



"EUROPEAN DREAM – PROMISES AND REALITY"

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BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Samir Amin (Cairo, Egypt, 1931) spent his childhood and youth in Port Said. From 1947 to 1957 he studied in Paris, gaining a diploma in Political Science (1952) before graduating in Statistics (1956) and Economics (1957). Arriving in Paris, Amin joined the French Communist Party (PCF), but he later distanced himself from Soviet Marxism and associated for some time with Maoist circles. He also published with other students the magazine "Étudiants Anticolonialistes". Then Amin went back to Cairo, where he was, from 1957 to 1960, researcher at the "Economic Institution" of the State. Subsequently Amin was advisor in the Ministry of Planning in Bamako (Mali) from 1960 to 1963. In 1963 he was offered a fellowship at the Institut Africain de Développement Économique et de Planification (IDEP). Until 1970 he worked there as well as being a professor at the universities of Poitiers, Dakar and Paris VIII. In 1970 he became director of the IDEP, which he managed until 1980. In 1980 Amin became director of the Third World Forum in Dakar and since 1997 he is chair of the World Forum for Alternatives. He has written more than 30 books including "Imperialism & Unequal Development", "Specters of Capitalism: A Critique of Current Intellectual Fashions", "Obsolescent Capitalism: Contemporary Politics and Global Disorder" and "The Liberal Virus". His memoirs were published in October 2006.

Piero Bassetti (Milan, Italy, 1928) graduated in Business and Economics from Bocconi University, Milan and perfected his studies at Cornell University, subsequently specialising in Economic Sciences at the London School of Economics. Board member and Councilor at Milan Town Council from 1956 to 1967, he was the first President of the Regional Council of Lombardy from 1970 to 1974. Member of Parliament from 1976 to 1982, he was also President of the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture in Milan (1982-1997) as well as President of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce (1983-1992). From 1993 to 1999 he was President of the Association of Chambers of Commerce Abroad (CCIEE). Currently President of Globus et Locus, an association of institutions whose objective is to analyse global and local relations. He is also President of the Giannino Bassetti Foundation, the purpose of which is the study of "responsibility in innovation". Author of political essays and economic studies, he has written "Occidente Scomodo" (Vallecchi, 1978), "L'Italia si è rotta", (Laterza, 1996), "Milanesi senza Milano" (Mursia 1999), "Globali e locali!" (Giampiero Casagrande, 2001).

Sir Rodric Braithwaite (London, UK, 1932) joined the Diplomatic Service in 1955. He held postings in Jakarta, Warsaw, Moscow, Rome, Brussels (British Delegation to the European Community) and Washington. He was a Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, in 1972-3. He was Deputy Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Foreign Office and member of the Sherpa team for the G7 Economic Summits from 1984-8. He was British Ambassador in Moscow from 1988 to 1992 and Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Major and Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee in 1992-3. Since then he has been a consultant at Deutsche Bank, Chairman of the Royal Academy of Music, and held a number of other posts in the business and non-governmental field. He is currently special adviser to a House of

Lords enquiry into relations between the European Union and Russia, Chairman of the (Moscow-based) Moscow School of Political Studies, and is writing a book on the Russians in Afghanistan.

Mercedes Bresso (Sanremo, Italy, 1944) is the President of Piedmont Region since April 2005. In June 2004 she was elected Member of the European Parliament. From 1995 to 2004, she was President of the Province of Turin and President of the Union of Piedmont Provinces. Mrs. Bresso is a Professor of Economics at Turin Polytechnic, she has taught in Pavia, Udine, and at Turin University. Mrs Bresso is an expert in environmental economics, and the author of books and essays. She has also worked in the field of agrarian economics and tourist economics. She has held the position of President of the World Federation of United Cities, of the World Coordination of the City Associations (CAMVAL) and of METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Areas. She has been President of the Piedmont Committee for the European Constitution and chairperson for the Franco Italian Alps Conference (CAFI).

Luigi Guidobono Cavalchini (Turin, Italy, 1934) graduated in Law at the University of Turin and started a diplomatic career in 1961. Between 1964 and 1972 he worked as Permanent Representative of Italy for the CEE in Brussels and then became Consul of Italy in Bern. After being Head Secretary of the General Direction of Economic Affairs, between 1972 and 1976, he became First Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of Italy for OCSE in Paris, and afterwards for the Italian Embassy in Paris until 1979. Plenipotentiary Minister of Second Class in 1980 and of First Class in 1985, he became Head of the Cabinet for Foreign Affairs in 1985. Appointed Ambassador in 1987, he was General Secretary of Presidency of the Ministers Council between 1989 and 1991, then Ambassador in Paris from 1991 to 1995 and Permanent Representative of Italy for the European Union in Brussels from 1995 to 2000. Since 2002 he is President of Unicredit Private Banking.

Mohamed Charfi (Sfax, Tunisia, 1936) was assistant and then Professor of International Law at Tunis University from 1964 until his retirement in 2003. He was President of the Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights from 1981 to 1989 and then he was appointed Minister for Education and Scientific Research. He introduced a reform of modernization of the system of education, but resigned in 1994 for growing disagreements on the system of public freedom. In the book "Islam and freedom: the historical misunderstanding" he denounces religious extremism and presents a liberal view on Islam.

Pierre Chevallet (Paris, France, 1944) studied at Caen University in Normandy, where he received his degree of Chemical Engineer. During his military service, he became a «technical sublieutenant», detached to the Faculty of Pharmacy in Montpellier University, where he remained as a Research Engineer. He discussed his thesis in 1985, after having spent many years working on confidential topics. After this he was given the opportunity to go to Poland where he initiated a cooperation program between Montpellier University and the Medical School of Krakow University. Thanks to his knowledge of former central European communist countries, in december 1989, with a dozen friends and colleagues, he created the «Institut de Coopération avec l'Europe Orientale» (ICEO) of which he has been and still is the Secretary General. The goals of ICEO are to promote scientific, cultural, economical and political cooperation between France and the said countries. The goals remain even though most of these countries have recently joined the UE.

Giulietto Chiesa (Acqui Terme, Italy, 1940) is a member of the European Parliament since 2004, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Trade, he is one of the most famous Italian journalists and author of several books of political content, many of them regarding the Russian transition to democracy. For twenty years correspondent from Moscow for the national newspapers "L'Unità" (1980-1990) and "La Stampa" (1990-2000), presently he is one of the most prestigious columnists. Among his last books: "Superclan" (Feltrinelli, 2003), "The Infinite War" (Feltrinelli, 2002), "Afghanistan Anno Zero" (Guerini, 2001) and "Genova-G8" reportage on the facts of Genoa, published by Einaudi in 2001. In 2002 he received the Prize Culture of Peace. In 2005 he published the book "Cronache Marxziane" (Fazi) and in 2007 "Le carceri segrete della CIA in Europa" (Piemme).

Daniel Dăianu (Bucharest, Romania, 1952) is an economist, professor and an associate member of the Romanian Academy since 2001. In 1975, he obtained a Master in Economics from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, and in 1988 he obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from the same institution. He held a post-doctoral research position at Harvard University's Russian Research Center and Wilson Center during 1990-1991, and completed Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program in 1994. He is a professor of Economics at the School of Political and Administrative Studies in Bucharest. He was a visiting professor at the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of Bologna and the University of California, Berkeley and a research fellow at IMF and the NATO College in Rome. Between 1992 and 1997, Dăianu was the Chief Economist of the National Bank of Romania. Between 1997 and 1998, he was Finance Minister in the governments of Victor Ciorbea and Radu Vasile. Dăianu is a member of the Supervisory Board of Banca Comercială Română and of the Administration Board of the Romanian Commodity Exchange. He is the President of Harvard Club Romania, of the Institute for Projects for Innovation and Development, and a member of Aspen Institute Romania. Dăianu has authored and coedited several books, among which "Transformation as a Real Process"(1998),"Balkan Reconstruction" (2001) and "Ethical Boundaries of Capitalism" (2005), and his columns appear regularly in "Jurnalul Național", "Ziarul Financiar", "Piața Financiară" and "Southeast European Times".

Tibor Frenkl Thurzó (Budapest, Hungary) holds a Degree from the Faculty of Arts of Loránd Eötvös University of Budapest. He attended the School of the Association of Hungarian Journalists and in 1955 became an Editor of Néphadsereg. From 1959 to 1961 he was imprisoned for political reasons. From 1967 to 1987 he was Editor in charge of Népszava and from 1987 to 1990 Editor in charge of Magyar Nemzet. In 1991 he founded the newspaper Köztársaság; later Respublika and was its Editor in Chief until 1996, when he was appointed Advisor of Prime Minister Gyula Horn. From 1998 he is Expert on information of former Prime Minister Gyula Horn.

Henri Froment-Meurice (Paris, France, 1923) studied at the Ecole Libre de Sciences Politiques. He served at high-level ranks in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1950 to 1970. He was then nominated French ambassador to the USSR from 1979 to 1981 and then to the Federal Republic of Germany from 1982 to 1983. He was appointed Ambassador of France in 1994. Among his numerous publications "Une Puissance nommée Europe" (1984- Bentinck Prize).

Jean-Dominique Giuliani (France, 1956) holds a degree in Law and a diploma at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques. He is an Auditor at the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale; from 1981 to 1992 he was Secretary General of the Centrist Union at the Senate and from 1992 to 1998 Director of the Cabinet of the President of the Senate. From 1985 to 1992 he was Secretary General of the Centre for Political and Parliamentary Studies and from 1988 to 1992 Secretary General of the Centre for Research on International Issues. In 1992 he founded the Robert Schuman Foundation, of which he was Director, then Chairman since 2000. Director of Taylor Nelson Sofres plc (1998-2001). Maître des Requêtes (French Conseil d'Etat-1995). In 2005 he was appointed Special Adviser to the European Commission. Among his publications: "Pour l'Europe réunie" Fondation Robert Schuman (2002); "Quinze + Dix: le grand élargissement", Albin Michel, Paris (2003) ; "L'élargissement de l'Europe", Que-sais-je, PUF, Paris (Mai 2004).

Mikhail S. Gorbachev (Privolnoe, Russia, 1931), former President of the USSR, elected in 1988 and Nobel Peace Laureate in 1990. First elected as a Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR in 1970, in 1971 he became a Member and in 1978 Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party. In 1985 he was appointed General Secretary of the Supreme Soviet Communist Party and tried to restructure the economy of the country launching the Perestrojka process. He also enhanced democratic development by extending individual and collective liberties (Glasnost: transparency), finding considerable resistance in the opposition. He brought great political victories in foreign policy, through his commitment to the cause of peace and cooperation, which led to the signing of the treaty with Ronald Reagan for the elimination of the euro-missiles (Washington, December 1987). He resigned in 1991 after a failed coup

organised by the conservative fringe of the Communist Party. He is the Founder and President of The World Political Forum.

Andrei Grachev (Moscow, Russia, 1941) graduated in History, he was Editor of the international magazine "World Youth", Visiting Professor at "la Sorbonne" (Paris) and Kyoto, and Senior Researcher at St Antony's College, Oxford. He was even Deputy Director on the International Department of the Central Committee of CPSU and assistant and official Spokesman of the President of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev. Author of several books, he's presently member of Russian UN Association, Founding member of the Council for Foreign and Defence Policy of Russia, Adviser at the Gorbachev Foundation (Moscow), Expert of the Association Progress of Management (Paris) and Chairman of the Scientific Committee of The World Political Forum.

Ruslan Grinberg (Moscow, Russia, 1946) is Director of the Institute of Economy at the Russia Academy of Sciences. He is Vice-Chair of ECAAR-Russia (Economists Allied for Arms Reduction), Editor-in-Chief of the journal *The World of Transformations*, Member of the RF Ministry of Economy Expert Commission, Consultant to the Gorbachev-Foundation, Member of the Russian-American Economic Transition Group (ETG), Chair of the Committee of the CIS in the National Investment Council, Member of the Editorial Board of the Centre for the Study of Transition and Development (CESTRAD). His field of academic interests embraces International Relations, Economic and Financial Reforms in Post-Socialist Countries, Investment Climate in the Former USSR, New Regionalism in the Post-Soviet Space. He has 184 publications in Russia, Germany, US and other countries.

Bernard Guetta (Boulogne, France, 1951) is radio commentator on international relations for the national radio network "France Inter"; he regularly contributes to several leading European newspapers, including "la Repubblica", "Le Temps" and "Gazeta Wyborcza". He has been, during the eighties, a correspondent for "Le Monde" in Warsaw, Washington and Moscow. He received the "Albert Londres Prize" for his coverage of the founding of Solidarity in Poland, the "Mumm Prize" for his work during the Perestroika period in the former USSR, the "Thucydide Prize" awarded by Paris 2 University and "Le Prix Européen de la Presse". He is author of several works, including five books on international relations: "Pologne", "L'URSS de Gorbatchev", "Géopolitique", "L'Europe Fédérale" and "Le Monde est mon métier" (with Jean Lacouture). He is also co-writer of a TV documentary on Cold war: "URSS-USA, Le Grand Jeu".

Ferenc Gyurcsány (Pàpa, Hungary, 1961) is the Prime Minister of Hungary. He studied as a teacher and obtained his B.Sc. in 1984 from the University of Pécs. Then he studied Economics at the same institution, getting his degree in 1990. He began politics in the KISZ, the Organization of Young Communists, in 1984. From 1990 onwards, he transferred from the public to the private sector, working for CREDITUM Financial Consultant Ltd., EUROCORP International Finance Inc. where he was Director, and later Altus Ltd., a holding company of which he was owner, CEO (1992-2002) and later Chairman of the Board. He returned to politics in 2002 as the head strategic advisor of Péter Medgyessy, the previous PM. From May 2003 until September 2004 he was a Minister responsible for Sports, Youth and Children. Gyurcsány was elected to be Prime Minister on September 29, 2004 with a parliamentary vote. He led the coalition to victory in the parliamentary elections in 2006, securing him another term as Prime Minister. On February 24, 2007 he became the leader of his party, the Hungarian Socialist Party, with the 89% of votes.

Philippe Herzog (France, 1940) graduated in Economics and was professor at the University of Paris-X Nanterre from 1973 to 2003; from 1982 to 1988 he was member of the Commission nationale de planification and from 1984 to 1989 member of the Conseil économique et social. He was elected Deputy of the European Parliament (1989-1999 and 2000-2004), and was appointed President of the Commission of Foreign Economic Relations, vice President of the Economic and Monetary Commission and of the EU/US delegation. He is actually president of the association "Confrontation Europe" and Member of the Economic Analysis Council for the Prime Minister. Mr Herzog published many books,

among which: "L' Europe après l'Europe", De Boeck Université, 2002; "Le bonheur du voyage. Éthique, action, projets pour relancer l'Europe", Éditions Le Manuscrit, 2006.

Gyula Horn (Budapest, Hungary, 1932) graduated in Economics. From 1961 to 1969 he was Secretary and Counsellor in the Hungarian Embassies in Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. Later he was Assistant, Deputy Head, then Head of the International Department at the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party from 1969 to 1985 and then State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until 1989. As Minister of Foreign Affairs (1989-90) he played a prominent role in the establishment of diplomatic relations with South Korea, Israel and South Africa, in the dismantling of the Iron Curtain, and supporting the re-unification of Germany by allowing East Germans to flee via Hungary to the West. He also completed preparations for and later signed the agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. One of the founders of the MSZP (Hungarian Socialist Party), he became member of the Hungarian Parliament (1990), Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs (1990-1993) and finally Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary (1994-1998). Among other awards, he received the gold medal from the Stresemann Society for achievements in foreign affairs, the international Karl Prize for work towards European unification, the Grand Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany and Grand Decoration in Gold with Sash for Services to the Republic of Austria.

Ion Iliescu (Oltenita, Romania, 1930) was the elected President of Romania for eleven years (three terms: first – from 1990 to 1992 – transitional, before the adoption of the new Constitution; the others: from 1992 to 1996 and from 2000 to 2004 – on the constitutional terms, of four years each). His first and second terms were separated from the third term by the presidency of Emil Constantinescu. Currently, Ion Iliescu is Senator for the Social Democratic Party (PSD) which is the largest political party in Romania. The PSD was issued from the National Salvation Front, one of several parties formed after the break up of the totalitarian regime in December 1989. Iliescu is widely recognized as the predominant figure in the first fifteen years of post-1989 Romanian Revolution politics. During his terms Romanian politics stabilized, the new democratic Constitution, elaborated by the Constitutional Assembly – elected during the first free elections in May 1990, was adopted in December 1991, expressing the new democratic realities and the construction of the state of Law, the transition to a market economy was promoted and Romania joined NATO and EU.

Andras Inotai (Szombathely, Hungary, 1943) holds a degree in German and Spanish Language and Literature from the Eötvös University of Budapest, a Ph.D. in International Economics from the Academy of Sciences of Hungary and was appointed Doctor in Economics from the Academy of Sciences of Hungary in 1991. After having served as a staff member of the World Bank in Washington D.C. from 1989 to 1991, Mr. Inotai has been General Director of the Institute for World Economics of the HAS since 1991. He has been teaching at the College of Europe, Bruges since 1992; College of Europe, Natolin, Poland (since 1993); and at Columbia University, US (2002). He is Chairman of the Board of the Foundation on European Studies and Member of the Board of Directors, Hungarian Development Bank (since 2002), President, Economic Policy Institute, Sofia.

Vladislav L. Inozemtsev (Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, 1968) graduated from Moscow State University, the Economics Department, in 1989. In 1999, he received a Ph.D. in Economics from the Institute of the World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In 1991-1992, he was an expert in economics for the parliamentary faction of the Svobodnaya Rossia party in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. In 1993-2003, he was Vice-President, then Chairman of the Board of the Moscow-Paris Commercial Bank. Since 1996, he has been founder and Director of the Centre for Post-Industrial Studies. He is currently Editor-in-Chief of the Svobodnaya Mysl monthly and of the Russian edition of the international monthly Le Monde Diplomatique and columnist for the BusinessWeek (Russia) weekly. He is the author of nearly 500 works, including 12 monographs, which have been published in Russia, France, Great Britain and the United States.

Thierry Jeantet (Paris, France, 1948) - After working for the Group of Cooperative Credit (1973-1981), Thierry Jeantet was French InterMinisterial Vice-Delegate for Social Economy (1981-1985) and in 1985

he was given the task by the Prime Minister to report about "Modernisation of France about Social Economy". He became General Secretary of the French Grouping of Societies for Mutual Insurance (Gema) between 1986 and 1992, since when he is General Director of a European Group of Economic Interest, Euresa, gathering seven big societies of mutual insurance or cooperatives and three other little societies. One of the founders of "France Active" and member of the Council of a joint micro-bank, between 1999 and 2004 Mr Jeantet was member of the French Economic and Social Council and between 2000 and 2004 President of the Centre of Young Managers and Actors of Social Economy (CJDES). Member of control or administration councils of various mutual aid associations or insurance societies, Mr Jeantet is President of the association managing the international meetings of managers of social economy ("Rencontres du Mont Blanc"). He is also member of a European network of Social Economy Foundations. He published various books, among which "European Social Economy" (2000), "Social Economy: between efficacy and solidarity" (2006).

Agnes Koroncz (Budapest, Hungary) studied Russian and Spanish Language and Literature at Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest. In 1975 she attended the Post-graduate School of the Association of Hungarian Journalists and in 1985 she held her Doctoral dissertation at the Department of Political Science of the University of Szeged. From 1971 to 1991 she worked as an Editor, later head of the Spanish Section of Radio Budapest's External Service and from 1988 to 1992 she was Budapest correspondent of the daily papers ABC of Spain and Uno Mas Uno of Mexico. In 1994 she was appointed Editor in charge of the Central and Eastern European Section of Radio Budapest's External Service, a post she held until 1996, when she became Head of the Communications and Press Office of the Prime Minister's Office. Since 1998, Mrs Koroncz is Chief of Cabinet of Gyula Horn, former Prime Minister of Hungary and Senior Government Advisor.

László Kovács (Budapest, Hungary, 1939) is a Hungarian politician and diplomat, currently serving as European Commissioner for Taxation and Customs Union. He was the Foreign Minister of Hungary twice, from 1994 to 1998 and from 2002 to 2004. He also served as Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Party from 1998 to 2004 and is Vice Chairman of the Socialist International since 2003. Kovacs holds a degree from the University of Economic Sciences of Budapest and from the College of Politics.

Milan Kučan (Slovenia, 1941) graduated in Law and was head of the League of Communists of Slovenia from 1986 to 1989. Advocating human rights and European democratic values and principles, Kučan, his party and Slovenia were facing increasingly severe political confrontations with Belgrade and Serbia. Slovenia was the first of the federal units of Yugoslavia to introduce multi-party democracy and the first multi-party elections were held in April 1990. Kučan was elected president of the Presidency, then a collective body. Kučan strongly opposed a violent preservation of Yugoslavia. Slovenia declared its independence on 26 June 1991. After independence and the international recognition of Slovenia, Kučan was elected the first President of Slovenia in 1992 with the support of the citizens list. He won another five year term in 1997, his presidency ended in December 2002. In May 2004 Slovenia became full member of both EU and NATO, Milan Kučan took an active role in campaigning for memberships, in order for Slovenia to achieve the goals it set upon its independence. Since November 2004, Kučan is member of the Club of Madrid. He chairs the International Collegium, together with Michel Rocard, former French prime minister. Since 2004 he is the chairman of Forum 21, a Slovene association reflecting issues of relevance for the future development of Slovenia and its position in the global society. In 2006 he joined the Balkan Political Club, lead by the former president of Bulgaria dr. Zhelyu Zhelev.

Victor Kuvardin (Moscow, Russia, 1943) graduated from the Moscow State University and attended a post-graduate course in the Institute of World Economics and International Relations at the USSR Academy of Sciences. Member of the Gorbachev team from the beginning of 1989: political analyst, speechwriter and consultant to the adviser of the President of the USSR in 1991. Presently he is director

of the Centre "Expert Analysis" of the Gorbachev Foundation, Head of Department at Moscow State University and Professor at the Moscow State Institute (University) of Foreign Affairs.

Adam LeBor (London, UK, 1961) worked for several British national newspapers and magazines before becoming a foreign correspondent in 1991, focused on Central and Eastern Europe and Israel/Palestine. He covered the Yugoslav wars for The Times and The Independent. Currently Central Europe Correspondent of The Times, he also writes for the Sunday Times, The Economist, New Statesman, Literary Review, the Jewish Chronicle, Harry's Place and Conde Nast Traveller, and The Nation and the New York Times in the United States. He is the author of seven books, including the critically acclaimed "Milosevic: A Biography" and the best-selling "Hitler's Secret Bankers: How Switzerland Profited from Nazi Genocide", which was short-listed for the Orwell Prize. His most recent works are "Complicity With Evil: The United Nations in the Age of Modern Genocide", published by Yale University Press and "City of Oranges: An Intimate History of Arabs and Jews in Jaffa", which was short-listed for the Jewish Quarterly Literary Prize. His website is: www.adamlebor.com.

Erkki Liikanen (Mikkeli, Finland, 1950) obtained a Masters degree in Political Science (Economics) from the University of Helsinki in 1975. From 1972 to 1990 he was Member of Parliament and from 1981 to 1987 he was Secretary General of the Social Democratic Party. From 1987 to 1990 he was Minister of Finance for Finland. From 1990 to 1994 Liikanen was Ambassador and Head of Finnish Mission to the European Union. From 1995 to 1999 he was a Member of the European Commission for Budget; Personnel and administration, and from 1999 to 2004 he was Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society. Liikanen has been Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Finland since 12 July 2004. He is also Member of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank (2004–) and Governor of the International Monetary Fund for Finland (2004–).

Vladimir Lukin (Omsk, Russia, 1937) is a Russian liberal political activist currently serving as the Human Rights Commissioner of Russia. Lukin was one of the founders of Yabloko Democrat Party (letter L in "Yabloko" came from his name). He previously served as the deputy chairman of the Russian Duma and as chairman of the Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee and currently serves as Ombudsman. He is a director on the board of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), and is also a former Ambassador to the United States. He is considered a long-time specialist in U.S.-Soviet/Russian strategic arms control issues and is a member of Russia's Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, an independent association of national security experts.

Horst Mahr (Karlsbad, Germany, 1938) graduated in Political Sciences at the University of Munich. Until 1990 Mahr was Department Director of one of three International Departments of the Bayerische Vereinsbank of Munich and until 2003 he held the post of Executive Vice President of the BW-Bank AG in Stuttgart and was responsible for the international business. He presently chairs the Foreign Affairs Association of Munich and the Banking Association for Central and Eastern Europe (BACEE) of Budapest. Mahr is Assistant Professor at The Munich School of Political Science of the University of Munich.

Adam Michnik (Poland) is the Editor-in-chief of Gazeta Wyborcza, the biggest daily in Poland. Historian, co-founder of KOR (Committee for the Defense of Workers) 1976, detained many times during 1965-1980, a prominent Solidarity activist during the '80ties, spent a total of six years in Polish prisons for activities opposing the communist regime, member of the Round Table Talks 1989, member of the first non-communist parliament 1989-1991, Editor-in-chief of the first independent Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. Mr Michnik is the author of *Kościół, Lewica, Dialog* (Church, the Left, Dialogue), Paris 1977; *Z dziejów honoru w Polsce. Wypisy więzienne* (from the History of Honour in Poland. Prison Notes), Paris 1985; *Między Panem a Plebanem*, Warszawa 1995.

Mario Monti (Varese, Italy, 1943) holds a degree in Economics and Management from Bocconi University of Milan. He completed graduate studies at Yale University, where he studied under James Tobin, the Nobel prize-winning economist. In 1994 he was appointed to the European Commission by the first Berlusconi government. In his capacity as European Commissioner from 1995, he was

responsible for Internal Market, Financial Services and Financial Integration, Customs, and Taxation. Four years later, in 1999, Massimo D'Alema's government confirmed his appointment to the new European Commission under the presidency of Romano Prodi. Thereafter he was responsible for Competition, in which capacity he initiated anti-monopoly proceedings against Microsoft. He also led the investigation into the proposed merger between General Electric and Honeywell in 2001, which the European Commission blocked. Mario Monti is the President of the Bocconi University of Milan and the first chairman of Bruegel, a European think tank founded in 2005.

Vladimir Petrovsky (Volgograd, Russia, 1933) holds a Doctorate in History and is a member of the Boards of various Russian and international institutions. After an extraordinarily rich career as a diplomat, Mr. Petrovsky entered the United Nations in 1992, when he was appointed Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the UN headquarters in New York. He was a key architect of the UN "Agenda for Peace" in 1992 and chaired the Task Force that prepared it. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Mr. Petrovsky was briefly the Representative of Russia to the NATO Council of Cooperation.

Rolando Picchioni (Como, Italy, 1936) graduated in Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Turin, he was a Councillor for Public Education in the Turin Provincial Administration between 1970 and 1975 and President of Turin's Repertory Theatre in the same period. He was then elected as a Member of the Italian Parliament for three terms and was Under-Secretary for the Cultural Heritage. He has also been President of the Piedmont Regional Council (1995-1998) and promoter of the "Stati Generali" of Piedmont. Currently he is President of the Foundation for Books, Music and Cultural Activities of Turin and Executive Director of The World Political Forum.

Gianfranco Pittatore (Ospedaletti, Italy, 1939) graduated in Economics, he is President of the CRAL (Alessandria Saving Bank) Foundation since 1991. He was Auditor of the BNL until 1993 and Councilor of the Society Finpiemonte (until 1997). He received the title of "Grand'Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito" of the Italian Republic in 2001. He presently is Councilor of several corporations and institutions, among which the Society EXPO PIEMONTE, the Association of the Saving Banks of Piedmont (within which he especially cares for territorial politics), Milan Popular Bank and Akros. He is vice President of Alessandria Chamber of Commerce since 2003 and Member of the Board of Members, High Direction Committee and Scientific Committee of The World Political Forum.

Rudolf Schuster (Kosice, Slovakia, 1934), former President of the Slovak Republic (1996 – 2004), graduated in Civil Engineering, with a doctorate in ecology. He has been Vice-Chairman for economy and then Chairman at the Košice National City Council, Chairman of the East Slovak Regional National Council. After the "Velvet Revolution" in November 1989 he was elected Speaker of the Slovak National Council and then Ambassador of the CSFR to Canada. Between 1994 and 1999 he was elected Mayor of the City of Košice. In 1998 he became member of the Culture and Media Committee and of the Human Rights and Nationalities Committee of the Slovak Parliament. Elected President of the Slovak Republic in 1999, he has also received a number of awards and Honoris Causa degrees and is the author more of 32 books and director and cameraman of several TV travel films.

George Skorov, (Kharkov, Ukraine, 1927) received his university education in Moscow, PHD in Economics. He has made his carrier at the Russian Academy of Sciences from Junior Research Fellow to Deputy Director of one of the most prestigious research centers, the Institute of the US and Canada Studies: RAN. Since 1990 he has worked mostly in France as Visiting Professor at Paris' Diderot University and HEC School of Management, but also in Russia as a part-time Professor at the International Institute of Economy and Finance. He is also author of a dozen of books on international economics and political issues translated in several languages.

Vilmos Szabó (Sarud, Hungary, 1952) holds a diploma from the Faculty of Arts of the Lajos Kossuth University, Debrecen, and MA in History and in German. He was assistant professor at the Technical University of Budapest and since 1989 he is Executive Head and Chairman of Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) 11th District. From 1999 to 2002 he was Head of the International Secretariat of HSP and since 1998 he is a member of the Hungarian Parliament. From 2001 to 2002 Mr Szabó was Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament, then in 2002 he was appointed Political State Secretary for Minority Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office and subsequently Political State Secretary for Foreign Relations and National Policy in the Prime Minister's Cabinet. Presently he is Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Hungarians Abroad Committee of the Parliament.

Horst Teltschik (Klantendorf, Germany, 1940) graduated in Political Sciences at the Free University of Berlin. He is former president of Boeing Germany in Berlin. Prior to serving in this position, he was a member of the Board of Management of the BMW Group specializing in economic and governmental affairs. Dr. Teltschik also served as chief executive officer of the Bertelsmann Foundation in Gütersloh. In his role as a public servant, he worked as ministerial director at the German Federal Chancellery; was head of the DG for Foreign and Intra-German Relations, Development Policy, and External Security; and served as national security advisor to the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl. Dr. Teltschik is a member of the University Council of the Munich Academy of Arts, and also of the International Advisory Board of the Council on Foreign Relations, New York, USA. A lecturer at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Technical University Munich, Dr. Teltschik has received honorary professorships and doctorates from the Technical University Munich; the University of Budapest, Hungary; and Sogang University, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Daniel Vernet (France) is the Director of the International Affairs Section of Le Monde. He graduated at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris, previously he was a journalist of La Montagne and of the French Edition Company. He entered Le Monde in 1973, and he has been correspondent from Bonn, Moscow, London, then co-editor-in-chief at the Foreign Affairs Section in Paris, then editor-in-chief, and director of the editorial staff. He is the author of several books: *Vivre à Moscou des deux côtés du miroir* (1984). *URSS* (1990). *La Renaissance Allemande* (March 1992), *Was Wird aus Deutschland?* (Gustav Lübbe Verlag – 1993). *Le rêve sacrifié. Chroniques des guerres yougoslaves* (Odile Jacob, October 1994). *L'Amérique messianique* (Editions le Seuil 2004) by Alain Frachon and Daniel Vernet.

Szilveszter Vizi (Hungary, 1936) received his M.D degree in 1961. He has worked as a clinical pharmacologist since 1980. He is a guest professor of Psychiatry and Anaesthesiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, New York, N.Y. He is a full professor and department chair of Pharmacology and Therapy at the Semmelweis University of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary. He has been a member of Hungarian Academy of Sciences since 1985. He has served as President of HAS since May 2002 and received many awards from all over the world.

Theo Waigel (Ursberg, Germany, 1939) studied at the Universities of Munich and Würzburg and holds a doctorate in Legal and Political Science. He was a personal assistant to the Under Secretary of State at the Bavarian Ministry of Finance (1969-1970), then to the Bavarian Minister of State for Economic and Transport Affairs (1970-1972). He has held a number of party political offices. From 1971 to 1975 he was the Chairman of the Junge Union Bayern, the junior arm of the Christian Social Union (CSU) in Bavaria. He went on to become Chairman of the CSU's Doctrinal Commission from 1973 to 1988. From 1988 until January 1999, he held the position of Chairman of the CSU. He started his career in public office as a member of the Krumbach county council. He became a member of the Bundestag in 1972. From 1982 to April 1989 Dr. Waigel was Chairman of the Bavarian CSU faction in the Bundestag and First Vice-Chairman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group. From April 1989 to October 1998 Dr. Waigel was Federal Minister of Finance. Since 1999 he has been a practicing lawyer in the office of Gassner Stockmann & Kollegen in Munich, Germany and he is member of many supervisory boards.

Jianmin Wu (Chongqing, China, 1939) is President of China Foreign Affairs University, President of International Bureau of Exhibitions (BIE), Executive Vice President of China National Association for International Studies and Under-Secretary-General and Spokesman of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). He previously served as China's Ambassador to France (1998-2003), to the United Nations Office in Geneva and to other international organizations in Switzerland (1996-98) and to the Netherlands (1994-95). Earlier, Ambassador Wu was Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department and served as the Ministry's Spokesman (1991-94). He was Political Adviser and Deputy Chief Mission at China's Embassy to Belgium and its Mission to the European Community in Brussels (1980-90) and Adviser at China's Mission to the United Nations in New York (1985-89). Wu Jianmin was awarded Grand Officier Légion d'Honneur by President Jacques Chirac of the Republic of France (June 2003).

Mesut Yilmaz (Istanbul, Turkey, 1947) after taking a degree from the Istanbul Erkek Lisesi, Mr. Yilmaz achieved his B.A. in Finance and Economics at University of Ankara, Faculty of Political Science, in 1971. Between 1972 and 1974, he made his post-graduate studies in Germany, at the University of Cologne, Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences. As founding member and Vice-Chairman of the Motherland Party, which was founded in May 1983, he was elected as MP from Rize in the general elections held in November the same year. In the first Özal Government, he was assigned as the Minister of State in Charge of Information and as the Government Spokesman. Mr. Yilmaz assumed duties as the Minister of Culture and Tourism in 1986 and during his tenure he chaired the Turkish-German and Turkish-Yugoslavian Joint Economic Commissions. From 1987 to 1990 he was Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has been Prime Minister of Turkey in 1991, 1996 and from 1997 to 1999 and served as deputy prime minister from 1999 to 2002. Mr. Yilmaz is the Vice-President of the European Democratic Union since 1998. He was guest professor at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, in 2003-2004 and is currently board-member of Ynea (Institute for European Affairs) in Duesseldorf.

Ewa Zadrzynska is a journalist and a fiction writer. Since 1984, she has resided in New York City and in Warsaw. Her short stories can be found on the contemporary reading list for Polish schools and she is known as an author of children books. Ewa Zadrzynska is a frequent contributor to the Polish and US media. Her articles have appeared in the New York Times and in Polish magazines *Polityka*, *Kultura*, *Gazeta Wyborcza* and *Twoj Styl*. For her work in journalism, she was awarded with the prestigious Professional Journalism Fellowship at Stanford University. Since 2005 Ewa Zadrzynska has represented the Belgian Evens Foundation in Poland as a Director, and has been working on the program: *Poetry Unites- My Favourite Poem*, sponsored by the Foundation.

Zahari Zahariev (Sofia, Bulgaria, 1949) is Founder and President of the Slavyani Foundation, Founder and President of the Discussion Political Club 21 (1997), Academician of the European Academy of Sciences, Culture and Humanities of UNESCO and member of other international academies. He was Member of Government and Parliament. His publications are in the field of political science and international relations and most part of them is connected with the political system of the European Union, the politics of the former Soviet Union, Russia and the post-soviet space and the Bulgarian-Russian ties. He is awarded with Bulgarian government and state prizes.

Milos Zeman (Kolin, Czech Republic, 1944) studied Economics. He was a member of the Czech Communist Party from 1968 to 1970, then, during the 1989 revolution, he joined the Civic Forum and became actively involved in its centre-left stream. He was elected to the Federal Assembly in 1990. He joined the CSSD (Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party as it then was) and was re-elected to the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in the elections held that year. In 1992 he was also elected Chairman of the CSSD Prague Municipal Committee. At the 1993 National Congress of the CSSD (Czech Social Democratic Party as it is now), he was elected Party Chairman. He was re-elected in 1998 and was appointed Prime Minister, a post he held until 2002.