

EUROPE DAY CELEBRATION

The EU and US: Building Transatlantic Communities

A roundtable of the Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33186 – Graham Center West Ballroom

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Roundtable Participants: Biographical Notes

PANELISTS



Andreas T. Siegel

Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami

Andreas Siegel is a career diplomat with a broad range of international experience in strategic, political, economic and cultural affairs. He holds both a (postgraduate) diploma of the College of Europe, Bruges/Belgium and a Master degree of French, English and American literature/linguistics of the University of Freiburg/Germany.

Andreas has had a long-time connection and affinity with the United States: he was an AFS exchange student in Michigan during the Bi-Centennial year 1975/1976. In the early 1990ies he served as a Vice-Consul at the German Consulate General in Boston, Mass.

Before coming to Florida in July 2019, Andreas headed the German Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Prior to that he was Head of the Strategic Planning Division for External Cultural Policy in the Directorate General for Culture and Communication at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

From 2010 to 2013 he was posted in Brussels/Belgium as First Counsellor at the Permanent Representation to NATO, coordinating in particular arms control and counter-terrorism matters. Prior to this, he worked for 6 years in Strasbourg/France, first as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe (CoE) , then – on leave from the Foreign Service – as Director of Strategic Planning, reporting directly to the Secretary General of the CoE. From 2001 to 2004, Andreas led a working unit in the European Directorate General in Berlin, serving as the German spokesperson for European cultural policy and coordinating German cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries.

During the first years of his career, Andreas occupied two posts in (the then capital) Bonn and three abroad: after two years of diplomatic training, he started off as a desk officer for Poland at the Foreign Office to move on to Boston/USA as Vice-Consul. He then spent three years in Lilongwe/Malawi (South-Eastern Africa) as Deputy Head of Mission and Chargé d'affaires. Back to Bonn, he worked at the Federal Chancellery, dealing with international strategic issues. Another assignment led him to Rabat and Casablanca/Morocco, where he served as Head of the economic section of the Embassy and Consul General, respectively.



Raphael Trapp
Consul General of France in Miami

An alumnus of the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris XII and the Institute of Administration, Mr. Trapp joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

In 2004, he was assigned to the Budgetary Office at the General Administration Department before joining the Human Rights office of the Ministry (2006-2009). Starting from 2009, Mr. Trapp was appointed as Legal Advisor at the Human Rights unit of the Permanent mission of France to the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland).

In 2012, he took over the unit as Head of the Human Rights department of the Mission. He participated in the establishment of the Commission of inquiry on Human Rights violations in Syria, worked more broadly on the universal protection of freedom of speech, and the fight against arbitrary detentions and death penalty.

In 2013, Mr. Trapp joined the French Embassy in Rabat (Morocco) as First secretary at the Political Affairs unit, a period during which he worked in close relationship with the Moroccan civil society.

Back in Paris, at the Secretary General department of the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, he served as a Policy officer to follow up management and general Consular affairs; the last year of his posting, he managed the policy officers' team of the Secretary General.

In 2019, he was appointed Deputy permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and the International Organizations in Vienna (Austria) and worked on the nuclear Iranian file, on space affairs and on combatting cybercrime.



Catalin Ghenea
Consul General of Romania in Miami

Mr. Catalin Ghenea assumed his duty as Consul General of Romania in Miami on December 5th, 2017. Prior to this appointment he was posted as Consul and Consul General in Los Angeles.

Between 1999–2002 he served as diplomatic counselor in the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North America Division, after heading the Israeli Office in the Division for Middle East and Africa.

For two years, between 1997-1999, he was employed as program advisor – international officer – with the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

Before joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995 he was, beginning 1990, Director for International Relations for Youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sport, being member of, or heading, Romanian delegations to numerous international conferences.

Mr. Ghenea holds a Master's Degree in Architecture with the University of Bucharest, a profession which he performed until 1990. He also holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration with the University of Bucharest.

He is fluent in English, French, German and Portuguese.



Eva Alvino
Deputy Consul General
Consulate General of Italy in Miami



Dara Mac Gabhann
Vice Consul
Consulate General of Ireland in Miami

Dara Mac Gabhann took up his post as Vice Consul at the new Consulate General of Ireland in Miami in October 2022. Mr. Mac Gabhann joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2019 and has served in a variety of roles both in headquarters and abroad, including in the Department's EU and Political Divisions, and on assignments in Morocco and Romania. Prior to joining the Department, Mr. Mac Gabhann worked in the Directorate General for Human Resources of the European Parliament in Luxembourg.

Mr. Mac Gabhann is originally from Dublin and is a graduate of European Studies in Trinity College, Dublin.



Gijs van Doorn
Jr. Economic Policy Officer
Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami

Currently placed for six months as Jr. Economic Policy officer at the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami.

Previously worked at the think tank GLOBSEC in Brussels, focusing on (Eastern) European integration and the war in Ukraine.

MA in Diplomacy and Global Governance at Brussels School of Governance, focusing on EU diplomacy and security issues such as with NATO. MA thesis on the consequences of Brexit for the Netherlands in the EU.

BA in Peace and Conflict Studies at Malmö University, Sweden.

After placement in Miami, work will be in line with Foreign Affairs and EU relations.



Lisa Arias Rodriguez

*Education Advisor of the Embassy of Spain
Consulate General of Spain*

Lisa Arias is an Education Advisor of the Embassy of Spain stationed at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami since 2019. She graduated cum laude from Middlebury College with a joint major in Spanish and French and holds two master's degrees from the Universities of Santiago de Compostela and Vigo in Spain in Philology and Advanced Studies in English. After a lifelong career in teaching at all levels, as well as being a professional development specialist, Lisa has recently taken a new direction in her career, yet always connected to the field of education. In September 2017, Lisa became an Education Advisor for the New York office of the Embassy of Spain. At the Embassy, she promotes diverse educational outreach programs in the United States and Canada with the goal of fostering collaborative educational programs between these countries and Spain, building long lasting ties among their citizens. Always in the hope of inspiring and empowering individuals to become global citizens through the passionate process of language learning, she is currently the national coordinator of the NALCAP Spain program. Last but not least, she is a proud mother of three.

MODERATOR



Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.

*Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations
Director, European & Eurasian Studies Program
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
Florida International University*

Tatiana Kostadinova is a professor in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the director of the European & Eurasian Studies Program at FIU. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Florida State University. Her research and teaching interests include elections, institutions, democratization, political corruption, and populism. She has been the recipient of several grants, among which the American Political Science Small Research Grant (2002) and a Fellowship Program Award from the German Marshall Fund of the United States (2003-2004). Kostadinova is the author of two books. In *Bulgaria 1879-1946: The Challenge of Choice* (East European Monographs/Columbia University Press, 1995) she explored institutional arrangements, party competition, and voting patterns in Bulgarian parliamentary elections. The second book, *Political Corruption in Eastern Europe: Politics After Communism* (Lynne Rienner, 2012) analyzed the emergence of corruption as a major obstacle to successful democratic transition. Her findings turn the attention to the eroding impact of malfeasance on citizen trust in institutions and the role of the European Union for promoting integrity in public life. Other publications include journal articles in *American Journal of Political Science*, *Electoral Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Party Politics*, and *Europe-Asia Studies*.

Professor Kostadinova's primary teaching area is comparative politics. At the undergraduate level, she teaches courses on Russian and Eastern European politics, electoral behavior, and research methods. Her graduate level courses include seminars on democratic transitions, political parties, political corruption, and advanced research.