

Moderator: Ms Ino AFENTOULI

Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Observatory on Geopolitics & Diplomacy
Hellenic Foundation for Foreign and European Policy (ELIAMEP)

Ino-Despoina Afentouli is Senior Policy Advisor and Head of the Observatory of Geopolitics and Diplomacy at the Hellenic Foundation for Foreign and European Policy (ELIAMEP). She has a multiyear experience in international relations, defense and security as well as Public Diplomacy and Strategic Communications.

She served as Executive Director at the Institute of International Relations (2022-2025) and during 2002-2022, she served as Program Manager at NATO's Public Diplomacy Division. In this capacity, she was responsible for the design and implementation of the communication strategy of the Organization towards the member states of the Southern flank as well as towards the partner countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Prior to joining NATO, she was a journalist specialized in foreign and European affairs and she worked for Greek media outlets (Kathimerini daily, Sky Radio, Star Channel, Athens News Agency) as well as the Economist Intelligence Unit-Greek edition.

For her work, she was awarded in 2001 with the Calligas prize attributed by the European Journalists Association. She studied Law at the University of Athens and holds a Master on Political Science and Political Communication at the University of Paris I – Sorbonne and Paris II.

She is the author of five books and numerous articles on transatlantic relations, Greek foreign policy, European affairs and regional cooperation in SE Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.

She has a bi-weekly column on foreign affairs at the Greek daily TA NEA (The News), and she is a frequent commentator on audiovisual media outlets.

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Mr Ioannis ARMAKOLAS PhD (Cantab)

Associate Professor at Comparative Politics of South-East Europe, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the South-East Europe Programme at the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

Ioannis Armakolas, PhD (Cantab), is Associate Professor in Comparative Politics of South East Europe at the Department of Balkan, Slavic and Oriental Studies, University of Macedonia and Senior Research Fellow & Head of the Wider Europe Programme at the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). He is also the Senior Researcher and Head of Research at the EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Brussels and Director of the initiative 'think nea - New Narratives of EU Integration'.

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Dr Athanasios DOKOS

Secretary General for National Security and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Keynote speaker

Thanos Dokos received his Ph.D. in International Relations from Cambridge University and has held research posts at the Peace Research Institute of Frankfurt (1989-90) and the Center for Science and International Affairs (CSIA) at Harvard University (1990-91). He served as the Director for Research, Strategic Studies Division, Hellenic Ministry of National Defence (1996-98) and as an Advisor on NATO issues to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1998-1999). He was also a NATO research fellow for 1996-98. He was the Director of Research (1999-2006) and then the Director-General of the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) [2006-2019]. He has taught at the Universities of Athens and Piraeus, the Hellenic National Defence College, the Diplomatic Academy and the Hellenic National Security Academy. Since October 2020, he is the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece. In October 2023, he was appointed by the Secretary General of NATO to the Expert Group in support of the comprehensive and deep reflection on NATO's southern neighbourhood. In May 2025, he was appointed Secretary General for National Security.

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Mr Shay GAL

Founder & Principal
Line of State

Shay Gal is Founder and Principal of Line of State, a strategic practice working with governments, institutions and decision-makers on strategy, risk, security and strategic communications. He previously served as Vice President for External Relations at Israel Aerospace Industries and as a senior adviser to Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry. His work addresses European security, energy dependence, critical infrastructure and states' capacity to resist external coercion.



Mr Blagoje GLEDOVIĆ

Director General for International Cooperation, Ministry for Justice of Montenegro

Blagoje Gledović is a lawyer and diplomat from Montenegro, currently serving as a Director General for International Cooperation in the Ministry of Justice. During almost 17 years of career in civil service he worked on range of issues of international relations, rule of law, legal cooperation, security policy, EU and NATO integration.

From 2017-2021 Blagoje served as a diplomat in the Mission of Montenegro to the EU in Brussels in charge of rule of law and justice and home affairs portfolio and engaged in the EU accession negotiations for membership of Montenegro to the EU.

During accession process of Montenegro to NATO he took part in couple interagency task forces. In 2016 he was appointed as a member of the Accession talks team of Montenegro.

His areas of expertise also include cyber diplomacy, cyber policy and cybercrime. As a national delegate he has been a member of the Council of Europe Committee on cybercrime (T-CY) and working group on Artificial Intelligence. As a national delegate he also participated in negotiations in the UN for development of UN Convention against Cybercrime.

During 2023 he successfully completed EU-CD Cyber Diplomacy Fellowship Program within the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

Blagoje is an alumnus of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. On academic and research level he has been engaged in the PfPC Regional Stability in South East Europe Study Group. He is also an author of several papers on topics related to regional security, Montenegro's EU and NATO membership.

Blagoje is married, a proud father of a daughter.



Ambassador a.h. Dimitrios IOANNOU

Former Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to India

He was born in Athens in 1956 and studied economics in Piraeus. He also graduated from the Greek National School of Public Administration. Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1989, he worked as an economist at the Agricultural Bank of Greece. During his service at the Ministry, he served in several directorates (for Greeks Abroad, Greek-Turkish relations, relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union, OSCE department, Human Rights department, department of Strategic Planning). He served abroad in Montreal, Tunis, Rome, Moscow, Hannover, Vienna, and New Delhi. He retired in 2024. He has published extensively on economic issues (macroeconomics, international trade, financial economics).

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Dr Arnold KAMMEL

Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria

Dr. Arnold H. Kammel, M.A. is Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence, a post he has held since July 2022. Since June 2021 he has also served as General Director for Defence Policy and Defence Policy Director, a double-hatted role. Previously he was Chief of Cabinet to the Austrian Federal Minister of Defence (2019–2022) and Policy Advisor to the Federal Minister for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media in the Federal Chancellery. Before entering government, he spent more than a decade at the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), rising from Research Fellow to Secretary General and then Director. He holds degrees in law, political science and European studies from the Universities of Graz and Vienna, as well as the University of Applied Sciences Eisenstadt. Dr. Kammel was also Vice-President of the Atlantic Treaty Association (2014–2017) and is a faculty member of the European Security and Defence College. He lectures at several Austrian universities of applied sciences and at the Theresian Military Academy. His research focuses on European integration, EU foreign, security and defence policy, and transatlantic relations.



Mr Konstantinos KARACHALIOS

General Manager, Oil Supply and Trading HELLENiQ ENERGY Holdings S.A.

He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Surrey, a master's degree in chemical Process Engineering from University College London, and an MBA in Finance from City University in London. Having previously worked in the Finance and Consultancy industries, he joined the Group's international Business Planning and Development team in 2005. He has held the positions of CEO of Group affiliates Jugopetrol (Montenegro) and OKTA (Republic of North Macedonia), Director of Strategic Planning and Business Development for Group Commercial Units, as well as Finance Director for Refining, Supply, and Trade. He has held the position of International Division Manager since 2018. As of January 2, 2026, he assumed the position of General Manager, Oil Supply and Trading.

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Mr Athanasios Th. KOSMOPOULOS

LL.M. (UTIU), PhD, Operations Coordination Officer,
Hybrid Threats Analysis Observatory

Athanasios Kosmopoulos attended the Corps Officers Academy (SSAS), where he graduated as a military lawyer with the rank of second lieutenant and as class leader of the 1987 class. He holds an LL.M. in European Law and Politics from Uninettuno University in Rome and a PhD from Panteion University's Department of International Relations, focusing on Hybrid threats. He is a Research Associate with the Center for Security Studies (KEMEA).

In May 2018, he was appointed as Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Ministry of Digital Governance and AI, a position he holds to date.

Visiting lecturer at the Hellenic National Defense College, the Hellenic National Security Academy, the National Intelligence Service, and other institutions in Greece and abroad.

He is the president of the Hellenic Interministerial DPOs Committee.

He is the country's National Representative at the European Cybersecurity Competence Center (ECCC).

He is the Operations Coordination Officer of the Hybrid Threats Analysis Observatory.

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Ambassador Haris LALACOS

Former Secretary General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic

A member of the Hellenic Foreign Service for 39 years, Haris Lalacos served as Ambassador of Greece in Skopje, Washington and Nicosia. Previous postings included Ankara (twice), Sydney, Alexandria and various assignments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens. In 2022-23 he held the position of MFA Secretary General.

From 2023 onwards, Ambassador Lalacos heads the Greek delegation in the dialogue with Türkiye on Confidence Building Measures.

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Ambassador (retired) Alexandros P. MALLIAS

Former Ambassador of Greece to Washington, Tirana and Skopje

Ambassador (ret.) Alexandros P. Mallias is a former Ambassador of Greece to the United States (2005–2009). During his diplomatic career he served under 11 successive governments and 15 Ministers of Foreign Affairs. His assignments include Political Director for Balkan Affairs (2000–2005), Ambassador to Albania (1999–2000), First Diplomatic Representative of Greece to North Macedonia (1995–1999), Head of the EU Monitor Mission (ECMM) Regional Centre in Sofia (1994), and First Counselor for Political Affairs at the Greek Mission to the UN in New York (1989–1993). He was also a negotiator of the CSCE Paris Charter for a New Europe (1990). He is the recipient of the 2007 Martin Luther King International Legacy Award for his work in the Balkans, the 1994 EU Medal for Service with the ECMM, and a 2007 recognition from B'nai B'rith International. A guest lecturer at the Delphi Economic Forum, the NATO Defense College in Rome and the Diplomatic Academy of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others, he is the author of numerous papers and articles and of several books on the Balkans, Greek-Albanian relations and Greek foreign policy, most recently *Greece and Albania: Truth and Shadows* (2025).



Moderator: Dr Vasileios NEDOS

Journalist

Vassilis Nedos is the diplomatic and defense correspondent and a columnist of the leading Greek newspaper E Kathimerini.

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Moderator: Captain Fotios PAPADOPOULOS

Policy Staff Officer at the General Directorate of National Defence Policy and International Relations

Captain Fotios Papadopoulos serves as a Staff Officer at the Directorate of International Relations of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence. He holds a PhD in International Humanitarian Law, focusing on the use of drones under *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*, and has postgraduate qualifications in international law, European law, international relations and strategic studies. His research interests include international humanitarian law, European security and defence policy, and emerging military technologies. He also teaches public and international law at Hellenic Air Force educational institutions.



Ms Radmila PEROVIĆ

Director General of the Directorate for Defence Policy
Ministry of Defence of Montenegro

Radmila Perović is the Director General for Defence Policy at the Ministry of Defence of Montenegro, bringing extensive expertise in Euro-Atlantic and European security affairs. In her current executive role, she oversees Montenegro's strategic defence planning, NATO affairs, EU integration, and international cooperation. She drives the formulation and execution of national defence policies to fulfill Allied commitments, while strategically leveraging NATO and EU frameworks to enhance national resilience, and advance Montenegro's European integration.

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Ambassador Aleksandar SUNKO

Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the Hellenic Republic

Aleksandar Sunko is the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Greece, Cyprus and Armenia, resident in Athens. A career diplomat with extensive experience in bilateral and multilateral relations, he has previously served in Croatian diplomatic missions in Greece, the Netherlands and Denmark, as well as in senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. He played an active role in Croatia's NATO accession process and coordinated the country's co-chairmanship of the EUSAIR Governing Board. He holds a BA from the University of Zagreb and speaks Croatian, Greek, English, French, Italian and German.

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Ambassador René TROCCAZ

Special Envoy For the Western Balkans
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

René Troccaz is a French career diplomat who has been serving as the Special Envoy of the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs for the Western Balkans since October 2023. He previously served as Consul General in Jerusalem (2019–2023) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Cyprus (2016–2019). Throughout his diplomatic career, which began in 1991 at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he has held several senior positions, including Director of Budgetary Programmes and the Cooperation Network (2012–2016), Deputy Director of the Cabinet of the Minister for Cooperation (2010–2012), Counsellor for Cooperation and Culture in Rabat (2006–2009), Deputy Consul General in Jerusalem (2003–2006) and First Secretary at the French Embassy in Athens (1996–1999). He holds a Master's degree in Public Law, a Diploma of Advanced Specialized Studies in Business Law and a diploma in Modern Greek from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations. He was awarded the rank of Knight of the National Order of Merit in 2018 and speaks English, Greek, Spanish and Russian.



Ambassador Dragan VUKOVIĆ

Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Hellenic Republic

Major General (Retd.) Dragan Vuković, Master of Sociology, served as the Advisor to the Serbian member of the BiH Presidency. Born in 1965, his distinguished 35-year military career spans tactical to strategic command within the Yugoslav People's Army, the Army of Republika Srpska, and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he was Commander of the Operational Command. He holds advanced strategic degrees from the Hellenic National Defense College and speaks English and Greek.

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Ms Jela VULETIĆ MANTHOU

Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of Montenegro to the Hellenic Republic

Jela Vuletić Manthou serves as Minister Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of Montenegro to the Hellenic Republic. She has extensive diplomatic experience, having held senior positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, including Director of the Directorate for the Political Affairs of the EU and Director of the Directorate for the OSCE and Council of Europe. Her previous assignments include serving as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. and Deputy Head of Mission at the Mission of Montenegro to the European Union in Brussels, as well as holding various positions in the fields of bilateral and multilateral affairs, with a focus on NATO, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.