

# *Halki International Seminars*

FORGING REGIONAL COOPERATION

# 2009

## “CURRENT & EMERGING SECURITY CHALLENGES IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE, THE BLACK SEA, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TRANSATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT”

**Organised by**

*The Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)*

**in cooperation with**

*The Balkan Trust for Democracy, Belgrade*

**and supported by:**

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*General Secretariat for Youth, Athens*

*Embassy of the United States, Athens*

*French Institute of Athens*

*Region of South Aegean, Syros*

*Dodecanese Prefecture, Rhodes*

# *List of Participants*

Halki-Greece  
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**Akgul Acikmese Sinem (Dr.), Research Associate, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, Ankara**

e-mail: [acikmese@tepav.org.tr](mailto:acikmese@tepav.org.tr)

Sinem Akgul Acikmese is a Research Associate at the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and Lecturer at the European Union Chair at Ankara University. She holds a BA in International Relations as well as an MA in European Studies-International Relations from Ankara University. As a Jean Monnet fellow, she studied at the European Institute of London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) for her MSc degree in European Studies. She has completed her PhD at Ankara University with her thesis titled "Actor, Threat and Policy in Realist Security Studies and Copenhagen School: A Comparative Assessment on European Security". Her research interests include security studies with a particular focus on Europe, European integration and enlargement as well as Turkey-EU relations. Her selected publications are: "Identity-Based Security Threats in a Globalised World: Focus on Islam", in Hans Gunter Brauch et.al., *Globalisation and Environmental Challenges-Reconceptualising Security in the 21st Century* (Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2008, with M. Aydın); "The Management of Security in EU's New Neighbourhood: Union's Tactics Revisited" (Perceptions: Journal of International Affairs, 2006).

**Alvanou Maria (Dr.), Lecturer of Assymetric Threats, Hellenic Military Officers Academy, Athens**

e-mail: [mariaalvanou@yahoo.gr](mailto:mariaalvanou@yahoo.gr)

Maria Alvanou, is a defence lawyer, dealing with criminal and human rights cases. A Lecturer of Asymmetric Threat at the Hellenic Military Officers Academy, she also teaches Criminology at the Greek Police Officer's Academy and at the Police Officers' Post Educational Academy-Department of Thessaloniki. She is a Senior Analyst for the Italian Team for Security, Terroristic Issues and Managing Emergencies of the Catholic University in Milan and the Research Institute for European and American Studies in Athens. She is an expert court evaluator for terrorism cases and holds the PhD title of the international research doctor of Criminology from Transcrime (Joint Research Center on Transnational Crime, University of Trento & Catholic University of Sacro Cuore - Milan). Her doctoral research was focused on the phenomenon of female suicide terrorism and for this reason she conducted fieldwork in Israel. She has also obtained an LLM from the Department of History, Philosophy and Sociology of Law - Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki. Her current research in the Panteion University of Athens as post doctoral fellow concerns EU and Greek legislation on incitement to terrorism and is supported with the Greek State Scholarship Foundation grant.

**Aviel Attias (Mr.), Research Fellow, Transatlantic Institute, Brussels**

e-mail: [fellow@transatlanticinstitute.org](mailto:fellow@transatlanticinstitute.org)

Aviel Attias holds a Bachelor degree in History of the Middle East and Islam and currently writes his thesis for his Master degree in History of the Middle East at Tel Aviv University. He is a Farkas Fellow for the year 2008-2009 and his fields of interests include radical Islam in Europe, radical Islamic thought and politics, and terror funding. Aviel speaks Hebrew, English, French, and Arabic.

**Blagovčanin Srdjan (Mr.), Executive Director, Transparency International, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

e-mail: [sblagovcanin@ti-bih.org](mailto:sblagovcanin@ti-bih.org)

Srdjan Blagovčanin, holds a Bachelor of Laws with a professional experience in domestic and international projects. He is currently in the final year of his master studies in International Relations and Politics at the University of Belgrade. Expert and consultant in the field of curbing corruption, anti-corruption legislature, regulatory reforms and good governance with a 6 years practical professional experience of over 20 implemented projects. Since 2004 he has been working for TI BiH and has been the Executive Director of this organisation since 2007. He was author and contributor to a number of studies and publications in the area of curbing corruption, anti-corruption legislature and good governance.

**Bourita Youssef (Mr.), Counsellor, General Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rabat**

e-mail: [ybourita@maec.gov.ma](mailto:ybourita@maec.gov.ma)

Youssef Bourita is a Foreign Affairs Counselor at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Rabat. Between 2006 and 2008, he had been working at the General Directorate for Strategic Affairs dealing with international security issues. From 2008 until now, he continues to be in charge of the same affairs at the Secretary General's cabinet. Born in 1980 in Rabat, he has graduated in 2005 with highest honors from Mohammed V University with a concentration in International Relations. Between 2004 and 2005, he pursued training at the well known Ecole National d'Administration.

**Brajovic Danilo (Mr.), Second Secretary, Directorate for OSCE and CoE, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Podgorica**

e-mail: [danilo.brajovic@gov.me](mailto:danilo.brajovic@gov.me)

Danilo Brajovic was born in Skadar, Albania in 1978 where he finished 6 grades of Elementary school. In 1991 after the "opening" of Albania his family came to Montenegro. In Podgorica he completed the Elementary and High school, and the Faculty of Philosophy, Serbian Language and Literature in Niksic. He graduated with a MA degree on International relations in the Faculty of Political Sciences in Pogorica in 2009. He has been working in the MFA of Montenegro since March 2005.

**Cebotari Victor (Mr.), Doctoral Student, Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, Maastricht University**

e-mail: [victor.cebotari@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:victor.cebotari@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Victor Cebotari is a Marie Curie PhD student at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG), Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He has a Political Science background with a BA obtained at the University of Bucharest in Romania. Further, he has also an MA degree in Social Policy Analysis from the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in Belgium. His current research interests focus on the interethnic relations and conflicting scenarios resulting from the democratisation processes all around Europe. Especially, his focus is on ethnic conflict which involves both ethnic minority groups and majority populations.

**Chikhaoui Arslan (Mr.), Chairman and CEO, Nord-Sud Ventures Consultancy Center, Algiers**

e-mail: [contact@nsventures.net](mailto:contact@nsventures.net)

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Arslan Chikhaoui was born in Algeria in 1962 and graduated from Berkeley University (International Relations and Economics). He then specialised in Strategy and Government Affairs (FSI). Since 1994 he is President and CEO of the Consultancy Center "Nord-Sud Ventures", specialised in strategy, business intelligence and lobbying. From 1991 to 1994 he was Senior Advisor Analyst to the Algerian Institute for Global Strategy Studies, dealing with defence and security policy issues. From 1982 to 1990 he was Senior Administrator and Coordinator of the Development Aid and Cooperation Programmes for Algeria. He is expert and visiting lecturer to the French Institute for International Relations (IFRI), the Centre for European Integration Studies (ZEI), the Japanese Institute for Middle Studies, Wilton Park, UCLA Centre for Middle East Development, the Algerian Army Forces High Command and the Algerian Military Academy. He is Advisor to Defence and Security Forum and Member of the World Economic Forum as well as Consultant to Algerian Government Bodies. He has been involved in the work of the Euro-Mediterranean framework cooperation initiatives, the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, the NEPAD Initiative, Security in the Mediterranean Region, Security in the Maghreb and the Sahel. His essays include: political and economic transformation in Algeria; Security and Stability in the Mediterranean Sea; the impact of the Western Sahara conflict on the relationships between North African States; Integration Challenges facing the North Africa Region; Islamism between Violence and Democracy; the 5+5 framework for effective regional cooperation; Improving security in order to reach global stability in Algeria.

**Chkhikvadze Ivane (Mr.), Analyst, European Stability Initiative, Tbilisi**

e-mail: [ivanechkhikvadze@hotmail.com](mailto:ivanechkhikvadze@hotmail.com)

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Ivane Chkhikvadze works for the European Stability Initiative (ESI) as an Analyst. Prior to joining the ESI, he worked at the Office of the State Minister on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Georgia, where he assisted in monitoring and evaluating implementation of EU programs in the field of economic integration, public awareness, capacity building, education and trafficking. Ivane also supervised the implementation of EU projects related to regional cooperation. He has extensive experience working both at the Parliament and the State Chancellery of Georgia. Ivane has a Master's Degree from the College of Europe in European Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs, in Policy Analysis.

**Chrysoloras Nikos (Mr.), Journalist, Foreign News Desk, Kathimerini Daily, Athens**

e-mail: [chrysoloras@kathimerini.gr](mailto:chrysoloras@kathimerini.gr)

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Nikos Chrysoloras is a journalist at the Foreign News Desk of Kathimerini, Greece's leading newspaper. He studied International Relations, Political Theory and Government in Great Britain and taught Political Philosophy and Media History in London and Athens respectively. His academic publications include articles on the politicization of religion and the sacralization of politics in Greece. He recently submitted his doctoral thesis on nationalism, at the department of Government of the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

**Cioponea Irina Nicoleta Elisabeta (Ms.), Public Servant, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bucharest**

e-mail: [irina.cioponea@mae.ro](mailto:irina.cioponea@mae.ro)

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Irina Cioponea is a lawyer with expertise in the area of human rights and international law. Since graduating from the Faculty of Law at the University of Bucharest, she has worked for 8 years as a judge. Since 2007, she is employed as a public servant with the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She has additionally studied Fundamental Rights and at the UFR of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Nantes, where she obtained a Master's Degree in International and European Fundamental Rights, in 2007, awarded by the University of Nantes, University of Paris II Pantheon – Assas, Paris X Nanterre, Paris XII Val de Marne and the Agency of La Francophonie. In 2007, she pursued further studies with the University of Bucharest – Faculty of Law, where she obtained a Master's Degree in European Union Law.

**Daniel Filippo (Mr.), MA Student, Faculty of Laws, University of Florence**

e-mail: [f\\_daniel@hotmail.com](mailto:f_daniel@hotmail.com)

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Filippo Daniel holds a BA in Law (LLB) from Florence University, Italy. His dissertation topic focused on "The discipline for fixed term contracts in Italy and Spain: A comparative survey". His academic interests focus on International Law, International and Comparative Constitutional Law, EU Constitutional and Institutional Law, Environmental Law of the EU, EU Administrative Law, EU Comparative Labour Law and Commercial Law. He is also a campaigner activist in International Amnesty (Group 14, Florence, Italy). He speaks Italian, Greek, French (proficient user), English (proficient user) and Spanish (fluent).

**Demko Attila (Dr.), Desk Officer, Ministry of Defence, Budapest**

e-mail: [vpnfdemkoa@hm.gov.hu](mailto:vpnfdemkoa@hm.gov.hu)

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Attila Demko studied history and political science at the ELTE University of Budapest. He has a PhD in twentieth century international history. His first government assignment was in the Private Office of the Prime Minister, Secretariat for Defence and Foreign Policy from 1999 to 2002. Since 2002 he works in different positions in the Hungarian Ministry of Defence, currently as desk officer for the South Eastern European region. Recently he was also responsible for organizing the framing of the first Hungarian National Military Strategy. He is the author of several works on national minority conflicts ranging from the Former Yugoslavia to Northern Ireland.

**Devlen Balkan (Dr.), Assistant Professor, Izmir University of Economics, Izmir**

e-mail: [balkan.devlen@ieu.edu.tr](mailto:balkan.devlen@ieu.edu.tr)

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Balkan Devlen is an Assistant Professor in the International Relations and European Union Department in Izmir University of Economics. He got his B.Sc. in International Relations from Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey in 2001 and his Ph.D.

from University of Missouri – Columbia in 2007. His research interests lay at the intersection of IR theory, international security, and foreign policy analysis. His current work focuses on foreign policy behavior of authoritarian regimes (particularly Iran), theoretical debates in neoclassical realism and the English School, the operational code of Turkish foreign policy elite, and alternative world orders to deal with emerging threats such as climate change.

**Florou Vicky, Activities Coordinator, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens**

e-mail: halki@eliamep.gr

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Vicky Florou holds a BA in Sociology from Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens, and an MA in Central and South-east European Studies from the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UCL, London. She is now doing a PhD at the Faculty of International and European Studies, Panteion University and her thesis is on "Water resources and foreign policy: the case of Turkey". She worked at the Diplomatic Academy of the Greek Ministry for Foreign Affairs and since February 2007 she is a programme officer in the Activities Division at ELIAMEP. Since September 2008 she is the Activities Coordinator at ELIAMEP. She speaks English and Turkish.

**Gavrilakis Georgios (Mr.), Captain, Greek Army (Artillery), Athens**

e-mail:gavrilakis@yahoo.gr

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Georgios Gavrilakis is an Officer (Captain) in the Greek Army. He is also a trainer in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear issues for the Hellenic Armed Forces.

**Gozukara Esin (Ms.), Doctoral Student, Bilkent University, Ankara**

e-mail: esingozukara@gmail.com

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Esin Gozukara was born on September 21, 1985 in Ankara. After graduating from high school successfully, Gozukara studied International Relations in Ankara University Faculty of Political Sciences which is the oldest school of politics in Turkey that is dated back to 1859. During her undergraduate studies she also worked as an intern in Turkish Grand National Assembly, Republican People's Party (as known as CHP) and a think tank named ASAM (Eurasian Strategic Research Center). Gozukara has attended several academic conferences and Model United Nations activities in various locations. When she has completed her undergraduate studies being awarded with an honorary degree by Ankara University, she decided to realize her dreams to be an academician. Towards this aim she is pursuing a doctoral degree at Bilkent University, Department of Political Science. In addition to that she is holding a position as an intern at German Marshall Fund of United States Ankara Office for 6 months.

**Gutan Liliana (Ms.), First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Chisinau**

e-mail: liliana.gutan@mfa.md

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Liliana Gutan is a Counselor in the Regional Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova. From 2001 since 2007 she worked in different positions in the Administration of the President of the Republic of Moldova. She received her Diploma (M.A.) in International Relations and Foreign Policy in 2004, from the Academy of Public Administration near the Office of the President of the Republic of Moldova. From 2006 she is a Doctoral Researcher at Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law of the Academy of Science of Moldova.

**Hajji Nabigha, (Mr.), Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rabat**

e-mail: n.hajji@maec.gov.ma

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Nabigha Hajji was born in March 18th, 1975. He graduated from Mohammedia Engineering College in Rabat in June 1997 and from the High Institute of Commerce and Management (ISCAE - Rabat.). He joined to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in January 1998 as desk officer in the Directorate of Cultural and Scientific Cooperation. He was posted as a Counselor to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Tokyo from March 2004 until June 2008. Since then he is a desk officer in the Security issues and Disarmament Section of the United Nations and International Organisations Directorate. He is fluent in Arabic, English and French and has an intermediate level in Japanese.

**Hajredini Shqipe (Ms.), Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Prishtina**

e-mail: shqipjah@yahoo.com

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Shqipe Hajredini is a lawyer and expert on EU affairs, specific focus on security issues. Her experience includes various positions as an expert in international organization and projects related to community development and civil society. She holds a masters degree on EU security from University of Hamburg and has been involved also in academic field in criminal related subjects. She has contributed to several academic books as an evaluator and editor. Currently works in the OPM of Kosovo.

**Ivanovic Milorad (Mr.), Deputy Editor in Chief, Blic Daily Newspaper, Belgrade**

e-mail:milorad.ivanovic@blic.rs

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Milorad Ivanovic is deputy editor-in-chief of the largest Serbian daily Blic ([www.blic.rs](http://www.blic.rs)), for which he previously served as foreign affairs editor. He has also worked as a correspondent for the French news agencies EPN, and has had articles published in many international newspapers including *El Mundo* (Spain), *The Mail on Sunday* (UK), *The Sunday Times* (UK), *The Washington Times* (USA), *Der Standard* (Austria) and *VSD* (France). He is Board member of SCOOP ([www.i-scoop.org](http://www.i-scoop.org)), the network of investigative journalists in East and Southeastern Europe. He is the founder and president of Media Focus - Center for Investigative Journalism in Serbia. He is also the producer of the documentary film *Hidden Wounds* on post-traumatic stress disorder (made in cooperation with the BBC) which was presented at documentary film festivals in Bulgaria and India. He has taken part in several cross-border projects, including a six-month investigation on arms trafficking from Ukraine via Bulgaria to Serbia. He was a member of the team of reporters for the project on human trafficking titled *Trading in Misery* produced by the London-based Institute for War and Peace

Reporting ([www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net)). His investigation on mercenaries from the Balkans working for British and US security firms in Iraq was published extensively in the international media. In 2007 he was selected for the Balkan Fellowship for Journalistic Excellence ([www.birn.eu.com](http://www.birn.eu.com))

**Jahangirli Anar (Mr.), Department of Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Baku**

e-mail: jahangirli@yahoo.com

Anar Jahangirli holds a BA in International Relations from the Baku State University and a Master's degree in European Public Affairs from the University of Maastricht. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan in 2001. From 2003 to 2006 he served in the Mission of Azerbaijan to the EU, where he was responsible for the relations with the European Parliament, political and public affairs, press service, speech-writing and advocacy. Currently he works as an EU/NATO desk officer dealing with Azerbaijan's relations with these organisations. He speaks English, French, Russian and Turkish.

**Karydi Dina (Ms.), Junior Research Fellow, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens**

e-mail: karydi\_k@hotmail.com

Konstantina Karydi is a young professional working in the Greek NGO Sector. She is Communications coordinator and member of the research team of an NGO Pressure group working for the Constitutional Upgrade of Civil Society in Greece. In 2007 she joined ELIAMEP as a trainee and since April 2009 she is a junior research fellow dealing with European Policy and the Third Sector. She is also responsible for the documentation of the European Thesaurus on International Relations and Area Studies in the context of EINIRAS Network. She holds an MSc in European Public Policy from University College London (UCL).

**Katnic Svetlana (Ms.), Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Podgorica**

e-mail : svetlana.katnic@gov.me

Svetlana Katnic is currently engaged at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Department for EU and NATO. She has previously worked in the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Montenegro to the EU, Nansen Dialogue Centre Montenegro, Council of Europe, and International Relief and Development. She holds a Master degree in European Public Affairs (University of Maastricht and the European Institute for Public Administration), a Master in European Institutions and Politics (University of Bologna) and BSc in Politics and International Relations (London School of Economics and Political Sciences, University of London). She is fluent in English. She can also speak French and Italian, and to a lesser extent Albanian. Her mother tongue is Montenegrin.

**Kleibrink Alexander (Mr.), PhD Fellow, Berlin Graduate School of Transnational Studies, Berlin**

e-mail: alkleibrink@gmail.com

Alexander Kleibrink is a public policy graduate from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is a PhD Fellow at the Berlin Graduate School of Transnational Studies. His research interests cover EU governance, regional cooperation, political economy and socio-economic transition processes. Currently, he also works as a policy advisor on the financial aspects of EU foreign policy at the German Federal Ministry of Finance.

**Kolimenakis Christos (Mr.), Columbia University, New York**

e-mail: c.kolimenakis@gmail.com

Christos Kolimenakis is originally from Athens, Greece. He holds a dual Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and the London School of Economics. He has experience working in the private (Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan), public (Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the non-for-profit sector (ELIAMEP). He received his BA in Political Science from the University of Athens.

**Kontoveros Christos (Mr.), Counselor, Consulate of Chile in Dodecanese, Athens**

e-mail: consul@ccd.gr

Christos Kontoveros is an experienced businessman with international exposure in the sectors of Industry, Trade, Transport, Manufacturing and Tourism. He is a New York University Graduate in Economics, specialized in Agricultural Products and Food Chain, in the areas of Hygiene and Safety of Foods (Inspector of Quality Assurance Systems), with respect to the E.U. and Greek Legislation of Distribution of Foods (Achieving official & successful Interventions from the General Chemical Laboratory of State until the European Parliament). He comes from a ship-owners family with tradition and experience in fisheries from the Aegean to the Atlantic. He is repeatedly elected in several institutions (Chambers, Federations, Associations etc.), participating in many Business Forums aiming at the development and growth of Commercial Relations of Greece with the Mediterranean and Arab Countries as well as the Countries of Latin America. He also has an active participation in the matters of E.U. Islands Policy within the E.U. Program INSULEUR. He is actively involved in the Protection of the Environment in the Mediterranean through the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP/MAP). Active Institutional attendance and experience in the Public Administration in several Greek Ministries.

**Kremenjaš-Danišić Adriana (Ms.), President, Europe House, Dubrovnik**

e-mail: akdanic@edd.hr

Adriana Kremenjaš-Danišić, born 1963, graduated from Zagreb University, Croatia, with a degree in German and French, obtained a master's degree in media science and intercultural communication from the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany, and the Sofia University, Bulgaria. In addition, licensed as a tourist guide, a translator, a business adviser, and a mediator in the individual labour disputes. Member of several associations; Secretary General of Europe House Dubrovnik until 2000, from 2000 its President (volunteer). Organizer of several international conferences and seminars, Editor-in-Chief of the books „The City of

Dubrovnik and its NGOs in 2004“, „The City of Dubrovnik and its NGOs in 2006“, „Roland's European Paths“ (in five languages), as well as of various brochures and booklets on European integration process. From 2007, she serves as the Editor-in-Chief of radio broadcasts on civil society in the most popular radio program of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Research interests: medieval roots of European integration, cultural identity of Europe, intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Europe with a special emphasis on the Mediterranean, media and civil society as an integrative part of the European integration process.

**Kypriotis Aris (Mr.), Scientific Collaborator, Political Office of MP John Baniias, Athens**

e-mail: aris\_kyp@hotmail.com

Aris Kypriotis received his BA in History and Ethnology from Democritus University of Thrace, faculty of Philosophy in 2002. He also holds two MAs in Military History and International Studies from the University of Leeds in UK, where his research focused on the capabilities of the European Union, on conflict prevention and resolution, as well as the legitimacy of the peacekeeping operations of NATO, with the case study of Kosovo. His research interests include European Security and Defence issues. Currently he is working as a scientific collaborator at the office of Mr. John Baniias, Member of the Greek Parliament., where his main responsibilities include the analysis of International Relations and National Defence issues.

**Malathouni Eliza (Ms.), Docent, International & European Law Department, Law Faculty University of Maastricht**

e-mail: elissavet.malathouni@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Eliza Malathouni received her degree in Law from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in 2005. In the same year she received a Diploma in a Specialization Programme on the Protection of Human Rights in the Domestic and International Legal Order, from the University of Macedonia, Greece. She completed her Master Studies in 2007 obtaining a LL.M degree (*Magister Iuris Communis in Comparative European and International Law: specialization European Economic and Social Regulation*) from the University of Maastricht. She is also a member of the Thessaloniki Bar Association. She has been working as a lecturer in the Law Faculty of Maastricht since 2007 and has taught a variety of courses on European and International Law, namely International Dispute Settlement, European Union Foundations, Introduction to European Integration, Atrocity Triangle, Introduction to European and International Law, International Relations, Conflict Resolution, Moot Court Training and the Law and Policy of the WTO. She has also taught in the University of Utrecht, the China Europe School of Law in Beijing and the Maastricht Center for European Studies. She has published two articles in the field of International Environmental and Trade Law and in the field of European Law and the Lisbon Treaty. In 2006 she participated in the ELSA EMC2 Moot Court on WTO law and was awarded the best oralist award. Due to her previous experience in moot courts and in MUN she is also participating in the training of the Maastricht team in this year's ELSA EMC2 Moot Court on WTO Law.

**Mînzărari Dumitru (Mr.), Foreign and Security Policy Analyst, Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul", Chisinau**

e-mail: minzaradd@hotmail.com

Dumitru Mînzărari is an associate analyst on foreign and security policy with the Chişinău-based non-governmental think tank Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS) "Viitorul". He graduated from the Military College "Alexandru cel Bun," received a Licentiate in Political Science from the State University of Moldova and a Master in International Affairs degree from Columbia University in New York. His previous professional experience includes working with the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova, where he covered international cooperation with NATO and OSCE, conventional arms control and peacekeeping. Currently he is doing research and writes on regional security, Russian foreign policy in the post-soviet area, Russian policies towards the Western organizations and actors, and unconventional warfare.

**Mkrtchyan Tigran (Mr.), Armenia Analyst, European Stability Initiative (ESI), Yerevan**

e-mail: tigran.mkrtchyan@cantab.net

Tigran Mkrtchyan has been the European Stability Initiative (ESI) Research Analyst in Armenia since late 2007. He holds an MPhil degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge, UK. He used to work as the Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia (2005-06), lectured courses in International Relations and History at Yerevan State University (2003, 2005-06) and was the Executive Director of the Armenian International Policy Research Group-AIPRG (2006-08). His research interests include international history, international and regional security, political theory. He has several articles published in Armenia and abroad on international security and theory. He has been a World Vision Youth Ambassador from Armenia in 1998 and John Smith Fellow from Armenia in 2006. He writes columns for the Capital Daily business newspaper in Armenia.

**Nabulsi Mohamed Salameh (Mr.), Coordinator Euro-Mediterranean Studies Unit, Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan, Amman**

e-mail: m.nabulsi@css-jordan.org

Mohamed Nabulsi is Coordinator of the Euro-Mediterranean Studies Unit at the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan since 2008 after working for the Foreign Ministry in Jordan as Director of the EU Affairs Unit during 2007-2008. He received his BA in Political Studies from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and his MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics (LSE), University of London. His master's dissertation was about free trade agreements in general and the Jordan-U.S Free Trade Agreement specifically. In the area of research, he has published recently an independent evaluation of the implementation of Jordan-EU Action Plan and currently working on a research project on water and regional security. He is mainly interested in development economics, Euro-Mediterranean relations, European Neighbourhood Policy, Framework of Jordan-EU relations, sustainable development and security.

**Nahar Omar (Mr.), Director of Policy Planning and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amman**

e-mail: onahar@fm.gov.jo

Omar Nahar is in charge of policy planning and research at the Foreign Ministry since 2007. He was an advisor at the Prime Ministry since September 2007 and the Director of the Political Department at the Prime Ministry between June 2006 and December 2007. Prior to that he was the Director of the Office of the Minister of the Royal Hashemite Court where he stayed for two years, since January 2004, where he led the minister's communications, managed his staff and was a member in the Strategy and Programming Committees of His Majesty's Office. As a career diplomat, he served at the Jordanian embassy London (2000-2004) and the Jordanian embassy in Tel Aviv (1994-1999). He attended the University of Jordan (1986-1990). He received a B.Sc in Political Science and Business Administration. He also holds the Jordanian Al Istiklal (Independence) Medal, Fifth Order, as well as a British Lieutenant of Victorian Order (LVO) Medal.

**Nikolakopoulou Alexandra, Europe Direct Coordinator, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens**

e-mail: eliamep@eliamep.gr

Alexandra Nikolakopoulou studied European & International Relations at the Department for Political Science & Public Administration of the University of Athens. In 2008 she received her Master's degree in Southeast European Studies again from the University of Athens. Today she works at ELIAMEP as coordinator of the Europe Direct information relay center. She speaks Greek, English, German and Russian.

**Pardo Sierra Oscar (Mr.), Doctoral Candidate, University of Birmingham**

e-mail: oxp775@bham.ac.uk

Oscar Pardo Sierra is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham. In his PhD thesis he analyses the impact of the European Union in Georgia. His research interests include EU foreign and security policy, international relations of the former Soviet Union space, and security studies. He is a member of the Caucasus and Central Asia Research Group at the University of Birmingham, member of the Observatory of European Foreign Policy at the Barcelona Autonomous University and collaborator of the Cidob Foundation in Barcelona.

**Petrov Plamen (Mr.), Board Member, Bulgarian Geopolitical Society, Sofia**

e-mail: plamen127@mail.bg

Plamen Petrov is Bulgarian political analyst and journalist. He is PhD candidate in International Relations and has MA degrees in Contemporary History and European Integration. He is specialist in contemporary history and politics of the Balkans and post-Soviet space. He is a Member of the Board of Bulgarian Geopolitical Society and Chairman of Army and Civil Society Foundation. He has many scientific publications in English, Russian and Bulgarian. His recent publications are about European energy security and the geopolitical role of Caspian energy resources.

**Petrovic Djordje (Mr.), Head of Partnership for Peace Section, Ministry of Defence, Belgrade**

e-mail: dj\_petrovic@yahoo.com

Djordje Petrovic was born in 1974 in Belgrade. He graduated Electrical Engineering from the Military Academy in 1998 in Belgrade. He completed his MA studies in International Relations at the National School for Political Studies and Public Administration in Bucharest, Romania. His MA thesis was entitled "Partnership for Peace in Security Sector Reform: the Key to a renewal in Cooperative Security". Currently, he is studying for a PhD in International Relations at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade. In 2003 he joined the Ministry of Defence, Defence Policy Sector, where he has served various duties and where he is still working at the position of the Head of the PfP Section. He has published articles mainly in the realm of Euro-Atlantic integration, such as: "PfP Enlargement: a Case Study on Serbia and Montenegro as a PfP Aspirant Country" and "NATO at 60: Security between Regionalism and Globalism" in the Serbian academic journal *Review of International Affairs*, "Partnership for Peace Tools" in *Novi Glasnik* and "PfP in Security Sector Reform" in the Romanian academic journal *Monitor Strategic*. He has taken part, both as a participant and as a lecturer, in over thirty international seminars and conferences. Also, he has written the first PfP Handbook "Guide to the Partnership for Peace", printed in more than 60.000 copies. He is fluent in English, very good in Russian and basic in French.

**Pushko Yulia (Ms.), Journalist, Business Ukraine Magazine, Kyiv**

e-mail: yulia.pushko@twg.com.ua

Yulia Pushko is currently pursuing an academic career in Kyiv Institute of International Relations (PhD on regional conflicts). She is a freelance journalist working in Ukraine, writing on the regular basis to the business weekly about domestic and foreign policy. She is working at International Public Relations Agency Willard Group/Burson Marsteller as Government Relations Director.

**Seferaj Klodjan (Mr.), Executive Director, Albanian Socio-Economic Think-Tank (ASET); Consultant for Financial Management, World Bank Equity and Excellence in Education Programme, Ministry of Education and Science, Tirana**

e-mail: kseferaj@gmail.com

Klodjan Seferaj is Executive Director at the Albanian Socio-Economic Think-Tank (ASET) and a Consultant for Financial Management, World Bank Equity and Excellence in Education Programme, Ministry of Education and Science. His expertise is related to research topics as financial management of private and public institutions, project coordination and management, sector-wide approach, public expenditures tracking survey, macroeconomic and monetary policy, labor markets and social policy, education, statistics, and market and marketing analyses. He is also a journalist for economic and financial News portals, newspapers and magazines, a translator for English, Albanian, Romanian and Italian, considering vice-versa, a trainer on financial and economic issues and a freelance writer, editor, researcher on economic and financial issues.

**Simoglou Alexandros (Mr.), Research Assistant, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens**

e-mail: alexsimoglou@gmail.com

Alexandros Simoglou holds a Bachelor Degree in International European Economic & Political Relations, with specialization in Politics & Diplomacy, from University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece. He is currently an Advisor of International Relations at SEV, Hellenic Federation of Enterprises & a Research Assistant at the Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy. Since 2000, he has been involved in several international NGOs including European Youth Parliament & AIESEC. His research interests include conflict resolution, nuclear proliferation, Middle Eastern affairs and the role of NGOs in civil society.

**Stavri George (Mr.), General Manager, Doctors of Cyprus to the World, Nicosia**

e-mail: gstanfordu@gmail.com

George Stavri was born in 1961, in Ammohostos of Cyprus, a territory currently under Turkish occupation. He completed three academic programs at Stanford University in the USA; Economics, Political Sciences and International Commerce with Finance. His main mentor during his studies was Condoleezza Rice, former US Secretary of State. He continued pursuing a series of contextual studies in known universities abroad among them Harvard Business School, Imperial College (UK), King's College (UK), and Institute of Federalism – Fribourg University (Switzerland). He served as a representative of the British Presidency of the EU in Cyprus and worked as a UN Consultant, UNDP and USAID. Currently he is the director of the *Cypriot Institute of Federal Studies* in cooperation with a University Institute in the EU as well as a new Non Governmental Organization in Cyprus, "Doctors of Cyprus in the World" offering international humanitarian assistance. His articles on various international issues have been published in international publication.

**Suren Sirma (Ms.), Doctoral Candidate, Sabanci University, Istanbul**

e-mail: sirmas@su.sabancuniv.edu

Sirma Suren received her MSc in "Politics and Government in the EU" from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2007. Before starting her PhD, she worked in two European Commission projects titled "Information and Communication Project" targeting Turkish public and "GO-Euromed" focusing on Union for the Mediterranean. Currently, she is a Political Science PhD student in Sabanci University, Turkey. Her research interests include, international relations theory, game-theory, party-systems, constitutional designs, EU, EU-Turkey relations, effect of external actors on domestic reforms.

**Tashkovich Gligor (Mr.), Minister (Ret.) for Foreign Investment, Skopje**

e-mail: Gligor1@aol.com

Gligor Tashkovich recently completed a two year parliamentary mandate as the Minister for Foreign Investment in Skopje, FYROM. The Government of which he was a part was elected on a strong anti-corruption and pro-business background in July 2006. He has traveled to forty countries around the world convincing international firms to consider basing their European manufacturing, assembly, and back office operations in FYROM. He succeeded in attracting nearly one billion Euros of new foreign direct investment as a result of his efforts. He currently serves as a founding Trustee of the American Research Center in Sofia, Bulgaria; a member of the University Council of the American University in Bulgaria; Treasurer of the New York Business Schools Club; a member of the advisory boards of the United Macedonian Diaspora and Mackenzie & Co. Capital Pty Limited in Sydney, Australia; and as an associate of several international charitable foundations. Previously, he was the Executive Vice President for Government & Media Relations for AMBO LLC (the Albanian-Macedonian-Bulgarian Oil Corporation) on the \$1.5 billion Trans-Balkan Oil Pipeline project, which will connect the Black Sea with the Adriatic Sea and cross the Republics of Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Albania. In this capacity, he met regularly with Presidents, Prime Ministers, and their Ministers, Ambassadors, and Advisers, has negotiated agreements between and among the three countries, marketed the project concept to oil companies, financiers, governments, international financial institutions, and the media; and maintained an oil & gas-related time-sensitive news distribution service covering ten countries in the former Soviet Union, Turkey, and the Balkans. He began working for AMBO LLC in mid-1994.

**Ujkani Emrush (Mr.), Member of the Committee, Kosovo Atlantic Association, Prishtina**

e-mail: emrushujkani@yahoo.com

Emrush Ujkani was born on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1978, in Mitrovica, Republic of Kosovo. After he has finished elementary and secondary school he decided to study a law. He was admitted at the Law Faculty of Prishtina in 1999 as a regular student. In 2003 he completed his studies. From 2003 until 2005 he did an LLM program in Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Prishtina. In 2005 he received a scholarship from the European Agency for Reconstruction to conduct a Master Program in European Studies where he went to Katholieke University of Leuven- Leuven (Belgium) where he finished the second master's program. He has attended different international academic programs. He has been working within the Office of the Prime Minister (2006-2008) as a head of department for Coordination of the EU Assistance to Kosovo. Since 2008 he is working as a Head of Directorate for Cooperation with EU and NATO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Kosovo. He is a member of the Kosovo Atlantic Association. He is also working as teacher in the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy University for Business and Technology.

**Utkin Sergey (Dr.), Researcher, Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Science, Moscow**

e-mail: utkin.sv@mail.ru

Sergey Utkin is currently a Researcher in the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences. He has graduated from Historical Faculty of the Moscow Pedagogical State University in 2002. In 2006 in the Russian Academy of Sciences he has successfully completed his doctoral thesis on the functioning of the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. Since then he holds a PhD in political science (international relations). For several years he was closely involved in project management and debates on NATO-Russia cooperation in the framework of the Atlantic Treaty Association. His research is



now focused on EU's external relations including European Neighbourhood Policy and EU-Russia relations, as well as on the development of the European Security and Defence Policy.

**Vafiadaki Chryssoula (Ms.), Researcher, Center of Studies and Research of the Military Academy, Paris**

e-mail: chryssoula-vafeiadaki@hotmail.com

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Chryssoula Vafiadaki is a researcher in both geopolitics and linguistics. She has studied Geopolitics in Paris at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Geostrategic Center) and at the faculty of Geography of the University of Paris I Panthéon – Sorbonne. She is student of the Honorable President of the University of Paris I Panthéon – Sorbonne, M. Jacques Soppelsa and of the famous Geographer, Professor of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Michel Foucher. In Greece, she has been a student of Mr. Ioannis Mazis, with whom she has collaborated for the Defence Analyses Institute where he has been the Scientific President. She also participates in a research laboratory on terrorism at the Center of Studies and Research of the Military Academy (Paris, France). She has also participated in a case study travel in Serbia organized by Prof. Foucher this winter. She has worked on "The frontiers of Bolivia", "The greek-serbian relations", "The drugs' traffic in South-east Asia", "The ASEAN treaties". Her working languages are French and English.

**Vujačić Nina (Ms.), Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Independent Daily Vijesti, Podgorica**

e-mail: nina.@vijesti.me

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Nina Vujačić graduated from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology with a B.A. in Literature equivalent. She is deputy editor in chief in independent daily "Vijesti", since July 1 2001. She was a desk editor in independent daily "Vijesti" from July 1, 2000 till July 1, 2001. She is working on issues regarding EU integration of Montenegro. She speaks English, Italian and Russian (fluent).

**Yinanc Barcin (Ms.), Managing Editor, Hürriyet Daily News, Istanbul**

e-mail: barcin.yinanc@tdn.com.tr

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Barcin Yinanc studies International Relations at Ankara's Middle East Technical University. She started her career in journalism at 1990 in Milliyet Daily, one of Turkey's mainstream prominent newspapers. After working in Milliyet's Ankara office as a diplomatic reporter for over ten years, she became a TV reporter and worked in TV8 and CNN Türk as an editor of a news programme. For the past three years she is working as the managing editor of English language Hürriyet Daily news. She also writes editorials for Referans, a business daily. Over the course of her profession, she covered international meetings, like NATO, EU summits, conducted interviews with European and Middle Eastern leaders. Foreign policy and energy issues, including, accession process to the European Union, relations with the United States and the Middle East remains her main focus.

**Zakharchenko Alla (Dr.), Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Odessa Mechnikov National University, Odessa**

e-mail: allazakharchenko@gmail.com

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Alla Zakharchenko is Associated Professor at the Department of International Relations, Odessa Mechnikov National University, Ukraine, where she teaches "Problems of Security in the Middle East". She also works as Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Strategic Studies under President of Ukraine where she is expert in Israeli and Middle Eastern studies. She earned her Diploma of Specialist in International Relations from Odessa National University and Ph.D. in Political Sciences from the Institute of World Economics and International Relations, Kyiv. The main area of her specialization is American policy toward the Middle East, focusing on the United States' role in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. She frequently travels to the USA and Israel, conducting research on different aspects of the peace process in Middle East. She is author of 35 articles and participant of numerous international conferences. Currently she is pursuing her research on comparative analysis of strategies of the US, the EU and Russia toward the main problems of security in the Middle East, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, situation in Iraq, Iranian nuclear program, and Islamic fundamentalism.

*N.B. Due to the varied length, level of detail and format of the information provided, ELIAMEP has edited the curricula vitae. We sincerely apologise for any mistakes, misinterpretations or omissions that may have occurred during the process. Thank you for your understanding*