

Halki International Seminars

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“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”

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French Institute of Athens

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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
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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.

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Emrush Ujkani was born on 18th 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.

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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.

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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.

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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).

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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.

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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