

**OSCE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION
(INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS YOUTH EDUCATION ON
TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION)**

Tirana, 21 and 22 May 2013

Biographies of Moderators and Speakers

**Opening plenary session: Combating intolerance and discrimination in the OSCE area.
Implementation of the relevant OSCE commitments**

H.E. Mr. Aldo Bumçi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania

Mr. Bumçi was appointed as a Minister of Foreign Affairs in April 2013. Previously he served as Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports (2011 – 2013) and the country's Minister of Justice in the government of Prime Minister Sali Berisha. He holds a degree in international relations from the Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta and Bilkent University in Ankara. Mr. Bumçi is a fellow of the Open Society Institution (SOROS) conducting research on “Cross-border relations between Albania and Montenegro”. Mr. Bumçi is an author of numerous articles and publications including “Regional perspectives for an independent Kosovo-Albania and Macedonia”, “Albania in search of security”, “Macedonia and Albania: Borders of ethnic policy”.

H.E. Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk, Chairperson of the Permanent Council

Ambassador Ihor Prokopchuk is currently Chairperson of the Permanent Council. He is a career diplomat who joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 1992. In 1997-1998, Ambassador Prokopchuk was appointed Adviser of the President of the 52th UN General Assembly. From 2004 to 2008, Ambassador Prokopchuk served successively as Director of the Third Territorial Department, Deputy Director-General of the Second Territorial Directorate and Director-General of the Fourth Territorial Directorate (Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, South Caucasus and Turkey). In 2008 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania. In 2010 he was appointed as Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna. He graduated in 1992 from Kyiv State University.

H.E. Ambassador Adam Kobieracki, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

Ambassador Adam Kobieracki currently serves as Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (appointed in June 2011) and Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat. He is a Polish career diplomat, specializing in international security and arms control. He was Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE and UN in Vienna 1997-2000. In the years 2001-2003 and 2008-2011, he was Director of the Security Policy Department in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2003 to 2007 he was NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations. He graduated in 1982 from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

Mr. Douglas Wake, First Deputy Director, ODIHR

Mr. Douglas Wake has been ODIHR's First Deputy Director since July 2009. Before assuming this position, Mr. Wake served as a senior Foreign Service officer for the United States Department of State. He focused much of his diplomatic career on European security, human rights, transition processes in Central Europe and Eurasia, post-conflict stabilization, and multilateral organizations. His experience with the Helsinki process began as a member of the U.S. delegation to the Vienna follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation (CSCE) in the 1980s. He subsequently served as OSCE co-ordinator in the U.S. Department of State (from 2003 to 2004) and as deputy head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro (from 2004 to 2006). He also served in Washington, Stockholm, New York, Leningrad, Rangoon, Riga, and Moscow.

Mr. Roberto Battelli, OSCE PA Treasurer and Special Representative on South East Europe

Roberto Battelli was elected Treasurer of the Assembly at the Vilnius Annual Session in 2009 and was re-elected in 2011. Since becoming a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in 1992, Mr. Battelli has been particularly active in election observation. He has observed 19 elections across the OSCE area, and has served as head of the OSCE PA delegation and as Special Co-ordinator of the OSCE short-term observers in Serbia, Montenegro, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Battelli has been active in the Democracy Team for Moldova, the Sub-committee on Rules of Procedure, and the Sub-committee on Transparency and Accountability. In addition to serving as Treasurer, he is also currently the OSCE PA's Special Representative on South East Europe, a position he has held since 2006. Mr. Battelli has been a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia since 1990, where he is a member of the parliamentary expert group responsible for drafting the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia.

Plenary session 1: Combating intolerance and discrimination against any person, including racism, xenophobia and aggressive nationalism, in accordance with the existing OSCE commitments

H.E. Ambassador Francois Zimeray, French Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights

Ambassador Zimeray was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights in February 2008. He has been the first non-career diplomat to hold this position since its creation. He was elected to present France's [Universal Periodic Review](#) (UPR) at the [Human Rights Council](#) in 2008, as well as to represent France to the [Alliance of Civilizations](#). Ambassador Zimeray was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004 and a member of the Foreign Affairs & Defense Policy Committee. During his mandate, he participated in drafting the Charter of Fundamental Rights. As Ambassador in charge of Holocaust issues, Ambassador Zimeray has launched initiatives to raise awareness about contemporary anti-Semitism. Ambassador Zimeray is a trained lawyer who represented plaintiffs before the [European Court of Human Rights](#) and has a proven track record in supporting civil society initiatives to promote and protect human rights.

Mr. Dennis van der Veur, Head of Sector Equality, Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Before joining the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), Mr. van der Veur served as an Adviser to the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights and as a Monitoring Officer at the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). His areas of expertise include equality, hate crime, civil society, and networking as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. He has written articles, inter alia, on hate crime against LGBT persons and the policy response of international organizations. He has postgraduate degrees in educational sciences, University of Amsterdam and Human Rights/Democratisation, European Inter University Centre, Venice.

Ms. Saodat Olimova, Head of the Public Opinion Department, SHARQ, Tajikistan

Ms. Olimova is an Associate in the al-Farabi Carnegie Program on Central Asia and Head of the Public Opinion Department at the Sharq Research Center in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. She is an internationally recognized expert on labour migration, Islam and society, and political and social issues in Central Asia. Ms. Olimova holds a Ph.D. degree from the USSR Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy. Before she joined the Sharq Research Center, Ms. Olimova was the Department Head and a Senior Researcher at the Tajik Academy of Sciences' Institute of World Economy and International Relations.

Mr. Valery Engel, Vice-President, International Human Rights Movement "World Without Nazism"

Mr. Engel graduated in history from the Moscow State Pedagogical and received his degree as a teacher of history, social sciences and law. He holds a Ph.D. degree from the Institute of Universal History of the Russian Academy of Science on the "Jewish Question in the Russian-American relations since the end of the 19th. - beginning of 20 centuries". Mr. Engel is an expert on human rights in international relations, as well as on Jewish history. For many years Mr. Engel has been an active member of the Jewish democratic movement. In October 1987 he initiated the creation of the Jewish Historical Society. Mr. Engel was also a president of the Association of Jewish Studies and Jewish Culture of the USSR, a vice-president of the Congress of the National Organizations of Russia, and a member of the Advisory Council on National-Cultural Autonomy of the Russian Government. He is an honorary doctor of the Department of Hebraic University of Sorbonne in Paris. From June 2010 Mr. Engel is a vice-chairman of the International Human Rights Movement "World Without Nazism".

Plenary session 2: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions

Ambassador Tetiana Izhevskaya, Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson in-Office on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, also Focusing on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions

Ambassador Izhevskaya has been in the diplomatic service since 1990. She is currently Ambassador of Ukraine to the Holy See and to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. She was previously Director-General for Cultural and Humanitarian Co-operation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has been involved in activities related to gender issues, national minorities, interethnic and inter-religious dialogue. She was a member of the Bureau of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Culture, a member of the Committee on Equality, Vice President of the National Commission for UNESCO and general rapporteur for numerous

international conferences. Ambassador Izhevskaya has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX and the Order of Princess Olha.

Mr. Jehangir Sarosh, Inter-faith representative of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Mr. Sarosh is an Inter-faith representative of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (The principal body of the Zoroastrian community in Europe) and the World Zoroastrian Organisation. He has written internationally published papers on various subjects including Globalisation: Responsibility of Religions, Role of Media and Religions and is regularly invited to participate in regional and international meetings. He is a Zoroastrian, and has been President of the World Conference of Religion and Peace (Europe Region). He has also held the Co-chair of the Week of Prayer for World Peace and was an Executive Member of the Inter-Faith Network for United Kingdom (1994 – 2006) and the Chairman of the Watford Inter-faith Association (1975 – 1984 and 2003 – 2005). He is a former Executive Member of the World Congress of Faiths.

Dr. Gudrun Kugler, Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians

Dr. Kugler is the founder of the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination Against Christians. In this function Mrs. Kugler is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform Advisory Panel of the EU FRA. She was a Director of World Youth Alliance - Europe in Brussels and a co-founder of Kairos Consulting for Non Profit Initiatives in Vienna. Dr. Gudrun Kugler majored in Law, Women's Studies as well as Theological Studies on Marriage and the Family. She holds a Ph.D. in International Law. She worked as an Adjunct Professor at the International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Vienna.

Plenary session 3: Combating anti-Semitism

H.E. Ms. Edith Harxhi, Deputy Foreign Minister of Albania

Ms. Harxhi was appointed as a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania in 2005. Since then she covers bilateral diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy, regional affairs, international treaties, relations of the Republic of Albania and EU integration, and management of the Albanian diplomatic corp. Previously Ms Harxhi served as security policy advisor to the Kosovo¹ Prime Ministers. She established the Office for Public Safety as well as prepared the strategy of the transfer of competencies in the security sector on behalf of the Kosovo Government. She is presently writing her Ph. D. thesis on “The Ethnic Conflicts and the Albanian Disorder in the Balkans”. Ms. Harxhi is author of the publication “An Invitation to Albania”, an overview of Albania’s Economy and Resources.

Dr. Mario Silva, Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, former Chair of the Enquiry Panel of the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Antisemitism

Dr. Silva is a legal scholar and a former Canadian politician. Dr. Silva served as a Canadian Member of Parliament from 2004 to 2011. He holds a B.A. degree in political science from the University of Toronto, a "Certificat de Langue Francaise" from Paris-Sorbonne University, and a Master's degree in International Human Rights Law from University of Oxford. Dr. Silva holds a Ph.D. in the Faculty of Law at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He was appointed to chair the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2013. He also serves

¹ All references to Kosovo are consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to status

as the Honorary Chair of the International Forum of Rights and Security (IFFRAS). Dr. Silva chaired the inquiry panel of the Canadian Parliamentary Coalition to Combat Antisemitism (CPCCA), a multi-partisan group of MPs which has investigated the issue of anti-Semitism. He is a Vice-Chair of the CPCCA's Steering Committee, which organized an international conference on anti-Semitism in Ottawa in 2010.

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism

Rabbi Andrew Baker is director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee (AJC), which he joined in 1979. In January 2009 he was appointed the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chair-in Office on Combating Anti-Semitism. A leading expert on anti-Semitism in Europe, he travels extensively to strengthen relations between the AJC and Jewish communities worldwide. Throughout most of the 1990s, as director of European Affairs, Rabbi Baker promoted tolerance in the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. He is active in Holocaust restitution issues and in 2003 was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit by Germany for his work in German-Jewish relations.

Plenary session 4: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims

H.E. Ambassador Tacan Ildem, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE

Ambassador Ildem was appointed as Permanent Representative of Turkey to OSCE in 2011. Previously, he occupied a post of the Director General for International Security Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Second Secretary at the NATO Department in 1978. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Science of Ankara University.

Ms. Engy Abdelkader, ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief

Ms. Engy Abdelkader serves as a member of ODIHR's Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Since 2011, she has been the Vice President of 'Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights'. She conducts research and provides expert analysis on Muslims, Muslim women, post 9/11 civil rights and Islamic Law for the Institute of Social Policy and Understanding in Washington D.C. Between 2008 and 2012, Ms. Abdelkader was a Board Member of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. In this role, she organized seminars on post-9/11 bias-based bullying, attended by state and federal government officials. For a short period in 2004, she was the Director of Civil Rights at the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Mr. Veysel Filiz, Spokesperson, European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion

Mr. Filiz joined civil society in 1992 in France through the "Conseil de la Jeunesse Pluriculturelle" (COJEP) 's activities and worked during many years as human right activist. He is a graduate from the University of Strasbourg on Turkish and anthropology studies. Since 2010, Mr. Filiz is the Spokesperson of European Muslim Initiative for Social Cohesion (EMISCO), which is an international NGO based in Strasbourg and mainly focused on intolerance and discrimination, especially Islamophobia in Europe. His expertise on issues of multiculturalism, minority rights, citizenship and around Islamophobia is recognized by many organizations across Europe. After completing a three-year term as Vice-President of the Civil Society and Democracy Committee of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Mr. Filiz is its current Rapporteur.

Plenary session 5: The role of human rights youth education in promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity in accordance with the existing OSCE commitments

Ms. Floriane Hohenberg, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR

Floriane Hohenberg has been working for ODIHR since 2005. She has acted as the Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department since 2009. From 2000 until 2004 she was the Head of the Representation in Germany of the French Commission for the Victims of Spoliation Resulting from the Anti-Semitic Legislation in Force during the Occupation. She co-authored a study commissioned by the French government on the extent of the confiscation of Jewish assets in France during World War II published in 1999.

H.E. Mr. Yevhen Sulima, First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine

Mr. Sulima is the First Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine since 2010. Previously to this position, Mr. Sulima served as a Deputy Head of the Verkhovna Rada Secretariat in questions of budgeting. In 2004 he acquired Ph.D on the topic of "Global Social Order of Postindustrialization". Mr. Sulima is an author of a series of research works, editor and co-author of the Globalistics and Political Philosophy textbook for students of higher educational establishments. He is also a Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine since 2010, and a member of the Supervisory Board of National University of Mines since 2011.

H.E. Myqerem Tafaj - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science of Albania

Mr. Tafaj was appointed as a Minister of Education and Science in 2009. In the course of 2005-2009, he served as an Advisor of Education and Science to the Prime Minister, holding also the post of Secretary General of the Council of Ministers during 2006-2007. In the framework of the Stability Pact and the European Union's PHARE program, he was selected as an expert on education policy in the Balkans. Mr. Tafaj is also a member of the "Albanian Humboldt Association League", Chairman of the Council of Higher Education and Science, Chairman of the Assessment Commission of Academic Titles. He also has been Chairman of the Experts Group on Reform of Scientific Research System.

H.E. Ambassador Blanka Jamnišek, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organisations in Vienna

Ambassador Blanka Jamnišek, M.A. graduated in Psychology at the University of Ljubljana and completed her Master of Arts Degree in International Politics in Brussels at the "Centre Européen de Recherches Internationales et Stratégiques". In 1994 she held the post of the Head of Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Defense. In 1996 she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dealing with bilateral relations with the US, Canada, UK and Ireland. Later, Ms. Jamnišek led the Department of OSCE and Council of Europe. In 2011 she was appointed as Ambassador – Permanent Representative at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to UN, OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna. She is the author of the publication "OUR RIGHTS" – a human rights education tool for children, which was implemented during the Slovenian OSCE Chairmanship in 2005 and is still being used.

Plenary session 6: The role of political leadership, legislation, law enforcement, data collection, and civil society in combating and preventing intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes

Mr. Michael Schmunk, Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

Previously to his current position as Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE in Vienna, Mr. Schmunk was Special Representative of the German Foreign Office and Ambassador-at-Large for Foreign and Security Policy Related Cooperation with Universities, Foundations and Think Tanks. He is the author of numerous publications and research regarding peace-, state- and nation-building; genocide and reconciliation; “protracted” territorial conflicts in the OSCE area; civil-military cooperation in post-conflict situations; Germany’s civil and military role in multilateral stabilization and reconstruction operations. Mr. Schmunk holds University Degrees in Law and Political Science. He started his career as a teaching and research fellow at the Political Science Department of the University of Bonn.

H.E. Ambassador Harald Neple, Special Envoy for Minorities, Section for Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Ambassador Harald Neple holds a degree from the Norwegian School of Business and Administration. With a background from the Ministry of Trade and Shipping, Mr. Neple joined Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1977. He has held various positions in the Foreign Ministry and at embassies over the years, mainly focusing on trade issues and policies. From 2002-2006, Mr. Neple was director General in the Department for Trade Policy, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the period 2006-11 Mr. Neple was Norway’s Ambassador to the OECD, IEA and UNESCO in Paris. Mr. Neple served as Norway’s lead negotiator during the Rio +20 negotiations during the spring of 2012. Mr. Neple is currently Norway’s Special Envoy for Minorities, leading Norway’s Minority Project from the Ministry’s Section for Human Rights and Democracy.

Mr. Paul LeGendre, Director, Fighting Discrimination Programme, Human Rights First

As Director of the Fighting Discrimination Program, Paul LeGendre leads Human Rights First’s effort to combat discrimination by reversing the tide of anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant, homophobic, and anti-Muslim violence and reducing other bias crime in Europe, the Russian Federation, and North America through research, analysis, and advocacy. Prior to joining Human Rights First, he worked for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as Program Officer, providing staff support to the Assembly’s work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and to its General Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions. Mr. LeGendre also worked for the International League for Human Rights as Europe Program Coordinator, for the Committee to Protect Journalists as the Acting Program Coordinator for Europe, and for CAF-Russia, a Russian non-profit resource center, as Director of Publications. He has a B.A. in History from Boston College (1993) as well as a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University (2000).