István Székely, Principal Advisor, DG ECFIN, European Commission

István P. Szekely is currently a Principal Adviser in the European Commission, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. Previously he was a country director in DG ECFIN. He is an economist by training with a PhD from the University of Cambridge.

Prior to joining the European Commission, he worked at the Corvinus University in Budapest, where he is currently an honorary Professor, the University of Bonn, the UN Secretariat in New York, the National Bank of Hungary, and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, DC. He has a number of academic publications, including several books.

Lúcio Vinhas de Souza, Head, Economics Team, EPSC, European Commission

Lúcio Vinhas de Souza was invited to join the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), the internal think tank of the Presidency of the European Commission, where he leads the Economics Team, from Moody’s Headquarters in New York, USA, where he was until March 2015 Managing Director and Chief Economist. Before that, he coordinated the economic analysis and forecasting for Developed Economies at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where he co-authored the flagship “Global Economic Prospects” publication. Previously, Dr. Vinhas de Souza was Head of the Russia and Belarus Desk at the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) of the European Commission, and before that he was a Research Area Coordinator at the Kiel Institute for World Economics (IFW) in Germany. His first work experience was as an international economist at the United Nations Secretariat in New York.

Dr. Vinhas de Souza was also a visiting researcher and visiting fellow at a number of institutions, including the Central Banks of Estonia and Germany, the New Economic School in Moscow and the European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics at the ULB in Brussels. He has published widely in noteworthy economic journals in different languages and has organized and participated in numerous international meetings, seminars and workshops. A Portuguese citizen, he holds a Ph.D. in economics from the Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands, and Master and Bachelor degrees in economics from the NovaSBE in Lisbon, Portugal.
Michael Landesmann was from 1996-2016 Scientific Director of the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) and is Professor of Economics at the Johannes Kepler University. He has a D.Phil. from Oxford University, was a Lecturer and Fellow at Jesus College, Cambridge and Senior Research Officer at the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge University. He held visiting Professorships at Harvard University (where he was J. Schumpeter Professor 1988-1989 and Pierre Keller Visiting Professor 2008-2009) and a wide range of other universities (Brandeis, Basel, Osaka, Padova, Jerusalem, Central European University, CERGE-EI Prague, Mumbai, etc.). He was a member of the Group of Economic Policy Advisors under the chairmanship of former EU Commission President Romano Prodi and participated in and coordinated a wide range of EU projects on different aspects of European integration. He is a member of the Italian Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on European economic integration, international economic relations, structural change and economic growth, globalization and labour markets and migration.

Opening of Event

Ewald Nowotny, Governor, Austrian National Bank

Ewald Nowotny is the Governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB) and a Member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (ECB).

Before taking on his current position in September 2008, Ewald Nowotny held a number of high-level positions in financial institutions. He was CEO of the Austrian BAWAG P.S.K. banking group from 2006 to 2007, served as Vice-President and Member of the Management Committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg from 1999 to 2003, and, between 1971 and 1979, was first a Member and then President of the Governing Board of Österreichische Postsparkasse (P.S.K.). Moreover, from 1992 to 2008, Ewald Nowotny served on the supervisory boards of several banks and corporations and was a member of the OeNB’s General Council from 2007 to 2008.

Ewald Nowotny was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1944. He studied law and political science at the University of Vienna and economics at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna. In 1967, he received his doctorate in law from the University of Vienna.
Hartwig Löger, Minister of Finance, Austria

Mr Hartwig Löger was appointed as Minister of Finance in December 2017. He also became EIB Governor for the Republic of Austria.

Prior to his appointment, Mr Löger held various positions in UNIQA Insurance Group AG including Chairman of the Board at UNIQA Österreich Versicherungen AG (2013-2017), Head of Group Exclusive Sales at UNIQA Versicherungen AG (2005-2011) and Managing Director at UNIQA International Versicherungs-Holding GmbH (2002-2005). From 1997 to 2002, Mr Löger worked as Head of Sales at the Headquarters of Donau Versicherung AG. Between 1996 and 1997, he held the position of Assistant to the Board at Grazer Wechselseitige Versicherung AG. From 1989 to 1996, Mr Löger was Head of Sales at Allianz Versicherung AG and between 1985 and 1986 he worked as Client Relationship Manager at AON Jauch & Hübener Versicherungsmakler GmbH.

Between 1987 and 1988, Mr Löger studied Business in Insurance at the Vienna University of Economics.

Mugur Constantin Isărescu, Governor of the National Bank of Romania

Mugur Constantin Isărescu is the Governor of the National Bank of Romania, a position he has held since September 1990. He also served as Romania's Prime Minister between 1999 and 2000.

He has previously held positions in numerous international organizations, among which as Governor for Romania in the IMF's Board of Governors, Vice Governor for Romania in the World Bank's Board of Governors and Vice Governor for Romania in the EBRD's Board of Governors among others.

He has received his Ph.D in Economics from the Academy of Economics in Bucharest, and remains a Member of the Romanian Academy, while publishing over 60 research papers on global monetary and financial relations, global economic developments, Romania’s foreign economic relations and issues related to the establishment and functioning of international credit mechanisms, exchange rates and prices. He has also served as Director of the Institute of World Economy at the Romanian Academy.

He has founded and been a member of multiple political, civic and scientific organisations and maintains numerous awards and decorations, including the National Order ‘The Star of Romania’.
First Panel

Aura Salla, Adviser for Communication and Outreach, DG EPSC, European Commission

Aura Salla is currently working as Foreign Policy Adviser in the European Political Strategy Centre (EPSC), in-house think thank to President Jean-Claude Juncker. Previously she worked as a Member of Cabinet of Jyrki Katainen, European Commission Vice President responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. Before joining the Commission she worked in consultancy firm Recommended Finland as a Project Manager specialising in Public Affairs and EU Communications and before that as a speechwriter in the Finnish Parliament.

Aura holds a Master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Turku Finland where she continued to her PhD studies in 2017. She has also studied Economics of the European Union in University of Leipzig, Germany and has been visiting lecturer on European economics in Harvard University. Since 2017 Aura has been a research fellow in the Circular Economy Research Center at École des Ponts Business School Paris.

Aura was elected as chairman of the Party Council of the Coalition Party Finland (EPP) in summer 2018 and she is also a member of the board of the European Movement International.

Andris Piebalgs, former European Commissioner for Development and Energy at the European Commission as well as Latvia’s Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister

Andris Piebalgs is a Professor at the Florence School of Regulation in the European University Institute. His work now focuses on the decarbonisation challenges in the energy sector. He is the Chairman of the Board of Appeal of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators. Before coming to the Florence School of Regulation.

Andris Piebalgs was EU Commissioner for Energy and EU Commissioner for Development. He is a key figure in the formation of the EU’s renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and made a crucial impact in the creation of the European energy market. He has been a prominent Latvian politician and diplomat, and was instrumental in the Latvia’s accession to the EU in 2004.
Boris Vujčić, Governor, Croatian Central Bank and former Deputy Chief Negotiator of Croatia for EU accession

Boris Vujčić holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Zagreb. He has also received diplomas in Economics from the Montpellier University (France) and was a pre-doctoral PhD Fulbright student at the Michigan State University. He joined the Croatian National Bank in 1997, and was Director of the Research Department for three years before becoming Deputy Governor in 2000, a position to which he was re-appointed in 2006.

In July 2012, Mr Vujčić became Governor of the Croatian National Bank for a six-year term of office and was re-appointed for another six-year term of office in July 2018. Mr Vujčić has been a Deputy Chief Negotiator in Republic of Croatia’s negotiations with the European Union 2005-2012. He was also a member of the Global Development Network (GDN) Board in the same period, 2005-2012. He is also a Member of the Steering Committee of the European Systemic Risk Board, since 2016, and a Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Vienna Initiative, since 2016. Mr Vujčić’s fields of expertise are macro and monetary economics, international finance and labor economics.

Second Panel

Mateusz Szczurek, member of the European Fiscal Board, Associate Director, EBRD, Former Polish Minister of Finance

As Associate Director for the EBRD, he leads the EBRD’s assessment of macroeconomic developments, monitoring of structural reforms and policy dialogue in the Central Europe and the Baltics region. As a Member of the European Fiscal Board he is responsible for evaluating the implementation of EU fiscal rules, advising the European Commission on the fiscal stance appropriate for the euro area as a whole and cooperating with Member States’ national fiscal councils.

Mr. Szczurek was Minister of Finance of Poland, responsible for fiscal policy, budget, public debt management, international credit and payment cooperation, taxes, financial institutions’ regulation, tax and customs administration. He chaired the Polish Financial Stability Committee, and represented Poland in the Ecofin, the IMF, EIB and AIIB. He was also named the CEE Minister of Finance of the Year 2014 by Euromoney and Europe’s Finance Minister of the Year 2015 by The Banker magazine.

Previously he was Chief Economist for Central and Eastern Europe at ING Bank where he oversaw economic and financial markets research, where he also served previously as economist then senior economist, and represented Poland in the Business and Industry Advisory Committee at the OECD. He is also adjunct Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Economic Sciences at Warsaw University.
Dusan Mrarom, Professor of Finance at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana. Twice former Finance minister, Slovenia

Dr. Mrarom had an active role in the Slovenian transition and economic development process, serving as Minister of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia twice (2002 – 2004 and 2014 – 2016) and was awarded the title European Minister of Finance of the Year 2016 (by The Banker). He was member, advisor and leading numerous organisations such as the Council of the National Bank of Slovenia, the Admission Board of the Ljubljana Stock Exchange, the Securities Market Agency of Slovenia, the Strategic Economic Council of the Prime Minister of Slovenia, the Advisory Board of the President of Slovenia and Vice President of the Development Committee. He was also a member of the negotiations team for the Association Agreement of Slovenia with the EU.

He previously also served as a member of the supervisory board of Abanka Bank, vice president of the board of SKB bank, World Bank consultant, a member of the Slovenian Accounting Standards Board and consultant to the government of Slovenia, a number of firms and banks on different issues. He also maintains membership in multiple associations and organisations.

Most of his research is in the broad area of finance and economics, more specifically in Corporate Finance with Corporate Governance, Financial Markets, Financial Analysis, Business Valuation, and Fiscal and Monetary Policy. He is the author of three books on Corporate Finance, editor of several books on Capital Markets and Corporate Finance, and author or coauthor of more than 30 larger research studies. He was vice president of the European Finance Association. Currently he is a member of the editorial board of the journals Economic and Business Review.

In the field of higher education he served in numerous faculties such as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics (2007-2013), the Chairman of the Board of University of Ljubljana (2000-2002 and 2009-2013) and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economics (1997-2001), and is an international scholar performing as visiting Professor at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and Research Associate and Visiting Scholar at the School of Business, Indiana University, USA, among others.

Kori Udovički, former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations

Kori Udovički currently serves as the Founder and Chairwoman of the Board of the Center for Advanced Economic Studies in Belgrade. She was previously Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government of Serbia between 2014 and 2016. She also held Ministerial positions in the Serbian Government as Minister of Energy and Mining as well as Special Advisor between 2001 and 2003. Ms. Udovički also served as governor of the Central Bank of Serbia.

She also held offices at the United Nations, as Assistant-Secretary General, Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS at the UNDP, and served for seven years in multiple positions at the International Monetary Fund.

Ms. Udovički has a Ph.D and M. Phil. in Economics from Yale University. She has published extensively on macro-economic, financial and monetary issues and is currently a member of multiple UNDP led assemblies.
Third Panel

Adam Farkas, Executive Director, European Banking Authority

Adam Farkas is the Executive Director of the European Banking Authority (EBA), where he was appointed in March 2011. He is in charge of the management of the Authority and prepares the work of the Management Board. In this respect, he is responsible for implementing the EBA's annual work programme under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors and under the control of the Management Board.

Prior to this appointment, Adam Farkas served as Chairman of the Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority. He started his career as an Assistant Professor at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. He has also been a consultant to various financial institutions in Budapest and London, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). He became Managing Director and Member of the Board at the National Bank of Hungary where he was responsible, among other things, for reserve management, open market operations, treasury, and government banking services. He also worked in the private sector as co-CEO of CIB Bank Ltd. a subsidiary of the Intesa Group and later as CEO of Allianz Bank Ltd. (Allianz Group) where he was responsible for the establishment of a new commercial bank with universal banking licence for the market leading insurance company in Hungary. He holds a doctorate in Finance from the Corvinus University of Budapest and a M.Sc. from the Sunderland University (UK).

Anna Trzecińska, Vice President, Central Bank of Poland

Ms. Trzecińska is a graduate of the Production Economics Department at the Main School of Planning and Statistics (currently Warsaw School of Economics). In October 1983 she started her career at Narodowy Bank Polski (National Bank of Poland). In 1993 she was appointed Deputy Director of the Monetary and Credit Policy Department, and five years later, in 1998, she advanced to the position of Director. She was responsible, among others, for the development of monetary policy instruments, as well as for the implementation of the monetary and credit policy. She supervised public debt servicing, including the issuance of and trading in securities. Her responsibilities also included supervision of financial stability and FX policy issues. She was NBP Representative at the Market Operations Committee of the European Central Bank. On 2 June 2005 she was appointed Member of the NBP Management Board and acted in this capacity until 31 December 2008.

Alongside her work at Narodowy Bank Polski, Ms. Trzecińska served as Member of the Supervisory Board of the Export Credit Insurance Corporation (1997-2004), Member of the Export Insurance Policy Committee (2001-2005), Member of the Board of the National Depository for Securities (KDPW) (2004-2005) and Member of the International Bank of Economic Cooperation in Moscow (from 2002 until March 2009). On 7 January 2009, Ms. Trzecińska was appointed Executive Director of PKO Bank Polski and discharged the functions until 31 October 2009. On 1 November 2009, by the decision of the Council of the Bank Guarantee Fund, she was appointed Deputy President of the Bank Guarantee Fund (BFG). In BFG, she was in charge of disbursement of guaranteed funds and restructuring of the cooperative savings and credit unions (SKOK) sector. On 24 October 2014, the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski appointed Ms. Anna Trzecińska Vice President of NBP as of 3 November 2014.
Ieva Tetere, CEO and Chairperson of the Board of SEB Bank, Latvia

Ieva Tetere, is the CEO and Chairperson of the Board of the Latvian SEB Bank, a position she has held since 2015. Prior to that, she was a Member of the Board, responsible for private customers and SMEs as well as Head of Internal Audit between 2005 and 2015.

She also work at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Riga and London as Senior Manager for audit and assurance services, Audit Manager for Banking and capital markets as well as other roles from 1995 to 2005.

She has studied Economics at the University of Latvia and is a qualified member of the Association of Charted Certified Accountants.

Anita Angelovska Bezhoska, Governor, National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia

Anita Angelovska Bezhoska assumed office of Governor of the National Bank in May 2018, after almost 12 years of work experience in the institution, first as a chief economist, and almost eight years after, as a Vice-Governor in charge of the monetary policy, research and statistics. She is also a Governor for the Republic of North Macedonia on the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a member of the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics at the Bank for International Settlements in Basel.

Previously, Anita Angelovska Bezhoska worked at the IMF in Washington DC, USA, for two years, as a member of the IMF negotiation missions with member states, and providing technical assistance. Since 2006, she has continuously been engaged as an expert in the IMF teams for providing technical assistance to several countries in Europe.

Anita Angelovska Bezhoska started her career in the Ministry of Finance, first as head of a project for establishing a treasury system in the country and then, as state treasurer. As state secretary in the Ministry of Finance (2003 to 2004), she coordinated processes related to European integration, budget reforms and negotiations with international financial institutions. She was also a member of the management board of the Health Insurance Fund and Deposit Insurance Fund. In 2015, Anita Angelovska Bezhoska received her doctorate in economics from the University of Ljubljana. She is the author of several expert and research papers in the area of monetary policy and macroeconomic policy in general, as well as papers in the area of fiscal policy and public finance management. During her career, she has been engaged as a lecturer by many domestic and international educational and scientific institutions.