

#EURoma2030 High-level Conference

12 October 2020

Biographies of speakers

MODERATION

Ms Minh-Khai PHAN-TI

Vietnamese German actress and host

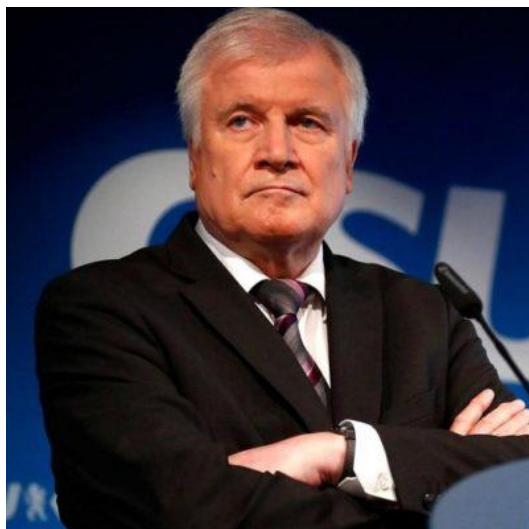


Born in Darmstadt, Germany, Ms Phan-Ti is the creator and host of the Podcast “anderssein”, which is about acceptance and everyday discrimination.

KEYNOTE, LAUNCH & LIVE INTERACTION with CSO

Mr Horst SEEHOFFER

Federal Minister of Interior, Building and Community, Germany



Horst Seehofer is a German [politician](#) serving as Leader of the Christian Social Union (CSU) from 2008 to 2019 and Minister of the Interior, Building and Community since 2018 under Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Horst Lorenz Seehofer was first elected to the Bundestag in 1980, he served as Federal Minister for [Health](#) and Social Security from 1992 to 1998 and as Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in the cabinet of Angela Merkel from 2005 to 2008. In October 2008 he became

Leader of the CSU and the 18th Minister President of Bavaria. From 1 November 2011 until 31 October 2012 he served as President of the Bundesrat and ex officio deputy to the President of Germany. Because of that he was Acting President of Germany after the resignation of President Christian Wulff on 17 February 2012 and before the election of Joachim Gauck as Wulff's successor on 18 March 2012.

A staunch opponent of Chancellor Angela Merkel's refugee policy, Seehofer has threatened to file a formal complaint against the Merkel government's refugee policy with Germany's Constitutional Court and is a proponent of a federal cap on the number of refugees the German government is to take in.

Ms Helena DALLI

Commissioner for Equality, European Commission



Helena Dalli is the first EU Commissioner for Equality since December 2019. Her role is to deliver on the Union of Equality chapter within the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen, by strengthening Europe's commitment to equality and inclusion in all of its senses.

Prior to taking her role as Commissioner, Dalli held various political roles in Malta including Member of Parliament (1996 to 2019), Minister for European Affairs and Equality (2017 to 2019), and Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (2013-2017). She was also opposition Shadow Minister for public administration, equality, public broadcasting and

national investments (1998-2013) and Junior Minister for Women's Rights in the Office of Prime Minister (1996-1998). Dalli holds a PhD in Political Sociology from the University of Nottingham, and lectured in Economic and Political Sociology, Public Policy, and Sociology of Law at the University of Malta.

Ms Gabriela HRABANOVA

Director, European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO Network)



Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova is the director of the ERGO Network since 2017. She is of Roma background herself, working for the Roma Civil Society since an early age. She has previously worked for the Czech Government as Director of the Office for the Council for Roma Minority Affairs.

PANEL 1: Fighting and preventing antigypsyism and discrimination

Ms Juliane SEIFERT

State Secretary at the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany



Juliane Seifert has been State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth since March 2018. Previously, she was the federal managing director of the Social-democratic Party (SPD). From 2013 to 2016, she worked in the State Chancellery of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate and, prior to that, in two federal ministries. She studied Modern and Contemporary History as well as

Political Science and Ancient History in Düsseldorf, Florence and Berlin and obtained a German-French Master of European Governance and Administration at the École Nationale d'Administration, the Université Paris-Sorbonne and the University of Potsdam.

Ms MMag Dr Susanne RAAB

Federal Minister for Women and Integration at the Federal Chancellery, Germany



Susanne Raab became the Minister for Women and Integration of the Republic of Austria in January 2020. Before that, she served as the Head of Section VIII-Integration (2017-2019) and as the Head of the Department for Coordination in Integration (2014-2017) in the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. In 2009-2013, she worked in different research and ministerial positions. Susanne Raab studied law and psychology in 2003-2009, followed by postgraduate studies in law 2008-2010.

Image by Jakob Glaser

Mr Romani ROSE

Chairperson of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma



Romani Rose (born 1946 at Heidelberg, Germany) is a Romani activist who lost 13 relatives in the Holocaust of the Nazi purges against the Romani people and Jews and head of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. At the founding of the Central Council in 1982 he was voted to the position of Chairman by the delegates of the member organisations – then nine, now 16 state and regional associations – and since then has been confirmed in his post every four years at the member meetings. From 1991 Rose took over the management of the Documentation and Culture Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg. For years he has been known by the federal and state governments for his resoluteness and

for his persistent and unyielding work.

Together with the Chairpersons of the national minorities in Germany Rose leads the Minority Council, which was founded on September 9, 2004. It is the union of the umbrella organisations of the four national minorities which belong to the German nation and have always been resident and autochthonous here. For three decades –since June 1979 to be more exact – he has led the work for the civil rights of German Sinti and Roma before the eyes of the German as well as the international public; he has also fought for their protection from racism and discrimination, for compensation for the survivors of the Holocaust – at the same time announcing the magnitude and the historical importance of the genocide of 500,000 Sinti and Roma in National Socialist occupied Europe. In May 1995, in cooperation with the member organisations of the Central Council, Rose achieved recognition for German Sinti and Roma as a national minority in Germany with their own minority language, connected with their goal of equal participation in social and political life.

Mr Romeo FRANZ MEP

Group of Greens/European Free Alliance



Romeo Franz joined the European Parliament as a member in 2018 and was re-elected in 2019, being the first Sinto from Germany elected in the European Parliament. Mr. Franz is the first vice chair of the Culture and Education Committee and substitute member of the Committees on Employment and Social Affairs and LIBE Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Since 2014, he has been Managing Director of the Hildegard Lagrenne Foundation and has been involved in civil rights work on the topic of “People with Romani backgrounds (Sinti and Roma)” for more than 20 years.

Mr Dan Pavel DOGHI

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), OSCE



Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues and Chief of the CPRSI at ODIHR, Mr Doghi has been involved in human rights work through civil society since 1996, in various Roma NGOs in Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca. He worked as programme coordinator of the Soros Foundation spin-off Resource Centre for Roma Communities in Cluj-Napoca (2000-2003). Worked as Advocacy Fellow at Public Interest Law Initiative, a programme at Columbia University Budapest Law Centre (2003-2004). Joined OSCE ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues as Officer since October 2004. Higher Education Program Manager at Roma

Education Fund, 2012-2017.

Ms Tímea JUNGHAUS

Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, ERIAC



Tímea Junghaus is an art historian and contemporary art curator. She started in the position of executive director of the Berlin-based European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in September 2017. Previously, Junghaus was Research Fellow of the Working Group for Critical Theories at the Institute for Art History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2010-2017). She has researched and published extensively on the conjunctions of modern and contemporary art with critical theory, with particular reference to issues of cultural difference, colonialism, and minority representation. She is completing her PhD studies in

Cultural Theory at the Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest. In recognition of her curatorial activities, Junghaus received the Kairos – European Cultural Price from the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S., in 2008.

Her curatorial works include the Roma component of the Hidden Holocaust- exhibition in the Budapest Kunsthalle (2004), Paradise Lost – the First Roma Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Contemporary Art Biennale (2007), the Archive and Scholarly Conference on Roma Hip-hop (2010), The Romani Elders and the Public Intervention for the Unfinished Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered Under the National Socialist Regime in the frame of the 7th Berlin Biennale (2012), the (Re-)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance – exhibition and education program in Hellerau, Dresden (2015) and the Goethe Institute, Prague (2016). She is the curator of the Visual Art Section for RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma, funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes, (2015-2018). Junghaus was founding director of Gallery8 – Roma Contemporary Art Space (www.gallery8.org) in Budapest (2013-2017), the winner of the 2014 Catalyst Contemporary Art Award (of Tranzit Hungary) and the 2014 Otto Pankok Prize awarded by the For Roma Foundation of German writer and Literary Nobel Laureate, Günter Grass.

Mr Silas KROPF

Independent Commission Antigypsyism, Germany



Silas Kropf is a German Sinto and Member of the Independent Commission Antigypsyism at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. As a licensed Social Worker he guided Roma families through a myriad of systemic discourses. In addition to his main occupation in Organization and Business Consultancy, he is also a free-lancing Consultant for the Education and Advocacy in Civil Society. Mr. Kropf addresses the entrenched public and cultural discrimination, including institutional practices that constitute Antigypsyism. From 2014-2016 and from 2017-2019 he was vice chairman of Amaro Drom e.V., Germany's largest intercultural Roma youth organization. In this context, he was engaged in

several youth initiatives both on national and European levels. It is through his expertise and devotion that Mr. Kropf openly invites intercultural dialogue procuring thematic policies to eradicate the disadvantaged positions of many Roma and Sinti citizens.

PANEL 2: Promoting participation by empowerment and trust in the EU and beyond

Ms Katarína Mathernová

Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission



In September 2015, Katarína Mathernová assumed her function as Deputy Director General of DG NEAR, the Directorate General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations. She has previously served as Deputy Director General in DG Regional Policy where she was in charge of Cohesion Policy Coordination between 2007 and 2010.

Ms Mathernová has held senior management and advisory posts at the European Commission, the World Bank (2002-2004 and 2010-2014), and in the reform government in Slovakia (1998-2002) where she was Chief Institutional and Policy Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, key architect of the Slovak economy's transformation.

K. Mathernová holds a Juris Doctor degree from Comenius University in Bratislava, a Masters of Law degree from the University of Michigan, is a member of the New York Bar, and speaks six languages. She started her career in private practice of law in the US, with distinguished New York and Washington DC Law Firms. Her distinctions include the award Slovak Woman of the Year in 2000 and the Pro Bono Human Rights award in 1993 from the International Human Rights Law Group. She is a member of several Boards and the author of publications on Slovak and Czech economic and legal affairs.

Ms Livia JÁRÓKA MEP

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)



Livia Járóka was born on 6 October 1974, in Tata. After getting an MA in sociology from the Warsaw campus of the Central European University she went on to study anthropology in Britain. In 2012 she finished her PhD in Social Anthropology at the University College of London.

She is a Member of the European Parliament, first elected in 2004 and the first Romani woman ever elected to the EP. She was elected Vice-President of the EP on 15 November 2017 and was re-elected in that position on 3 July 2019. Recently she is Member of the Parliament's Bureau, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the Delegation for relations with

the Pan-African Parliament and substitute for the Special Committee on Beating Cancer. As vice-president she is the Chair of Audit Panel, Member of the WG on Buildings, Transport and Green Parliament, High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity, Chancellery of the European Citizen's Prize and replacing the President for Western Balkans.

During her work, she was the rapporteur of the report on the EU strategy on Roma inclusion in 2011, the report on gender aspects of the European Framework of National Roma Inclusion Strategies in 2013 and shadow rapporteur of the report on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies: combating negative attitudes towards people with Romani background in Europe in LIBE and also the rapporteur of the document in FEMM.

Ms Zita BRUŽAITĖ

Vice-Minister of Culture, Lithuania



Born in 1966 in Lithuania, Zita Bružaitė graduated from the Lithuanian Music Academy and worked as music teacher and lectured at the Faculty of Humanities at Kaunas University of Technology. Between 2012 and 2019 she was Docent of the Faculty at VMU Music Academy. From 2017 she was the Art and cultural project manager at Concert Institution "Kauno santaka" until 2020. In 2019, she won the Lithuanian National Culture and Art Award.

Ms Theresa Schopper

State Minister of Federal State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Photo: Staatsministerium Baden-Württemberg



State Minister Theresa Schopper is responsible for policy coordination in the Baden-Württemberg State Ministry. Theresa Schopper was born in 1961 in Füssen in the Allgäu and moved to Munich to study sociology, psychology and criminology at Ludwig Maximilian University. She was leader of the Green parliamentary party in the Bavarian parliament from 1988 to 1994. In the years 1994 to 2013, she was a member of the Bavarian parliament for 14 years. Her political priorities during her time as member of the Bavarian parliament were social and health policy

and environmental and agricultural policy.

Theresa Schopper was also regional chairperson of the Bavarian Green Party from 2003 to 2013. In 2014, she moved to the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg to lead the policy section, later becoming head of the Policy Department. She has been responsible for policy coordination in the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg since May 2016, initially as State Secretary, since October 2018 as State Minister. Theresa Schopper is an appointed member of the General Council of the Bavarian Catholic Academy and a member of the plenary assembly of the Diocesan Council of Catholics of the Archbishopric of Munich and Freising. In 2010, she was awarded the Bavarian State Medal for special services in health care and in 2012, she received the Bavarian Constitution silver medal.

Mr Daniel STRAUß

Chairperson of the State Association of German Sinti & Roma in Baden-Württemberg, Germany



Daniel Strauss, head of the Baden-Württemberg state branch of the Association of German Sinti and Roma, is also the author of several publications and exhibitions on antiziganism and on the history of the Sinti and Roma. He is also board member of the Gesellschaft für Antiziganismusforschung e.V. [Society for Antiziganism Research].

Ms Soraya POST

Board Member, European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network



Ms Post is a Swedish politician who was a member of European Parliament from Sweden. She is a member of the Feminist Initiative, part of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. Soraya Post is also the initiator of the EU Roma Week, a yearly event that takes place in Brussels in connection to the International Roma Day on 8 April. She is currently board member of ERGO Network.

Ms Marietta HERFORT

Director, PhirenAmenca International Network



Marietta Herfort is the director of the Phiren Amenca International Network, which is a network of Roma and non-Roma volunteers and voluntary service organizations. Marietta is currently responsible for the management, coordination and representation of the network. In the previous five years, her tasks were managing and coordinating activities including the organization's international mobility and educational programs on topics such as human rights, discrimination and antigypsyism, Roma history, democracy and youth policy, Roma history, the Roma Holocaust or resistance. Marietta is active in

human rights education and community organizing and working on building a dialogue between young people and decision-makers. Marietta holds a bachelor degree in literature and a degree on journalism. She was working in a news agency as a journalist for several years.

Ms Nesime SALIOSKA

Founder of Roma SOS, Winner of the 2019 Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans and Turkey, North Macedonia



Nesime Salioska is currently active as consultant, advocate and public speaker. Passionate on breaking taboos, especially around women, health, human rights and marginalized communities.

Established and lead a civil organization ROMA S.O.S. from 2007 till 2018 which was focused on legal empowerment of the Roma community, advocacy, strategic litigation, non-discrimination, fight against poverty and protection of women and children. First Prize winner for Republic of North Macedonia of the EU 2019 Award for Roma Integration in the Western Balkans & Turkey.

Throughout 2019 she was (1) acknowledged as one of the nine worldwide UNFPA real-life superheroes and entitled as the “Chain Breaker”, (2) co-presenter at a scholar event organized by Smith College, one of the largest women’s colleges in the United States, together with Oscar nominated film

maker and founder of Narrative Company, on transforming Roma Narratives through storytelling, (3) member of the International Steering Committee for the Nairobi Summit, organized by the governments of Kenya and Denmark and UNFPA, a high-level world conference to mobilize the political will and financial commitments centered around sexual and reproductive life of women and girls, (4) active board member of the International Roma Women Network “Phenjalipe”, (5) author of the chapter on “Roma integration” from North Macedonia for the Franet National contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2020.

Mr Dr Markus KERBER

State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, Germany



Since 2018, Dr Markus Kerber is State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community. Before, he worked for several years in the private sector as CEO and Director General of the Federation of German Industries. Between 2006 and 2011, he was employed in the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of Finance. He studied economics at the University of Hohenheim and the University of California in Los Angeles and has a doctorate in social sciences.

Ms Amanda LIND

Minister for Culture and Democracy (responsibility for Sport), Ministry for Culture and Democracy. Division for Discrimination Issues, Sweden



With studies in natural sciences and human rights, Amanda Lind has been the Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for Sport, since 2019. She is also a member of the Swedish Green Party, where she had been Party Secretary during 2016-2019. Before that, Ms Lind was member of the Härnösand Municipal Council (2011-2018) and chair of its Community Environment Committee (2011-2014). Further to studies in psychology, she worked until 2011 as registered psychologist in Västernorrland County Council.

PANEL 3: Monitoring and reporting to enable policy learning

Mr Michael O'FLAHERTY

Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)



Michael O'Flaherty is Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights since 2015. He is a former Professor of Human Rights at the University of Nottingham and the [National University of Ireland](#), Galway. From 2004 to 2012 he was a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, latterly as Vice-Chair, and he was principal drafter for the Human Rights Committee General Comment 34 on the Freedoms of Opinion and Expression. O'Flaherty has held a variety of other positions at the United Nations, both at headquarters and in the field, in which connection he witnessed, reported on, and sought to mitigate human rights abuses in such places as Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone. He has also served as Chief Commissioner of the Northern

Ireland Human Rights Commission, as Chairperson of the [Irish Penal Reform Trust](#), and as Vice-Chair of the [Universal Rights Group](#). A solicitor of the Irish Courts, O'Flaherty received his Doctor of Laws from the National University of Ireland and holds degrees in international relations, philosophy, and theology.

Mr Peter POLLÁK MEP

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)



Peter Pollák MEP (PhD) is a Slovak politician elected to the European Parliament as a member of the Ordinary people and Independent personalities (OLaNO) political party. In the national election in 2012, he was elected to the Slovak National Council as the first Deputy of Roma origin. Mr. Pollák has also served as the Slovak government Plenipotentiary for Roma communities. He has extensive knowledge on Roma realities from his time in government and

previously as a university teacher as well as a project manager in the non-governmental sector.

Ms Birgit VAN HOUT

Regional Representative for Europe, UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)



Birgit Van Hout is the Regional Representative for Europe leading the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe in Brussels since 2017.

Previously, she worked to advance human rights, the rule of law, democracy and equality in Guatemala, Timor Leste, Bosnia, Central Asia, Palestine, Venezuela and Togo with various departments of the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. She holds an LL.M., a M.A. in International Politics, and a postgraduate degree in International Human Rights Law.

Ms Sarita FRIMAN

National Roma Contact Point, Finland



Ms Friman is a Finnish researcher working as Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. She is the first doctor with a Roma background in Finland. She holds a Master's degree in social sciences from the University of Jyväskylä (2001), and has a major in political science with a thesis on political thinking and the identity of Finnish Roma.

Dr Susanne PFANNER

National Roma Contact Point, Austria



Susanne Pfanner worked as a human rights lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg before she joined the legal service of the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria in 2003. Between 2009 and 2011 she worked as an assistant to the Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency. Since 2013 she is head of the Austrian National Roma Contact Point's Office. In this capacity, she introduced and developed one of the first national Roma platforms in the EU. Since 2017 she also holds the position of head of department for national minority affairs. In this function, she is responsible for legal and financial matters regarding the six Austrian recognised

ethnic groups including autochthonous Roma.

Mr László ULICSKA

National Roma Contact Point, Hungary



László Ulicska graduated from the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy of Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest in 1995. He earned a PhD in social policy 2003. He is head of department of resources for social inclusion in the state secretariat for social inclusion in the ministry of the interior, earlier in the ministry of human capacities - representing for many years the national Roma contact point of Hungary.

Mr Bernard RORKE

Policy and Advocacy Manager, European Roma Rights Centre



Bernard Rorke was born in Dublin and lives in Budapest. He is Policy and Advocacy Manager for the European Roma Rights Centre. He has worked on Roma issues for 20 years. Since the launch of the EU Roma Framework in 2011, he has produced numerous reports, briefings and articles related to the process.

He has an MSc in Politics and Sociology from Birkbeck College, University of London, and a PhD in Political Theory from the Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Westminster, London. He is editor of ERRC News; Budapest correspondent for the anti-fascist Hope not Hate; a regular contributor to Open Democracy and Arti Gerçek, and is a frequent media contributor and commentator on

issues related to Roma exclusion, racism, and far-right politics.

Mr Rainer STOCKER

Desk Officer, Department for Research and General Policies, Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, Germany



Rainer Stocker is working as a desk officer in the Department for Research and General Policies at the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency (FADA) in Germany. The department conducts research on discrimination on grounds of the characteristics specified in the General Equal Treatment Act (Allgemeines Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, AGG). At FADA, his work is focused on projects and activities related to the collection and use of equality data and the measurability of discrimination. Before joining FADA, Rainer Stocker worked as a project manager at a survey institute for policy research. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Leiden University.

PANEL 4: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Roma

Ms Salla SAASTAMOINEN

*Acting Director-General, DG Justice & Consumers & Director for Civil and Commercial Justice
European Commission*



Salla Saastamoinen is currently acting Director General in Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers at the European Commission. At the same time, she is the Director for Civil and Commercial Justice, and since September 2018, she has supervised the horizontal work on economic analysis and evaluation as well as program and financial management of the Directorate-General. As director, Salla Saastamoinen is in charge of the development and consolidation of the European area of civil justice, in particular of civil procedural law, private international law, contract law and company law.

Salla Saastamoinen has worked in the European Commission since 1996, first in DG Environment and then in several areas in DG Justice and Consumers.

Before managing civil and commercial justice policy, she was Director in charge of Equality and Non-discrimination. Before joining the Commission, Salla Saastamoinen was a partner in a law office in Helsinki, Finland. She has a licentiate degree in law (post-graduate level) from the University of Helsinki, Finland, and post-graduate studies in law from the universities of Saarbrücken, Germany and Zürich, Switzerland. She is author of several books on environmental law and EU law.

Mr Călin-Ioan BOTA

State Secretary in Ministry of European Affairs, Romania



Before his current assignment, Mr Bota was county councillor and chief accountant at the Baia Mare Forestry Service. He also occupied a position of vice-mayor at the Baia Mare Town Hall and, previously, served for two mandates as municipal councillor (2008-2016). He is a graduate in Economics at the University of Oradea and holds a Master degree in Financial-Accounting and Legal Management of companies.

Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek

Director for Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe



Mr Schokkenbroek studied law at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands) where he lectured in Constitutional and Administrative Law until 1993. Other past functions in that period include President of the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists, representative of the ICJ with the Council of Europe and editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Human Rights Law Journal (NJCM-Bulletin).

Since 1993, he has held various functions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mostly in the field of Human Rights, including that of Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

In November 2010, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues. From October 2013 to February 2014, he also acted as Director ad interim of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation in the Directorate General of Democracy. He subsequently served as Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Ukraine until 1 July 2014, when he was appointed

Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

Since June 2018, Mr Schokkenbroek is Director of Anti-Discrimination in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe.

Mr Schokkenbroek has published various books and articles in the field of human rights and constitutional law.

Ms Tatiana HRUSTIČ

Director of Healthy Regions, Slovakia



Ms Hrustič is a graduate of the Faculty of Education of Comenius University, Bratislava. She has been working on Roma issues since 2005 within the Association for Culture, Education and Communication. Since 2007, she has been managing Healthy Regions Initiative to improve the health of the inhabitants of marginalised Roma communities in 68 localities. In 2012, she collaborated on the Roma Childhood Vaccination in Europe research project for Romani CRISS and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Since 2011, she has been working as Chief State Councillor at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak

Republic. She is a co-founding member of the platform for Health Promotion of Disadvantaged Groups and was one of the founders of the Association of Field Medical Assistants.

Ms Tjaša HERMAN

National Roma Contact Point, Slovenia



Ms Tjaša Herman holds a Master of Arts in International relations. She works as a senior adviser in the Office for National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which performs its duties also as a National Roma Contact Point. She is responsible for monitoring and regulating the protection of the rights of the Roma community at the national and international level. Thus, she is actively involved in the preparation of national strategic documents relating to the integration of Roma in the society, namely National Programme of Measures for Roma, and other

relevant national strategic documents, in which special attention is also devoted to the

vulnerable position of the Roma community members.

She regularly cooperates with the European Commission in the capacity of the National Roma Contact Point and coordinates the preparation of national reports submitted to the European Commission on the progress achieved in the area of Roma integration. She is a member of a project team, responsible for the implementation of the so-called National Roma Platform project, which aims to improve and further foster the cooperation of all relevant stakeholders at local level and between local and national level. She is a member of several Inter-ministerial working groups dealing with the protection of human rights, trafficking in human beings, preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and is involved in the work of many others as well. She participates in the preparation of state reports to the human rights monitoring mechanisms of international organisations such as United Nations and Council of Europe. She is strongly devoted to the improvement of the situation of Roma in Slovenia and elsewhere.

Mr Rafael SAAVEDRA RODRÍGUEZ

International Department, Deputy Direction for Advocacy, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain



Rafael Saavedra is currently working at International Department Deputy Direction for Advocacy at Fundación Secretariado Gitano. He is specialized in legal advising on Roma issues, Minorities rights, racism, xenophobia, hate crimes and others forms of intolerance, SDGs 2030 as well as drafting and evaluator of European projects. Experience working at NGOs at national and EU Level, EU Institutions (EP and EC) and International Organizations (UN OHCHR).

Mr Adriatik HASANTARI

Roma Active Albania, Vice-Chair ERGO Network



Adriatik Hasantari is the Director of Roma Active Albania; Vice Chair of ERGO Network, and ternYpe International Roma youth Network activist. He holds a university degree in Medicine; Involved in research and development policies for Roma inclusion; Coach and trainer on NGO management, projects development; 15 years of experience in community development projects with a focus on Roma empowerment.

Ms Merita XHAFAJ

General Director, General Directory of Social Policies, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Albania



Mrs. Merita Xhafaj is the General Director of Social Policies in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, since from the year 2013. She has graduated in Tirana University, for Finance on 1982 and holds a Master's Degree on Public Administration in the University of Tirana in collaboration with the University of Nebraska – Lincoln during the period of time 2003-2005. She has very good and updated skills on her position following the different qualification's programs on policy making, in a different USA and EU countries.

Mrs. Xhafaj is the National Roma Contact Point for Albania; she has been an active member of CAHROM in promoting and protecting the rights of Roma and Travellers in Council of Europe member states and fostering equal opportunities, diversity and social inclusion by fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism. From 2019, Mrs. Xhafaj is a member of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). Furthermore, Mrs. Xhafaj is the team leader on preparation of the numbers of reports and strategic documents for Albania

Ms Irena MOOZOVÁ

Director for Equality and Union Citizenship, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission



Ms Irena Moozová is a Director at the European Commission for Equality and Union Citizenship in its department for Justice (DG JUST). She is a Czech national and joined the Commission in 2006 as Head of EU Representation in Prague.

Between May 2010 and April 2017, she was heading the Unit in charge of supporting the Commission Representations, in the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM). From 1991 until 2006, she had been working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech and Slovak/Czech Republic in various management positions, such as Head of the Department of

Internal Administration (1993-1995), Deputy Director of the Department of the Human Rights (1999-2000) and as a team coordinator at the NATO Summit (2002). She had served as Czech Deputy Ambassador in Madrid (1995-1998), Deputy Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the OSCE in Vienna (2000-2004) and the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UNESCO in Paris (2004-2006).

Ms Moozová graduated at the Prague Charles University Faculty of Law and she has completed postgraduate studies at Diplomatic Academy in Madrid. She is married and has two daughters.

CLOSING REMARKS & THE WAY FORWARD

Mr Bernd FABRITIUS

Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities, Germany



Image source: Henning Schacht

Dr Bernd Fabritius was born on 14 May 1965 in Agnita in the Transylvanian region of Romania. He and his parents and siblings emigrated to the Federal Republic of Germany in 1984. After graduating from the Bavarian university of applied sciences for the public administration in Hof with a masters degree in social administration, he

was hired by the Free State of Bavaria as a civil servant in the regional insurance institution for Upper Bavaria. At the same time, he studied political science at the Bavarian School of Public Policy in Munich. After completing his studies there in 1991, he set up as a court-approved pension adviser (counsel for social legislation). From 1991 to 1994, he studied law at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and passed the first state examination in law; he passed the second state examination in law in 1996. He received a doctoral degree in European law of administrative procedure in 2003 in a collaboration between the University of Tübingen and the University of Sibiu in Romania and was admitted to the bar in Munich in 1997.

Dr Fabritius served as national chair of the German association of Transylvanian Saxons from 2007 to 2014. He served as vice president of the Federation of Expellees in Germany from 2010 to 2014, when he was elected president of the federation. Dr Fabritius has been the deputy state chair of the CSU Union of Expellees and Ethnic German Resettlers and a member of the national executive of the eastern and central German association of the CDU and CSU since 2010. He was a member of the German Bundestag from 2013 to 2017. At the suggestion of the Federal Minister of the Interior, on 11 April 2018 the Federal Cabinet appointed Dr Fabritius to serve as Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities.

Ms Sónia PEREIRA

High Commissioner for Migration, High Commission for Immigration and Cultural Dialogue, Portugal



Sónia Pereira is the High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal, thus assuming the role of President of the Management Board of the High Commission for Migration (ACM, I.P.). With a degree in economics, master in Migration studies and a PhD in geography, Ms. Pereira was responsible for coordinating the Government's Assistance Project for Refugee Resettlement at the country office in Portugal of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She has also collaborated with the International Labour Organization and, as a researcher, she has specialized in migration and migratory policies since 2002, focusing her research on human trafficking, labour

migration, socioeconomic inclusion and the artistic and political participation of migrants.

Mr M.A. STANKO BALUH

Acting Director of the Office for National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia



Stanko Baluh, MA. Presently Acting director of the Government Office for National Minorities of the Republic of Slovenia (director of the Office since 2006). In between, Mr Baluh was also a Head of the National Minorities Service within the Ministry of the interior. His mayor work as a director is management and coordinating work in the Office and different lay ministries. Throughout the years, he was a member in different working bodies at the International and National level, e.g. for the preparation of legislation in the field of the protection of the minorities. Working in the field of Minorities, he was also a member of different policy working groups that were solving complex issues regarding minorities. Since 2011, he has

also been member of different bodies within the Council of Europe.

Ms Věra JOUROVÁ

Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency



Věra Jourová is currently Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency and deals with democracy, rule of law, disinformation and media pluralism. From 2014 to 2019, she served as EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.

Mr Michael ROTH

Minister of State for Europe, Federal Foreign Office, Germany



Born in Heringen in 1970; Mr Roth is a graduate in political science in 1997 from the Goethe University Frankfurt, where he worked as a tutor and research assistant. From 2000 to 2002, he lectured at the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin. Member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) since 1987, with various roles in many committees within the party. Directly elected Member of the German Bundestag for Werra-Meißner – Hersfeld-Rotenburg since 1998. Spokesperson of the SPD Members of the Bundestag from Land Hesse from 2009 to 2014 and since 2017; SPD parliamentary group spokesperson on Europe from 2010 to 2013. Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office since December 2013 and Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation since 2014.