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Parliamentary Dimension



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Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy (IPC for CFSP/CSDP) 4-5 September 2022, Prague, Czech Republic

List of Speakers



Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

He was born in 1937 in Prague. After the 1948 Czechoslovak coup d'état, he emigrated with his family to Austria. From 1984 to 1991, he was the President of the International Helsinki Committee for Human Rights. After returning to free Czechoslovakia, he served for two years as Head of Office for President Václav Havel. From 2004 to 2010, he served as a Senator of the Parliament of the Czech Republic and for three years as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security. He was also a member of the Parliament's Permanent Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. In the year 2007–2009, he was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Deputy Prime Minister in 2010–2013. In 2013, he came second in the election for President of the Czech Republic. He then served as Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. He was then its Vice-Chairman from 2017 to 2019.



Ms. Markéta Pekarová Adamová

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of the Czech Republic

Leader of TOP 09 (affiliated to the EPP political family)

Born on 2 October 1984, Lives in Prague, Czech Republic

She joined the TOP 09 political party in 2009. Two years later, she became a Member of Prague Municipal Council. She has been a Member of the Chamber of Deputies since 2013. From 2014 to 2017 she was a Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the Chamber of Deputies and from 2017 to 2021 she was a Vice-Chair of the Committee on Social Policy of the Chamber of Deputies.

Her political career continued in 2019, when she became a Chair of the TOP 09. In November 2021, she was elected the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Markéta Pekarová Adamová obtained Master's degree in Economics and Management in Industry at the Czech Technical University in Prague. She volunteered on multiple occasions in the Czech Republic and abroad. She worked in orphanages in Armenia and Morocco, helped the disabled in Serbia and participated in an environmental project in Scotland. Markéta Pekarová Adamová is married. In their spare time, she and her husband enjoy sports, cycling, cross-country skiing and jogging. She has successfully ran a marathon.



Mr. Marek Ženíšek

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

A graduate of the Faculty of Arts of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague, author of several books and expert works; he is currently a member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, where he is, among other things, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the past, he was Deputy Minister of Justice, later Minister of Health, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in Pilsen. He received the Medal of Merit for the development of the field of psychiatry in the Czech Republic for his work on the psychiatric care reform.



Mr. Lubomír Metnar

Chairman of the Committee on Defence of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

He was born in 1967. He graduated from the Higher Police School of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and the University of Ostrava, where he received his Master's degree. From 1988 to 2011, he served as a member of the Police of the Czech Republic, among other positions as a member of a special intervention unit (graduate of the ATAP anti-terrorist course) and head of the Violence Unit of the General Crime Department of the Moravian-Silesian Region. He then worked as a security director in the engineering industry and served as the Deputy Minister of the Interior for Internal Security. He was the Minister of the Interior from December 2017 to June 2018 and then the Minister of Defence from June 2018 to December 2021. He is a Member of the Czech Parliament since October 2021 and Chairman of the Committee on Defence of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Parliament since January 2022.



Mr. Pavel Fischer

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Pavel Fischer was elected senator in October 2018. He served as senior political advisor to the late President Vaclav Havel and the Director of the Political Department of President Havel's Presidential Office for Mr. Havel's two consecutive terms. Subsequently he was appointed as the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to France and Monaco. After his 7-year ambassadorial mission, he served as the Political Director General in charge of defence, security and strategic issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2013, he stepped down for family reasons, and worked with governmental and non-governmental partners. He worked as Director of empirical studies institute STEM. Mr. Fischer has been generally acknowledged as one of the leading supporters of strong Trans-Atlantic ties, as well as of an active membership of the Czech Republic in the NATO and EU among the politically active figures. In 2018 Presidential election, he lost and was 3rd with 10% of votes. Father of four. Served as member of Jacques Delors Institute (Paris), of SIRIRI (Prague based NGO promoting educational programs in Central African Republic), and of Forum 2000 Foundation (Prague).



Mr. David McAllister

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, European Parliament

David McAllister was born in Berlin on 12 January 1971. He is married and has two daughters. After finishing his secondary school in 1989, he served in the German Military for two years. He studied law with a scholarship awarded by the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation and has been a lawyer since 1998. In 2012 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Edinburgh. His political career began in 1998, when he was elected as a member of the State Parliament of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). From 2003 till 2010 he served as Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Group and from 2010 until 2013 as Prime Minister of Niedersachsen. He is a Member of the European Parliament since 2014. He chairs the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the European Parliament and serves as Co-Chair of the UK Contact Group. David McAllister is a Vice President of the EPP since 2015.



Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission

He was a Minister of Public Works and Environment from 1991 to 1996, member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009 and its President from 2004 to 2007. Borrell became President of the European University Institute in 2010 and Jean Monnet Chair at the Institute of International Studies at Complutense University of Madrid. In 2018, he was appointed as Foreign Minister for the Spanish government and in 2019 High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.



Mr. Jan Lipavský

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic since December 17, 2021

Prior to becoming minister, Jan Lipavský entered government as a parliamentary representative. He served four years in the Chamber of Deputies as the Vice-Chairman on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Defense. Likewise, he was on three other committees: the Standing Committee on Hybrid Threats, the Subcommittee on Migration and Asylum Policy, and the Subcommittee on Defense, Cyber, and Security Policy and Strategic Concepts of the Czech Republic. Lipavský specializes primarily in energy and international security and hybrid threats. Before entering politics, he pursued a career in the private sector in the field of banking information technologies. He worked for companies such as McKinsey & Company, Euro RSCG, ZOOT, Total Solutions, and Moro Systems. Jan Lipavský was born in Prague, where he grew up and completed grammar school. He went on to graduate with a degree in International Area Studies from Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of International Studies. During his studies, he spent a year abroad at the University of Kent in the United Kingdom. Jan Lipavský has an eight year old daughter.



Mr. Oleksandr Merezhko

Chairman of the Foreign Policy and Inter-parliamentary Cooperation Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Professor and doctor of law in international law, namely in such areas as international public law, international diplomatic law, international treaties law, EU law, international environmental law, law of international organizations, etc. He is an expert in international treaties and international economic law. He taught and was a professor at the following higher education institutions: Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, John Paul II Catholic University of Poland, Modzewski Krakow Academy (Poland), Jindal Global University (India), Denver University School of International Studies (USA), Dickinson University School of Law, Pennsylvania (USA), Armenian Diplomatic School, Kazakh-British Technical University. He speaks English, Polish and Ukrainian.



Ms. Helena König

Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues, European External Action Service

Helena König works in the European External Action Service where she is currently the Deputy Secretary General for Economic and Global Issues. Prior to that, Ms König worked in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade where she was the Deputy Director General responsible for Bilateral Relations with Asia, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries, Services and Digital Trade, Investment and Intellectual Property and Trade and Sustainable Development.



Mr. Maciej Popowski

Acting Director-General in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission

Ambassador Popowski is a Polish diplomat with 25 years of professional experience. He was director for EU affairs at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of Poland's accession negotiations. In 2001-2008 he was Deputy Head of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union. In 2003-2008 he was Poland's first permanent representative in the EU's Political and Security Committee. He then joined the European Commission as Director in DG Development focusing on policy coherence, aid effectiveness, financing, relations with other donors and public information. In 2009 he was seconded from the European Commission to become head of cabinet of Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament. From 2011 until 2015 he was Deputy Secretary-General of the European External Action Service. Since 2016 Mr Popowski is Deputy Director-General in the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations of the European Commission.



Ms. Janina Hřebíčková

Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro

Diplomat, director of post-war reconstruction projects for UN, NATO, IOM and OSCE peacekeeping missions, manager of post-conflict documentaries from the Western Balkans and the Middle East, foreign correspondent for BBC World, CNN and Czech Television from the former Yugoslavia and the Middle East. Former Head of the Czech Mission to the Republic of Kosovo, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations, Special Mission Ambassador and Coordinator of Czech Experts in the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, Head of the OSCE Mission in Montenegro and former Special Envoy of the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Western Balkans.



Ms. Nathalie Loiseau

Chair, Subcommittee on Security and Defence, European Parliament



Mr. Major General Karel Řehka

Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces

He graduated from the Military Grammar School in Opava and the Military University of Ground Forces in Vyškov. He completed, among other things, a one-year Officers Course in the UK and a prestigious Ranger Course in the USA. During his service in the Czech Armed Forces, he participated in military missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan, served in General Moravec's 601st Special Forces Group, which he commanded in 2010–2014. In November 2014, he became the Director of the Special Forces Directorate of the Ministry of Defence. He was then the Deputy Commander of the Multinational Division North East. In March 2020, he became the Director of National Cyber and Information Security Agency. Since 1 July 2022, he has been the Chief of General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces. He is the recipient of numerous military decorations and awards. He was awarded the Arnošt Lustig Prize for courage, bravery, humanity and justice. He received the Czech and Slovak Transatlantic Award for his contribution to the security of Central Europe. He is married, with two children.



Mr. Lutz Güllner

Head of Division for Strategic Communications and Information Analysis in the European External Action Service

He leads a team of about 40 persons dealing with issues related to disinformation and foreign manipulative interference. In his work, he focuses on addressing disinformation threats for the EU and for the EU's neighbourhood region. Prior to his current position he served as Head of the EEAS's foreign and security policy communication team (2017-2019) and as Head of the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade's communication team (2013-17). He was also Deputy Head of the Trade Strategy Unit and responsible for the coordination of EU-US trade and economic relations.

In 2009 and 2010, Lutz Güllner was spokesperson for the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton. He was also the Commission's spokesperson for trade policy. In previous positions, he was in charge of economic relations between the EU and Russia.