



Grondrechten  
Derechos fundamentales  
Основни права  
Cearta bunúsacha  
Grundläggande rättigheter  
Diritti fondamentali  
Direitos fundamentais  
Temeljne pravice  
Alapvető jogok  
Pamattiesības  
Základné práva  
Prawa podstawowe  
Pagrindinēs teisēs  
Základní práva  
Põhiloigused  
Colloquium  
Základní práva  
Temeljna prava  
Perusoikeudet  
Drepturile fundamentale  
Drittijiet fundamentali  
Θεμελιώδη δικαιώματα

# Biographies of Speakers

## Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights

### Women's Rights in Turbulent Times

20-21 November 2017

The biographies were sent by the speakers.  
The European Commission is not responsible for the content.

### **ACAR Feride Ayşe**



Prof. Feride Acar is professor emerita of political sociology and of gender and women's studies in Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey. She received her BS in sociology from METU, and her MA and Ph.D in political sociology from Bryn Mawr College, Pa., USA. Prof. Acar is currently the President of GREVIO, the monitoring organ of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). She is also a member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) where she has, in the past, served as Chairperson (2003-2005).

### **AGHATISE Esohe**



Trafficking Women (CATW).

Ms. Esohe Aghatise is a lawyer and holds a doctorate in International Economic and Trade Law from the Bocconi University. She is also an Ethno-clinical and Cultural Mediator who has provided services to survivors of trafficking in Italy for more than 20 years. She is a UN Expert on Trafficking and was honoured in 2007 by the US State Department as a "Hero in the fight against modern day slavery". She has researched and published articles on trafficking and on other issues in national and international Journals. She is the Founding Director of Association Iroko Onlus. She sits on the Board of the Coalition Against

### **BEARD Mary**



Mary Beard is one of Britain's best-known Classicists - Professor at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Newnham College. She has written numerous books on the Ancient World, has presented highly-acclaimed TV series, Meet the Romans and Rome - Empire without Limit, and is a regular broadcaster and media commentator. Mary is also Classics editor of the Times Literary Supplement and writes a thought-provoking blog, A Don's Life. Made an OBE in 2013 for services to Classical scholarship, her latest book is SPQR - A History of Ancient Rome and she is a presenter for the forthcoming landmark BBC Civilisation series.

## **BRŪNA Sanda**



Sanda Brūna is one of the co-founders of the largest youth street sports and culture movement in Europe - "Ghetto Games". Before this, she worked for two years as Deputy Director for Youth Policy at the Department of Policy Initiatives and Development at the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia where she worked with youth policy development and implementation of youth policy action plans and activities, EU Youth policy cooperation and Council of Europe Youth affairs activities. Prior to "Ghetto Games" she was also Chief Executive of the Youth NGO "Avantis". She has a degree from Riga Stradins University in European Economics and Business.

## **CLAESON Linnea**



Linnea Claeson is a human rights activist, feminist, law student and professional handball player. She fights the sexual harassment and death threats she receives on her Instagram-account @assholesonline. She has also played an important part in pushing the Swedish Government and Parliament towards a more equal society.

## **CROWE Raphael**



Raphael Crowe is a Senior Gender Specialist with the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch (GED), Conditions of Work and Equality Department, International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland. He has held this post since October 2003. Before his posting to Geneva, Mr. Crowe was Senior Specialist in Employers' Activities in Asia for ten years, in New Delhi (1994-2000) and then in Manila (2000-2003). Prior to joining the ILO, Mr. Crowe was Chief Executive of the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Darwin, Australia.

## **DAVIGNON Etienne**



In 1959, Mr. Davignon joined the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was Head of the Cabinets of Ministers Spaak and Harmel. From 1969 -1977 he was responsible for the Political Department of the Ministry. During his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was directly involved with Belgium's policies in Africa, the independence of Rwanda and Burundi and the solution to the Belgium and Zaïre conflict. He was also a key figure behind the report on the future of the Atlantic Alliance (Harmel report) and he presided the committee which prepared the first proposals regarding political cooperation between EEC members (Davignon report): 1974-1975. From 1974 to 1977, he was the first President of the International Energy Agency. After

1977, Mr. Davignon was appointed Vice-President of the EEC, in charge of industry, research and energy up until the end of 1984. In 1985 he joined Société Générale de Belgique, Belgium's leading holding company of which he became Chairman on April 11, 1989 and Vice-Chairman on February 28, 2001. From 2003-2010, he served as Vice-Chairman of Suez-Tractebel. Mr. Davignon is Chairman of Palais des Beaux-Arts, SN Airholding, Fondation P.-H. Spaak, the Royal Institute for International Relations, ICHEC. He is Chairman of the "Advisory Board" of "Business Network for Corporate Social Responsibility" (CSR).

## **DIMITRAKOPOULOS Ioannis**



Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos is Head of the Department 'Equality and Citizens' Rights' at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). His areas of expertise include equality and non-discrimination, social inclusion, hate crime, and child rights. He studied social science in the United Kingdom and since 1983 has worked in academic institutions, where he lectured and conducted quantitative and qualitative social research. In parallel, during the 1990s he worked in local and regional government. Later he also coordinated national and transnational research projects. Since 2003, when he started working for the Agency, he has been responsible for several of its major publications and contributed extensively to a number of policy documents.

## **GASTON Sophie**



Sophie Gaston is the Deputy Director of Demos think tank. Sophie leads international projects and partnerships at Demos, overseeing research and events on global political trends and social change. She is particularly focused on the topics of populism, citizenship, the future of liberalism, and the relationship between media and politics. Sophie also oversees the organisation's external affairs, and is the editor of the organisation's Demos Quarterly journal. She supports the organisation's commitment to public policy capacity-building through advising other local and international non-governmental organisations on strategic governance, communications and advocacy. She holds a master's degree with first class honours in political communication.

## **GERTNERS Edgars**



Edgars Gertners represents Streetbasket" from Latvia. He started his career as a professional investigative journalist with a focus on crime and co-authored a documentary about sexual abuse against children and women. He is the national winner of the Europe Commission's Journalism award for highlighting ethnical minority problems in Latvia. Edgars has made several videos for the "Ghetto Games" movement about zero tolerance for violence against woman.

## **GILMORE Kate**



Kate Gilmore was appointed United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights on 1st December 2015. She brings to the position diverse and longstanding experience in strategic leadership and human rights advocacy with the United Nations, government and non-government organizations. Prior to joining OHCHR, Ms. Gilmore was Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Programmes with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Previously she was National Director of Amnesty International Australia and then Executive Deputy Secretary General of Amnesty International. Ms. Gilmore started her career as a social worker and government policy officer in Australia. She helped establish Australia's first Centre Against Sexual

Assault at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital and her work over a number of years focused on prevention of violence against women. In Australia, she was granted honorary appointments to provincial and national public policy and law reform processes, including membership of the country's first National Committee on Violence Against Women. Ms. Gilmore holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New England and postgraduate degrees in Social Work from the University of Melbourne and Community Development from RMIT.

## **HEALY Grainne**



Dr Gráinne Healy was Co-Director of the Yes Equality campaign which led and won the marriage equality referendum Ireland in May 2015. She has been Chairwoman of Marriage Equality Ireland since 2007. Prior to this she was Vice President of the European Women's Lobby and also Chairwoman of the National Women's Council of Ireland and Chairwoman of the EWL Observatory on Violence against women for over a decade. Author of 'Good Practice Guide on Values Based Campaigning for Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Partnerships' (Council of Europe, 2017); Co-author of 'Ireland Says Yes - How the Referendum Was Won' (Healy, Sheehan, Whelan 2016) and Editor of 'Crossing The Threshold - The Story of Marriage

Equality in Ireland' (2017). Awarded 'Outstanding Feminist Leadership Award' (National Women's Council, 2017); a prestigious 'People of the Year Award' for the Community Organisation of the Year in Ireland 2015; Dublin City University gave her The President's Award for Social Engagement 2013; A GALA (Gay and Lesbian Awards) in 2014 for 'Volunteer of the Year' and a Tatler 'Woman of the Year' Award in 2015. She also received the Alumni Special Achievement Award from DCU in February 2017 for her work on gender equality and social justice over many years. Grainne is a feminist activist whose work includes gender equality, LGBTI equality, project evaluations, organisational strategic planning and delivery of leadership training and consultation.

## **HÖRST Corina**



Dr. Corinna Hörst is senior fellow and deputy director at the Brussels office of The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF). She supports the executive director in all aspects of strategic planning, operations, personnel, management, and communication. In this capacity, she plays a central role in program planning, networking, and relationship building with the EU institutions and stakeholders from governments, media, business, as well as nongovernmental and think tank communities. She monitors and frequently comments on transatlantic relations and European Union affairs and is engaged in various women leadership development activities. She is president of the Brussels chapter of Women in International Security (WIIS) and also founded the European Network of Female Policy Experts in Brussels. Before coming to GMF in 1999, she was a teaching associate at Miami University, teaching American and world history and worked as assistant project manager at a publishing company in Germany. Hörst has a PhD and master's degree in history and studied at Miami University, Ohio, US, the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and St. Andrews University, Scotland.

## **HORVILLEUR Delphine**



Delphine Horvilleur is one of France's four female rabbis. She holds a BA from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a dual degree from the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she was ordained in 2008. She worked as a Journalist for French TV from 2000 to 2003. She moved to New York where she worked as a radio correspondent to the French Jewish community Radio. She enrolled in the Reform movement's rabbinical program and was ordained at HUC-JIC's in 2008. She then settled in Paris and joined the Liberal Jewish Movement of France. In 2009, she became editor-in-chief of the quarterly Jewish magazine *Tenou'a* (The Movement). From 2012-2014, she represented the voices of the Jewish community within the French National AIDS Council. In 2015, she was received in the French National Order of Merit as a Knight, an award granted by the President of the French Republic for distinguished achievements.

## **JOUROVÁ Vera**



Věra Jourová is currently European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.

## **KALJULAID Kersti**



In 2016, Kersti Kaljulaid was elected President of the Republic of Estonia. Previously, she served from 2004 to 2016 as a Member of the European Court of Auditors. Kersti Kaljulaid was the CFO and CEO of the Iru Power Plant of state-owned energy company Eesti Energia from 2002 to 2004. From 1999 to 2002, Kersti Kaljulaid was Prime Minister Mart Laar's Economic Advisor. Kersti Kaljulaid was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Center from 2001 to 2004. She was also a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Tartu from 2009 to 2011 and the Council Chair of the University from 2012 to 2016. Kersti Kaljulaid graduated from the University of Tartu in 1992 in the field of genetics in the Faculty of Natural Sciences and completed her master's studies in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration in 2001.

### **KANKO Assita**



French and English.

Born in Burkina Faso, Assita Kanko later immigrated to Belgium. Assita is elected town councillor in Ixelles, one of the largest districts of Brussels, serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Belgian Development Agency and contributes as a columnist for the Belgian Newspaper De Standaard. In her work, she argues forcefully for women's empowerment. She is a popular author and media commentator. Her first book "Parce que tu es une fille, histoire d'une vie excisée" (Because you are a girl, story of a circumcised life) is a story of a personal and intellectual journey to freedom as a woman. In 2015, she published "La deuxième moitié, plaidoyer pour un nouveau féminisme" (The second half, advocacy for a new feminism) about the position of women worldwide. Assita is fluent in Dutch,

### **LANGBAKK Virginija**



Virginija Langbakk has been leading the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius, Lithuania since 2009 as its Director. Her vision is to position the Institute as the strongest and most competent knowledge centre for Gender Equality in the EU. Previously, she worked as Deputy Director at Sweden's Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In her vast career as a gender expert, she was involved in bringing the gender perspective into the public sector at local, regional and national levels in numerous countries worldwide.

### **LARASI Marai**



Marai Larasi is the Executive Director of Imkaan, a UK-based organisation dedicated to addressing violence against Black and 'Minority Ethnic' (BME) women and girls. She is also the joint-chair of the End Violence Against Women Coalition, UK. She has worked in the ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) field for over two decades, at both operational and strategic levels, and has developed and led cutting edge services and programmes which address violence against minoritised/marginalised women and girls. Marai is recognised across a number of sectors, regionally, nationally and internationally, as a leading expert in the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (and in particular the impact of VAWG on minoritised women).

## **LAZIMI Gilles**



Dr. Lazimi Gilles is a general practitioner in Romainville, France, a lecturer in general practice at the Pierre et Marie Curie Faculty of Medicine and a member of the High Council for Equality between Women and Men. He fights against violence against women and children and is a member of SOS Femmes 93 and the Collectif Féministe Contre le Viol (CFCV). He has coordinated numerous communication campaigns against rape and violence against women for the CFCV, against child rearing violence for the Fondation pour l'Enfance ("Raising a child without violence" – 2009, "For an education without violence, without spanking or slapping" – 2011 and 2013), and against child sexual abuse for l'Association Innocence en Danger. He has led many research papers on domestic violence, sexual violence, the

identification of women victims of violence in medical consultations, abuse and violence against children, on abortion and social inequalities in health.

## **MEIRE Katrien**



Katrien holds a Master of Laws from the University of Leuven and an LLM from University College London. She started her legal career in a magic circle firm specialising in European Competition Law. Advising and writing articles on the selling of sports media rights and state aid for sports stadia led to her involvement in football. Since January 2014, Katrien, as CEO, has been responsible for the management and day-to-day operation of Charlton Athletic Football Club and is one of the few female executives in English football. Since July 2016, she's a FA Council member.

## **MILLS Gloria**



Gloria Mills is National Director of Equalities and a senior manager at UNISON – the public service union representing 1.3 million members and over 1 million women. Gloria is President of the European Trade Union Confederation Women's Committee, EPSU Gender Equality Committee, a member of ETUC, TUC General Council and Employment Appeal Tribunal. She has a Master in Business Administration and was awarded the MBE for services to trade unions in 1999 and the CBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours in 2005 for services to equalities and an Honorary Doctorate in Laws from Staffordshire University for work on equality and employment rights.

## **NARAGHI-ANDERLINI Sanam**



Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini is the Co-founder and Executive Director of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). For over two decades she has been a leading international peace strategist, currently spearheading the global Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) and the Global Solutions Exchange (GSX). In 2000, she was among civil society leaders mobilizing support for and drafting Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. In 2011, Naraghi Anderlini was the first Senior Expert on Gender and Inclusion on the UN's Mediation Standby Team. She currently serves on UNDP's Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC), the Working Group on

Gender and Inclusion of the Sustainable Development Network, and the Advisory Council of Global Learning. She has previously served on the Advisory Board of the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF), the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) on Resolution 1325, chaired by Mary Robinson in 2010, and between 2004 and 2014 she was a Research Associate and Fellow at the MIT Center for International Studies.

Naraghi-Anderlini is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. She was the 2014 recipient of the UN Association of the National Capital Area Perdita Huston Award for Human Rights and the 2016 Greeley Peace Scholar at the University of Massachusetts. Her book *Women Building Peace, What they do, why it matters* (Rienner, 2007) is widely taught in colleges across the U.S. Naraghi Anderlini holds an M.Phil. in Social Anthropology from Cambridge University. Iranian by birth, she is a UK citizen, and has twin daughters.

## **NOWACKA Barbara**



Barbara Nowacka, MBA, Polish politician and feminist. Nowacka is a chair of the progressive association "Initiative Poland", and a leader of pro-choice movement "Save Women". For her involvement in women equality campaigns in Poland, Nowacka was ranked one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers of 2016 by Foreign Policy magazine.

## **O'FLAHERTY Michael**



Michael O'Flaherty is Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. Previously, he was Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland Galway, and served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. From 2004-2012, he was a member of the United National Human Rights Committee, latterly as a Vice-Chairperson. He is currently adjunct Professor of Law at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. Michael O'Flaherty has held a number of senior posts at the United Nations, including the establishment of the UN human rights field missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone. Prof. O'Flaherty came to NUI Galway from the University of Nottingham

where he was Professor of Applied Human Rights and Co-director of the Human Rights Law Centre. His publications include volumes on the law and practice of human rights field operations, the professionalization of human rights field work and on human rights diplomacy.

## **PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios**



Dimitrios Papadimoulis is Vice-President of the European Parliament and head of the SYRIZA delegation. Graduated from Varvakeio Junior High School of Athens and studied at the School of Civil Engineering of NTUA (National Technical University of Athens). He has worked as an engineer and business executive (1980-2004). His first term in the European Parliament was in 2004-2009, shortly afterwards in the Greek Parliament (2009-2014), and he was re-elected as MEP in the 2014 European elections. In July of that year, he was elected Vice-President of the European

Parliament with 42.1%, a percentage of positive votes, which in his second re-election in January 2017 reached 73.5%. The new Bureau, in which he continues to represent the Delegation of the Left, will run the European Parliament until July 1, 2019. He is the only Greek and the only representative from the Left at the Presidium of the European Parliament. He is a regular member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and substitute member of the Committee on Regional Development (REGI).

## **PATERNOTTE David**



David Paternotte is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the Université libre de Bruxelles. His work focuses on gender, sexuality and social movements. He is currently examining mobilizations against "gender ideology" in Europe. His publications include the recently published collection "Anti-gender campaigns in Europe: Mobilizing against Equality" (with R. Kuhar, Rowman & Littlefield International, 2017).

## **PIETRUCHOVA Olga**



Olga Pietruchova is Director of the Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic, member of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming at the European Commission, member of the gender Equality Committee at the Council of Europe and a former member of the Management Board member of European Institute for Gender Equality. Expert and analyst in the field of gender equality, gender mainstreaming and equal opportunities, expert on structural funds, gender trainer and advocate for human rights with 15 years of experience. Mrs. Pietruchova holds a Master of Arts in Women's Studies & Feminist Research degree from Rose Mayreder College in Vienna, Austria. She is an author or co-author of several

publications and studies on gender equality and equal opportunities and has conducted gender trainings and analysis for national and international organisations as UNDP, Oxfam and European Commission. Mrs. Pietruchova used to work in non-governmental sector and as a member of the governing board of European Women's Lobby in Brussels. Prior her employment in the public service she has been well-known as a publicist in Slovakia with more than 150 articles published in Slovak newspapers and magazines.

## **PUIGVERT-MALLART Lidia**



Prof. Lidia Puigvert-Mallart is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Barcelona and a Fellow at CREA, Community of Researchers on Excellence for All. She is also an affiliated member at the Centre for Community, Gender and Social Justice of the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cambridge. Prof. Puigvert has developed her research in the field of violence against women and the socialization processes behind this. In 2003, she published with Judith Butler and Elisabeth Beck-Gersnsheim the book: *Women and Social Transformation*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing. Prof. Puigvert was also involved in the coordination team of the first research in Spain about gender violence in the Spanish Universities, which results were considered in the Act No. 3/2007 of 22 March on effective equality for women and men (2007). Research funded by the European Commission (FP5, FP6 and FP7)

and other national and regional funded researches have enabled her to contribute and expand the line of preventive socialization of gender violence.

## **ROBINSON Mary**



Mary Robinson was the first woman President of Ireland (1990–1997) and is a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002). A tireless advocate for justice, she was President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002 to 2010 and served as UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa from 2013 to 2014. From August 2014 to December 2015 she was the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Climate Change and led efforts to galvanise political will ahead of the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris. As Chair of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, she is leading efforts to put justice and equity at the heart of responses to climate change, highlighting the challenge

that climate change poses for the poorest and most vulnerable peoples of the world. She is a member of The Elders, the group of independent global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007 to promote peace, justice and human rights worldwide.

## **ROTH Venla**



Dr Roth is Senior Officer at the Office of the Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman who also serves as an independent National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings with a mandate to report to the Parliament of Finland on the progress made in the field of anti-human trafficking. In 2012-2015, Dr Roth was a member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings. She has also cooperated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in issues relating to human trafficking and criminal procedure. Dr Roth has served as an independent consultant and a Legal Expert for the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (European Commission) and the European Institute for Gender Equality. Dr Roth holds a PhD in law with a specialization in trafficking in human beings, gender studies in law and international and human rights law.

## **SANTERINI Milena**



Milena Santerini is full professor of Pedagogy at the Catholic University of Milan. She is an Italian deputy elected in the 17th legislature. She is member of the Foreign and European Affairs Commission at the Chamber of Deputies. She is also one of the founders of the "Jo Cox Commission", a special commission against discrimination, xenophobia and racism in the Italian Parliament and former General Rapporteur of the "No Hate Parliamentary Alliance" of the Council of Europe, an Alliance born to combat racism, hate and intolerance.

## **SCANTEI Laura-Iuliana**



Laura-Iuliana Scânteï was elected Senator in Romania for her first mandate in December 2016. She is a young professional in the law field, acting as Public Notary in Bucharest, since 2008. After elections, Iulia Scânteï was elected for a mandate of Vice-president of the Senate between 21th of December 2016 and 1st of September 2017.

Her past governmental career includes also official positions and dignities such as: former Counsellor of the Prime Ministry on Antifraud Fight in the field of European Funds (2006), former Counsellor of the Ministry of Justice and also General Secretary of the Romanian Ministry of Justice (2007 - 2008).

## **SCHRATZBERGER-VECSEI Edith**



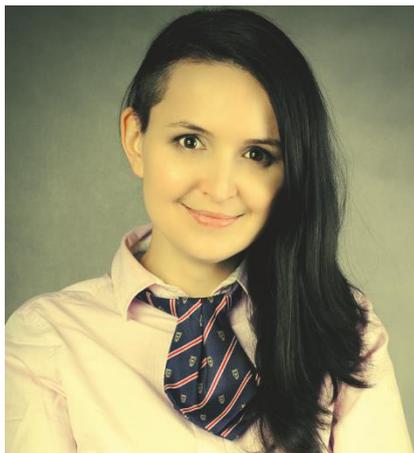
Edith Schratzberger-Vecsei was born on the 12th of August in 1968 in Upper Austria. After studying medicine in Innsbruck (Austria) she started her postgraduate training in hospitals in Salzburg (Austria), Trivandrum (India), and Hallein (Austria) and did a special training in Psychotherapy. From 1997 to 2004 she studied philosophy in Salzburg and Vienna. She worked as a general practitioner and psychotherapist in Vienna and has been teaching at the Medical University in Vienna for 10 years. She has been the president of the Austrian Medical Women's Association since 2006 and joined the European Women's Lobby in 2010 as an alternate delegate for the Medical Women's International Association. Since 2012, she has been in the executive board of the European Women's Lobby, from 2014-2016 as Vice-President and since 2016 as President.

## **SHARMA Madi**



Madi is an Entrepreneur who founded and runs the Madi Group, a group of International private sector & not for profit companies and NGOs. Her philosophy is to create 7 Billion innovative ideas tailored to local action which can achieve global impacts beneficial to a sustainable society. Madi titles herself 'Victim to Changemaker' as her personal experience has taken her through the University of Life as a victim of domestic violence, a single parent and entrepreneurship as she established her first company from her kitchen at home, which grew to 2 factories and 35 staff. She has received the honours of Asian Woman of Achievement, UK's Best Boss and a Prime Ministers appointment to The European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels, representing the Employer's Group as well as the All Ladies League Award 'Iconic Women Creating a Better World for All'. Madi is a public speaker internationally, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurship, diversity, gender balance and her passion for corporate social responsibility CSR. Her presentations, spoken from the heart, motivate and inspire and seek to make others consider their ability to affect change. She presents and teaches in schools, universities and to forward thinking businesses and organisations. Madi has given 3 TEDx speeches and is the author of Madi No Excuses!

### **SIWINSKA Bianka**



Dr. Bianka Siwinska is a scientist, initiator of public campaigns for women in STEM, executive director of Educational Foundation "Perspektywy". She is editor-in-chief of educational magazine Perspektywy, correspondent of University World News. She is also the initiator of the public campaign „Girls to Technical Schools” and Start-up Academy for female students of technical and exact sciences studies, as well as the projects: "Lean in STEM," "IT for SHE," and „New technologies for girls” scholarships (in cooperation with Intel). She is the coordinator of the program "Study in Poland" conducted by the Conference of Polish Academic Rectors and the Educational Foundation "Perspektywy" and expert of World Bank in Tajikistan. She studied at Warsaw University, Humboldt Univeristät in Berlin, and Columbia University in New York City.

### **SLABBINCK Wim**



Clinical sexologist, historian and anthropologist, Wim Slabbinck found the book Human Sexual Response in his father's bookcase at the age of fourteen. A few sleepless nights later he knew: once he would become a sexologist. In his sexology practice, Wim meets men and women screwed up with their sexuality, which coincided with his well-received debut 'Waarom mannen geen seksboeken kopen' (2016) (Why men do not buy books on sex). An informal but at the same time in-depth book bursting with crisp knowledge and useful pieces of advice. Wim also writes for De Morgen and is the house sexologist of Charlie Magazine.

### **THERY Gregoire**



Grégoire Théry is the executive director of CAP international, a coalition of 18 frontline NGOs providing assistance to victims of prostitution and trafficking in human beings in 15 countries. In 2013, he was appointed as member of the French High Council for Equality between Women and Men (HCEFH), an advisory body working under the authority of the Prime Minister. He is a permanent member of its "violence against women" committee. Grégoire is also member of the Advisory Board of the Nadia Initiative, founded by Yazidi survivor of sexual slavery by Daesh, Nadia Murad. Prior to this, Grégoire has worked six years as Permanent Representative to the EU of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). Grégoire

Théry is also a former Secretary general of Mouvement du NId – France. He graduated from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Strasbourg and holds a Master 2 in "Politics and Public Affairs in Europe".

## **TIMMERMANS Frans**



Frans Timmermans was born May 1961 and is a Dutch politician and diplomat who currently serves as the First Vice-President of the European Commission and the European Commissioner for the portfolio of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, Rule of Law and Charter of Fundamental Rights in the Juncker Commission since 1 November 2014. Timmermans previously worked in the Dutch Civil Service (1987–1998), as a member of the House of Representatives for the Labour Party (1998–2007; 2010–2012), as Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs charged with European Affairs (2007–2010) and as Minister of Foreign Affairs (2012–2014). 1995-1998 he served as a Senior Advisor and Private Secretary to the High

Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE, Max van der Stoep and 1994-1995 as a staff member for EU Commissioner Hans van den Broek. In 1993 and 1994 Timmermans worked as deputy head of the Minister for Development Cooperation's EC Affairs Section, 1990 and 1993 as the Deputy Secretary of the Dutch embassy in Moscow. 1987-1990 he served as Policy Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 1984-1985 he had postgraduate courses in European Law and French Literature at the University of Nancy. 1980-1985 he achieved a degree in French language and literature, Radboud University Nijmegen. Timmermans is married with four children.

## **ZEDNIK Rick**



Rick Zedník is CEO of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL), the worldwide network of female politicians. Prior to joining WPL, Rick's management career spanned two decades in media, most recently as CEO of Euractiv.com, the independent EU policy news network. Previously, Rick directed marketing for The Wall Street Journal Europe. A dual citizen of the USA and Slovakia, he was co-founding editor of The Slovak Spectator newspaper in Bratislava. Rick holds an MBA from Harvard, a master's in journalism from Columbia, and a bachelor's in political science from Trinity College (Connecticut). He has written for more than 20 publications, including The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Rick's commitment to

gender equality dates back to his university days and was strengthened when he and his wife became parents to two daughters.