

EUROPE DAY CELEBRATION

The EU and US: Building Transatlantic Communities What does it mean to be European?

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

Florida International University | Modesto A. Maidique Campus
11200 SW 8th Street, Miami, FL 33199

Friday, May 9, 2025 – 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Roundtable Participants: Biographical Notes

PANELISTS



Christofer Burger

Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami

Christofer Burger has been Consul General of Germany in Miami since August 2023. He previously served as spokesperson to Foreign Ministers Annalena Baerbock and Heiko Maas. He has held diplomatic posts in Nicaragua, Iraq and was seconded to the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Special Presidential Envoy to the Coalition to Defeat ISIS during the Trump administration. He holds an M.A. in Islamic Studies and Economics from Freie Universität Berlin.



Lisette den Breems

Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami

Lisette den Breems assumed her duties as Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Miami on August 14, 2023.

She began her diplomatic career with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000, holding various positions such as Second Secretary at the Embassy in Bogotá /Colombia, First Secretary at the Embassy in London/UK, Deputy Head of the Migration and Development Division, Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hague/Netherlands, and most recently, as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy in Santiago de Chile/Chile.

Ms. den Breems studied Communicative Arabic at the school of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and holds a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology and Sociology of Non-Western Societies from the University of Leiden and a Propaedeuse in Environmental Studies from the University of Wageningen.



Raphaël Trapp

Consul General of France in Miami

Raphaël Trapp took over as Consul General of France in Miami on September 2nd, 2022.

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.



Dara Mac Gabhann

Vice Consul of Ireland

Consulate General of Ireland in Miami

Dara Mac Gabhann took up his post as Vice Consul at the 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.



Giacomo Montrasio
Vice Consul General
Consulate General of Italy in Miami

Giacomo Montrasio assumed his duties as Vice Consul General of the Consulate General of Italy in Miami in September 2024. He entered the Italian Diplomatic Service in 2021, serving at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, at the Directorate General for Human Resources, Budget and Innovations.

After a bachelor's degree in international and European Studies, he obtained a master's degree in international relations from the University of Milan. He holds an MBA from the Luiss Business School in Rome and a master in diplomacy from the Italian Institute of International Political Studies (ISPI) in Milan.

MODERATOR



Tatiana Kostadinova, Ph.D.
Director, European & Eurasian Studies
Professor, Politics & International Relations
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 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.