



## Conference on Media Freedom in the OSCE Region

### *Strengthening media freedom for resilient and vibrant democracies in the digital age*

Palais Berg, Vienna, 22 November 2024

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#### **BIOGRAPHIES**

##### **Master of Ceremonies:**

##### ***Mr Keith Demicoli***

Multi-award-winning presenter and journalist. As one of Malta's most popular broadcasters, Mr Demicoli is best known for his role as the main news anchor of TVM news (national TV) from 2008 to 2021. During this time, he also served as a local correspondent for major international networks, including BBC, France24 and Euronews. He holds a Master's degree in European Law, Economics and Politics from the University of Malta and has trained at the BBC Academy in London and the USA. Over the past two decades, he has hosted or moderated many of Malta's most prominent national events and conferences. He is currently the producer and presenter of a weekly European Affairs TV programme, dot EU and has been actively involved in the European Youth Press.

##### **10:00 – 10:30 Opening Session**

##### ***Ambassador Natasha Meli Daudey***

Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Austria and Permanent Representative of Malta to the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), to the United Nations and to the International Organisations based in Vienna. She is the Chair of the Permanent Council of the OSCE throughout Malta's 2024 Chairpersonship of the Organization. Ms Meli Daudey is a career diplomat with over 20 years of experience in bilateral and multilateral affairs. Prior to her current appointment, Ms Meli Daudey served as Malta's Ambassador to Poland and non-resident Ambassador to Georgia, Moldova, Belarus and Armenia. In 2014, she was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, covering the Security Council. She previously served in the Embassy of Malta in France, and as Antici in the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union prior to and following Malta's accession. Ms Meli Daudey holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) International Relations from the University of Malta, and a Master's degree in European Politics and Administration from the College of Europe. Ms Meli Daudey speaks French and Italian, has good knowledge of German, and basic knowledge of Arabic, Spanish, and Polish.

##### ***Mr Christopher Cutajar***

Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta since June 2020. Mr Cutajar heads the administration and coordinates all the departments within the Ministry. He sits on the Governing Board of Administrators of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law since 2020. He holds an Honours Degree, which was then supplemented by an Executive Master in Business Administration, both from the University of Malta. In his younger days, Mr Cutajar was an activist within the civil society as the young leader of the General Workers' Union Youths, editor of a local journal, and financial officer of the executive committee of the National Youth Council. His career within the public administration started in 2011 in the role of Executive Secretary for Local Councils and for the national Local Councils' Association. In June 2016, he was appointed as Permanent Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital projects for a four-year term. He also served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Maritime Security Committee at that time. He was born in 1985 and is married with one son. Fluent in Maltese, English and Italian; also conversant in Spanish.

***Mr Zoran Dimitrovski***

Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Republic of North Macedonia since 23 July 2024. Zoran Dimitrovski is a professional journalist, having worked for 35 years for the main Macedonian print media. During his professional career, he was an editor in chief of three prominent Macedonian daily newspapers, *Nova Makedonija*, *Večer* and *Dnevnik*, as well as of the political weekly *Fokus*. He was a correspondent from Washington DC, for the Macedonian daily *Nova Makedonija* from 2001-2004. Mr Dimitrovski graduated in Journalism at the State university of St. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje in 1988 and holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the Central European University in Budapest since 1995. He teaches Critical Thinking and Analytical Writing at the Graduate Studies of Media Management and Management of Strategic Communication at the Institute of Communication Studies in Skopje. He has also taught Writing for Journalists and Investigative Journalism at the School of Journalism and Public relations from 2010-2015. He was an instructor at several professional trainings for Investigative Journalism, Story-telling Journalism, the phenomenon of Fake News and other professional trainings organized by inter alia the Association of Macedonian Journalists of Macedonia, the Institute of Communication Studies, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

***Ambassador Vesa Häkkinen***

Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE since September 2021. Before his current position, Mr Häkkinen served as Ambassador of Finland to Iraq, in Baghdad (2019–2021). He also served in Poland, Sweden and Russia. He was the Director for Current Affairs Communications in the MFA 2014–2019. Mr Häkkinen has worked for the Finnish Foreign Ministry since 1999. Before joining the Foreign Service, he worked as Secretary General in Finnish Alliance of Estonian Friendship NGOs and as freelance journalist. Mr Häkkinen graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1996 with a Master's degree in Political Science (Political History). His military rank is sergeant.

***Mr Philippe Tremblay***

Director of the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, previously Head of External Co-operation in the Office of the OSCE Secretary General. Prior to joining the OSCE in late 2018, he was a Canadian diplomat for 20 years, working abroad as Deputy Head of Mission and Acting Ambassador at the Embassy of Canada to Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, together with prior postings to Tokyo and New York. At Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa, he was Departmental Chief of Staff to two Foreign Affairs Ministers, Director of Planning in other government departments and fulfilled additional roles in the Protocol, Arms Control/Disarmament and Policy Planning Bureaus. Earlier in his career, he contributed to the mission of other international organizations, including UNODC, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Atlantic Treaty Association and multiple G7 and G20 Summits and Ministerial meetings. Mr Tremblay was the 2015-16 Canada Fellow at Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and holds degrees from Université Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and the Université de Montréal.

***Keynote speaker: Ms Carole Cadwalladr***

British author, investigative journalist, and features writer for the Observer and the Guardian. Ms Cadwalladr was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for National Reporting in 2019 for her investigation and coverage of Cambridge Analytica's role in Brexit. Her dedication in exposing a nexus of corruption that resulted in Mark Zuckerberg being called before Congress and exposing Cambridge Analytica's role in mass-harvesting data to influence polls (Brexit and Trump) goes far beyond the question of Remain or Leave. In April 2019, Ms Cadwalladr gave a TED talk, "Facebook's role in Brexit – and the threats to democracy", which led to worldwide acclaim, but also sparked a three-year long lawsuit that was won by Carole in June 2022. This case was one of several lawsuits brought against her and other leading journalists, motivated by powerful individuals and firms to tie up the press in expensive and time-consuming legal

defenses (so-called SLAPP suits). Also in 2019, Ms Cadwalladr was featured in the acclaimed Netflix documentary ‘The Great Hack’– a Bafta nominated film, which explored the Facebook–Cambridge Analytica data scandal, produced and directed by Jehane Noujaim and Karim Amer. Ms Cadwalladr has won other awards, including the British Journalism Awards: Technology Journalism Award in December 2017 and The Orwell Prize for political journalism in 2018. She is the author of ‘The Family Tree’, published in 2006 and was shortlisted for the 2006 Commonwealth Writers Prize.

**10:30 – 12:30    *Session I: Strategies and partnerships to promote a safe and enabling environment for the media***

***Ms Beata Balogová***

Editor-in-chief of SME, a major daily and news site in Slovakia. Prior to joining SME, between 2003 and 2014, Ms Balogová served as editor-in-chief of Slovakia’s English-language weekly *The Slovak Spectator*. She graduated from the School of Journalism of Columbia University in New York and was also a Fulbright scholar appointed to the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri Columbia in 1994. An ethnic Hungarian living in Slovakia, Ms Balogová writes columns and commentaries on politics, societal changes, populism, and human rights. She is the author of *Cornelias* (Kornélie), an autobiographic novel released in 2022, (translated to Polish, Serbian and Hungarian) and *The Book Full of People* (Kniha plná ľudí), a non-fiction book. In the past, she also served as a member and deputy chairwoman of the International Press Institute executive board. Ms Balogová was awarded the European Press Prize Opinion award for 2020. She also received three national journalism awards in Slovakia.

***Mr Matthew Caruana Galizia***

Co-founder and director of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, based in Malta. He was formerly at the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and a software developer at the Financial Times. The Foundation’s main objective is full justice for Daphne who was assassinated while investigating high-level government corruption.

***Ms Anastasiia Stanko***

Ukrainian journalist and TV presenter. In 2013, she co-founded the independent media channel, Hromadske, registered as NGO. Since the early days of the Maidan Revolution, Ms Stanko covered the protests in Kiev. She previously worked for the national TV channels *Pershiy* and *TVI*. In March 2014, she covered the so-called referendum and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Two months later, she became a war correspondent, reporting on the conflict that began in the Donbass area of Ukraine. In June 2014, Ms Stanko and her cameraman were taken hostage by the so-called Luhansk People’s Republic and held in the basement of a building in Luhansk city. They were freed two days later. Ms Stanko authored various video reports and articles about the war, with a focus on civilians living in and around the conflict zone. She started a project called “Hromadske.East”, focusing on the stories around the conflict. She also authored several investigations about the mass shooting on Maidan Square in early 2014, which feature interviews with the police’s special forces unit, charged with killing unarmed protesters. These works led to Ms Stanko winning the main prize at the 2016 Mezhyhirya Festival and being a finalist at another journalist competition. Ms Stanko continues to report on human rights violations by the police and Ukraine’s Security Service in the conflict zone. One of her latest documentaries, “The Secret Compound”, is about people illegally detained by Ukraine’s Security Service. In 2018, she received the International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists. In 2019, she was awarded by the International Women Media Foundation for courage in journalism. In 2020-2021, she was editor in chief of Hromadske. From the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion, Ms Stanko again became a war correspondent and went back to the front line. Since 2023, she is the editor in chief of the investigative agency Slidstvo.info.

***Mr Tom Gibson***

EU Representative and Advocacy Manager. Tom Gibson joined the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in January 2017 and is CPJ's lead advocate in Brussels covering the institutions of the European Union. He works to strengthen the EU's positions on press freedom, domestically and internationally. Between 2014 and 2016, Mr Gibson managed Protection International's Burundi and Congo desks, advocating for stronger state accountability for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists as well as developing emergency responses and protection measures. Previously, he worked in Amnesty International's Africa program from 2005 to 2014, based in London and Nairobi, during which he mainly researched human rights violations in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

**Moderation: Mr Ton van den Brandt**

Former Principal Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. Ton van den Brandt holds university degrees in Dutch law, in International Law (*Cum Laude*) and in Journalism (*With Merit*). He worked as a journalist for a national newspaper and a weekly magazine and is the published and awarded author of two journalistic books. He continued his career as ad interim legal adviser with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the Netherlands Red Cross, before taking up a position as senior political adviser with Amnesty International. Before moving to the OSCE in Vienna, Mr van den Brandt led and managed the Communications Department of the Amsterdam District Court of Law. In his free time, he chaired the Dutch branch of the International Commission of Jurists (Nederlands Juristen Comité voor de Mensenrechten, NJCM) and was a member of the Supervisory Board of the Netherlands Helsinki Committee.

**13:30 – 15:00      Session II: Availability and accessibility of public interest information: how to create healthy online information spaces**

***Dr Paolo Cavaliere***

Senior Lecturer in Digital Media and IT Law at the University of Edinburgh Law School, where he researches and teaches in the fields of media law, freedom of expression and digital human rights at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. He is currently a co-director of SCRIPT, a law and technology research centre based in the School of Law within the University of Edinburgh, and a research associate at the University of Oxford's Programme in Comparative Media Law and Policy. Further to his academic activity, Paolo has been admitted to the Bar in Italy (non-practising) and he regularly provides expertise on media law and fundamental rights to a range of NGOs and international organisations, including the Council of Europe and the OSCE, among others.

***Mr Luboš Kukliš***

Expert on media regulation and online governance. Member of the Digital Services Act Enforcement Team, European Commission (DG Connect). From 2006 to 2022, Mr Kukliš was the Chief Executive of the Slovak Media Authority. In 2021-2022, he served as Chair of the European Platform of Regulatory Authorities (EPRA). In 2018-2019, he was Chair of the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) and until the end of 2022 he led ERGA's work on disinformation.

***Ms Trish Shaw***

CEO and Founder of Beyond Reach Consulting Ltd based in the UK, advising on policy, the design and implementation of bespoke ethical governance frameworks, and providing expert advisory and curation services for Data and Ethics Advisory Boards in the field of AI. Ms Trish has over 20 years experience providing legal, regulatory, government affairs, and risk management advice in the Data, Technology,

and Financial Services sectors. Having spent many years as an in-house lawyer for a global FTSE data company, she is registered as a solicitor both in England and Wales, and the Republic of Ireland.

***Mr Herman Grech***

Award-winning journalist, editor, and playwright with over 27 years of experience in covering both local and European affairs. As Chief Editor of *Times of Malta* for almost six years, he has overseen the unprecedented growth in online readership. A passionate advocate for media freedom, human rights, and the fight against disinformation, Herman Grech has been a vocal leader in promoting ethical journalism. In addition to journalism, he is a co-founding member of PEN Malta and a theatre director. His latest award-winning play *They Blew Her Up*, which he wrote and produced, explores the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

**Moderation: Ms Deniz Wagner**

Adviser to the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, leading the office's work on media freedom, democracy and security. Deniz led the OSCE's first project on Artificial Intelligence and Freedom of Expression, was rapporteur to the OSCE Advisory Group of Eminent Experts on Freedom of the Media, and co-author of the report 'Can there be Security without Media Freedom?'. She has steered projects establishing independent oversight bodies for the media industry, supported legal reform to enhance media pluralism in Europe, and developed human rights-based guidance to addressing disinformation in the digital age. Previously, Deniz worked in strategic communications and was a Senior Adviser for Human Rights at the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

**15:30 – 17:00 Session III: Youth, information, and the future of media**

***Mr Alexandru Ghetan***

Project Manager at the Youth Media Centre NGO, *Centrul Media pentru Tineri*, in Chisinau, Moldova. Mr Ghetan is project manager for the Media Literacy Program and trainer for activities, training, and workshops for the local communities, focusing on youth empowerment for network mediation. He is also a content creator/producer for the media literacy column, as well as producer of the sitcom "Alone at home" on media literacy. Formerly, from 2016 until 2021, he was a radio presenter and editor for TeleRadio Moldova Company (Radio Moldova Youth) in Chisinau and from 2019 to 2021, Lector Assistant at the Faculty of History and Philosophy at the Moldova State University in Chisinau.

***Dr Nina Shengelia***

UK-qualified lawyer with an LLB from King's College London, an LLM from BPP University, and a PhD in Law from Caucasus International University. Dr. Shengelia is currently based in Tbilisi, Georgia. She combines her knowledge in academics, legal practice and media literacy, with a particular emphasis on disinformation. Her experience spans over 10 years in various NGOs and governmental bodies, including media regulator, Communications Commission and the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. Her wide-ranging research interests include data privacy, content moderation, DSA, hate speech, disinformation, online safety, human rights, media freedom and platform governance. Dr. Shengelia has proven her dedication to developing innovative policies and institutions that could serve as example, particularly within the changing landscape of technology and social media platforms. She has brought together respected worldwide legal scholars as the visionary founder of the Social Media Council, providing a forum committed to influencing policy conversations and choices in the domain of legal technology. Her extensive worldwide experience, together with her substantial contributions to legal studies, demonstrates her commitment to policymaking in the ever-changing technological context. Dr.

Shengelia is the awardee of the prestigious Policy Leader Fellowship (Topic: Disinformation, Online Platforms and Human Rights) from the Florence School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute. She is also a member of the IMS High-Level Group of Experts for Resilience Building in Eastern Europe, working on recommendations for tailored implementation of DSA-inspired legislation in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Her extensive knowledge contributes not only to debates but also to the development of co-regulatory regime of digital platforms that define the landscape of platform governance. Since 2020, Dr. Shengelia is a lecturer of Media law, Disinformation and Human Rights at Tbilisi State University.

***Moderation: Prof. Alex Grech***

Strategist, change consultant and academic. Over more than 30 years, he has worked with multinationals, governments, NGOs and startups in sectors ranging from ICT, telecoms and neuroscience to culture, education and public policy. Following an early career in multinationals, Alex Grech has advised organisations including the European Commission, ILO, UNESCO, the Mastercard Foundation and the Research Institutes of Sweden. He is the founding Executive Director of the 3CL Foundation, a knowledge hub for a global network of institutions and educators interested in the rapid deployment of EdTech programmes based on action research, advocacy and praxis. Mr Grech is an Associate Professor at the University of Malta within the Faculty of Media & Knowledge Sciences, with research interests in information literacies, 21st century skills, blockchain & self-sovereign identity, social media and power. He holds a PhD in Internet Computing from the University of Hull and is a Chartered Accountant by profession.