



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



Slovenian Presidency  
of the Council of the EU

**6<sup>th</sup> ENLARGEMENT DAY  
13 July 2021**

CVs of speakers

*Opening Session:*

**Dr Mark Speich**



- Chair of the CIVEX Commission at the European Committee of the Regions from 2020.
- Member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2018.
- Secretary of State for Federal, European and International Affairs in North Rhine-Westphalia and authorized representative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia at the federal government since 2017.
- Managing Director in Vodafone Institute for Society and Communications from 2011 to 2017.
- Director of Policy Planning at the CDU/CSU party at the German Bundestag from 2006 to 2008.
- Head of the Society and Politics department of the Herbert Quandt Foundation from 1999 to 2006.
- Member of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany (CDU) since 1991.

**Ambassador Iztok Jarc**



- Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the EU since November 2019.
- Ambassador of Slovenia to Serbia in 2019.
- Member of the Cabinet of the Slovenian Foreign Minister, Head of the Working Group for Real Estate in 2017-2018.
- Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the OECD from 2014 to 2017.
- Ambassador of Slovenia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 2008 to 2013.
- Chair of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council during Slovenia's first Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008.
- Minister of Agriculture of Slovenia from 2007 to 2008
- Ambassador of Slovenia to Israel from 2004 to 2007.
- State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia from 2001 to 2004.
- Chief Negotiator for Agriculture in the Core Negotiation Team for the Accession of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union in 2000.
- Head of the Division for European Integration and Economic Relations in the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Relations in 2000.
- Chief Advisor for Economic Affairs in the Mission of Slovenia to the EU in Brussels from 1996 to 2000.
- Negotiator for agreements on the establishment of a free-trade area with the countries of the former Yugoslavia, and the CEFTA and EFTA countries from 1993 to 1996.

***Thematic Session 1 – "The EU accession process and the role of local and regional authorities."***

*Moderated by Nenad Šebek, independent journalist and communication expert, Belgrade*

**Erwan Fouéré**



- Associate Senior Research Fellow at Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).
- Special Representative of the Irish Chairmanship of the OSCE with special responsibility for the Transdniestrian settlement process in 2012.
- EU Special Representative and Ambassador, Head of the Delegation in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from 2005 to 2011.
- Appointed as Head of Delegation in Slovenia in 2002 leading to accession.
- Appointed as Head of OSCE Section in Directorate General for External Relations in Brussels in 1998.
- Appointed as the first Head of Delegation in South Africa in 1994.
- Appointed as the first Head of EC Delegation in Mexico and Cuba in 1989.
- Appointed Deputy Head of Delegation at the Delegation of the EC for Latin America with headquarters in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1984.
- Worked in the Directorate General for the Environment with responsibility for negotiations on international environment conventions from 1979 to 1983.
- Worked in the Directorate General for External Relations with the focus on the East European countries and Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe from 1975 to 1979.

### **Dr Majlinda Bregu**



- Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council since 2019.
- Majlinda Bregu is the longest-serving Minister of European Integration in Albania.

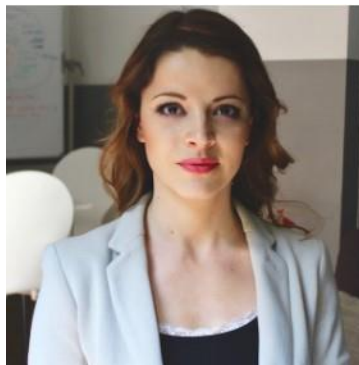
- Chair of the National Council for European Integration which is the highest consultative body on European Integration that promotes and guarantees the inclusive cooperation among political forces, public institutions and civil society from 2015 to 2018.
- Chair of the European Integration Committee of the Albanian Parliament from 2013 to 2018.
- Minister of European Integration, National IPA Coordinator and the Government Spokesperson from 2007 to September 2013.
- Elected as the president of the Albanian Parliamentary Delegation to the EU-Albania Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee in 2005.
- Member of Parliament of Albania from the Democratic Party (Centre Right) from 2005 to 2017.
- Appointed as the national coordinator of the first National Gender Institute established in Albania in 2004.

### **Wolfgang Nozar**



- Deputy Head of Unit, Strategy and Policy, DG NEAR, since 2016
- Team leader strategic partners and enlargement package, DG NEAR, 2012-2016
- Policy coordinator, Serbia unit, DG ELARG, 2007-2012
- Prosecutor at the Public Prosecution Service, Germany, 2004-2006

### **Milena Lazarević**



- Programme Director at European Policy Centre (CEP) based in Belgrade since 2011.

- Special Adviser to the Serbian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of public administration reform in 2014-2015.
- Local Consultant at OECD in 2014.
- Short Term Consultant in the World Bank in 2013 -2014.
- Expert at the ECORYS from 2011 to 2013.
- Project Manager of the Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in 2012.
- Evaluator, Business Friendly Certification of Municipalities, at the National Alliance for Local Economic Development from 2010 to 2012.
- Adviser at the Serbian Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government from 2007 to 2011.
- Consultant at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development from 2007 to 2009.

### **Antonio Ratković**



- First Vice-President of the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)
- President of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.
- Mayor of the City of Sombor, Serbia since 2020.
- Deputy Mayor of the City of Sombor in Serbia from 2016 to 2020.

***High-Level Panel – "Together towards a sustainable recovery in the enlargement countries."***

*Moderated by Dr Corina Stratulat, Head of European Politics and Institutions Programme,  
European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels*

### **Olivér Várhelyi**



- EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations and Member of the European Commission since 2019.
- Permanent Representative of Hungary, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from 2015 to 2019.
- Deputy Permanent Representative of Hungary, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from 2011 to 2015.
- Head of Unit responsible for Industrial Property Rights at European Commission Directorate-General Internal Market and Services from 2008 to 2011.
- Head of the European Union Law Department at the Ministry of Justice of Hungary from 2006 to 2008.
- Head of the Legal Service at Permanent Representation of the Republic of Hungary to the European Union from 2003 to 2006.
- Legal counsellor at Mission of the Republic of Hungary to the European Union from 2001 to 2003.
- Head of cabinet and Head of the Legal Unit in the Cabinet of the Deputy Head of the State Secretary for Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary from 1998 to 2001.
- Desk officer in the Department for EC Harmonization of the State Secretary for Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary from 1996 to 1998.
- Desk officer in the Department for EC Coordination and Harmonization of the Office for European Affairs at the Ministry for Industry and Trade of Hungary in 1996.

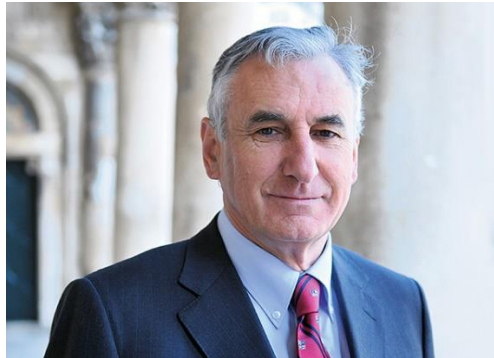
### **Gašper Dovžan**



- State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia since March 2020.
- Head of Department of the Directorate for EU Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia from October 2019 to March 2020.

- Diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia from August 2017 to October 2019.
- Deputy Head of Mission at Slovenian Embassy in Germany from 2013 to 2017.
- Director at the Office for Legislation of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in 2013.
- Advisor for International and European Affairs at the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia from 2012 to 2013.
- Diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia from 2010 to 2012.

### **Nikola Dobroslavić**



- Prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva County.
- CoR rapporteur on the Enlargement Package 2020.
- President of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion since 2015.
- Member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2013.
- Municipal prefect in the municipality of Dubrovačko primorje from 1997 to 2001 and from 2003 to 2009.
- Member of the municipal council in the municipality of Dubrovačko primorje from 1997 to 2009.

### ***Thematic Session 2 – "Green and digital transition for recovery and resilience: what cities and regions can do?"***

*Moderated by Ivana Dragičević, journalist, N1 television, Zagreb*

### **Elton Stafa**



- Team Leader of the EU for Municipalities Project Albania at the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) since June 2021.
- Short Term Decentralization Consultant at the World Bank from December 2020 to June 2021.
- Project Manager at the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) since 2017.
- Regional Fiscal Decentralisation Expert at the Centre for Public Administration Research in Vienna, Austria, since 2018.
- Regional Fiscal Decentralisation Consultant at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in 2018.
- Decentralization and Public Finance Expert at USAID Planning and Local Governance Project in Albania from 2015 to 2020.
- Municipal Finance Expert at the USAID Planning and Local Governance Project of the Co-Plan Institute for Habitat Development from 2015 to 2017.
- Expert at the Ministry of Finance of Albania from 2011 to 2015.

### **Dragana Sotirovski**



- The first woman Mayor of Niš (Serbia) since August 2020.
- Co-chair of the JCC Serbia at the European Committee of the Regions.
- Mediator of the Republic of Serbia since 2018
- Appointed as the Head of the Nišava Administrative District with its headquarters in Niš in December 2017.
- President of the Commission for Information of the Bulgarian National Council in Serbia from 2017 until the end of 2018.
- Member of the Local Anti-Corruption Forum Niš from 2015 to 2017.
- Editor of the TV Center in Niš from 2011 to December 2017.
- Correspondent for Radio Television Serbia – RTS from Niš from 1997 to 2011.
- Journalist reporter from 1993 to 1997.

### **Tunç Soyer**





- İzmir Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey) since 2019.
- Mayor of Seferihisar (Turkey) from 2009 to 2019. Implemented the international local-scale development model Cittaslow (Slow City).
- Appointed as the General Secretary of EXPO İzmir in 2006.
- Director of Foreign Relations of the İzmir Chamber of Commerce from 2004 to 2006.
- Consultant of the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Ahmet Piriştina on the obtainable financial resources of the European Union in 2003.
- In 1991 founded a holiday village in Seferihisar, Izmir.

### **Satu Haapanen**



- City councillor and Chair of the Education and Culture Board of the City of Oulu.
- Member of JCC North Macedonia and JCC Montenegro at the CoR.
- Member of the Finnish delegation to the Nordic Council and the advisory board of the Foreign Policy Institute.
- Member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2020.
- Member of the Finnish Parliament, The Greens party from the City of Oulu, from 2011 to 2015.
- Chair of the Oulu Region Green Women in 2010-2013 and 2016-2017.
- Deputy member of the City of Oulu Board from 2009 to 2012.
- Member of the Northern Ostrobothnia Association's Provincial Government from 2009 to 2011.
- Member of the City Council of Oulu from 2000 to 2004 and again since 2009.
- Chair of the Youth Affairs Committee and the Oulu Regional Council from 2000 to 2004.