

HUME Inaugural European Conference 2021: ‘Leadership for Peaceful Change’



Tony Connelly | Europe Editor and RTÉ Brussels

Tony Connelly is an Irish journalist and author working as Europe Editor for RTÉ News and Current Affairs



Richard Corbett | Former leader of UK Labour MEPs within the Socialists & Democrats group at EP

Richard Corbett was a Member of the European Parliament from 1996-2009 and 2014 to 2020. During those periods, he was for ten years the Coordinator for the S&D Group on constitutional questions. He was the European Parliament's co-rapporteur on the Constitutional Treaty and the Lisbon Treaty. He authored new Rules of Procedure for the European Parliament. He was the UK Labour Party's leader in the European Parliament, a member of the party's NEC and Shadow Cabinet. From 2010-14 he was senior advisor on constitutional questions to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy. He has written extensively on European affairs, including a number of academic textbooks. He was awarded a CBE by the Queen in the 2021 New Year Honours List for his services to European parliamentarism.



Simon Coveney | Minister for Foreign Affairs and for Defence

Minister Simon Coveney TD is Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence since June 2020 and Deputy Leader of Fine Gael since June 2017. He has served as a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Cork South-Central constituency since 1998.



Pat Cox | Former President of the European Parliament

Pat Cox is a former President of the European Parliament and current President of the Jean Monnet Foundation for Europe. He is engaged in an extensive range of European affairs from pan EU TEN T transport policy to parliamentary capacity building in Ukraine. He has focused increasingly in recent years on issues of sustainability and combatting climate change. He is Chairman of the Finance Green Ireland National Committee, chairs the first listed fund in London on battery storage solutions, is a director of SuperNode, a new Irish research-led start up focused on developing improved transmission systems especially for offshore renewables and is a board member of an Irish-led low carbon cement company, Ecocem.



Seán Farren | Hume Foundation

Dr Seán Farren is Chair of the John and Pat Hume Foundation. A long-standing member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, Seán was a senior negotiator during the 1996 -'98 negotiations in Northern Ireland which led to the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement in 1998. He was elected to the new Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998 for the constituency of North Antrim, and held ministerial positions in the power-sharing Executive of 1999-2002, first as Minister for Further and Higher Education and, later, as Minister for Finance and Personnel. He retired from full-time politics in 2007.



Heather Grabbe | Open Society European Policy Institute

Dr Heather Grabbe is Director of the Open Society European Policy Institute, the EU policy arm of Open Society Foundations in Brussels.

She is a political scientist and advocate for democratic pluralism and open societies. She was ranked highly among “the women who shape Brussels” by Politico, gave a TED talk on the importance of critical thinking and mindful engagement with post-truth politics, and has written recently on how climate change and technology are affecting the quality of democracy and economic and social justice.

From 2004 to 2009 she was senior advisor to then European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn, responsible for EU policy on the Balkans and Turkey.

Previously, she was deputy director of the Centre for European Reform, where she wrote extensively on EU external policies and enlargement. She also conducted academic research at the European University Institute (Florence), Chatham House (London), Oxford and Birmingham universities, and taught at the London School of Economics.



Claire Hanna | MP for South Belfast

Claire Hanna is MP for South Belfast, having previously served as MLA from 2015-2019 and Belfast City Councillor from 2011. In the Assembly she was SDLP spokesperson on Brexit and Finance and now serves on the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee. She chairs an All Party Parliamentary Group on the Creative Industries and is vice chair of the Green New Deal APPG. Originally from Galway, Claire grew up in South Belfast and worked for the international NGO Concern Worldwide for 10 years before entering politics full time.



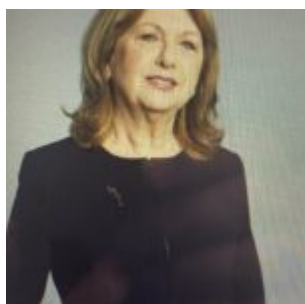
Michael Keating | European Institute of Peace

Michael Keating is Executive Director of the independent, conflict resolution body, the European Institute of Peace.

Until 2018, he was the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

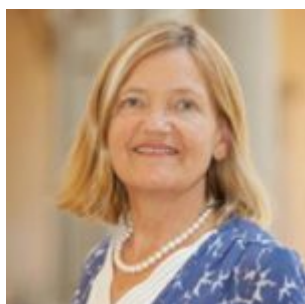
His career has been divided between the private and public sectors. His UN career has included assignments in Kabul as Deputy SRSG, in Lilongwe, Jerusalem/Gaza, New York, Geneva, Islamabad and Mogadishu. His private sector experience has included roles in publishing, television and management and communication consultancy.

He was born in Uganda and has a Master of Arts in History from the University of Cambridge.



Mary McAleese | Former President of Ireland and a Patron of the John & Pat Hume Foundation

Dr. Mary McAleese was President of Ireland from 1997 until 2011. She was the first President to come from Northern Ireland. Born in Belfast in 1951, the eldest of nine children she grew up in Ardoyne, a sectarian flashpoint area of the city and experienced first-hand the violence of The Troubles. Her hero and inspiration from teenage years was and remains John Hume. She is Professor of Children, Law and Religion at the University of Glasgow and is Chancellor of the University of Dublin, Trinity College.



Brigid Laffan | Robert Schuman Centre of Advanced Studies at the European University Institute

Brigid Laffan is Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and Director of the Global Governance Programme at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence. She was Director of the European Governance and Politics Programme until August 2020. In August 2013, Professor Laffan joined us after leaving the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) University College Dublin (UCD), where she was Professor of European Politics. She was Vice-President of UCD and Principal of the College of Human Sciences from 2004 to 2011.

Previously, she was the founding director of the Dublin European Institute UCD from 1999 and in March 2004 she was elected as a member of the Royal Irish Academy. She is a member of the Board of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Fulbright Commission (until September 2013) and was the 2013 Visiting Scientist for the EXACT Marie Curie Network.



Pascal Lamy | Jacques Delors Institute

Pascal Lamy is the President of the Paris Peace Forum and coordinator of the think tanks network Jacques Delors (Paris, Berlin, Brussels).

From 2005 to 2013, Pascal Lamy served for two terms as Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). He previously was European Commissioner for trade (1999-2004), CEO of Crédit Lyonnais (1994-1999), Chief of Staff to the President of the European Commission Jacques Delors and his G7 sherpa (1985-1994), Deputy Chief of Staff to the French Prime Minister (1983-1985) and to the French Minister for Economy and Finance (1981-1983).

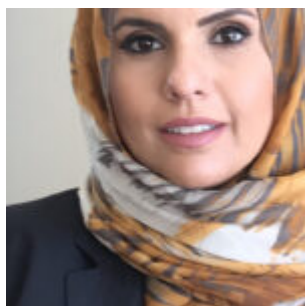


Miroslav Lajčák | Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue & other Western Balkan regional issues

Miroslav Lajčák is the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues.

Having dedicated his professional life to diplomacy, representing both the Slovak Republic and the international community, Miroslav Lajčák has more than 30 years of experience in foreign policy.

Previously he served as four-time Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister; Ambassador to Japan; Ambassador to FR Yugoslavia, FYROM, Albania; Executive Assistant to the UNSG's Special Envoy for the Balkans; High Representative/EUSR in BiH; EEAS Managing Director for Europe/Central Asia, 72nd UNGA President, and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office during Slovakia's 2019 OSCE Chairmanship.



Zahra' Langhi | Libyan Women's Platform for Peace

Zahra' Langhi is a strategist, peace activist, gender expert, academic and researcher. Her research interests are gender, mediation, peace building, state building, conflict resolution, reconciliation, and religion. Zahra' has contributed significantly to the body of research and literature on the Libyan Transition and peace building in Libya. Zahra' is the co-founder and CEO of the Libyan Women's Platform for Peace (LWPP), a socio-political movement focused on peace building, inclusivity and gender equality. She is a member of the Legal Committee at the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum. She has participated in the formal peace negotiations and the political dialogue in Libya. She is also a former UN diplomat with a wide experience on women, peace and security in the Arab region.



Mairead McGuinness | European Commission

Mairead McGuinness is the European Commissioner for financial services, financial stability and Capital Markets Union.

The Commissioner's vision for the portfolio is focused on ensuring the financial sector's strength and stability, so that it can deliver for people, society and the environment.

Before joining the Commission in October 2020, Ms McGuinness was First Vice-President of the European Parliament from 2017. She served as an MEP for 16 years, and was a Vice-President of the Parliament since 2014.

Prior to becoming an MEP, she was an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and commentator.



Federica Mogherini | College of Europe and former EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy

Federica Mogherini is the Rector of the College of Europe since September 2020.

She co-chairs the United Nations High Level Panel on Internal Displacement since January 2020.

Previously, she has served as the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, from 2014 to 2019.

Prior to joining the EU, she was Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2014), and a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies (2008-14). In her parliamentary capacity, she was Head of the Italian Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Vice-President of its Political Committee (2013-14); member of the Italian

Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (2008-13); Secretary of the Defence Committee (2008-13); and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. She also coordinated the Inter-Parliamentary Group for Development Cooperation.



Rory Montgomery | Former Irish Permanent Representative to the EU

Rory Montgomery was Irish Permanent Representative to the EU, Ambassador to France, and Second Secretary General at the Department of Foreign Affairs. He is now an honorary professor at the Mitchell Institute, Queen's University Belfast, and a member of the Hume Foundation's advisory board.



Conor O'Clery | Irish Times

Former Irish Times foreign correspondent who was based in London, Moscow, Washington, Beijing and New York. He is the author of several books, including *Moscow, December 25, 1991: The Last Day of the Soviet Union*, and *The Shoemaker and his Daughter*, about an Armenian family's transition from Nagorno-Karabakh to Siberia, which won the Michel Déon award for non-fiction in 2020. He is also the author of *The Greening of the White House* on the involvement of the Clinton Administration in the Irish Peace Process.



Hans Gert Pöttering | President of the European Parliament Former Members Association

Dr. Hans Gert Pöttering is a German politician and was the only Member of the European Parliament who has served continuously from the first direct election in 1979 until July 1st 2014 with 35 years of uninterrupted membership. He held a number of leading positions in the EP and European People's Party throughout his political career. From 1999 to 2007 he was Chairman of the European People's Party European Democrats Group in the European Parliament. From 2007 until 2009 he was President of the European Parliament. He initiated the House of European History, which was opened in Brussels in May 2017. He is now President of the European Parliament Former Members Association.



Franak Viačorka | Senior Advisor to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

Franak Viačorka is Senior Advisor to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. He has served as a creative director for the Belarus service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), vice president for the Digital Communication Network, consultant for Freedom House, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. He was the first Václav Havel Fellow at RFE/RL under Havel's personal recommendation.

Viačorka is a frequent speaker and advocate for democracy and personal freedom. For his activism and journalism work in Belarus, he was jailed multiple times by the Belarusian government. Viačorka's activism in Belarus has been chronicled by documentary filmmakers.