



ONLINE WORKSHOP

Young Professionals Forum on EU Diplomacy

in the framework of the EUDIPLO Jean Monnet Network

www.eudiplo.eu

Friday 1st October 2021 | University of Pisa

Registration

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsf-mqqDIqE9CpudhfSi2et03CMxJ4yG_V](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/join?secret=us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsf-mqqDIqE9CpudhfSi2et03CMxJ4yG_V)

Objectives of the workshop

The Young Professionals Forum on EU diplomacy is organised by the University of Pisa in the context of the project EUDIPLO (2020-2023), “The European Union in International diplomatic relations”. The workshop is especially directed to diplomatic trainees, graduate and post graduate students interested in a career as civil servants within the diplomacy machinery of the EU and its Member States.

We invited 12 early career professionals such as former Junior Professionals in Delegation (JPD) and/or former trainees who work (or have worked) at the EU delegations. The young professionals will present their experience at the EU delegations located in different regions of the world.

We are particularly interested in giving visibility to the work that is carried out by the EU delegations in the world. Indeed, the EU delegations are less known than national Embassies. The workshop is intended to present the work that is carried out at the EU delegations to explain the diplomatic possibilities and challenges to those interested in a career in diplomacy.

Both the European External Action Service and the Union delegations – and hence the European Union’s diplomatic institutional machinery – remain largely unknown to the public. Yet, the European Union not only has a worldwide network of more than 140 ‘embassies’, but at the same time it has assumed ‘state-like’ functions on the basis of the adoption of diplomatic rules that were originally created for states only. Many challenges do remain, but the deep and

wide legal and policy powers – and the sheer size and universal network – of the European Union also offer opportunities that remain as of yet untapped.

Academic and policy analyses have pointed to a great number of legal and political questions related to the developing role of the EU in international diplomacy. The Network EUDIPLO focuses on this central question: What are the internal and external constraints and opportunities for the European Union to further its ambitions as an international diplomatic actor? In dealing with this question, the Network aims to generate a stronger awareness on, and contribute to deeper insights with regard to, the European Union's diplomatic activities throughout the world, in third States as well as at multilateral fora.

Programme

09:15 - 09:25 | Welcome and presentation

Prof. Dr. **Ramses Wessel**, University of Groningen, Coordinator of EUDIPLO

Professors **Sara Poli and Marcello Di Filippo**, University of Pisa

09:25 – 10:25 | Keynote speeches

Chair: Prof. Sara Poli

Mr Mariomassimo Santoro, Head, Policy Coordination Division, EEAS

"The role of the EEAS for the EU Foreign Policy"

Mr Jurgis Vilčinskas, Deputy Head, Strategic Communications and Information Analysis Division, EEAS

"Countering disinformation – The Role of EU Delegations"

10:00 - 10:20 | Questions

10:30 - 11:45 | Panel 1

Chair: Prof. Christine Kaddous, University of Geneva

10:30 - 11.15 | Presentations

1. Mr **Edvardas Aleksandras** (EU Delegation to Russian Federation)
2. Ms **Wioleta Stasieluk** (EU Delegation to Kenya)
3. Ms **Ellen Flanagan** (EU Delegation to Malaysia)

11:15 - 11:45 | Questions

11:55 - 13:10 | Panel 2

Chair: Prof. Ramses Wessel, University of Groningen

11:55 - 12:40 | Presentations

1. Mr **Theophile Maizière** (EU Delegation to Australia)
2. Ms **Doris Manu** (EU Delegation to Albania)
3. Ms **Charlotte De Grauwe** (EU Delegation to Uganda)

12:40- 13:10 | Questions

Lunch Break

14:30 - 15:45 | Panel 3

Chair: Prof. Jan Wouters, Catholic University of Leuven

14:30-15:15 | Presentations

1. Mr **Álvaro Martínez Rojo** (EU Delegation to Chile)
2. Ms **Galatée Fouquet** (EU Delegation to El Salvador)
3. Ms **Katarina Salaj** (EU Delegation to the United Nations)

15:15 - 15:45 | Questions

15:55 - 17:10 | Panel 4

Chair: Prof. Marcello Di Filippo, University of Pisa

15:55 - 16:40 | Presentations

1. Ms **Danijela Sviric** (EU Delegation to West Bank and Gaza Strip)
2. Mr **Antonis Kyriakou** (EU Delegation to India and Bhutan)
3. Mr **Bernard Vella** (EU delegation to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea)

16:40 - 17:10 | Questions

Short bios of speakers

Keynote Speakers

Mariomassimo Santoro is Head of Division for Policy Coordination in the European External Action Service since April 2021. Before holding this position, he was First Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union, Antici Counsellor and Chief policy coordinator (2017-2021). He has worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Head of Unit for “Human Rights, Humanitarian International Law and Council of Europe” (2015-2017) and for the Permanent Representation of Italy to the European Union. Previously, he has held a position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Directorate General for European Integration - CFSP/CSDP Unit (2009-2010). He has been Political Adviser to the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the crisis in Georgia (2008-2009) and Deputy Head of Mission at the Italian Embassy in Minsk, Belarus (2005-2008). He joined the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003.

Jurgis Vilčinskas is Deputy Head of Strategic Communications and Information Analysis Division in the European External Action Service. Prior to joining EEAS, Jurgis has served at Lithuania's diplomatic service and on President Valdas Adamkus team as a speechwriter on foreign policy issues and advisor on the EU affairs. He is alumni of Vilnius and Oxford Universities and a researcher at Oslo and Creighton Universities, with professional trainings in IMF Institute (Washington, D.C.) and Clingendael Institute of International affairs in The Hague. Jurgis overseas postings included secondments to the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for the European External Action Service - two diplomatic posts in Sarajevo and Kyiv, where he respectively headed Political, Trade, EU, and Communications Sections. He was a speaker at Krynica Economic Forum, Davos Communication Forum, Wilton Park, and other events dedicated to media and public diplomacy issues in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood. Jurgis is a co-founder of the EU affairs experts' network and led diverse media and EU affairs projects.

Panel 1

Edvardas Aleksandras holds a Bachelor in Business and Linguistics from Trinity College Dublin, a Master in Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and an M.A. in Social Science from the Trinity College Dublin. He first worked as Junior Market Advisor for the Embassy of Ireland to the Russian Federation (2010), then as Intern (Military Attaché) at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the OSCE in Vienna (2013). Still in Vienna, he was Policy Analyst at the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the International Organisations (2013-2014). In 2014, he took up a Blue Book Trainee position for the European Commission (Western Europe/EEA Division); he was also Economic Advisor on migration (STA) at the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities (OSCE) and Election Observer during the 2016 Duma Elections in Russia. Subsequently, Edvardas became Junior Professional (Attaché), working in the Political Section of the EU Delegation to Russia (2016-2017). Then, he took up the position of Political Assistant (Intérimaire) for the European Commission (2017-2018). At present and since 2019, he works as Political Officer for the EEAS in the EU Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Wioleta Stasieluk holds an MA in International Security from Sciences Po Paris, and a BA in International Relations and Swahili from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. With her experiences in East Africa and fluency in Swahili, she returned to the region as a trainee in the Political, Press and Information Section at the EU Delegation to Kenya. She worked as a teaching assistant and careers assistant at Sciences Po (2018-2020) before taking up an internship at the UNODC Regional Office for Southern Africa in the Drug Prevention and Health Branch. She is currently working as a Junior Policy Analyst at the Crises & Fragility Team at the OECD.

Ellen Flanagan holds a Bachelor of Law & French from University College Cork (Ireland), where she was awarded the Quercus University Scholarship for Academic Excellence. She graduated with an M.A. in EU International Relations & Diplomacy from the College of Europe in 2018 and took up a position as a Graduate Policy Officer in the Brexit Unit of the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU. In 2019, she became Junior Professional in the EU Delegation to Malaysia, where she worked in the political section. During her studies, she also worked for the Irish Embassy to the USA and for the European Parliament. At the moment, she works for the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

Panel 2

Theophile Maizière holds a Bachelor of Law & International Relations from the University of Sussex. He graduated with a Master of European Governance and with a Master of European Union Law, both from the University of Amsterdam. After having worked as a legal assistant for a law firm (2015), he took up a position of Project Officer for Europanova Thinktank (Paris, 2018-2019). In 2019, he became Trainee in the EU Delegation to Australia (Trade Section), working on EU-Australia trade relations and preparing the 5th round of negotiation of the EU-Australia FTA. Since 2021, he's working as Trade Policy Advisor for the Israel Mission to the EU in Brussels.

Doris Manu holds a Bachelor in Political Sciences from the University of Bucharest. She graduated with a Master in South-Eastern European Studies from the Universities of Belgrade and Graz. She also holds a Master in European Political and Administrative Studies from the College of Europe (Bruges). She took up a position as trainee for the EEAS in the EU Delegation to Serbia (2013) and also worked at the European Parliament, first as trainee in the office of an EP Member (2015) and then as policy and communications adviser (2017). She took up a position as Bluebook trainee for the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission (2018). Then, she worked as political adviser at the European Parliament for the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (2019). Subsequently, she became a Junior Professional (EEAS) in Delegation for the EU in Albania, where she worked as communications coordinator.

Charlotte De Grauwe holds Master in Economic Law from the Vrije Universiteit of Brussel. She has over four years of professional experience working in complex, politically dynamic environments for EU, UN, and Government agencies. Her first international professional experience was in Tehran, Iran as an Intern for the Economic and commercial section of the Belgian Embassy (FIT) in 2017. She also completed traineeships for the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York (DDR – MONUSCO Peacekeeping mission in the DRC) and the Belgian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. In the latter post, she also worked as an Attaché to the Political Section (2018-2019). She currently works as a Junior Professional for the EEAS in the EU Delegation to Uganda (2019-2021) as a Political Officer.

Panel 3

Álvaro Martínez Rojo holds a Bachelor in Business Management from the University of Leon, a M.A. in International Political Economy from the University of Warwick and a Master of International Service from the School of International Service at American University. He has worked as a Migration Research Assistant for the Brussels School of Governance (2018), as a Trainee for the EEAS in the Political, Press & Information section of the EU Delegation to Chile (2019) and currently as a strategy officer at FIIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies), a Spanish public international cooperation entity.

Galatée Fouquet holds a Bachelor of Law from Paris II Panthéon-Assas University and a Bachelor of International and European Law from The Hague University of Applied Sciences. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the French Institute for International and Strategic Studies (IRIS) in Paris and an Advanced Master's degree in EU International Relations and Diplomacy from the College of Europe (Bruges). She took up positions as a trainee at the French Embassy in the Netherlands (2016-2017) and at the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU (2018). In 2019, she became a Junior Professional (EEAS) at the Delegation of the European Union to El Salvador, where she worked in the Political, Press and Information Section.

Katarina Salaj holds a Bachelor degree in International Relations from the Royal Holloway, University of London. During her undergraduate years, she was also an inter-collegiate student of Public International Law at King's College, London. She obtained her Master's degree in Culture and Conflict from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). In 2018 she took up a position of a Blue Book Trainee at the Department for Asia and the Pacific at the EEAS. She briefly joined the International Crisis Group (ICG) and was granted a Scholarship for Peace and Security from the OSCE & UNODA (2019), upon becoming a Political Attaché at the EU Delegation to the UN in New York (EEAS), working on topics related to the reform, management and financing of the UN and its peacekeeping operations (2019-ongoing).

Panel 4

Danijela Svircic holds a Bachelor of Business Administration & Political Science from the University of the Cumberland, Kentucky (USA) and a Master of Science in International Relations (with merit) from the University of Essex, Colchester (UK). She was Schuman Trainee in the European Parliament Liaison Office in Zagreb, Croatia (2018) and Assistant in the Democracy Unit for the Party of the European Socialists (PES) in Brussels (2018-2019). She also worked for the ENGSO

Youth, the independent youth body of the European Sports NGO (2018-2019). In 2019 she took up the position of Junior Professional in the EU Delegation to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, Israel, where now she holds the position of Project Manager for East Jerusalem.

Antonis Kyriakou holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Portsmouth (UK), a Master's degree in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick (UK) and was admitted to the Cyprus Bar in 2015. Additionally, he holds the Advanced Certificate of the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission. He has demonstrated working experience in the compliance department of regulated financial institutions and in European institutions. Since July 2021 he has been working as a Legal Analyst at the Single Resolution Board while before that he was a Junior Professional at the EU Delegation to India and Bhutan. Prior to this experience and for almost two years, he had been working as a Compliance Associate in regulated financial institutions in Cyprus. Moreover, in 2017 he was a Blue Book trainee in an inter-institutional unit of DG FISMA and he did an internship at the Representation of Cyprus to the Council of Europe in 2016.

Bernard Vella holds a Bachelor in European Studies with International Relations, Economics, Law, Politics from the University of Malta. He graduated with an M.S. in International Development Studies at the Utrecht University and took part in a research exchange with the Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho of Sao Paulo (Brazil). He worked as Presidency Contracted Officer for the Malta Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion (2016-2017) and as Administrative Assistant to the Communications and Stakeholders Unit (CSU) for the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in 2018-2019. He then took office as Attaché (Junior Professional) for the EEAS at the EU Delegation to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea (2019-2020). He currently works as an Economics Officer at the Ministry for Environment, Climate Change and Planning in Malta.