of Content (2015-2018). From 2018 to 2019 he was a columnist for the national newspaper Diário de Notícias and Commissioner for the events "The Taste of Others" and "The Fascination of Stories" by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Mr Silva was also Commissioner and curator for the Porto Book Fair (2019). Author of several books, mostly comics and poetry, he also authored and produced plays and cultural events.



## THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Ms Bella Cherkesova**, *Deputy Minister of Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation*

Ms Cherkesova is the Deputy Minister for Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media of the Russian Federation. From 2008 to 2012, she worked at different positions in the press service of the Government of the Russian Federation. Since July, 2012 Ms Cherkesova held positions of the adviser of department for external information activities, the deputy chief of department of affiliate programs, the head of the department of affiliate programs, the head of the department of development of mass media of Management of the Russian President of public relations and communications. On October 23, 2020 the government appointed Ms Cherkesova as the deputy minister of digital development, communication and mass communications of the Russian Federation, where she will supervise the media industry and the Internet.



## SAN MARINO



**Mr Teodoro Lonfernini**, *Minister of Labour, Economic Planning, Sports, Information and Relations with the Autonomous Public Services Board*

Teodoro Lonfernini is the San Marino Minister of Labor, Economic Planning, Sports, Information and Relations with the Autonomous Public Services Board. He was captain-regent of San Marino from October 1, 2012 to April 1, 2013 with Denise Bronzetti.

## SERBIA

**Ms Maja Gojković**, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and Information*

Ms Maja Gojković is Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture and Information in Serbia. In 2014, she was appointed head of the delegation of the Serbian Parliament in the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and during her mandate she made Belgrade the host of the 141st IPU Assembly, which gathered 77 parliamentary presidents and more than 2,000 parliamentarians from around the world. She was a member of the Women's Parliamentary Network since its founding in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, and with her active participation and commitment she has contributed to greater participation of women in the political and social life of Serbia. She is the initiator of numerous projects of wide social significance and support to vulnerable groups, such as "Women live in the countryside" and "You are not alone", with the aim of overcoming prejudices against young people with mental health and disability problems. In addition to her commitment to gender equality and support for vulnerable groups, she is strongly committed to developing awareness of the importance of environmental protection.



## SLOVAK REPUBLIC

**Ms Natália Milanová**, *Minister of Culture*

Natália Milanová is a Slovak politician, who is serving as the Minister of Culture in the Government of Slovakia since 2020, appointed by Igor Matovič after the 2020 election.





**Mr Radoslav Kutas, State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture**

Radoslav Kutaš is State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture. He is a graduate of Comenius University in Bratislava in the field of study of journalism at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University and in the field of law at the Faculty of Law, Charles University. He has worked as an analyst at the Broadcasting and Retransmission Council in the field of advertising, teleshopping and sponsorship. During his time at the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, he was a member of working groups, commissions and advisory bodies for media and audiovisual services and digital broadcasting, both at the national level and at the EU level.

## SLOVENIA

**dr. Vasko Simoniti, Minister of Culture**



Dr. Vasko Simoniti holds a doctorate in history and is a retired full professor of early modern history at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana and author of numerous scientific and expert works in the area of early modern history. In his treatises and essays he examined the position of the historian in relation to history and the problems of Slovenian historiography and has also made significant contributions to the study of 20th century Slovenian history. He is the author of *Vojaška organizacija v 16.*

*stoletju na Slovenskem* (Military Organisation in the Slovene Lands in the 16th Century; 1991) and *Fanfare nasilja* (Fanfare of Violence; 2003), and co-author of the book and exhibition *Temna stran meseca* (The Dark Side of the Moon; 1998) and of *Slowenische Geschichte: Gesellschaft – Politik – Kultur* (Slovenian History: Society – Politics – Culture; 2008). He was also actively involved in politics, having managed the electoral campaign of a presidential candidate in 2002. In 2003, he was one of the founders of the civic initiative "Nekaj je treba storiti" (Something Must Be Done) and a member of the Committee for NATO. Since 2004 he has been a member of the Assembly for the Republic and a member of the Board of Experts of the Slovenian Democratic Party responsible for culture. From 2004 to 2008, he was the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia and, in the first half of 2008, the president of the Culture Council of the EU.

## SPAIN

### **Mr Roberto Sánchez, Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructures**

HE Mr. Roberto Sánchez holds a telecommunication engineer degree from the Polytechnic University of Madrid and has addressed various professional activities in both the public and private sectors. A career civil servant of the Higher Body of Systems and Information Technologies of the Spanish Administration, until his appointment in July 2018 as director of Telecommunications and IT at the Ministry of Economy and Business- a position he had already held in 2011- Mr. Sanchez was director of Innovation and City Promotion at Madrid City Council. Previously he served as head of the Technical Cabinet at the General Secretariat of Science and Innovation; director of the Cabinet of the General Secretariat for Innovation, deputy director general of Competitiveness and Business Development of the General Directorate for Innovation (Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness); he was deputy director general of Telecommunications Resources Management (radio spectrum and numbering) at the Directorate General of Telecommunications and technology advisor at the same Directorate.



## SWEDEN



### **Ms Amanda Lind, Minister for Culture and Democracy**

Amanda Sofia Margareta Lind is a politician for the Swedish Green Party. Since 2019, she has been the Minister for Culture and Democracy with responsibility for sport and national minorities in the cabinet of Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. Lind became a member of Miljöpartiet de gröna, the Swedish Green Party, in 1999 and was a member of the Umeå municipal council from 2002 to 2004. Lind worked as a child and adolescent psychologist for Västernorrland County council from 2009 to 2011. In 2010, she was appointed spokesperson for the Härnösand social affairs agency and in 2012 as spokesperson for Västernorrland. Between 2011 and 2014, she chaired the social affairs committee in the municipality of Härnösand with responsibility for cultural, environmental, planning and recreational issues. Lind was municipal councilor and first vice-chair of the municipal council in Härnösand from 2014 to 2018. She became the Green Party secretary in 2016 and January 2019, she became the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy with responsibility also for sport and national minorities.

## SWITZERLAND



**Ms Simonetta Sommaruga**, *Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications*

Ms Sommaruga is Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC. Between 2003 and 2010, she represented the canton of Bern in the Council of States. She sat on the Economic Affairs and Taxation Committee and served as its chair between 2007 and 2009; she was also on the Social Security and Health Committee, and served as vice chair of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy Committee. She was also vice president of the Swiss Delegation to the EFTA Parliamentary Committee and for relations with the European Parliament. On 22 September 2010, Simonetta Sommaruga was elected to the Federal Council. She was head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police FDJP from 2010 to the end of 2018 and has been head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC since 1 January 2019. She served as President of the Swiss Confederation in 2015 and 2020.

**Mr Thomas Schneider**, *Ambassador, Head of International Affairs, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications, Switzerland, Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee of Media and Information Society (CDMSI)*



Thomas Schneider is the deputy head of the international affairs service and the international information society coordinator at the Swiss Federal Office of Communication (OFCOM) in the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC). He is an expert in Internet governance and in the governance of the information society, in particular media/new media regulation, human rights and consumer protection. He is coordinating the Swiss activities with regard to the implementation and follow-up of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is representing Switzerland in a number of international fora (UN, ITU, ICANN/GAC, Council of Europe, OSCE, UNESCO, etc.).

## UKRAINE

**Mr Oleksandr Tkachenko**, *Minister of Culture and Information Policy*

Oleksandr Vladyslavovych Tkachenko is a Ukrainian media manager, journalist, producer and the long-term CEO of 1+1 Media Group. Tkachenko took part in the July 2019 Ukrainian parliamentary election with the party Servant of the People. On August 29, 2019, he became head of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Humanitarian and information policy. Tkachenko is Ukraine's Minister of Culture and Information Policy since June 4, 2020.



## UNITED KINGDOM



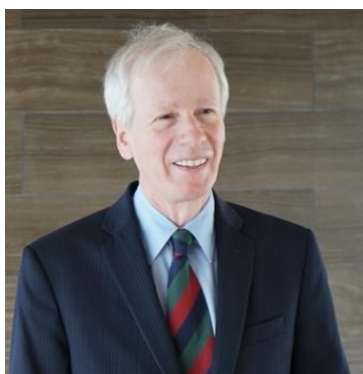
**Mr John Whittingdale OBE MP, *Minister for Media and Data***

John Whittingdale was appointed Minister of State for Media and Data in the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 14 February 2020. He previously served as Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from May 2015 until 14 July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for Maldon in 1992.



## COUNCIL OF EUROPE OBSERVER STATES

### CANADA



**Mr Stéphane Dion**, *Canada's Ambassador to Germany and Special Envoy to the European Union and Europe, Global Affairs Canada*

Stéphane Dion presented his credentials as Canada's Ambassador to Germany on June 6, 2017. Prior to his appointment, M. Dion was Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs from November 2015 until January 2017, where he championed Canadian leadership in the world on crucial global interests including promotion of universal human rights, peace and stability efforts, the global climate challenge and Canada's commitment to multilateralism. He was previously Minister of the Environment from 2004 to 2005, when he secured what is praised as one of the greenest budgets in the history of Canada and, in 2005, chaired the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP11/MOP1) where he reconciled the diverging interests of member countries so that decisions could be taken to effectively implement the Kyoto Protocol.

### HOLY SEE



**Mr Paolo Ruffini**, *Prefetto, Dicastero Per La Comunicazione Della Santa Sede*

Paolo Ruffini attained his degree in Jurisprudence from La Sapienza University of Rome. Dr Ruffini has been a professional journalist since 1979. He has worked for the papers *Il Mattino* of Naples (1979-1986); and *Il Messaggero* of Rome (1986-1996); in radio at *Giornale Radio Rai* (1996-2002), *Canale Gr Parlamento* (1998-2002), *Radio 1* (1999-2002) and *Inblu Radio* (2014-2018); and on television at *Rai3* (2002-2011), *La 7* (2011-2014); and *Tv2000* (2014-2018). He has received numerous awards for journalism and taken part in numerous conferences on the role of communications ethics, the new media, and the role of Christians in media.

### MEXICO

**Mr Diego Sánchez**, *Advisor on multidimensional security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**Ms Maureen Cormack**, *Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs*

Maureen Cormack is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. She served previously as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund and Senior Advisor for the 2019 Global Entrepreneurship Summit, co-hosted by the United States and The Netherlands in The Hague in June 2019. She was appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina in January 2015. Prior to arriving in Sarajevo, Ambassador Cormack served in Washington D.C. as the Chief of Staff to the Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL; as Principal Deputy Coordinator for the Bureau of International Information Programs, and as Executive Assistant in the Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. Previously, she held the positions of Director of the Office of Western European Affairs, Deputy Director for Korean Affairs, and served as a Pearson Fellow on the Homeland Security Committee of the House of Representatives.

## OTHER STATES

### MOROCCO

**Mr Othman El Ferdaous, *Minister for Culture, Youth and Sport***

Mr Othman El Ferdaous, was appointed Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports on 7 April 2020 and was born on 13 January 1979. Mr. Othman El Ferdaous holds a master's degree in journalism, 2005-2007, from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris and an Executive Master's degree from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in 2016, cycle des Hautes Etudes Européennes and a diploma from the Ecole de Management ESC Nantes-Atlantique (Audencia). From April 2017 to October 2019, Mr. El Ferdaous held the position of Secretary of State to the Minister of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, in charge of Investment President of clubgibraltar.org, an association under the law of 1901, since January 2017, Mr El Ferdaous also held the position of Secretary General of Sciences Po Alumni Morocco between 2012 and 2016. Mr. El Ferdaous started his career as a consultant auditor at Pricewater House Coopers - Paris, between 2003 and 2006 before holding the position of Director in charge of mission at Mena Media Consulting - Rabat between 2008 and 2016. Since July 2016, he is the manager of Europa Conseil-Casablanca.



### TUNISIA



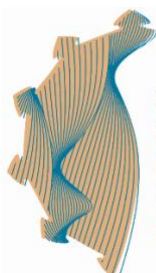
**Mr Nouri Lajmi, *President, Independent High Authority for Audio-visual Communication***

Doctor of information sciences, professor of journalism at the Institute of Press and Information Sciences (IPSI) and author of numerous researches in the fields of journalism, ethics and new information technologies and of communication. He has collaborated with Laval University in Quebec, the Centre for Research in Public Law (CRDP) of the University of Montreal and with many Canadian NGOs in the field of human rights and development.





Republic of Cyprus



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