Dr. Wolfgang Sender is the Country Director Belarus of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German political think tank. With over 20 years of experience in public policy, public affairs, media relations, policy advice, and security policy he focuses on analyzing, drafting, discussing and implementing communicative change processes with target groups in the political and public sphere. He also has a focus on military sociology. Wolfgang presents regularly at international conferences and workshops with a focus on the Eastern Partnership and publishes on Belarus and Russia. In his PhD thesis Wolfgang analyzed the OSCE election observations with regard to Russia. He has lectured at European Humanities University, Freie Universität Berlin, and Minsk State University. Wolfgang’s previous employments included positions in international companies, German government institutions, and the German Parliament. He studied political science, sociology and communications and holds a PhD from Freie Universität Berlin. Wolfgang is a member of several advisory boards in the field of economics, science, and politics.
Vladimir Makei has served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus since August 2012. In 1993 he graduated from the Austrian Diplomatic Academy. He then served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Secretary of several departments (Information and Humanitarian Cooperation, Analysis and Forecast, Office of the Minister, State Protocol Service) prior to becoming Deputy Head of the State Protocol Service in 1995. From 1996 to 1999 Vladimir Makei served as Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the French Republic and represented Belarus in the Council of Europe concurrently. In 2000—2008 he was an Assistant to the President of the Republic of Belarus and from 2008 to 2012 served as the Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus.

Sergey Glazyev is a Russian economist, politician, Presidential Adviser on regional economic integration, and a member of the National Fiscal Council of the Bank of Russia. He is also a Doctor of Economics, a Professor, and a member of the Russian Academy of Science since 2008. From 1991 to 1992 he served as the First Vice-Chair of the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation and First Deputy Minister for Foreign Economic Relations of Russia. In 1996 he served as the Head of the Department for Economic Security of the Security Council for several months. Glazyev was the deputy of the State Duma of I, III, IV convenings. He also was one of the leaders of the electoral bloc Rodina from 2003 to 2004, and a candidate for the presidency of the Russian Federation in 2004.
In November 2008 Sergey Glazyev was appointed to the post of deputy Secretary-General of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC). In February 2009 Glazyev officially accepted the post of the Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Custom Union of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

In 2012 Sergey Glazyev was appointed Adviser to the President on the Development of the Integration within the Customs Union and the United Economic Space of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. Glazyev also became the Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the National Fiscal Council.

Dr. Erkki Tuomioja is a Member of Finnish Parliament. From 2000 to 2007 and 2011 to 2015, he served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Before becoming a Member of Parliament, Tuomioja was a journalist and also Deputy Mayor in Helsinki. He became a Member of the Finnish Social Democratic Party in 1970-79 and then again from 1991 till the present day. Between 1991 and 1996, he was also the Vice Chairman of the SDP parliamentary group and was made Chairman in 1996 until 1999. After this, he held the position of Minister of Trade and Industry until 2000 under the government of Paavo Lipponen. Following this, he was made Minister for Foreign Affairs when Tarja Halonen was elected President of Finland till 2007. Erkki Tuomioja has a Ph.D. in political science, B.Sc. in economics and holds a lectureship in political history in the University of Helsinki. He is author of 18 books, including Europe and the Nordic Fringe written in English and published in 1991.
Thomas Graham is the Managing Director of Kissinger Associates, Inc., an international consulting firm based in New York. Previously, Graham was a special assistant to President George W. Bush, a Senior Director for Russia on the National Security Council staff from March 2004 to February 2007, and Director for Russian Affairs on the National Security Council Staff from June 2002 to February 2004. From August 2001 to May 2002, he served as the Associate Director of the policy planning staff of the Department of State.

From 1998-2001, Graham was a Senior Associate in the Russia/Eurasia program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. During this period, he was a frequent commentator on Russian affairs and U.S.-Russian relations. His articles have appeared in The New York Times, Washington Post, and Wall Street Journal, and in European and Russian publications.

From 1984-1998, he was a Foreign Service officer. His assignments included two tours of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, where he served as head of the political/internal unit and acting political counselor. Between tours in Moscow, he worked on Russian and Soviet affairs on the policy planning staff of the Department of State and as a Policy Assistant in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy.

Sun Zhuangzhi is Secretary-General at the Center for Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Director of the Central Asian Department at the Institute for East European, Russian and Central Asian Studies.

Mr. Sun has been a recipient of the State Council special allowance. He is also a member of the Good Neighbourly Cooperation Committee of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Executive Director of
the Asia-Africa Development and Exchange Society of China, and Executive Director of the China Center for Contemporary World Studies under the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. His research areas include international politics, Central Asian relations and SCO.

Hannes Swoboda is President of the International Institute for Peace and a former Member of the European Parliament.

After studying law and economics at the University of Vienna, Swoboda worked in the Vienna Chamber of Labour (1971–86) and was Director of the Department for Urban Policies and Housing Policy. Swoboda also held a number of different functions within the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ). From 1983, he was a member of the municipal council and member of the city council of Vienna. In 1988 he became municipal councillor, regional minister, responsible for urban development, planning, transport and external relations. Swoboda is a member of the federal party executive committee of the SPÖ and the Viennese party executive committee.

Since 1997, Swoboda has been the Vice-President of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with South-East Europe. Much of his parliamentary work is focused on the Balkans - he is Chairman of the Parliamentarian Working Group on Western Balkans - the Middle East, Turkey and the Maghreb. He was rapporteur for the Accession of Croatia to the European Union. In December 2011 he recommended Croatia’s accession to the European Parliament which voted in favor with a great majority. Besides the above-mentioned, Swoboda focuses in his work in the Committee of Foreign Affairs on Central Asia and Russia.

Swoboda was elected as President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in 2012. As a staunch pro-European and a dedicated member of the Social Democratic Party in Austria (SPÖ), he joined the European Parliament right after Austria’s accession to the EU and was the leading candidate of the SPÖ in following elections (2004, 2009).
He is known as an engaged parliamentarian having served in 15 committees, 11 delegations and the rapporteur of countless reports. Through his regional focus on Turkey and South-East Europe, central-Asia and Russia, and steady contribution to the fight against political extremism and promoting minority rights, Swoboda is considered to be an expert of European integration.

Jovan Kovačić is the Founder and President of East West Bridge, an international think-tank, a member of the Executive Committee of the Trilateral Commission and Chairman of the Serbian National Group of the Trilateral Commission. He worked for decades worldwide as a war correspondent for CNN, ABC, NPR, BBC and other major media. He ended his award-winning reporting career as a Reuter’s correspondent for ex-Yugoslavia covering the wars from Slovenia in 1991 to Kosovo in 1998. He joined the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia in 1998, as a political advisor in charge of reconstruction and negotiating the safe return of thousands of refugees and DPs. He also played an active role in the pro-democracy movement in Serbia. Jovan was seconded to OSCE in 2001 in Belgrade as a Media Advisor, to streamline and develop major media outlets. He created and implemented a strategy for transforming the state TV, RTS, into a mainstream PBS.

Jovan is the CEO of GCA Global Communications Associates Ltd, which is helping regional governments, companies and political entities establish better working relationships with Euro-Atlantic structures and vice-versa.. He is also the CEO of Henderson Asset Protection, the Serbian branch of Henderson Risk Ltd of UK. Jovan is also a member of several global foundations and think-tanks and lectures worldwide.
Oleg Kravchenko has served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus since January 2017. His work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus began in 1994, when he was appointed Third secretary of the State Protocol Service. From 1999 to 2003 he served as Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Sweden with accreditation to Norway and Denmark, prior to becoming Head of the Division of the Department of Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus in 2003. In 2007 Oleg Kravchenko was appointed Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in the United States and in 2008 he became Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Belarus in the United States, a position he held until 2014. In 2014 Mr. Kravchenko was appointed as Deputy Director of the Americas Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus, later becoming Director of the above-mentioned Department.

Volodymir Khandogyi – President of the Public Organization “Ukrainian Association for Foreign Policy”. In 1988-1992 he held the post of first secretary of the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations, and in 1992-1994 he worked as an advisor, deputy permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, acting permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations. In 1994-1995 V. Khandogyi was the head of the department of the international organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. In 1995-1998 the politician was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and the head of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.
Subsequently, from 1996 to 1998 he was representing Ukraine in the Executive Council of UNESCO, and in 1998-2000 he was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Canada and representative of Ukraine to the International Civil Aviation Organization.

From 2000 to 2002, the politician was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

In the period of 2000-2005 Volodymir Khandogyi was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in Belgium and Luxembourg and non-resident head of Ukraine's mission to NATO. From October 2005 to January 2006 he served as the Director of the NATO Department, and in July 2007 became First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

From March to October 2009 V. Khandogyi was acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. In 2010-2014 he was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Vladislav Kulminski is Executive Director of the Moldovan Institute for Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Kulminski was previously the Political Adviser to the Prime Minister of Moldova, on domestic politics and reforms. He was heavily involved in efforts to push reform in a number of areas, including public administration.

Prior to this, he led a Confidence Building Measure program for Moldova and its Transnistrian region, and worked as a Political Advisor to the UK Embassy. He has an M.A. in International Relations and EU studies from the Central European University.
Gwendolyn Sasse has been the Director of the Centre for East European Research and International Studies (Zentrum für Osteuropa- und internationale Studien, ZOiS) since 1st October 2016. She is a Professor of Comparative Politics at the Department of Politics and International Relations, and at the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, at the University of Oxford, Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe. Her academic career spans the study of history, Slavonic studies and political science at the University of Hamburg and she has an MSc and PhD in political science from the London School of Economics. After gaining her doctorate, she first took up a post as Assistant Professor at the Central European University, and then as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer at the London School of Economics before moving to Oxford in 2007. Prof Sasse's research interests are post-communist transitions, comparative democratisation, EU eastward enlargement, international conditionality, ethnic and regional conflicts, minority rights, migration in Europe and Ukrainian politics.

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Eugene Rumer is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Rumer’s research focuses on political, economic, and security trends in Russia and former Soviet states, as well as on U.S. policy toward that region.

Prior to joining Carnegie, Rumer was a national intelligence officer for Russia and Eurasia at the U.S. National Intelligence Council from 2010 to 2014. Earlier, he held research appointments at the National Defense University, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the RAND Corporation. He has also served on the National Security Council staff and at the State Department, taught at Georgetown University and the George Washington University, and published widely. He holds a BA from Boston University, an MA from Georgetown University, and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
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Timur Onica is a program officer of the European Foundation for Democracy since January 2015. He manages programs for supporting democracy, civil society and mass media in the countries of Eastern Partnership, including Belarus and Moldova. Prior to joining the EBF, he held positions in UNDP and in the East Europe Foundation. He received a master's degree in Central European University.

Andrey Devyatkov is a Senior Researcher at the Center for Post-Soviet Studies at the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and an Associate Professor of the Department of Regional Problems of World Politics at Moscow State University. He holds a Ph.D in History. From August 2014 to January 2016, he held the position of specialist, and later Head of the Export Center of the Tyumen region under the government of the Tyumen
region. In 2012-2015 he was a visiting researcher at the Center for EU and Russian studies of Tartu University (Estonia), the College of New Europe (Bucharest, Romania), the Fund for Science and Politics (Berlin, Germany), as well as the head of research projects with financial support of the administration of the President of the Russian Federation and the Russian Humanitarian Scientific Fund. Devyatkov carries out research and expert activities on topics related to political and economic processes in post-soviet countries, in particular: the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and integration processes within the Republic of Moldova, as well as the foreign policy of Russia, Romania, Germany and the EU in the region.

Tony van der Togt is a Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague. Before joining Clingendael he held different positions in the Dutch Foreign Ministry, both in The Hague and at Dutch representations abroad, dealing with Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Tony van der Togt established the first Netherlands Embassy in Kazakhstan, serving as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Almaty from 1995-98. At the Ministry he worked on Eastern Europe and Central Asia in several functions, including Head of Eastern Europe/Central Asia Division from 2000-2005. He worked at CFSP-department from 1998-2000, including as Acting European Correspondent and was Special Advisor on the OSCE from 2005-2008. More recently, he served as Consul-General in St Petersburg (2008-2011) and as Special Representative for the Netherlands-Russia bilateral year in 2013. He has published several articles on topics such as Russia and the Eurasian Union, the EU’s Eastern Partnership and Dutch-Russian bilateral relations.
Eugene Chausovsky is a Senior Eurasia Analyst at Stratfor who focuses on political, economic and security issues pertaining to the former Soviet Union, Europe and Latin America. He worked as a researcher at the University of Texas, where he focused on Russian demographic trends and their impact on the country’s political and electoral systems. He also holds a degree in international relations from the same university.

His areas of expertise include politics, economics and security trends in the former Soviet states; Russia’s foreign policy and strategy in the former Soviet periphery; EU and U.S. policy toward the former Soviet states; Sovereignty and integration processes in Europe and the former Soviet states; Economic and political trends in Latin America.

Jörg Radeke is a Managing Economist with Berlin Economics, and an independent economics consultant. He coordinates the project “Economic Policy Dialogue in the Transnistrian Region” which provides economic policy advice to the administration in Tiraspol in order to support them with measures to facilitate trade. Jörg Radeke is also member of the German Economic Team Moldova and the German Advisory Group Ukraine.
Elena Korosteleva is a Professor of International Politics at the University of Kent and Jean Monnet Chair in European Politics, which she received twice in recognition of her research and teaching excellence. She is co-founder and co-Director of the Global Europe Centre, at the University of Kent, an interdisciplinary and cross-site (Brussels and Canterbury) centre with the focus on Europe’s international relations.

Elena is currently Deputy Head of the School of Politics and International Relations at Kent with responsibility for Internationalisation, working on strengthening existing and developing new international partnerships and student recruitment opportunities. Elena Korosteleva is currently Director (Professional Studies) of the Global Europe Centre at the University of Kent, which offers a unique framework for research-led interdisciplinary and cross-site (Brussels and Canterbury) multi-user collaboration.

Elena received her Doctoral Degree in European Politics from the University of Bath (2001), and a PhD equivalent in Political Sociology from the Belarusian State University (1997). Thereafter she served as a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow, and is currently a visiting Professor at the Belarusian State University, College of Europe (Natolin, 2015-16), CIFE (2016+) and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (2016+). Elena is member of the International Advisory Board for the GLOBSEC and Central European Strategy Council; Professorial Fellow of the Dahrendorf Forum at LSE IDEAS, and member of BASEES executive committee. Elena works closely with the European Commission, EEAS, IRI, and national governments of the Eastern region and Central Asia; and is a regular media commentator for BBC, ITV, France24 and Sky News.

Elena's research interests include the concepts of governance/governmentality, capacity-building, resilience, peoplehood and democracy promotion; EU Global Security Strategy and Foreign Policies (ENP/EaP) including relations with Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
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Sergey Markedonov is an Associate Professor at the Department of Foreign Regional Studies and Foreign Policy of the Russian State Humanitarian University. Also he is an expert at the Russian Council on International Affairs and the Gorchakov Foundation. He holds a Ph.D in History. In 1998-2001 he was a Senior Lecturer of the Rostov State Pedagogical University and the Rostov Regional Institute of Retraining of Educators, as well as the Chief specialist of the Press Service of the Governor of the Rostov region. From 2006 to 2010 he was an Associate Professor of the Faculty of World Politics of Lomonosov Moscow State University and of the Department of National History of Modern times of the Russian State Humanitarian University. From 2009-2010 he served as Head of the Department and Deputy Director of the Institute for Political and Military analysis. In 2010-2013 he was a visiting research fellow at the Center for Strategic and International studies of the program "Russia and Eurasia" (Washington, DC, USA).
Jana Kobzova is Policy Director at Rasmussen Global. Before joining RG, she worked as a Senior Programme Officer for an international NGO, the European Endowment for Democracy, where she oversaw the organisation’s programming in the Eastern Partnership region. Before moving to Brussels in September 2013, Jana was a policy fellow and coordinator at the Wider Europe programme at ECFR’s London office, where she wrote policy reports on the EU’s relations with its eastern neighbours including Russia, worked on increasing ECFR’s profile in the area, and expanding the Wider Europe programme’s activities. Between 2006 and 2009 she led the Belarus democratisation programme at the Pontis Foundation in Slovakia. Jana has an MA in Politics, Security and Integration from the School of East European and Slavonic Studies at University College London and an MA in Political Science from the Comenius University in Slovakia. She has co-authored several books on Eastern Europe and the EU’s eastern neighbourhood policy and continues to write about the subject as an Associate Fellow at ECFR. Her research interests include the EU’s foreign policy towards the Eastern Partnership countries and Russia, as well as democratisation and transition in the post-Soviet space.

Andrew Wilson is a Professor in Ukrainian Studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London and a Senior Policy Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. As well as Ukraine, Andrew’s area of expertise is the comparative politics of democratisation in the post-Soviet states and political technology.
Vladimir Socor is a Senior Fellow of the Washington-based Jamestown Foundation and its flagship publication, Eurasia Daily Monitor (1995 to date), where he writes analytical articles on a daily basis. He is an internationally recognized expert on the former Soviet-ruled countries in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, and Central Asia, and covers Russian and Western policies, focusing on energy policies, regional security issues, secessionist conflicts, and NATO policies and programs.

Mr. Socor is a frequent speaker at U.S. and European policy conferences and think-tank institutions. He is a regular guest lecturer at the NATO Defense College and at Harvard University’s National Security Program’s Black Sea Program (JFKennedy School of Government). He is also a frequent contributor to edited volumes. Vladimir Socor was previously an analyst with the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute (1983-1994). He is a Romanian-born citizen of the United States based in Munich, Germany.

Balázs Jarábik is a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where his research focuses on Eastern and Central Europe, with particular focus on Ukraine. Jarábik worked with Pact, Inc. in Kyiv, Ukraine to build its presence as one of the largest international nongovernmental organizations in Eastern Europe, and later served as Project Director for Pact in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Prior to joining Carnegie, Jarábik was an Associate Fellow at FRIDE in Madrid and Senior Fellow at the Central European Policy Institute in Bratislava. He was a civic activist in Slovakia in the 1990s, and he later co-founded the Bratislava-based Pontis
Foundation's international development projects in the Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States.
He also worked as a consultant for political parties and civil society organizations in the Balkans and CIS countries, as well as an adviser with wide range of international, governmental, and parliamentary institutions.

Sir Roderic Lyne is an Adviser to the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. He was a member of the British Diplomatic Service from 1970 to 2004. From 1990 to 1993 he was Head of the Soviet and then Eastern Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and from 1987 to 1990 Head of Chancery at the British Embassy in Moscow. In his earlier career he served in the Soviet Union, Senegal and at the UK Mission to the United Nations in New York, as well as in the Soviet and Rhodesian departments of the Foreign Office and as Assistant Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary. He served as British Ambassador to the Russian Federation from 2000 to 2004; UK Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organisation, the UN and other international organisations in Geneva from 1997 to 2000; and Private Secretary to the Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Northern Ireland from 1993 to 1996. Roderic Lyne is a Governor of the Ditchley Foundation; Chairman-designate of the Board of Governors of Kingston University; and a non-executive director of Petropavlovsk plc (formerly Peter Hambro Mining). He is a member of the committee of Privy Councillors conducting the Iraq Inquiry; and has served as a Special Adviser to leading global corporations including HSBC, BP and JP Morgan. Roderic Lyne was Deputy Chairman of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) from 2009 to 2016.
Alexander Iskandaryan is the Director of the Caucasus Institute (Yerevan), which he has headed since 2005. He was previously its Vice-Director for Research (2002–2005). The institute engages in research, conducts conferences, publishes books and research papers. His areas of scientific interest include ethnopolitical conflicts, post-Communist transformations and nation building in the former USSR in general, and in the Caucasus in particular.

He has published and spoken on the emergence of post-Soviet institutions, elites and identities; he has also conducted and supervised research on conflicts, migrations, discourses, media development and cross-border integration. Iskandaryan lectures on Political Science at the Caucasus Institute and other universities in Armenia. He is also a popular political commentator on television and other types of media.

Andrey Sushentsov is a Program Director of the Valdai discussion club. He is also an Associate Professor of the Chair of applied analysis of international problems, MGIMO-University and holds a Ph.D in History.

Since January 2014 he has been a Head of the analytical agency "Foreign policy". Since September 2014 he has been a Program Director of the Foundation for development and support of MDK "Valdai". In 2005 he graduated with honors from the History Department of Lomonosov Moscow State University, and in 2010 he completed postgraduate studies at MGIMO. His publications are devoted to the US foreign policy in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Russian-American relations and Russia's policy in relations with Georgia and Ukraine.

Andrey Sushentsov was a visiting researcher at Georgetown University (2007), Johns Hopkins University (2008) (Washington, DC, USA). He also
was a visiting Professor at the Free University of International Studies, Guido Carli, Rome (2013), Armenian State University of Economics (2014). He is a fellow of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2015). He is also a Visiting Professor at the Davis Center at the School of Public Administration at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) (2016) and at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (Monterey, USA) (2017).

Since 2006 he has been working at MGIMO and in the MFA of Russia on scientific-analytical, teaching and administrative work. From 2011-2012 he was an assistant to the First Vice-Rector of MGIMO. He is a member of the International Studies Association (USA) and a member of the Working group on the future of Russian-American relations.

Dr. Valbona Zeneli is a Professor of Security Studies and Director of the Black Sea and Eurasia Program at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. Previously she also served as deputy director for the Central and Southeast Europe program. Dr. Zeneli is member of the teaching faculty for the Program in Applied Security Studies (PASS), the Program on Countering Narcotics and Illicit Trafficking (CNIT), the Program on Cyber Security Studies (PCSS), the Senior Executive Seminar (SES), and the Seminar on Regional Security (SRS). She is also involved with Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes as a member of the working group on Southeast Europe, and of the security sector reform working group. Before joining the GCMC, Dr. Zeneli was a Professor of International Economics at the European University of Tirana from 2009-2011 and an Associate Professor at the New York University of Tirana from 2006-2011. From 2003-2005, Dr. Zeneli served as Chief of Protocol, and later as Economic Adviser, to the Albanian Prime Minister. Prior to that, she worked as an adviser to the Minister of Economy of Albania from 2002-2003. She has also advised companies on marketing and international relations in the private sector. Dr. Zeneli holds a PhD in political economy from the University of Studies “Aldo Moro”, Bari, Italy (2011). Valbona Zeneli has published
numerous papers and book chapters and is a frequent contributor to international leading magazines, such as The Diplomat, The Globalist, Atlantic Community, among others. Her research interests extend to various issues of European and Transatlantic security, with an emphasis on Eastern and Southeastern Europe, economic security, international trade and development, good governance and anticorruption, and security sector reform.

Paul Révay is a member of the Board of Trustees of Friends of Europe, a “Think and Do Tank” in Brussels after having served the Trilateral Commission as its European Director from 1981 to 2017. He graduated from Sciences-Po Paris, the Institut d'Études Politiques, and the Faculty of Law of the University of Paris II. He was actively engaged from 1996 to 2017 with the Lisbon-based Fundação Oriente organizing its annual Arrabida Meetings.

From 1994-2000, he coordinated the “Informal Advisory Group” set up in Geneva by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In 1978 he joined the Foreign Trade Board of the French Government (CFCE) involved, as a Senior Research Officer, in assisting French exporting companies to the (then) centrally-planned economies of the COMECON countries and was appointed desk manager for Yugoslavia-Albania-China.

In 1995-1996, he participated in European Union TACIS projects on technical assistance (institution-building) to the Executive Secretariat and to the Inter-State Economic Committee (MEK) of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Minsk and in Moscow. Between 1980 and 1996, he was Secretary General of the French Committee of the East-West Vienna International Council and, in 1994-1996, a member and Treasurer of the French Business Association for the World UN Social Summit (BUSCO) as well as in 1989-92 Secretary General of an East-West project on creating a Management Institute for Training in Europe (MITIE).
Tatiana Romanova is an Associate Professor of the Chair of European studies of the St. Petersburg State University (SPBU), Head of the J. Monne Excellence center, and holds a Ph.D in History. In 2000 she graduated with honors from the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University. In 2001 she received a master's degree in European politics and administration from the College of Europe, Belgium. In 1999-2000 she worked in the Committee for External Relations of St. Petersburg Administration. In 2001 she worked at the Directorate of Transport and Energy of the European Commission (Belgium). Since 2002 she has been working at the Department of European studies of the Faculty of International Relations of St. Petersburg State University. Since 2011 she was a member of the Board of the Association of European Studies, Head of the J. Monnet center (opened in the Department of European studies). Her scientific interests include the relations between Russia and the European Union, especially in the economic field and energy, as well as problems of legal harmonization between Russia and the European Union, research of problems of development of the European Union at the present stage, including the issues of legal development, competition law, energy policy, transport, problems of free movement of people.

Alexander Lukashenko is a Belarusian politician and statesman, the current President of the Republic of Belarus from July 20, 1994. In 1990 he was elected member of the parliament of the Republic of Belarus. He led the the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus commission for examining the operation of commercial entities established under the auspices of state administration bodies.
On 10 July 1994, after a difficult election campaign involving five other candidates, Alexander Lukashenko was elected President of the Republic of Belarus. He won 80.3% of the vote.

On 9 September 2001 Alexander Lukashenko was re-elected President of the Republic of Belarus with 75.6% of the vote.

On 19 March 2006 he was elected President of the Republic of Belarus for the third term with 83% of the vote.

On 19 December 2010 Alexander Lukashenko secured a convincing victory at the presidential election and was re-elected President of Belarus with 79.6% of the vote.


The President of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus.

In 1997 he was elected Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Union of Belarus and Russia. In January 2000 he became Chairman of the Supreme State Council of the Union State.

In 2005-2006 and in 2008 he was the Chairman of the Interstate Council of the Eurasian Economic Community.

Ambassador Thomas Greminger is the Secretary General of the OSCE.

Ambassador Greminger joined the diplomatic service of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1990 and has held numerous senior management positions during his career. Prior to his appointment as OSCE Secretary General, he was Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, overseeing an annual budget of USD 730 million and 900 staff in Bern and abroad.

From 2010 to 2015, Greminger was the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, serving as Chair of the Permanent Council during Switzerland’s 2014 OSCE Chairmanship. Prior to his assignment at the Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the OSCE, Greminger was Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affair’s Human Security Division, Switzerland’s competence centre for peace, human rights, and humanitarian and migration policy.
Thomas Greminger holds a PhD in history from the University of Zurich and the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (General Staff) in the Swiss Armed Forces. He has authored a number of publications on military history, conflict management, peacekeeping, development and human rights. In 2012, he was awarded the OSCE white ribbon for his long-standing support for gender equality.

James Appathurai is the Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy and NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia. Prior to that he was Deputy Head and Senior Planning Officer in the Political Affairs Division of NATO and NATO's Spokesman. A graduate of Political Science and History Departments at the University of Toronto, he then studied International Relations at the University of Amsterdam, where he defended his M.A. thesis in 1993. Before joining NATO he worked as a Policy Officer in the Canadian Department of National Defence in Ottawa and as an Editorial Assistant for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in Toronto. He has published articles and book chapters on security issues including NATO, peacekeeping, Euro-Atlantic and regional security cooperation.

Nikolai Bordyuzha is a Russian general and politician. From 1989 to 1991 he was Head of KGB Human Resources, and from 1992 to 1998 served as First Deputy Chief and later Chief of Russia's Federal Border Guard Service. On 7 December 1998 he was appointed Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, and also Chief of the Presidential Administration
of Russia. He served in this position until 18 March 1999. In April-May 1999 he was Chairman of the State Customs Committee of the Russian Federation, and in July-December 1999 the Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry. From 1999 to 2003 Bordyuzha served as Russian ambassador to Denmark. From 2003 to 2017 he held the position of Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Ambassador Maira Mora serves as Director General of the permanent Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States with its seat in Stockholm, Sweden. From 2011 to 2015, she was Head of the EU Delegation in Belarus within the European External Action Service. Before this, she has held the position of Ambassador at Large, Head of the Policy Planning Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia from 2010 to 2011. Prior to this, she was Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Belarus from 2004 to 2010 and to Lithuania from 2000 to 2004. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, she worked as Counsellor and Acting Head of the Policy Planning Group after working for two years in Vienna as the Deputy Head of Latvian Delegation to the OSCE. Alongside her native Latvian, Maira Mora is fluent in English, Russian, French, German, and has knowledge of Italian, Belarusian and Lithuanian and did translations into Latvian such as Henry Kissinger’s “Diplomacy” (2001).
Christine Muttonen was the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (2016-2017). Christine Muttonen was elected OSCE PA President at the 2016 Annual Session in Tbilisi and re-elected on 9 July 2017 in Minsk. Following the 15 October 2017 legislative elections in Austria she stepped down as Assembly President on 9 November. Among the priorities of her presidency were women’s empowerment in international politics, the security implications of climate change, the use of culture as a peace-building tool, and pursuing closer relations with OSCE Partners for Co-operation. She also advocated for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as strengthening the contribution of parliamentarians to the activities of the OSCE family.

Before becoming Assembly President, Muttonen had served as Vice-President of the Assembly and as Special Representative for Central and Eastern Asia. She was also Deputy Head of the Austrian Delegation to the PA.

Yauheni Preiherman is Head of the Minsk Dialogue Track-II initiative. Yauheni Preiherman’s main research interests include the foreign policies of small states, international affairs in Eastern Europe, and Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security.

He is a regular contributor to the Eurasia Daily Monitor by the Jamestown Foundation (USA) and other Belarusian and international publications. Yauheni is a member of several professional and alumni networks, including the Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security (YGLN), the Chevening alumni network, and the British International Studies Association (BISA). He is also Chairman of Board at the Discussion and Analytical Society Liberal Club (Minsk).
Yauheni holds a BA in International Relations from the Belarusian State University, an MA in European Politics from Sussex University (UK), and is currently pursuing a PhD in Politics and International Studies at Warwick University (UK). His PhD thesis deals with foreign policy strategies of small states, which are stuck amid geostrategic asymmetries.

Samuel Charap is Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation, in Washington, DC. From November 2012 until April 2017, Charap was a Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Prior to joining the IISS, he served at the U.S. Department of State as Senior Advisor to the Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security and on the Secretary’s Policy Planning Staff, covering Russia and Eurasia. From 2009-2011, Charap was Director for Russia and Eurasia at the Center for American Progress. Charap was a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Moscow Center and the International Center for Policy Studies (Kyiv), and a Fulbright Scholar at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Charap holds a Ph.D. in political science and an M.Phil. in Russian and East European studies from the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He received his B.A. in Russian and Political Science from Amherst College. His research interests include the political economy and foreign policies of Russia and the former Soviet states; European and Eurasian regional security; and US-Russia deterrence, strategic stability and arms control. Charap’s articles have appeared in The Washington Quarterly, Foreign Affairs, Survival, Current History, the International Herald Tribune, the Moscow Times and several other journals. His commentary has appeared in numerous news outlets, including the BBC, Reuters TV, and NPR.
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Werner Fasslabend is the President of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES). After being elected to various councils in his hometown Marchegg and in the Province of Lower Austria, he was nominated by the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP, Österreichische Volkspartei) as a Representative to the Lower House (Member of Parliament) in 1987. From December 1990 until February 2000 he was Federal Minister of Defence and thus became the longest serving Minister of Defence in the history of the Republic of Austria. During his tenure he initiated far-reaching reform in the Ministry and adapted the organisation of armed forces to the new threat scenario. He also strongly supported Austria’s active participation in the formulation of the future European security policy and organised the first meeting of EU-Ministers of Defence in 1998. Furthermore, he founded the Central European Cooperation in Peace-keeping (CENCOOP) in 1997. From 2000 until 2002 he was the 3rd president of the Austrian parliament. From the 11th of January 1997 until the 11th of October 2003 he held the position of the Chairman of the Austrian Workers and Employees Association in the Austrian People’s Party. From October 2004 – September 2015 he served as President of the Political Academy (PolAK) of the Austrian People’s Party. Alongside being the President of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES) he is President of the Austrian-Slovak-Society and Head of the Austrian-Iranian Society. He is also Head of the Academic Council of the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies in Brussels.
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Omid Nouripour is a German politician of the Alliance '90/The Greens who currently serves as a member of the Bundestag, representing the state of Hesse. He has been a member of the German federal parliament since 2006. He chairs the Green Party caucus in the Defence Committee and is the party’s spokesman on defence and security. He has been a member of the Green Party (Alliance ‘90/The Greens) since 1996, serving on the managing board (2002–2006). Until 2009 he was also spokesperson for the Green’s Federal Working Committee on Migrants and Refugees.

In addition to his committee, Nouripour has been chairing the German-Ukrainian Parliamentary Friendship Group since 2018. He previously served as deputy chairman of the German-US Parliamentary Friendship Group and the German-Indian Parliamentary Friendship Group.

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Trine Flockhart is a Professor at the University of Southern Denmark. Flockhart was a Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) in Copenhagen (2006-2015) and a Senior Resident Fellow at the Transatlantic Academy in Washington DC (2013-2014). Before joining DIIS she held positions such as Associate Professor at universities in Australia, Denmark and Britain. Through her research Flockhart has sought to bridge the gap between scholarly and policy-relevant research. Her research interests are focused on international order, the liberal international order, European security, NATO and transatlantic relations, norms transfer through socialization and processes of change and transformation. Flockhart's research is
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Suren Sargsyan is Co-founder and an expert/analyst at the International and Comparative Law Center of Armenia. He previously was Adviser to the Prime Minister of Armenia. Sargsyan received his Diploma in Constitutional Law from the Yerevan State University and his Masters of Science in Law from the American University of Armenia. Sargsyan worked for several years for non-profit legal agencies including as Legal Advisor to the Social Center for Legal Aid and as Project Coordinator for the Media Law Institute. From 2003 to 2004 he was employed as an attorney with the Ministry of Finance and from 2005 to 2008 worked as Senior Expert in the Office of State Legal Issues. He was also Senior Expert to the Office of Legal Department Administration and worked on a number of independent commissions concerned with corruption, electoral violations, parole of convicts and penalty commutation.
Johannes Schraps is a member of the German Bundestag since 2017. He studied political science in Bielefeld, Hamburg and Vaxjo (Sweden) and worked as an assistant of European Parliament’s deputy and as a research fellow of Bundestag deputy Achim Barhmann.

Charles Grant is Director of the Centre for European Reform, an independent think-tank which he helped found in 1996, that is dedicated to promoting a reform agenda within the European Union. After studying modern history at Cambridge University, Charles took a diploma in French politics at Grenoble University. Returning to London, Grant joined Euromoney, the financial magazine, in 1981. He moved to The Economist in 1986, becoming defence editor in 1994. Charles was a director and trustee of the British Council from 2002 to 2008. He is a member of the international advisory boards of the Moscow School of Civic Education, the Turkish think-tank EDAM and the French think-tank Terra Nova. He is a member of the Council of the Ditchley Foundation, and Chairman of the foundation’s programme committee. In 2004 he became a Chevalier of France’s Ordre Nationale du Mérite, and in 2013 a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG). In 2015 he was awarded the Bene Merito medal by the Polish government and in December 2015 he was presented with the Star of Italy medal by the Italian government. Charles is a regular contributor to the Financial Times, the International New York Times and many other publications. He writes principally on EU foreign and defence policy, transatlantic relations, Russia and China’s relations with the West.
Thomas Gomart is Director of the French Institute of International Affairs (IFRI). Thomas Gomart's academic and professional background has been closely related to post-Soviet space, as Lavoisier Fellow at the Moscow State Institute for International Relations (2001), as a Visiting Fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies (2003) and Marie Curie Fellow at Department of War Studies at King’s College (2003-2004). He holds a PhD in History (Paris I - Panthéon La Sorbonne) and an EMBA from HEC Paris. He founded and was Director of the Russia/NIS Centre of IFRI from 2004 to 2013, Vice-President for Strategic Development of IFRI from September 2010 to March 2015, and was appointed Director of IFRI in April 2015.

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Baroness Alison Suttie is the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Northern Ireland in the House of Lords. She is a party whip and a member of the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs team. She is a member of the House of Lords EU Select Committee as well as the EU Sub-Committee on External Relations.

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Alison was Head of the Liberal Democrat leader’s office from 2006 to 2010, and served as Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Prime Minister for the first 18 months of the Coalition government from 2010 to 2011. Since 2012 Alison has worked on capacity building projects in several parliaments – including in Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Tunisia. She is also an active campaigner on raising awareness of tuberculosis, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and is Vice-Chair of the Eurasian Parliamentary Group on TB, which brings together parliamentarians from the wider European region to campaign against TB.

Alison graduated from Edinburgh’s Heriot-Watt University in 1990 with a degree in French and Russian. She also studied at Voronezh University in the Soviet Union in 1988 and the University of Upper Alsace in Mulhouse, France in 1989.
Valery Kantorov is an Advisor of the Executive Director of Gorchakov Fund for the Support of Public Diplomacy. He is Major-General of Justice, Honored Lawyer of the Russian Federation. He was graduated from Leningrad State University’s Faculty of Law. He was a chairman of Murmansk regional court, a consultant of the department of social-economic analysis and legal expertise in the Office of the President of the USSR. In 1992-1999 V. Kantorov was in the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia. He held the post of the chief of legal department there. In 1999-2000 he was the Head of Administrative Department of the Staff of the Government of Russia.

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In 2001-2003 he was Deputy Director of the Bureau of the Political Consulting "Penta". In 2003 he became Chairman of the Board of the Center for Applied Political Studies “Penta”. In the summer of 2010 became the Head of the Gorshenin Kiev Institute of Control Sciences. Since December 2010 he again heads the Center for Applied Political
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Joseph Vann is a Professor of Transnational Security Studies and Director of the Marshall Center’s Program on Countering Transnational Organized Crime. He has more than 31 years of government service with more than five years association with the Marshall Center. Professor Vann has been a member of the teaching faculty for the Program on Terrorism Security Studies, the Program on Cyber Security Studies, the Program on Countering Transnational Organized Crime, and other resident and non-resident Marshall Center programs. From 2011-2014, Professor Vann served at the Marshall Center as a Professor of National Security Studies. Vann has held a variety of senior management within NCIS and the Department of the Navy to include assignments as the strategic advisor to three NCIS directors; NCIS Deputy Assistant Director for cyber operations; counterintelligence advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, and Space; senior advisor for combating terrorism and counterintelligence to the commander (U.S. Navy Warfare Development Command) etc. Mr. Vann earned a master’s degree in Policy Management from the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Florida State University.
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After studying economics in Kiel and at the University of Illinois Ulf Schneider worked for 5 years with Procter & Gamble in financial management, corporate taxation and planning. His assignments were at different places in Germany and also in Brussels, Belgium.

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Vladimir Senko is Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Council of the Republic of Belarus on International Affairs and National Security. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus from 1994 to 1997.

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Tinatin graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in International Law. Later she carried on her studies at Central European University in Budapest. She also attended School of Law in Washington DC. Tinatin also holds a degree from Yale University.
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