

## Speakers' biographies

### Moderator

#### Gigi Deppe



Gigi Deppe's specialty is to connect the world of law and the world of journalism. As a fully trained lawyer and journalist she has been reporting for thirty years about legal issues for German public television

and radio. She is covering not only the internationally well-known German Constitutional court and other high courts in her home country. She is also a close observer of the European Court of Justice in and the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. When asked whether she was more a jurist or a journalist she will answer: Even though I know both worlds my home today is journalism. Translating legal issues to the wide public is a very exciting task in a democratic society. Gigi Deppe is also representing the interests of journalists in the legal field as the first chairwoman of the 'Justizpressekonferenz' (the association of legal correspondents in Germany based in Karlsruhe).

### Opening and welcome remarks

#### Michael Roth



Michael Roth has been a directly elected member of the German Bundestag since 1998; he was spokesperson on Europe of the SPD parliamentary group from 2010 to 2013; from 2009 to February 2014, he was Secretary-General of the SPD in Land Hesse and since 2017 he has been a member of the SPD Executive Committee. As Minister for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office, he is the Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation and Special Representative of the Federal Government for the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

## Marija Pejčinović Burić



Marija Pejčinović Burić is the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the pre-eminent Pan-European international organisation in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Prior to being elected to her current position, Ms Pejčinović Burić was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European

Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, having served previously, on two occasions, as State Secretary for EU Affairs.

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, Ms 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. Ms 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.

## Xing Qu



Born in 1956, Mr Qu holds a master's degree and doctorate in Political Science from the Paris Institute of Political Studies (IEP) in 1988 and 1992 respectively.

Before assuming the current position as the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Qu has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Belgium (since 2014).

Mr Qu was President of the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (from 2009 to 2014), prior to which position he occupied

the post of the Permanent Representative of China to the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. With BIE Mr Qu managed Chinese cooperation and coordinated preparations for the World Expo 2010 Shanghai China (Expo 2010). At the same time, as Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr Qu served as Minister at the Chinese Embassy in France. He was responsible for bilateral affairs and administration of the internal functioning of the Embassy. He also supervised the Permanent Delegation of the People's Republic of China to UNESCO.

Mr Qu Xing is a former President of China Institute of International Studies (CIIS). Additionally, he lectured in international relations at the China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), continuously served as Assistant President of CFAU and successfully held the post of Deputy Dean of the Department of Diplomacy of CFAU. As Vice-President, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at CFAU he trained young diplomats and was in charge of administering the University's academic and budgetary affairs. Dr Qu has published plentiful books and articles on China's foreign affairs and international relations.

***Panel 1: The panel will focus on human rights standards related to freedom of expression and media freedom during health crisis, the responses of States and the media sector, and good practices and recommendations for mitigating the pandemic.***

### **Darian Pavli**



Darian Pavli has served as judge of the European Court of Human Rights, elected in respect of Albania, since January 2019. Before joining the Court, Judge Pavli had an extensive human rights law practice, which included litigation before leading international and regional human rights mechanisms. His practice maintained a strong focus on freedom of expression and association, and national security-related restrictions of rights, among others. He has also contributed to various standard-setting efforts in Europe, the Americas and other regions. In recent years, Judge Pavli advised the Parliament of Albania on matters related to major justice reforms, as well as defamation and freedom of information law reforms. Judge Pavli holds advanced law degrees from Central European University and New York University Law School.

## Christian Mihr



Christian Mihr has served since 2012 as Executive Director of Reporters Without Borders (RSF) Germany, the Berlin office of the global human rights NGO. He previously lived and worked in Russia, Ecuador and Germany and served there for several years in various posts in media outlets and journalism training institutions. He studied Journalism and Latin American studies in Eichstätt, Germany and in Santiago de Chile, Chile.

## Elfa Ýr Gylfadóttir



Ms. Elfa Ýr Gylfadóttir is the Director of the Media Commission, the independent regulator for media in Iceland. Prior to that she was the Head of Division of Media at the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. Ms. Gylfadóttir was one of the main authors of the Act on the National Broadcasting Service No. 23/2013 and the Icelandic Media Law No. 38/2011, transposing the AVMS Directive. Ms. Gylfadóttir has been a lecturer at the University of Iceland for 20 years. She is the author and co-author of several peer reviewed articles on media policy and media law. Ms. Gylfadóttir was the Chair of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society at the Council of Europe from 2016-2017.

## Christos Giakoumopoulos



Mr 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 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, 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.

**Panel 2:** *The panel will focus on the situation of journalists and media actors on the ground during the pandemic, the increased demand for accurate and timely news as well as the short- and long-term effects of COVID19 on the media.*

## Scott Griffen



Scott Griffen is deputy director at the International Press Institute (IPI), a global network of editors, publishers and journalists defending press freedom since 1950. He is the author of numerous IPI reports on diverse topics related to press freedom and independent journalism and has led or participated in dozens of IPI press freedom missions around the world. Griffen comments regularly on issues related to press freedom and media pluralism in international media. He holds degrees from Yale University and King's College London.

## Meera Selva



Meera Selva, Deputy Director of the Institute and Director of our Fellowship Programmes. Meera is an accomplished senior journalist with experience in Europe, Asia and Africa. She is the Deputy Director of the Reuters Institute and the Director of our Journalist Fellowship Programmes. She joined the Reuters Institute from Handelsblatt Global where she had been working out of Singapore, having helped launch the digital daily business paper in Berlin in 2014. Her previous experience includes several years as a London based correspondent for the Associated Press, and three years as Africa correspondent for the Independent based in Nairobi, along with stints in business journalism at a range of publications including the Daily Telegraph

## Patrick H. Leusch



Patrick H. Leusch has been Head of European Affairs within the Directorate

General Management at DW since 2017. In this role he is responsible for relations with European organizations and institutions, thus overseeing and coordinating lobbying and advocacy efforts. Furthermore, Mr Leusch is tasked with the development and management of media projects set up by international consortia. From 2015 to 2017, Mr Leusch was CEO of the Deutsche Welle Media Services GmbH and Director of Programs of the Global Media Forum. Prior to this position, he was Head of International Cooperation at DW Akademie starting in 2008, after a career as a journalist at Deutsche Welle and Westdeutscher Rundfunk. Mr Leusch also works as a communication advisor, trainer and coach for decision makers.

## Kristin Olson



Kristin Olson has been internationally engaged in media freedom and freedom of expression the last 25 years via different organizations. Since June 2019, she is the

## Closing remarks

## Henrik Daems



Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Prior to this, in her position as Senior Specialist for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and Chair of Sida's Media committee, she worked closely with a multitude of recognized global NGOs, multilateral bodies and bilateral decision-makers to further the international efforts for improved freedom of expression.

She has a background as journalist, media manager, and TV- and radio producer in Sweden - in various formats and journalistic genres - including producer of an educational TV-series on media's impact in society. Holding double master's degrees in Humanitarian Assistance with a focus on Peace & Conflict studies, and in Communication for Development respectively, she is also the author of several factual books for universities (et al), on media literacy; on media production and society; and on policy communication.

Hendrik (Rik) Daems is the current President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). He was a member of the Flemish Parliament and was delegated to the Belgian Senate as a Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Chairperson of the Committee on Alternative Financing of Public Investment. Earlier he was a member and chairperson of the Belgian delegation to PACE. Mr Daems has also served as Belgian Minister of Telecommunications, Public Enterprises and Public Holdings, responsible for all State-owned companies and assets (portfolio enlarged with SME policy between 2001 and 2003); member of the 'Core Government' (with a status

equivalent to Vice-Prime Minister). Along with politics he dedicates himself to winemaking.