

CONFERENCE “EU ENLARGEMENT AND EXTERNAL GOVERNANCE: GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES, POLICY RESPONSES, AND LEGAL APPROACHES”

Unfolding the Current Status of EU Enlargement with a Focus on Western Balkans



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



Kosovo Embassy
The Hague



Introductory Remarks and Moderation

Dr. Zamira Xhaferri is a Lecturer of European Law, the Jean Monnet Coordinator “Enlargeu” and “European Climate Imaginaries” at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Amsterdam, and a research affiliate with the Rule of Law Working Group of the Democracy Institute at the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. She has previously been a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute in Hamburg, a research fellow at the Institute for European Integration in Hamburg and a visiting scholar at the University of Würzburg. She is an editorial board member of the European Journal of Risk Regulation (Cambridge University Press). She holds a PhD degree in European Law from Maastricht University.



Speakers



Mr. Saïd Fazili is the Director for European Integration at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his previous roles, he served as European Union adviser at the Prime Minister's Office at the Ministry of General Affairs and Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the Dutch MFA. Before that, he served for four years as Antici at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union. He previously held various other positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Head of the Migration Task Force and Policy Coordinator at the European Integration Directorate.

Ms. Marie-Charlotte van Lamsweerde has worked as a Civil Servant in the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) since 2011. A lawyer by training, she is currently a Senior Administrator, working on EU internal reforms in view of a future enlargement (DG for General and Institutional Policy). In other functions, she worked as a member of the Common Secretariat of the Conference on the Future of Europe (2021-2022), on interinstitutional relations and health policy. From 2001 to 2011, she was an official at the European Commission.



Mr. Maarten Lemstra is a Press & Strategic Communication Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST). As part of the Strategic Coordination and Communication unit at DG ENEST, he works on communication and outreach and engagement activities related to EU enlargement, both horizontally and with a focus on the Western Balkans. Before this, he also worked at the strategic advisory firm Global Counsel, where he conducted research on EU policy and political developments, and he was also a research assistant at the EU & Global Affairs unit of the Clingendael Institute, where he focused on EU external affairs. He holds a double MA/MSc in European Governance from the Universities of Utrecht and Konstanz as well as a BA in International Relations and International Organisation from the University of Groningen.

Mr. Wouter Zweers is a Research Fellow at Clingendael's EU & Global Affairs Unit, focusing on the external dimension of EU policymaking, particularly EU enlargement and the European Neighborhood Policy. He coordinates the 'Balkan Hub' project and serves as secretary of the Russia and Eastern Europe Knowledge Alliance (REKA), aiming to strengthen expertise on the region in the Netherlands. Wouter has authored numerous publications on EU-related issues and frequently appears in Dutch and international media.



Prof. Dr. Hylke Dijkstra is a Professor of International Security and Cooperation at Maastricht University. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Contemporary Security Policy, and a member of the Board of the Dutch Political Science Association, and the Advisory Council of the Netherlands Institute of Governance. He has received six large EU grants. Notably, he was the Principal Investigator of an ERC research project (2019-2024) on the decline and death of international organizations. He is the winner of the 2008 prize for best article in the European Foreign Affairs Review for scholars under 35. He received the Otto von der Gablentz Academic Prize and the G.A. Van Poelje Prize. Dijkstra is widely published. Hylke Dijkstra holds a PhD in Political Science (cum laude) from Maastricht University.

Prof. Dr. László Marác is a Senior Lecturer in East European studies at the University of Amsterdam. In 2015, he was awarded a honorary professorship at the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in Astana (Kazakhstan) for his work in the fields of humanities and social sciences. Between 2014 and 2019, he acted as the co-coordinator of the MIME Consortium's project entitled 'Mobility and Inclusion in Multilingual Europe' funded by the EU's FP7 program. Apart from numerous publications in the humanities and social sciences, Marác has also published in the domains of international politics and geopolitics. He studied East European studies and general linguistics at the University of Groningen and defended his PhD at the same university in 1989.



Ms. Marijana Petrović is a Policy Analyst and Team Leader at the OECD Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate. In her current role, she provides analytical and capacity-building support on competitiveness and private sector development to OECD partner countries. Prior to this position, Marijana worked as a Senior Consultant in strategy and management, providing advice to the French administration on digitalisation, climate, and health policy. Marijana holds a master's degree in international Economic Policy from Sciences Po Paris.

Welcoming speech

H.E. Dr. Dren Doli serves as the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Before his appointment, Ambassador Doli was a Professor of International Organizations, International Human Rights Law, and Diplomatic and Consular Law at the University of Pristina. He is a co-founder of the Group for Legal and Political Studies, where he served in different positions, including a Program Director, Senior Research Fellow and Research Director.



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