

1st Round of the Local Miami-Dade Euro Challenge Competition 2012

*Florida International University – Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street - Miami, FL 33199 - MARC Building*

Tuesday, March 20th, 2012

Judges: Biographical Notes

JUDGES PANEL I

Christophe Arnaud

Press Attaché

Consulate General of France in Miami

Graduated from Institut d'Etudes politiques de Paris and from University of Toulouse (economics)

Press attaché (Embassies et consulates) in Malaysia (1990/94), Australia (1994/98), New Zealand (1998/2000)

Assigned at the United Nations - New York (2001/04)

Office of the French Minister of European Affairs (2005/07)

Office of the French Prime Minister (2007/09)

Currently Press attaché at the consulate in Miami.

Alexander Behrens

Chief Operating Officer

Eurochannel Inc.

Alexander Behrens is currently Chief Operating Officer for Eurochannel Inc. He has been in this company for about 7 years. Mr. Behrens has been in the Television industry for about 28 years. Mr. Behrens worked with the Cisneros Group of Companies for over twenty years where his responsibilities included government relations in Latin America as well as strategic development. Mr. Behrens served as Director of International relations for the group and also served as Director-Vice President of the Chairman's Office of the Cisneros Group of Companies

Mr. Behrens attended Wesleyan University and major in Economics and then he did post graduate studies in different universities not only in the US but in other countries as well.

Silvia Kofler

Spokesperson, Head of Press and Public Diplomacy

Delegation of the European Union to the United States

Silvia Kofler is a veteran public diplomat who has worked in some of the most dynamic media centers in Europe, Asia, and North America.

Currently, she serves as the Spokesperson and Head of Press and Public Diplomacy at the Delegation of the European Union to the United States, where she oversees media relations, public outreach, academic and cultural programs, long-term relationship building initiatives, and information products and services.

Prior to joining the EU Delegation in Washington, Ms. Kofler spent four years leading press, public, and cultural affairs at the European Commission Delegation in Tokyo.

From 2004 until 2006, Ms. Kofler was posted in Brussels, where she streamlined communications efforts regarding EU trade policy.

Ms. Kofler also headed press and information operations at the European Commission Delegation in Moscow, where she was posted from 2000 until 2004.

Ms. Kofler first joined the European Communities in Brussels in 1992, working on development policy issues for EU Council of Ministers before moving to the Council's press office. From 1994 to 2000, she attended every meeting of both the EU Foreign Ministers and the EU Finance Ministers.

Ms. Kofler launched her career in 1986 in the banking centers of Luxembourg and Milan, where she became an authority on ECU bond markets. She studied law in Austria (Innsbruck) and Italy (Padua) before earning a degree in international law from the University of Padua.

Ms. Kofler was born into a German-speaking family in the Italian Dolomites and speaks five EU languages fluently. She is also fluent in Russian.

JUDGES PANEL II

Dr. Volker R. Anding, PhD

Ambassador (ret.) - Miami/Florida

2001 - July 2007 Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Montevideo/Uruguay

2001 - 2004 German Consul General, Miami/Florida

1998 - 2001 Head of Section for Constitutional and Administrative Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bonn and Berlin/Germany

1997 Member of the Royal College of Defense Studies, London/United Kingdom

1993 - 1996 German Ambassador to the Republic of Panama

1990 - 1993 Deputy Consul General, German Consulate General, San Francisco/California

1986 - 1990 Deputy Director for European Affairs, Federal Chancellor's Office, Bonn/Germany

1984 - 1985 Resident Fellow, Institute for East-West Security Studies, New York/N.Y.

1982 - 1984 Deputy Ambassador, German Embassy, Dakar/Senegal

1979 - 1982 Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bonn/Germany

1976 - 1979 German Permanent Mission to NATO, Brussels/Belgium

1973 - 1976 Consul, German Consulate General, Detroit/Michigan

1971 - 1973 Diplomatic Academy, Bonn/Germany

1969 - 1970 Scientific Assistant, University of Marburg/Germany; Doctoral thesis on constitutional law (Ph.D.)

1964 - 1969 Studies of Law, Universities of Marburg and Freiburg/Germany

1962 - 1964 Military service in the Bundeswehr (Lieutenant of the Reserve, German Air Force)

Dr. Mihaela Pinte, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Economy

Florida International University

Ph.D., Economics, University of Washington, (December 2003)

Fields of specialization: Macroeconomics and Econometrics.

Thesis: Essays in Economic Growth and Economies in Transition

Areas of interest: Macroeconomics, Economic Growth, Growth and Technology, Computational Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Development Economics: Theory (Ph.D. level at Florida International University)

Fundamentals of Graduate Macroeconomics (Ph.D. level at Florida International University)

International Macroeconomics (at Florida International University)

Intermediate Macroeconomics (at Florida International University)

Introductory Macroeconomics (at University of Washington and FIU)

Introductory Microeconomics (at University of Washington)

Teaching Assistant at University of Washington

Econometrics (Ph.D. level)

Introductory Microeconomics

Simone Filippini

Consul General

Consulate General of The Republic of the Netherlands in Miami

Consul General Simone Filippini arrived in Miami Florida on August 1, 2011. In the past four years she served as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Skopje, Macedonia. She started her career in the Foreign office in 1988 in The Hague, after having worked as a conference manager in a commercial company.

As a career diplomat Ambassador Filippini previously served as the Head of the Gender Department; Leader of the Project Team responsible for setting up a governmental communication strategy on European Integration issues; Coordinator of EU Enlargement; Senior Staff in the Political Department supporting the Director-General for Political Affairs; Deputy Head of the Desk for the Middle East and Gulf Regions; and as desk officer special programs with NGOs.

The Consul General received an MA in Slavic Languages and Literature from Utrecht State University in the Netherlands. She is also an accredited communication and public information expert. Ambassador Filippini has also been active as an elected member of the National Board of one of the Dutch political parties, holding the international portfolio; as member of the Board of the Netherlands Institute for Multi-Party Democracy, and as President of the Board of NOVA International School in Skopje, Macedonia. Moreover she was actively involved in the founding of several professional networks.

In 2010 Ambassador Filippini was awarded the Diversity Award Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the annual MFA management award. Also, she received several awards during her assignment in Macedonia for her personal contributions to the promotion of the environment, film and contemporary dance.

JUDGES PANEL III

Juan José Cogolludo Díaz

Education Advisor

Consulate General of Spain in Miami

Juan José Cogolludo Díaz was born in Madrid (Spain) on May 7 1960. His wife is Irish and they have two children aged 16 and 19.

He moved to Canada in 1973 with his family and continued his formal education in Glashan Public School, Glebe Collegiate Institute and finally in Ottawa Technical High. On return to Spain he obtained his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English language and literature at the Complutense University in Madrid.

Between 1984 and 1987, while living in Ireland, where he taught Spanish language and History, he did his doctorate on the poetry of the Irish Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney, at the UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia).

From 1987 until 1990 he lived in Miami, where he held the post of principal in a Spanish school which belonged to a privately owned educational organization with other centres in several European countries.

Prior to taking up his current position at the Consulate General of Spain in Miami, he was vice-principal of the Official School of Languages in Pamplona (Spain). He also taught English for nine years at the Pamplona campus of the UNED.

Marycela Diaz-Unzalu

Economic Education Specialist

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta – Miami Branch

Marycela is a Public Information and Education Specialist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. She has over thirteen years of commercial banking experience in South Florida and is an adjunct professor at Miami Dade College and Carlos Albizu University. She received her Masters Degree (MBA) from Nova Southeastern University.

Dr. Markus Thiel, PhD

Assistant Professor, Political Science and International Relations

Florida International University

Markus Thiel graduated in 2005 with a Ph.D. from the University of Miami.

Dr. Thiel's research interests are European (Union) Politics, Nationalism & Identity (Politics), Political Sociology, European Security and Mixed Methods Research Methodology. He has published several EU-related articles and book chapters at the EU Center, University of Miami, as well as in *Transatlantic Monthly*, *Tamkang Journal of International Affairs*, *International Studies Compendium and Perspectives on European Politics & Society*. He just co-edited *European Identity and Culture* (Ashgate, 2012) with Dr. Rebecca Friedman; he published *The Limits of Transnationalism: Collective Identities and EU Integration* (Palgrave, 2011) and also co-edited two volumes, one with Lisa Prügl on *Diversity and the European Union* (Palgrave, 2009) and the other with Roger Coate on *Identity politics in the Age of Globalization* (Lynne Rienner/First Forum Press, 2010). His current research focuses on the promotion of rights policies based on the EU's Fundamental Rights Charter.

He teaches INR 2001 Introduction to International Relations, CPO 2002 Comparative Politics, CPO 3103 Comparative (Western) European Politics, CPO 3104 EU Politics, INR 3214 International Relations of Europe, INR 3502 International Organizations and INR 4204 Ethnicity and Nationalism, as well as graduate courses on European/EU Politics and International Organization.

In addition, Dr. Thiel is a research associate at the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence and active in FIU's European Studies Program.