

# 6th Annual Tallinn Conference on the Eastern Partnership

## Speaker Biographies

### Introductory Remarks



**Jaan Reinhold** is Director of the Estonian Center of Eastern Partnership. Simultaneously, he also serves as Special Envoy for the Eastern Partnership. Before returning to Estonia, Reinhold resided in Astana as ambassador to Kazakhstan, with concurrent accreditation to Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Previously, he held diplomatic positions such as Consul General of Estonia in Shanghai and Deputy Head of Mission at the Estonian Embassy in Lithuania. Earlier Reinhold has worked as a journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and as a senior advisor to the Government Office of Estonia. The holder of a BA in History, Political Science, and Archival Science from the University of Tartu, Reinhold also studied international relations, Polish history, and Slavic languages at Warsaw University.



**Keit Kasemets** is the Head of the Representation of European Commission in Estonia since January 2017. He has more than ten years of experience working in high-level positions for the Estonian government and in its administration, as well as a wide network of contacts with stakeholders from national and international environments. Earlier Kasemets served as a Deputy Secretary-General in the Ministry of Economy and Communications, where he was responsible for internal market issues and preparations for the upcoming Estonian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. From 2012 to 2015 Kasemets worked at the OECD's Directorate of Governance and Territorial Development as the Head of the Strategy and Reform Team and also as the Deputy Head of the Support for Improvement in Governance and Management Programme (SIGMA). After Estonia's accession to the EU in 2004, Kasemets was in charge of development of the EU policy coordination system and management of the strategic planning of government policies and the European Semester process in Estonia. Kasemets has MA in Political Science from the University of Tartu, Estonia.



**H.E. Jüri Ratas**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia held the position of the Vice-President of the 11th, 12th and 13th Estonian Parliament in 2007-2016. His service in Tallinn city administration started in 2002 when he was elected the Economic Adviser to the Tallinn City Office (2002-2003). During 2003-2004 and in 2005 Jüri Ratas served as the Deputy Mayor of Tallinn and from 2005 to 2007 as the Mayor of Tallinn. He has been elected to Tallinn City Council in 2005, 2009 and 2013. He has broad work experience in different areas. Jüri Ratas holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and a Master's degree in Economic Sciences from the Tallinn University of

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Technology. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from the School of Law at the University of Tartu.



**Dănuț Sebastian Neculăescu** was appointed as the State Secretary for Regional Affairs and Multilateral Global Affairs in the Romanian in August 2017. A career diplomat with the rank of Minister-Counsellor, Neculăescu joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002. Most recently he held the positions such as State Secretary for Strategic Affairs in the Romanian MFA and State Counsellor for Foreign Affairs of the Romanian Prime Minister.



**Johannes Tralla** is a journalist at the Estonian National Broadcasting (ERR). Tralla started as a journalist writing on culture and technology topics, from 2012 till 2018 he was the ERR's European correspondent based in Brussels. From autumn 2018 Tralla is involved in the news team, runs a political talkshow ("First Studio") and analyses foreign policy topics in "Välisilm".

## Panel 1: A Decade of Evolution: Evaluating the Past Ten Years of the EaP



**Zohrab Mnatsakanyan**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia is a long term diplomat who has been among many other duties served as the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Council of Europe and recently as a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and chief negotiator for the EU-Armenia Association Agreement. Mnatsakanyan has graduated the Department of International Economic Relations in Moscow State Institute of International Relations.



**Olga Stefanishyna**, the Director General of the Government Office for Coordination of the European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has previously worked at the Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration as deputy head of the service. Prior to that, she worked in the Ministry of Justice as the Director of the European Integration Department, coordinating the implementation of the EU law in Ukraine and maintaining the contacts with the EU Institutions. Stefanishyna graduated from the Odessa National Economic University in 2016 and received specialist diploma in finance and credit. In 2008 she received a MA on international law from the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University.

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**Grzegorz Kozłowski**, the Ambassador of Poland to Estonia is a lawyer, economist and career diplomat. Professional career of Kozłowski started in 1997 at the Ministry of Finance, where he was dealing with financial aspects of Poland's accession to NATO. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and started working at the Permanent Delegation of Poland to NATO and WEU. In 2004-2008 he worked at the Security Policy Department at the MFA, where he was engaged – among other duties – in Polish-US missile defence negotiations. In 2008 he took a position of a head of economic section at the Polish Embassy in Washington, DC. His main duties covered activities towards strengthening bilateral energy cooperation and economic promotion of Poland. In 2012 he was nominated as a deputy director of the Economic Cooperation Department and in 2013 as a director of the America's Department where he continued his assignment until January 2018. Kozłowski has graduated in 1998 from the University of Białystok and in 1999 from the Warsaw School of Economics where he also received his Ph.D in 2007.



**Anna Westerholm** Anna Westerholm is the Ambassador for the Eastern Partnership at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has extensive experience of the Baltics, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Russia, and has held various positions for the OSCE in Estonia, Georgia and Moldova. Before assuming her current position, Westerholm was the Director and the Deputy Head of Multilateral Development Cooperation Department, responsible for the multilateral development and humanitarian policy, global health, SRHR, and environment and climate in development cooperation, as well as foreign policy aspects of the Agenda 2030. She has also been the Head of Section for Multilateral Development Banks. Westerholm joined the Ministry in 2005 working on Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia. Earlier she was an Analyst on Caucasus and Central Asia for the Swedish Armed Forces. Westerholm holds a Master's degree in Social Science from Uppsala University. She has also studied in Russia.



**Riina Kionka** is Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to European Council President Donald Tusk. In 1993 Kionka joined the Estonian Foreign Ministry in Tallinn, where she held various positions incl. head of Policy Planning, Political Director and Undersecretary for EU Affairs. From 2000 to 2004 she served as Estonian Ambassador to Germany. In 2005 Kionka joined the EU Council Secretariat in Brussels, focussing on transatlantic affairs, counterterrorism, the UN. In 2007, EU High Representative Javier Solana named Kionka his Personal Representative for Human Rights. After the European External Action Service (EEAS) was established in 2009, Kionka ran the divisions on human rights and later on Central Asia. She earned her BA in International Relations and German from Michigan State University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Her MA and Ph.D. in International Relations are from Columbia University (Harriman Institute) in New York City. During the end of the Cold War she wrote on Baltic affairs as an analyst at the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute in Munich.

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She has published widely on Baltic and broader European security issues and is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

## Panel 2a: Europe Begins at Home: Developing Regional Media in EaP Countries



**Andrey Evchenko**, Editor-in-chief of the online news outlet „Kramatorsk Post“ is also the co-founder of the newspaper "Youth panorama" (1992-1993) and the founder of the weekly journal "Technopolis" (1993-1997), the first independent publication of Kramatorsk with a circulation of 27 000 copies. From 1997 to 2014 Evchenko was the editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper “Vostochny Project”, which provided news also to the regional TV and broadcasted its own weekly radio program. Since 2014 he is also the editor-in-chief of the newspaper “Kremenchuk Telegraph”.



**Galina Petriashvili** is a journalist, blogger, photographer, feminist and human rights activist. She is currently the President of the Gender Media Caucasus Journalists' Association - an NGO created together with a group of women journalists in 2003 -, and an international media expert for the Central Asia Regional Migration Programme (CARMP) which is jointly implemented by UN Women, IOM and the World Bank. Petriashvili is also associated with CauAsia – a regional coalitions of journalists working in gender issues.



**Jarmo Mäkelä**, Reporters without Borders, Finland is a retired Senior Diplomatic Correspondent of the Finnish Broadcasting Company's (YLE) TV News. During his career in the YLE, which started in 1981, he was stationed in Moscow, Bonn and Brussels. In 1997-2001 he served as the Press Counsellor at the Finnish Embassy in Washington DC. He has a Master of Science degree from the University of Helsinki. He is also a Fellow of the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University (1990-91). Since 2018 he has been the President of the Finnish section of Reporters Without Borders.



**Artur Aukon** is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Russian language Raadio 4 operated by Estonian Public Broadcasting (ERR). Since 2006 Artur Aukon has been covering the topics of EU's policies, incl. Eastern Partnership policy. In addition to his current position, Artur Aukon cooperates with the ECEAP - offering trainings to journalists and journalism students in Ukraine.

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His carrier started as a journalist and newspapers' editor.

**Hannes Rumm**, media expert of ECEAP has been providing consultations on communication and media issues since the beginning of the EaP initiative. He has also been the Adviser on Strategic Communication to the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2017-2018), Head of the European Commission Representation in Estonia (2011-2016), politician, incl the Member of the Parliament from 2007 to 2011.

## Panel 2b: Fighting Corruption in EaP Countries



**Levan Machavariani** has been a police officer since 1986 and from 2012 he serves as the Deputy Director of the Patrol Police department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. During majority of his employment he worked in divisions responsible for organising and inspecting police duties. From 2004 he has been involved in reforming the Georgian police and from 2006 he has been in charge of different divisions of reformed police. Matchavariani is also engaged in teaching and expert activities in law enforcement.



**Gizo Uglava**, First Deputy Director of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) started his career as an intern at the Prosecutor's office of Imereti region in Georgia in 1998 and continued as a senior investigator, chief of investigators, and prosecutor in several regions. In 2010 he become the Deputy Prosecutor General of Georgia being in charge of the units specialising on combating corruption, legalisation of illicit profits and financial crimes. In 2015 Uglava obtained Ukrainian citizenship and continued working in Ukraine on anti-corruption issues.



**Karolina MacLachlan** manages European programming for Transparency International – Defence and Security. She works closely with national governments and international institutions to address the risks that corruption poses to national and international security. She holds a PhD in War Studies from King's College London; prior to joining TI, she worked for the UK Parliament.

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**Viktor Jagun** is Ukrainian reserve officer and former Deputy Head of Intelligent Service (2014-2015). He participated in Maidan events from 2013 to 2014. At the moment, Jagun has resigned from the military service and is actively engaged in the ongoing Ukrainian reforms, both as advisor in the restructuring of the Ukrainian security sector and anti-corruption expert.



**Eerik Heldna**, anti-corruption expert of ECEAP, is the former Deputy Director General of the Estonian Internal Security Service being in charge of organisation of criminal proceedings, fight against corruption, economic security, terrorism prevention, incl. safety of vital services and strategic companies, and participation in the law making on state security issues (2009-2017). Before that he was the Director of the Central Criminal Police (2008-2009) and the Police Chief of the Criminal Department of the Northern Police Prefecture (2005-2008). His primary research fields are public law, mainly focusing on crime prevention, prevention of security threats, and the law enforcement roles of security organisations of EU and NATO members. In addition, his interests cover ensuring economic security, the protection of vital infrastructure, and involving the private sector in ensuring the continuity of services that are of national interest. Heldna graduated from the Police Academy of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, obtained a MA in administrative management from Tallinn University of Technology and a MA of law from the University of Tartu. He is an alumni at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and has completed his security studies at the George Marshall Center in Germany and the National Defence Intelligence College in the United States.

## Panel 3: What Lies Ahead: The Future of the EaP after 2020



**Urmas Paet**, Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) has been a Member of the European Parliament as of November 2014. He specializes in foreign and security policy issues and has joined the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament. He is the rapporteur of the European Defence Union Report, the EU Arctic Policy Report and the Cyber Defence Report. He is also in the BUDG and REGI Committees. Before joining the European Parliament, he was the longest serving Foreign Minister in Estonia of almost ten years. Urmas Paet has also served as a Minister of Culture and as the Head of the council of Nõmme district in Tallinn. Urmas Paet majored in Political Science and started out as a journalist in Estonian Radio and daily newspaper "Postimees".

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**Dirk Wiese** was appointed as the new Coordinator for Intersocietal Cooperation with Russia, Central Asia and the Eastern Partnership Countries at the German Federal Foreign Office in April 2018. Since 2013, Wiese has been a Member of the German Bundestag, elected via the Land list of NorthRhine-Westphalia. Prior to his appointment as Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in January 2017, he was a member of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Energy and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection.

Dirk Wiese is currently a member of the Committee on Food and Agriculture, an alternate member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Budget Committee, and also Chairman of the German-Indian Parliamentary Friendship Group. He has been Spokesperson of the Seeheimer Kreis (a group in the Social Democratic Party of Germany) since 2018. Wiese obtained a law degree from the Universities of Marburg and Münster. He has been a member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) since 2003, Chairman of the SPD in the Hochsauerland district since 2012, Spokesman of the SPD in South-Westphalia since 2017, and Deputy Chairman of the SPD region Western Westphalia since November 2018.



**Mikheil Janelidze** achieved as a Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Georgia (2015-2018), stronger ties with the US, the EU, Western and Central Asia as well as Japan, India and China resulting in strengthened economic and security cooperation, enhanced role of Georgia in the region and unique economic integration with the largest regional and world economic powers. Georgia became the leader of the EU's Eastern Partnership program and strengthened trade and security ties with the US

and NATO, concluded free trade agreement with China, launched negotiations on bilateral investment treaty with Japan and started free trade exploratory talks with India. Georgia took the leadership role in the implementation process of Sustainable Development Goal #16 and chaired the Open Government Partnership. Janelidze served as Vice Minister of Economy and chief trade negotiator of Georgia (2011-2015). He successfully negotiated Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU, which has resulted in upgrade of Georgia's trade policies. Mikheil actively participated in the development and implementation of enterprise and SME Development mechanisms. Georgia strengthened relations with international donors and IFIs and augmented investments in sustainable development, clean energy, transport infrastructure. Before joining the public service Janelidze worked for the private sector as a manager and an entrepreneur in the area of business development and management consulting mostly focusing on international trade and investment. Mikheil Janelidze earned his bachelor's degree with honours in International Relations from Tbilisi State University in 2002 and MBA in Global Management with Distinction from the Grenoble Graduate School of Business in 2011.

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**Audrone Perkauskiene** is an EU official who serves as the Head of Eastern Partnership - Regional Cooperation and OSCE Division in the European External Action Service (EEAS). She is in charge of (1) developing the Eastern Partnership as the policy framework for the EU's relations with its 6 Eastern European partners (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) and managing the multilateral dimension of the Partnership; (2) the EU's contribution to regional cooperation in its Northern and Eastern neighbourhood: Arctic, Northern Dimension, Baltic, Barents and Black Seas and (3) coordinating the EU's relations with the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Audrone Perkauskiene joined the European External Action Service (EEAS) since its establishment in December 2010. Prior to her current post, she was responsible for coordinating EU relations with the Central Asian states. From 2006 to 2010 she was employed by the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (DG External Relations, Politico – Military Affairs). Before becoming an EU official, she held a number of high-level positions in Lithuanian civil and diplomatic service.



**Jana Kobzová** is a policy director at Rasmussen Global and an associate fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. Before joining Rasmussen Global, a political consultancy established by the former NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Kobzová served as senior program officer at the European Endowment for Democracy, directing the organization's activities in the Eastern Partnership region. Previously, she was a policy fellow and coordinator of the Wider Europe program at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) in London. At ECFR, she wrote policy reports on the EU's relations with Russia and the Eastern partner countries, while developing the think tank's activities in the region. Kobzová also led the Belarus democratization program at the Pontis Foundation in Slovakia. The author of several books in Eastern Europe and the European Neighborhood Policy, Kobzová continues to write actively about the subject as an ECFR associate fellow.



**Kalev Stoicescu**, a former Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence official, took a position as a researcher at the International Centre for Defence and Security on 11 August 2014. Among other fields, Stoicescu will specialize in issues related to Russian foreign and domestic policy, as well as developments in the field of the military, the economy, the media and minorities affairs. Stoicescu served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1991-2000, including as Ambassador to the OSCE and Ambassador to US and Canada. He was a member of the Estonian delegation in border negotiations with Russia and Latvia. He worked for the Ministry of Defence from 2002-2014, first as civilian-military cooperation department head and then, from 2007 as Counsellor on defence policy at the Estonian Embassy in Paris.

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## Conclusions and Closing Remarks



**Stanislav Seceriu** joined the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) as a Senior Analyst in September 2018, where he covers Russia and the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. His research interests focus on EU-Russia relations, Russia's foreign and security policy in the post-Soviet region, protracted conflicts and the EU's relations with the Eastern Partnership (EaP) states. Before joining the EUISS, Stanislav was a Senior Research Fellow at the Polish Institute of International Affairs (2014-2016) and a Policy Analyst at the Open Society European Policy Institute in Brussels (2016-2017). He has also previously been a Research Fellow at the NATO Defence College in Rome (2006), the Institute for European Politics in Berlin (2009-2010) and the New Europe College in Bucharest (2011-2012). He worked on research projects addressing political and security developments in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood for the European Council on Foreign Relations (2007-2009) and Freedom House (2012-2013). Stanislav holds a PhD from the National School of Political Science and Public Administration in Bucharest.



**Lawrence Meredith** has been Director for Neighbourhood East in DG NEAR in the European Commission since 1 December 2015. In 2015, he was Head of Strategy in DG NEAR, and led work on the European Neighbourhood Policy Review. Previously, he has worked for 10 years on Enlargement Policy, both as Head of Strategy and Head of the Kosovo Issues Unit. He worked in the Cabinet of Commissioner Louis Michel on Southern Africa & the Pacific. Mr Meredith studied Russian & French at Oxford University.