



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat**

Vienna, 12 February 2021

Biographies of Moderators and Speakers

29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Promoting comprehensive security, stability and sustainable development in the
OSCE area through women’s economic empowerment”**

FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING

Vienna, 15-16 February 2021

Venue: via Zoom

Opening session
Welcoming remarks

Ambassador Ulrika Funered – Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE, 2021 OSCE Swedish Chairpersonship

Ms. Ulrika Funered is Ambassador and Head of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. During the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship 2021 she holds the position as the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Prior to taking up her present position in 2017, she held several senior positions in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swedish Embassy to the UK and as Counsellor Antici at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU.

Ambassador Funered has during the course of her career also held positions as Senior Advisor at the International Department of the Swedish Parliament and Legal Counsel at the Swedish Ombudsman Against Ethnic Discrimination.

Ambassador Funered holds a Master of Laws (International Law) from Lund University in Sweden.



Ms. Helga Schmid – OSCE Secretary General

Ms. Helga Maria Schmid was appointed to the post of Secretary General of the OSCE in December 2020 for a three-year term.

She first joined the diplomatic service as Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for European Affairs (1990–1991).

Since then she has held several prominent diplomatic positions during her career. Early on, she was Political Adviser to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Head of Cabinet to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer; and just prior to her appointment as OSCE Secretary General, she was Secretary General for the European External Action Service.

From 2011 to 2016, she was the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs for the European External Action Service. Preceding that, she was the Director of the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit (Policy Unit) of the High Representative for the CFSP in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels.

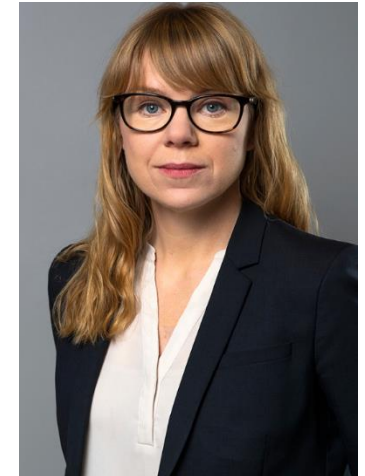
Ms. Schmid has an MA in English and Romance languages, literature, history and politics (1980–1987) from Munich University (Ludwig Maximilians Universität) and the Sorbonne in Paris. Her mother tongue is German and she speaks fluent English and French



Opening Session
Keynote speeches

Ms. Karin Strandås, State Secretary to the Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, Sweden

Ms. Karin Strandås currently serves as State Secretary to the Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination. Previously, she has served as State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture and as Head of the Swedish Green Party Parliamentary Secretariat. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from Uppsala University.



Ms. Liliana Palihovici – Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender

Ms. Liliana Palihovici is the president of the “Institutum Virtutes Civilis” Public Association based in Chisinau.

Liliana has a strong compromise with promotion of the participative democracy, advancing good governance and civil society development. Mrs Palihovici is a former MP and served as Deputy Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Moldova since 2010 till May 2017.

She was co-founder of the Women’s Caucus in the Moldovan parliament and the Women Democracy Network branch in Moldova. Since 2019, she is a member of the UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Civil Society Advisory Group.

In the line with the OSCE’s 2004 Gender Action Plan, Special Representative Palihovici focuses on supporting participating states in the implementation of their existing OSCE commitments and undertaking concrete measures to further gender equality and women’s rights.

Ms. Palihovici was appointed by the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship and advises the Chairperson-in-Office.



Ms. Petra Tötterman Andorff – Secretary general of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

Ms. Petra Tötterman Andorff is the Secretary General at the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation and she has many years' experience of working with international peace and security, focused on SCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

She was on the board of Kvinna till Kvinna from 2007-2013; and is currently the president of the board for Concord Sweden, a network gathering over 70 Swedish CSOs working on global development.

Prior to Kvinna till Kvinna, Ms. Andorff was the International Co-ordinator of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, based at the organization's office in New York and previous to that she was the Secretary General for WILPF Sweden since 2002.



Session I

“Promote policy and legislative measures that lead to women’s equal economic participation and opportunities”

Moderator: Ambassador Florian Raunig – Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee

Ambassador Florian Raunig is the Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE and Head of Department for OSCE, Council of Europe, Inter-parliamentary Union at the Ministry for European and International Affairs.

Previously, Ambassador Raunig was Austrian Ambassador to Albania and Montenegro. He also served as Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania and as the Head of the Austrian OSCE 2017 Chairmanship Task Force.

Ambassador Raunig holds a Magister philosophiae in political science, philosophy and law studies and is fluent in German, Albanian English, French, Italian and Montenegrin.



Ms. Fernanda Ferreira Dias



**Director General, Ministry
of Economy and Digital
Transformation, Portugal**

Ms. Fernanda Ferreira Dias currently serves as Director-General for Economic Activities at the Ministry of Economy and Digital Transition of Portugal. Previously she served as Diplomatic Advisor to the Minister of Economy and she served as Principal Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union, and also at the European Commission, both in Brussels.

Throughout her career, she coordinated and accompanied the negotiation of European dossiers and represented Portugal in legislative negotiations at the level of the European Union and meetings of the OECD, United Nations and other bilateral or multilateral forums. She worked in all Portuguese Presidencies of the Council of the European Union. She supports female entrepreneurship and the WinB - Women in Business Association.

Dr. Elgun Safarov



**UN CEDAW Committee
member, Republic of
Azerbaijan**

Doctor of Law Elgun Safarov participated in numerous local, regional and international projects organized by UN, Council of Europe and other international organizations, and has been lecturing in the fields of international law and international relations in last 15 years.

He was directly involved in drafting of the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women and Men, the Law on prevention domestic violence, amendments of Family, Penal, Civil Codes, legislation on reproductive health and prevention child marriages and other legislative norms of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

His professional activities consists of various types of efforts in the field of human rights, including participation in the preparation process of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; involvement as the trainer in projects on gender equality, women` rights protection, violence against women, prevention of trafficking, organized by UN, UNDP, UNFPA, GIZ, EU, CE and numerous non-governmental organizations; preparation of the national reports in the framework of CEDAW Convention (2009, 2014), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; serving as an analyst and researcher on human rights protection, gender equality, woman leadership, gender based violence, sexual harassment, trafficking as well as author of the more than 30 scholar articles and studies. Currently Dr Elgun Safarov is Member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women of the United Nations

Ms. Gulnora Makhmudova



**Chairperson of the Business
Women's Association of
Uzbekistan**

Ms. Gulnora Makhmudova graduated from the State University of Economics in Tashkent. She improved her professional qualifications in Europe, USA, Japan.

She started her career as the accountant at joint venture in 1991, and rising to the position of General Director. Being a member of Business Women's Association, in 1998, she was elected as Chairperson of Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan in 2011.

For the years of under her leadership, among other achievements, the number of city and district branches of the Association reached 74. The Association unites more than 16 thousand. As a result of successful implementation of projects by the Association, in the last seven years, it was created more than 140 thousand jobs, over 50 thousand women have been taught to basics of business, and more than 9 thousand unemployed women started their own business.

Ms. Daniela Pferr



**Head of Division, Federal
Ministry of Justice and
Consumer protection,
Germany**

Ms. Pferr is head of division for German company law and corporate governance at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. Ms. Pferr joined the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection in 2004. Prior to her current position, Ms. Pferr served in the divisions for Insolvency Law, Family Law, EU Coordination and the Parliament and Cabinet Division.

She also worked at the Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union in Brussels. Ms. Pferr studied law at the Universities of Bonn, Geneva and Munich. She completed her first state examination in law in 1999. In 2002, she passed her second state examination in law in Berlin. Ms. Pferr holds a Master of Laws degree from the University of Texas, Austin.

Before joining the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, Ms. Pferr worked as a lawyer with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in Berlin

Dr. Thilo Engel



**Acting Head of Division,
Federal Ministry for Family
Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth,
Germany**

Mr. Thilo Engel is responsible for gender equality legislation in the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

He is deputy member of the Experts' Forum of the European Institute for Gender Equality. Like Ms. Pferr, he is a jurist. He has worked at the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag), and as a researcher at Max-Planck-Institute for European Legal History.

He received a doctor's degree in legal sciences from the University of Frankfurt. He studied in Paris at École Normale Supérieure and at Sorbonne-University where he received his maîtrise in philosophy and his master's degree in law.

Session II
“Building women’s human capital”

Moderator: Mr. Christophe Kamp, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Christophe Kamp is the Director of the office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

Christophe has nearly 20 years of experience as a diplomat of the Netherlands Foreign Ministry and the European External Action Service in Europe and Africa. Prior posts include Deputy Permanent Representative of the EU to the OSCE, Spokesperson for the Netherlands Foreign Minister and for the Minister for Development Cooperation and European Affairs, and Head of the Political Section of the EU Delegation to the African Union.



Before joining the Netherlands Foreign Ministry in 2001, Christophe worked at the UN Department of Political Affairs in New York, as a human rights observer with the UN Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and with Conflict Management Group, an NGO dedicated to negotiation and conflict resolution. Christophe has a Master’s in Political Science from Leiden University and a Master’s in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Ms. Katri Viinikka



**Ambassador for Gender
Equality, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs of Finland**

Ambassador Katri Viinikka holds the position of Ambassador for Gender Equality at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland since September 1, 2018. Before that, she was Ambassador of Finland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Finland to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from 2015 to 2018. Earlier, Ambassador Viinikka served as Director for United Nations and General Global Affairs at the Political Department of the Finnish MFA from 2010 to 2015.

She has also held the position of Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and served at Finnish embassies in Brussels, Berlin and Bonn. She began her career at MFA of Finland in 1992. Ambassador Viinikka has been active in promoting mediation, co-chairing the Group of Friends of Mediation at the UN at Senior Officials level from 2011 to 2015. She holds the degree of Master of Political Science from University of Helsinki, Finland.

Prof. Christiana Carletti



**University of Roma Tre,
Department of Equal
Opportunities, Presidency of
the Council of Ministers,
Italy**

Ms. Cristiana Carletti is an Associate Professor of International Law at the University “Roma Tre”, she is author of many scientific publications on women’s and children’s rights. She has also made her contributions to international conferences and events on human rights, diplomacy and international law.

In 2020, she worked as expert for UfM Regional Dialogue on Women Empowerment Working Group on data methodology and assessment and the same year she was a Scientific Referee/expert to the Working Group OSCE, created by the Italian Mission to the OSCE.

Professor Carletti is fluent in Italian, French, English and has a working knowledge of Spanish

Ms. Egle Radisauskiene



**Director General,
Lithuanian Business
Confederation/ICC
Lithuania**

Ms. Eglė Radišauskienė is Director General at Lithuanian Business Confederation and 2016-2020 she was Vice – Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania. She was also a member of European Commission Employment Committee (EMCO) and Chairwoman of Gender Equality Commission.

Ms. Radišauskienė holds a Master and she has been active in giving public sector expertise to the beneficiary countries in the fields of employment, labour relations and gender equality.

**Ms. Anna Koukkides -
Procopiou**



**Gender Expert on Economic
and Political Inclusion;
Senior Fellow at the Center
for European and
International Affairs,
University of Nicosia,
Cyprus**

Ms. Anna Koukkides Procopiou was a founding member and currently serves as President of AIPFE Cyprus – Women of Europe, a civil society organisation working on political and economic inclusion.

She is also a co-founder of the Unlocking Female Leadership initiative, which aims at increasing gender diversity in decision-making positions.

A Senior Fellow at the Center for European and International Affairs at the University of Nicosia, she often participates and contributes as expert in a number of working groups on female leadership, social entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurship run by the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Union for the Mediterranean.

Anna draws on her twenty years of experience in the corporate sector as a reference point for her research work and policy recommendations.

Session III

“Promoting women’s equal participation in the labour market”

Moderator: Dr. Hedy Fry, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Special Representative on Gender Issues


Honourable Hedy Fry was first elected to Parliament for Vancouver Centre in 1993 as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health becoming the first rookie to defeat a sitting Prime Minister. Dr. Fry is the longest serving female Member of Parliament in Canada’s history.

Hedy Fry holds Master’s degree in English Literature from Oxford University and an undergraduate in French, English and Spanish literature. She completed her Bachelor studies in Medicine with Honours at the Royal College of Surgeons. In 2006, Dr. Fry ran for the Leadership of the Liberal Party as the first immigrant woman to do so with her “True Grit” campaign. Dr. Fry served as Opposition Critic for Sports and the 2010 Olympics, and for Canadian heritage. She is currently the Chair of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.



As a Minister, Dr. Fry represented the Canadian government as Head of delegation at many high-profile such as World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban. In preparation for the WCAR, Dr. Fry initiated the first UN Youth Against Racism Secretariat, culminating in a youth NGO convention at Durban.

She has been appointed the Special Representative on Gender Issues of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly (PA). She was also appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration of the OSCE PA.

SPEAKER	BIO
<p data-bbox="219 387 495 419">Ms. Mia Mitchell</p>  <p data-bbox="152 943 607 1144">Director, Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Unit Office of Global Women’s Issues, U.S. Department of State</p>	<p data-bbox="640 387 2063 467">Ms. Mia Mitchell is the Director of the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Unit in the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues at the U.S. Department of State.</p> <p data-bbox="640 515 2063 683">She was previously a Senior Advisor for International Economics at the White House, serving on the National Security Council and National Economic Council. There she developed and coordinated the U.S. Government’s first-ever women’s economic empowerment initiative and advanced priorities in the G7 and G20 as the United States Sous-Sherpa.</p> <p data-bbox="640 730 2029 850">Mia previously served with the White House Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Agency for International Development. She holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School, and an undergraduate degree in Government from Smith College.</p>

Mr. Umberto Cattaneo



**Economist, ILO Gender,
Equality and Diversity &
ILOAIDS Branch,
International Labour
Organization**

Mr. Umberto Cattaneo is an Economist in the Gender, Equality and Diversity and ILOAIDS Branch of the ILO.

Umberto has recently authored the ILO centenary report on gender equality “A quantum leap for gender equality: for a better future of work for all”, which highlights key gender gaps and obstacles to decent work for women. More recently, Umberto authored the ILO “Indigenous Peoples Report”, which highlights the critical role played by Convention No. 169 and presents the social and economic situation of indigenous women and men by looking at key aspects such as population, employment, poverty and public policies.

Prior joining the ILO, Umberto worked on female poverty for the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for the Africa Region.

Umberto has studied in several universities, including the School of Oriental and African Studies, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Université Libre de Bruxelles and obtained his PhD in Economics from the University of Genoa in Italy.

Ms. Lazzat Ramazanova



**Chairperson of the National
Commission on Women's
Affairs and Family and
Demographic Policy under
the President of the Republic
of Kazakhstan, Member of
the Committee for Social
and Cultural Development
of Mazhilis of Parliament,
Chairperson of the Council
of Business Women of NCE
RK "Atameken"**

Ms. Lazzat Ramazanova was born on July 17, 1973 in the South Kazakhstan region.

She graduated from the Kazakh State University of World Languages in Almaty (1990-1995), the Kazakh State Law Academy in Astana (1998-2001). She began her career in the banking system (1994-1995).

Since 2015, Ms. Ramazanova is the President of the Council of business women of "Atameken" NCE RK. Member of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

She is a Chairman of the Board of the Kazakhstan Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives "ECOJER" since November 2019,

Since May 2020 she is Chairman of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In January 2021, she was appointed Deputy of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, seventh convocation, Member of the Committee on Social-Cultural Development.

Ms. Christine Mayrhuber



**Senior Economist, Austrian
Institute of Economic
Research**

Ms. Christine Mayrhuber is Senior Economist at WIFO and has been working in the Research Group "Labour Market, Income and Social Security" since 1999.

She researches questions of income development and income distribution also from a gender perspective, the structure and financing of pension insurance, the redistributive effects of welfare state structures and the new conditions in which social security mechanisms can take place on digital labour markets and modified income conditions in the future.

Ms. Mayrhuber has been a long-standing member of the Commission for Long-term Pension Security in Austria and has designed and organised the annual conference on welfare state questions since 2005 together with the Hauptverband der österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger (Main Association of Austrian Social Insurance Institutions).

After studying economics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, she worked as a research assistant at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna before joining WIFO. Christine Mayrhuber is Käthe Leichter Prize Winner in 2013.

Session IV

“Supporting women’s equal access to economic assets and financial goods and services”

Moderator: Ms. Müge Dolun – Gender Coordinator ad-interim, Office for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Ms. Müge Dolun is a development practitioner, with expertise on trade, gender and environment. She has over 18 years of experience in strategic research, technical assistance and evaluation.

Since mid-2019, she has been serving as the ad-interim Gender Coordinator at UNIDO's Office for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as the institutional focal point within the UN system and coordinator for the Organization's Gender Policy and Strategy.

Previously, she was responsible for managing independent evaluations, mostly focusing on the energy and environment portfolio of UNIDO. In her previous roles, she has managed technical assistance projects in trade capacity building and agri-business development.

Ms. Dolun is a development economist by training, with a Master in Public Administration in International Development degree from Harvard Kennedy School.



SPEAKER	BIO
<p data-bbox="210 368 533 405">Ms. Dajna Sorensen</p>  <p data-bbox="147 842 611 962">Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania</p>	<p data-bbox="638 373 2047 496">Ms. Dajna Sorensen holds a Master’s degree in Economics from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. She completed her higher studies in Economics at Western Washington University in the USA.</p> <p data-bbox="638 547 2016 754">During the period 2009-2017, she has managed a series of projects and programs in the field of employment and vocational training at the UNDP. In the period 2007-2009, she worked at the German Development Cooperation Office in Dhaka, Bangladesh, as an international consultant within the Program “Promotion of Social, Environmental and Production Standards in the Readymade Garments Sector” (PROGRESS) project.</p> <p data-bbox="638 762 2058 842">Ms. Sorensen has been a lecturer in the Department of Economics at New York University in Tirana during the period from 2004-2006.</p> <p data-bbox="638 890 1877 970">In October 2017, she was appointed Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy, responsible for employment, education and vocational training.</p>

Ms. Annie Vashakmadze



**Head of Donor Relations
and International Relations
Department of the Georgia's
Innovation and Technology
Agency, Georgia**

Ms. Ani (Annie) Vashakmadze is a professional with 12 years of experience in economics and commercial diplomacy.

She has academic knowledge in business studies, trade policy, entrepreneurship and economics of the public sector. She has Professional experience in development projects and programming exercises, and research. She works as a Head of Department for International Relations and Relations with Donors at Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency GITA, under the supervision of Ministry of economy and Sustainable development of Georgia.

Annie was certified as Entrepreneurs Coach by SIYB/ILO. She used to be a wise-chair at TOS ICP Bureau at UNECE (Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness) and Netherlands Trainee Fellow at World Trade Organization (WTO) working with Economic Research division and ITTC.

Ms. Vashakhmadze is the Assistant Professor at Business and Technology University of Georgia –BTU, she is teaching Innovation based Entrepreneurship and helping with Technology Commercialization and Innovation Ecosystem Mapping efforts.

Ms. Neha Dean



**Senior Policy Advisor for
Equity Finance, Department
for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy, United
Kingdom**

Ms. Neha Dean is a Senior Policy Advisor for Equity Finance and works for the UK Government at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Her primary role is lead and implement policies that enable entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses in the UK with easier access to equity investment in order to start, grow and reach their full potential.

She also leads on policies to ensure UK's finance markets are working well for entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds - her current priority is leading on the Rose Review for female entrepreneurship to deliver UK Government's ambition to significantly increase women entrepreneurs in their national workforce.

Ms. Julie Baker



**Head of Enterprise and
Climate Engagement at
NatWest, United Kingdom**

Ms. Julie Baker is the *Head of Enterprise and Climate Engagement* at NatWest and leads on working with external strategic partners from both the Private and Public Sector to support entrepreneurs in the UK.

With more than 30 year career in the world of banking, Julie has gained significant knowledge from a variety of leadership roles across the Corporate, Commercial and Retail Bank. Julie presently has responsibility for the Bank's Enterprise Agenda including the multi award winning Women in Business program and leading on the Rose Review interventions on behalf of Alison Rose, CEO of NatWest.

Julie is an ardent supporter of business expansion, job creation and economic growth and is seen as an external influencer, who sits on the board of the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership, The Investment Committee of Innovate UK the X-Forces Enterprise advisory board and is Chair of the Access to Finance Group at the APPG for Women in Enterprise.

Concluding Session

Ambassador Tobias Lorentzson – Deputy Permanent Representative of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE

Ambassador Lorentzson has over 16 years of experience in the Swedish diplomatic service and served as Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Political Section at the Embassy of Sweden in Moscow.

Prior to that, Ambassador Lorentzson was Desk Officer for Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, served as First Secretary at the Swedish Mission to the UN in Geneva and as Second Secretary at Swedish Embassy in Guatemala.

Ambassador Lorentzson holds a Master in International Relations, Sciences Po, Paris.



Ambassador Vuk Žugić – Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ambassador Vuk Žugić has been the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities since 2017. Acting in support of the Chairman-in-Office, he is charged with strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security.



Ambassador Žugić is a career diplomat with international experience in various high level positions. Before joining the OSCE Secretariat, he acted as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna (2012-2017). He also served as Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council during Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship in 2015. Prior to that assignment, between 2004 and 2009, he was Ambassador of Serbia to the Republic of India. Amongst other significant functions, Ambassador Žugić held the positions of Assistant Foreign Minister/Director General, Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (2009-2012), Assistant Foreign Minister, and Head of Sector for Multilateral Cooperation (2001-2004) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

Ambassador Žugić holds a Master's degree in International Law and Relations from the University of Belgrade.