



OPENING SPEAKERS



Ms Jodie Ginsberg is the new Chief Executive of Internews Europe, joining the organisation in March 2020. Prior to joining Internews, Jodie was the Chief Executive of UK-based freedom of expression organisation Index on Censorship, which publishes works by censored writers and artists and campaigns against censorship worldwide. Jodie previously worked as a foreign correspondent and business journalist for Reuters news agency, including as Bureau Chief for UK and Ireland. She is a board member of The Bureau of Investigative Journalism Trust, and former board member of global free expression network IFEX and the Global Network Initiative and is a regular commentator in international media on media freedom and freedom of

Mr Robert Spano was elected to the European Court of Human Rights in 2013 with respect to Iceland and is currently the President of the Court. Before taking up his judicial office he served as Parliamentary Ombudsman of Iceland from 2009-2010 and again in 2013. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Iceland, from 2010-2013, and was appointed professor of law in 2006. He was chairman of the Standing Committee of Experts in Criminal Law in the Icelandic Ministry of Justice from 2003-2009 and from 2011-2013. He was also the Icelandic delegate to the European Committee on Crime Problems and an Independent Expert to the Lanzarote Committee of the Council of Europe. Judge Spano is a graduate of the University of Iceland and of the University of Oxford.



Mr Bjørn Berge serves as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. As the Deputy Secretary General, he is involved in a number of key areas of the work of the Organisation, including advising and overseeing the implementation of the Secretary General's reform agenda, in line with the decisions and priorities of the Committee of Ministers. His priorities include shaping the Programme and Budget, while ensuring that the Organisation's activities have maximum impact in advancing democracy, human rights and the rule of law. He also oversees the Council of Europe's staff policy, as well as other key areas of the work of the Organisation.



Before taking up his post, Mr Berge was for a period of four years Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Between 2009-2017, he served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, co-ordinate and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Organisation. Mr Berge has over thirty years of international professional experience. As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister's Cabinet responsible for all matters related to Parliament. He also served as speechwriter to three Norwegian Foreign Ministers. Mr Berge has published several books on a range of issues relating to speech writing and speeches, as well as articles on the Council of Europe's mandate and work. He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a M.A. in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.

Mr Takeshi Akamatsu assumed his duties as the Ambassador and Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe in November 2019, serving at the same time as the Consul General of Japan in Strasbourg. As Consul General, he represents Japan in the area, which covers most of the Grand Est as well as a part of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. Mr. Akamatsu graduated from Kyoto University, Faculty of Law (International Law). After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988, he spent two years studying and gathering diplomatic experience in France. Overseas, Mr. Akamatsu held multiple diplomatic positions related to international institutions



such as European Union in Brussels and the United Nations in New York. He was appointed also to Japanese diplomatic establishments in several African countries including South Sudan, where he engaged in establishing the Japanese Embassy and then served as the first Ambassador to the country. In Tokyo, Mr. Akamatsu was mainly responsible for global public relations and international cooperation as well as relations with African countries. Most recently, his duties were concerned with the Japanese Presidency of the G20 in 2019, where he undertook the role of Chairman of the Working Group on Development and International Cooperation.



Ms Darragh Paradiso assumed her duties as the Consul General of the United States of America in Strasbourg in August 2020. She and her team represent the United States in the Great East region of France, and Ms Paradiso serves as Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe. Ms Paradiso has been a member of the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service since 1999. She has worked on a wide range of political and public affairs across Asia and Africa, with a particular focus on freedom of expression. Most recently, she served as Director of Public Affairs at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, where her team built

connections with local audiences through strategic communication, cultural programs, academic exchanges, and promotion of U.S. higher education. In Washington, DC, Ms Paradiso was the Director of the Office of Public Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Overseas, she was posted in: Libreville, Gabon; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Beijing, China; Windhoek, Namibia; and Guangzhou, China. She graduated from Swarthmore College and holds a Master in Public Policy from Princeton University. She speaks Mandarin, German, French, and some Cantonese. A proud Oregon native, Ms Paradiso loves cooking, reading, and hiking with her family. Her first name rhymes with Sarah.

Mr Emmanuel Decaux is President of the René Cassin Foundation (International Institute of Human Rights) since April 2021. He is Professor emeritus of the University of Paris II – Panthéon-Assas, where he taught public international law and international human rights law. He also taught at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris (Sciences Po), at the Institute of Advanced International Studies in Geneva, and at the Academy of International Law in the Hague. He has published on topics of public international law and international organizations, with a



focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes and human rights. In addition to his academic career, Decaux has held several international functions. He was a member of the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and then a member of the HRC Advisory Committee. He was member of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (2011-2019) and was its President during five years. Since October 2019, he is President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the OSCE.



Ms Iulia Motoc is the Judge of the European Court of Human Rights elected in respect of Romania. Before beginning her service at the Court, she served as a Judge at the Constitutional Court of Romania. Ms Motoc was and UN Special Rapporteur for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2001-2004) reporting crimes against humanity and war crimes. She was the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Human Genome, author of the first reports of the United Nations in the field of genetics (2004-2007). She chaired a number of international expert bodies and he was member (2006-2013) to the UN Human Rights Committee and Vice-President (2012-2013) On 1 October 2013, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe elected her a Judge of the European Court of Human Rights, receiving an absolute majority of votes. She is a very renewed researcher, professor, and judge, starting her career in 1990 as a judge within the Trial Court of the 2nd District of Bucharest in the settlement of criminal and civil cases. She graduated from the School of Law at the University of Bucharest, holds a master's degree from the Paul Cézanne University School of Law, Aix-Marseille (1991) and two doctorate degrees, one in international law from Paul Cézanne University School of Law, Aix-Marseille (1996) and one in philosophy (University of Bucharest) Iulia Motoc was fellow in philosophy to the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, Vienna and fellow in law to the Yale School of Law. Iulia Motoc is Professor of International Law and European Law at the University of Bucharest since 2002. She was Director (Romania) of the European Master on Human Rights and Democratization, European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization, Venice (2007-2015). Iulia Motoc taught in several universities at NYU School of Law, St-Thomas University in Miami and she was Special Guest Professor at the European Academy oh Human Rights at the European Institute in Florence. Iulia Motoc was also Research Professor, Institute for Research in International and European Law, Sorbonne (2012-2014). She has published extensively in the film of international law, human rights, European law and theory of law. Among her last books is "ECHR and general international law" published by Oxford University Press in 2018.

