

Pilar BONET



A Spanish journalist who has spent most of her professional career as a correspondent for the newspaper El País in Moscow.

She graduated from the University of Barcelona (Hispanic Philology) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Information Sciences).

Pilar started working as a journalist in different media of the Balearic Islands, later going to El Periódico de Catalunya. She worked for EFE agency in 1980-1982, and later became the El País paper's new head correspondent in the Soviet Union. In the following fifteen years she remained in the same location, covering the emergence and rise of the Polish trade union Solidarity, the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification, the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev to power in the Soviet Union, the 1991 coup d'état against him, Russia under Boris Yeltsin, and the fall of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe. In 1997, she was assigned as a correspondent to Germany, returning to Moscow in 2001.

Olga BUTORINA



Deputy Director at the Institute of Europe RAS, Moscow.

Dr. Butorina has founded the Department of European Integration at MGIMO-University and served as Chair from 2003 through 2012. She has advised a number of government agencies and think-tanks on Russia-EU dialogue and foreign exchange policy, including the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council for Foreign and Defense Policy, the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange and the Bank of Russia, where she serves on the Advisory Committee on currency internationalization.

Received her B.A. with highest honours in 1983 from MGIMO-University and her Ph.D in 1987, both in international economics. She got a professor's degree from the Institute of Europe in 2001 for a dissertation on the international role of the euro.

Research interests include European economic integration, regional integration theory and international finance with focus on the European Monetary Union.

Tomislav CAR



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to the Russian Federation.

In 1990, graduated from the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Social Science and continued his education at the Diplomatic Academies in Vienna and in Zagreb.

In 1990-1993 worked as Research Assistant at the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb. After that, in 1994 and 1995, he worked at of Department for European Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was the Diplomatic Counsellor of Mission to the EU in Bruxelles from 1996 to 1999. In 2007-2011, served as Ambassador to Slovakia, Bratislava and from 2014 to 2018 as Representative to the Political and Security Committee of the EU (Permanent Representation to the EU), Bruxelles.

In 2019 became Ambassador of Croatia to the Russian Federation.

Rustem DAVLETGILDEEV



A member of the European Society of International Law, Russian Association of International Law, Russian Association of European Studies, Russian UN Association, Expert Council to the Ombudsman of the Republic of Tatarstan.

In 2000, he graduated from the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin), Training Programme “International Labour Standards for Lawyers and Legal Educators”. Since 2001, he is the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD and participates in corporate governance for OECD/WB Roundtables on Corporate Governance in Russian Federation, South-East Europe, Eurasian region as well as in elaboration and monitoring process of the White Papers on Corporate Governance.

His main research interests are International Legal Regulation of Labour and Migration at Regional Level with focus on Law of European Union and Eurasian Economic Union. Rustem Davletgildeev has more than 70 publications.

Christian EGENHOFER



Christian Egenhofer is a Senior Research Fellow within the Energy, Resources and Climate Change Unit at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), a Brussels-based think tank, where he heads the Energy and Climate House (ECH).

He is also Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium) and Natolin (Poland), SciencesPo (Paris/France) and LUISS University (Rome/Italy).

He has more than 20 years' experience working with EU institutions on numerous policy areas. Over the last decade he has been specialising in EU energy and climate change policy, with a particular focus on the EU energy, climate and transport policies. From 1997 to 2010 he was Senior Research Fellow and Jean-Monnet Lecturer at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee in Scotland/UK.

Christian holds a Master's degree in Administration from the University of Konstanz as well as a Public Law degree.

Lilia IILIKOVA



Associate Professor and Deputy Director at the Institute of International Relations of Kazan Federal University; Head of Center “European Studies” at the Institute of International Relations.

Lilia graduated as a specialist in Sociology at Kazan University and then continued her postgraduate study in Kazan State University and Milan Catholic University. She later received her Ph.D. in Sociology in Kazan University with the Ph.D. thesis on Nationalism studies that is the main research interests.

She has research experience with other research institute such as Algarve University (Portugal), Giessen University (Germany). Her most recent research projects are “Ethno-cultural branding of Tatarstan Republic” and “Anti-immigration discourse of right-wing politicians (on Italian “League” example). She is author of 1 book, 3 monographs, number of articles and conference papers.

Luca KADAR



Head of Press and Information in the EU Delegation to Russia.

She holds an MA of Political Sciences and an MA of International Relations and European affairs obtained in France and Germany.

During her professional career at the European Commission, she worked on a number of challenging communication tasks and campaigns, related to the preparation of the accession of Hungary; on the introduction of the euro in the new member states and campaign on the Common Foreign and Security Policy. After four years at the EU Delegation to Serbia as head of press and information, she spent over two years at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, responsible for strategic communications.

She joined the EU Delegation to Russia as a Head of press and information section in September 2016.

Alina KISLOVA



Erasmus programmes alumnae, adult educator and early career scholar in legal education. Graduated from Kazan Federal University (2015) with Law Degree and University of Glasgow (2018) with International Master in Adult Education for Social Change.

Was a visiting researcher at University of Strathclyde Mediation Clinic (UK) and University of Malta Law Clinic (Malta) and visiting academic – researcher at Cardiff University (UK). Has expertise in development, implementation and evaluation of educational programs (including online); recruitment and training of volunteers.

Natalia KONDRATIEVA



Graduated from the Faculty of Geography of the Lomonosov Moscow State University (1994) and the Institute of Europe RAS (1997). PhD in Economics (2000), thesis - "Levelling of socio-economic development of the EU countries on the threshold of the XXI century".

From 2003 to 2010, she worked as associate professor at the Department of European integration of MGIMO University. Since 2011, she is associate professor at the Higher school of economics, faculty of world economy and political affairs. Since 1997, Natalia is research associate and academic secretary at the Institute of Europe RAS. She has 65 publications and is the author of two individual and several collective monographs.

Irina NIKULINA



Director of youth movement SFERA, organization dealing with international volunteering projects since 2007.

Since 2017 head of contact point for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps programmes in Russia, providing consultations and organizing info-events in Russia informing about opportunities of mobility programmes for youth.

She has been working with European Solidarity Corps programme (former European Voluntary Service) since 2011 and has been a volunteer herself for 11 months in Estonia in frames of this programme.

Aleška SIMKIĆ

Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Russia since September 2018.



She has over 20 years of experience as a diplomat in a range of national and international institutions. She started the career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia. The first placement outside Slovenia was at the country's delegation to the OSCE in Vienna. In 2006 she was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative at the Slovenian Mission to the UN, New York. Between 2008 and 2011 served as the Special Advisor to the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw; and political analyst of the OSCE/ODIHR mission, monitoring elections, including the elections to Russia's State Duma in 2011, and Presidential elections of 2012. Back in Ljubljana worked as the Head of the OSCE and CoE Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from there moved to be Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister of Slovenia Miro Cerar. In 2015-2018, Aleška Simkić was Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine.

Alexander TEVDOY-BOURMOULI



Alexander graduated from Moscow State University in 1991 and started his professional activities as a researcher in the Institute of Europe (Moscow). He gained the PhD in Political Sciences in 2007.

Since 2003 has been working in MGIMO University. Currently he takes a position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Integration Studies in MGIMO.

Fields of interest: European integration, EU-Russia relations, transatlantic relations, theory of nation and nationalism, contemporary ethno-political dynamics, ethno-regionalism, separatism.

EU STUDY WEEK PROJECT COORDINATOR IN THE EU DELEGATION TO RUSSIA

Oksana DEMENTIENKO



Coordinator of the EU Study Week Project in the Delegation of the European Union in Russia. Has a track record of implementing technical assistance projects of the Council of Europe in Russia, ranging from fight against money laundering, to the development of a free legal aid system in the country. Before that, worked in several communication roles in a regional public office.

Education: MA in Political Communication, Advocacy and Campaigning from the Kinston University, London. Head of strategic communications of Future Actually Charity.