

# TEPSA Academy 2024

## EU ENLARGEMENT POLICY

24-27 June 2024

Meet the Speakers

### Frank Schimmelfennig Academic Coordinator

Frank Schimmelfennig is Full Professor of European Politics and a member of the Center for Comparative and International Studies at ETH Zurich. He is also a member of the Swiss National Research Council, an Associate of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute, Chairman of the Scientific Board of Institut für Europäische Politik Berlin and a former TEPSA Board member. His research focuses on European integration, including integration theory, EU enlargement and Europeanisation, democracy promotion and democratisation.

**Monday 24 June**  
*Setting the stage*

### Janis Emmanouilidis European Policy Centre

Janis A. Emmanouilidis is the Director of Studies and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Studies at the European Policy Centre. He has published widely on the EU's political and institutional development, the Union's 'poly-crisis', the perspectives of differentiated integration, the Union's foreign, security and defence policy, and on EU enlargement. He has also been co-responsible for the New Pact for Europe project, which has published several reports on the future of Europe. Before moving to the EPC, he was Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellow at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP), and a Research Fellow at the Institut für Europäische Politik (IEP) responsible for the research area on the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Janis is also member of the Scientific Council and Research Associate at ELIAMEP, member of the Council of the CEP think tank in Belgrade and member of the Board of the Europe's People's Forum.

**Tuesday 25 June**

*Uniform or differentiated integration?*

## **Thomas Hagleitner**

**Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), European Commission**

Thomas Hagleitner studied at the University of Vienna and the College of Europe in Bruges. He works for the European Commission since 1995. After some years at the Secretariat General, he has been dealing with Enlargement policy and notably the Western Balkans for 15 years. He has dealt in particular with the Croatian accession process, from the application to accession, as well as the EU's overall enlargement strategy. He has been responsible for the accession negotiations with Montenegro in the Commission's DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiation for seven years. He is now Head of Unit for Western Balkans Policy and Regional Strategy.

## **Maria Alesina**

**European Liberal Forum**

Maria Alesina is Policy & Research Officer at the European Liberal Forum. She holds a PhD in interdisciplinary European Periodical Studies from Ghent University, Belgium, MA degrees in EU Affairs from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, and Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Germany, MA in Political Science and BA in Philosophy from Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine. At ELF, she has worked on topic related to EU enlargement, security and defence, and social policy. She has a 10-year-long record of academic, policy, and journalistic publications at the intersection of European politics and socio-cultural affairs.

## **Tom De Munck**

**Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Graduated with a Master's degree in History and a Master's in European Studies (University of Ghent), Tom De Munck has been working at the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation since 2017. After a couple of years covering Central Europe, he moved to the Directorate-General European Affairs, in the unit dealing with the external relations of the EU. For almost two years he has been the Desk Officer responsible for EU enlargement and the relations between the EU and the Western Balkans.

# Wednesday 26 June

## *Institutional reforms*

### **Dejan Brkic**

#### **General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union**

Dejan Brkic is a political and legal administrator currently serving in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU within the Enlargement Unit, where he acts as a desk officer for Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and oversees the COELA and COWEB working parties. Prior, he was a Legal and Policy Officer in the General Secretariat of the European Commission's Transparency Unit: his responsibilities included shaping the transparency policy of the European Commission, managing interactions with interest groups, and facilitating access to information and documents. He also served as a Legal Officer in the Publications Office of the EU's "EUR-Lex" Unit, where he performed legal analyses of acts published in the EU Official Journal.

### **Peter Van Elsuwege**

#### **Ghent University**

Peter Van Elsuwege is professor of EU law and Jean Monnet Chair at Ghent University, where he is co-director of the Ghent European Law Institute (GELI). He is also visiting professor at the College of Europe (Natolin Campus) and board member of the Centre for the Law of EU External Relations (CLEER) at the Asser Institute in The Hague. His research activities essentially focus on the law of EU external relations and EU citizenship. Specific attention is devoted to the legal framework of the relations between the European Union and its East European neighbours. He was awarded the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Law by the European Commission.

### **Hélisène Habart**

#### **European External Action Service**

Hélisène Habart is the Deputy Head of Division on the Eastern Partnership regional cooperation and the OSCE at the European External Action Service (EEAS). She worked previously on global and multilateral issues at the EEAS from 2018 to 2024. She has served in the EU Delegations to Kazakhstan and to Tajikistan and worked for the European Commission and the EEAS on Central Asia and the Eastern neighbourhood region since 2001.

### **Clive Rumbold**

#### **European External Action Service**

Clive Rumbold is Senior Expert in the Western Balkans Division of the European External Action Service. He has served in the EU Delegations to Albania, Montenegro and Hungary and on the Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania desks at European Commission headquarters. In the 1990s he worked on justice, freedom and security issues in the Baltic and central and eastern European countries. He holds a master's degree from the University of St. Andrews.

**Thursday 27 June**  
*Policy aspects of enlargement*

## **Vincent Cordonnier**

**Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), European Commission**

Vincent Cordonnier has been working in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI) since 2008. He is currently Deputy Head of Unit G.4 – Neighbourhood, enlargement and pre-accession assistance. Since he joined DG AGRI, he has held various positions and has gained experience in team management, international policy and trade, policy development, analysis and Outlook, financial management and communication. Throughout his career, Vincent Cordonnier worked on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the negotiations of free trade agreements with Japan and Ecuador, geographical indications, and the management of the Farm Accountancy data Network. He has been responsible for the organisation of the EU Agricultural Outlook Conference from 2020 to 2023.

## **Marine Gaudron**

**Council of European Municipalities and Regions**

Marine Gaudron is Adviser on economic, social, and territorial cohesion at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions. She works on territorial development (including urban and rural), EU Cohesion policy and EU regional funds and local and regional finances. She is also passionate about sustainable development and an "everyday cyclist", engaged for clean mobility and making public space safer and accessible for all.

## **Jean-Charles Van Eeckhaute**

**Secretariat-General of the European Commission**

Jean Charles Van Eeckhaute is Head of Unit and Deputy to the Director in the external relations directorate of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission. His team is in charge of coordinating the Commission services' work on EU external action. This includes the EU's participation in the G7 and the G20, where his team serves both the Commission President and the President of the European Council in preparing G7 and G20 Summits and coordinates the work of the Commission services and the EEAS in the various G7/20 work strands. Prior to this, he held various posts in the Directorate General for Trade, inter alia as Head of Unit for Policy Coordination and for Trade Strategy, and as negotiator at the World Trade Organisation. Before joining the Commission in 1996, he worked as a lawyer at the Brussels Bar and as a research assistant at the European Institute of the University of Ghent, focusing on the external relations of the EU.

## **HE Vsevolod Chentsov**

### **Mission of Ukraine to the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community**

Ambassador Vsevolod Chentsov is the current Head of Mission of Ukraine to the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community. Before his appointment in 2021, he served as Ukraine's Ambassador to the Netherlands (2017-2021). Previously, Ambassador Chentsov gained experience at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Legal Department and European Union Department (as Director). He also worked at the Ukrainian Embassies in Türkiye and Poland.

## **Serafine Dinkel**

### **German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) & Université Libre de Bruxelles**

Serafine Dinkel is a Marie Skłodowska Curie Doctoral Fellow at the Université libre de Bruxelles, the University of Warwick and the University of Amsterdam within the Horizon Europe GEM-DIAMOND project (Globalisation, Europe, and Multilateralism - Democratic Institutions, the rise of Alternative Models and mounting Normative Dissensus). Her research examines the EU's political conditionality in Serbia and Georgia in a geopolitical context. She is also an Associate Fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). Her published research focuses on EU external governance and strategy, EU enlargement policy and German foreign policy. Serafine was previously a researcher at NATO Parliamentary Assembly, a Blue Book trainee in the strategic policy planning division of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and a research assistant at the Chair of European and international politics at the University of St. Gallen. Serafine holds an MA in international security from Sciences Po Paris and an MA in international affairs and governance from the University of St. Gallen, as well as a BA in social and political sciences from Sciences Po Paris' Franco-German program.

## **Aleksandra Palkova**

### **Latvian Institute of International Affairs & NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

Aleksandra Palkova is the Head of EU Programme at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs. In this capacity, she manages prominent projects within Horizon Europe and Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. She organises high-level international conferences, publishes books and provides analyses and online commentaries. Simultaneously pursuing a Ph.D. in International Relations, Aleksandra holds a senior researcher position at Riga Stradins University (RSU), focusing on democracy and security issues. Since 2021, Aleksandra has contributed significantly as an Associate Researcher at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), playing a pivotal role in the development of impactful analyses utilized by the European Commission and the European Parliament. Adding to her diverse portfolio, since 2022, Aleksandra has been a Lecturer at Riga Stradins University and Vidzemes Augstskola, engaging with both bachelor's and master's level students.

## **Igor Miskulin**

### **Directorate-General for External Relations (DG EXPO), European Parliament**

Igor Miskulin is Desk Officer at the Secretariat of the Delegations to the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee, the EU-Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee and the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee. He is also Desk Office of the Europe Unit: Enlargement, Western Europe and Northern Cooperation at the Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union. Building on his career in international development and the private sector, he has worked in the European Parliament since 2010. He spent over a decade working on the legal-linguistic aspects of the acquis for the accession of Croatia in 2013, and as a legal drafter, focusing in particular on civil liberties, justice and home affairs. He continued my career in the Secretariat of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for EU Affairs of the Parliaments of the European Union, and in the Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union. As part of his role of desk officer in the Europe Unit: Enlargement, Western Union and Northern Cooperation, he covers various aspects of parliamentary diplomacy and international relations, focusing on the enlargement to the Western Balkans, and in particular on Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

## **Mariia Levanchuk**

### **Vinnytsia Liaison Office**

Mariia Levanchuk is Head of the Vinnytsia Liaison Office, a representation of Ukrainian city and territorial community of Vinnytsia, which was launched in November 2023 with the support of the European Committee of the Regions.

## **Berta López Domènech**

### **European Policy Centre**

Berta López Domènech is a Junior Policy Analyst at the think tank European Policy Centre, working on EU enlargement policy and the Western Balkans. She focuses particularly on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, the state of democracy and rule of law in the region, and the role of CSOs in the EU accession process. Besides that, she also works on EU governance and institutional reform, and democratic and authoritarian trends. Before joining the EPC, she lived in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she did research on war crimes and peacebuilding and monitored the 2022 general elections. Berta has a bachelor's in international relations and a masters in Journalism.

## **Xesc Mainzer Cardell**

### **Young European Federalists Europe**

Xesc Mainzer Cardell is a Historian and the Senior Vice president of the Young European Federalists (JEF Europe). He holds a PhD in Contemporary History, having researched on the visions for European integration by stateless nationalist movements in Catalonia and the Basque Country. He's been a Federalist activist since 2012 when he joined JEF in Spain, having over time been President of JEF Spain, member of JEF Europe's Federal Committee, and since last November a VP of JEF Europe where he's in charge of the portfolios on economic, Schengen area, and space policies, as well as relations with the European Youth Forum and JEF's training programme "Federalist Academy". Since January this year, he is also a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

## **Alessandro Marcia**

### **Maastricht University**

Alessandro Marcia is a PhD Researcher and Lecturer of EU Law at Maastricht University. He holds a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Bologna and an LL.M. in EU Law from Université libre de Bruxelles. Alessandro is also an activist for European integration and LGBTIQ+ Equality. Since 2022, he serves as a Young European Ambassador for EU Neighbours East.

## **Friday 28 June**

### *Skills Lab on public speaking*

#### **Giulia Busolin**

**Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM),  
European Parliament**

As part of the Civil Society Outreach Unit of the Directorate General for Communication of the European Parliament, Giulia Busolin's mission is to communicate Europe and the work of the Parliament to citizens across Europe, with the help and support of civil society organizations. To this end, her work focuses on establishing partnerships and exploring synergies in the field of communication with NGOs, think tanks, and general interest groups, to name a few, operating at the pan-European level.

#### **Masha Tarle**

**Coach in public speaking and communication**

Masha Tarle is a trainer and communication expert. Born in Croatia and raised in Australia, she completed a Master course in EU Law in Madrid, and started her career as personal assistant to the former EU Commissioner Loyola de Palacio and Bluebook trainees at DG ENER in Brussels. She cemented her involvement in the European institutions through work in public relations for the European Commission (2009-2011) and as communication manager in several European associations. Since 2016, she is a trainer and coach specialised in communication strategy and skills. Her corporate, non-profit, and institutional clients include NATO, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), European Employment Services (EURES) and Ernst & Young.