

Speakers' Bios

Andreas Accardo -Head of Unit, Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, FRA

Andreas Accardo oversees the Agency's cooperation with its institutional partners. He joined the Agency's precursor organisation, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, in 2004. He then continued working for FRA where he led diverse projects. From 2014 to 2018, he headed the Director's Office. Prior to joining FRA, he worked on institution-building programmes in former Yugoslavia with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He holds a master's degree in political science from the German University of Münster and a postgraduate degree in peace and conflict studies. His areas of expertise include EU and international relations, political affairs, human rights and good governance.

Eva Sobotka -Programme Officer, Independent Human Rights Bodies, Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, FRA

Eva Sobotka manages relations with the National Human Rights Bodies and their networks. She leads the study on the Situation of NHRIs in the EU and accession countries. She previously headed Agency's Cooperation and Consultation sector, governments, parliaments), and designed and managed the first Fundamental Rights Forum in 2016. She worked in human rights research, capacity building and education, and a range of topics, including Roma inclusion, antisemitism, Holocaust education, disability, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. She worked previously for AFSC, as Director of regional office. She holds BA in Political Science (Masaryk), MA in Political Science (Central European University) and PhD in politics and international relations from the Lancaster University.

Jonas Grimheden- Programme Manager, Supporting human rights systems, Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, FRA

Jonas Grimheden coordinates the FRA's programme on Supporting human rights systems, which includes National Human Rights Institutions, civil society, rule of law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, plus relations with the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the European External Action Service. He also leads the development of its European Union Fundamental Rights Information System. Before joining FRA, Jonas worked for over 10 years in human rights research, teaching, technical cooperation and capacity building. He opened and ran the first field office (in China) of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights. He has a BA in

East- and South-east Asian Studies with a focus on Chinese, a Swedish law degree, a master's degree and a doctorate in human rights law. He has published widely on a range of issues.

Emmanuel Crabit, European Commission, Director Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law

Emmanuel Crabit is director of the directorate "Fundamental rights and rule of law." Previously, he was head of unit for "Fundamental right and rights of the child", and then for "Justice policy and rule of law" in the European Commission's DG for Justice and Consumers. Before working for DG Justice and Consumers, Emmanuel Crabit worked in the Internal Market and Services Directorate General and, inter alia, dealt with Commission initiatives in the field of data protection, media pluralism, e-commerce and services. Emmanuel Crabit holds a PhD in public law and was senior lecturer in public law before joining the European Commission.

Michal Šimečka, Member of European Parliament, rapporteur on the legislative initiative to establish an EU Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights

Michal Šimečka is a Member of the European Parliament and Vice-President of the Renew Europe Group. Before being elected, he was a Foreign Policy Adviser to Members of the European Parliament. He has worked as a reporter in Financial Times, Prague and SME daily, Bratislava as well as a Political Risk Analyst in London. He was an External Lecturer at Comenius University, Bratislava and Charles University, Prague and a Senior Researcher at the Institute of International Relations Prague. He holds a BA from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Political Science and International Relations at Charles University, and an MPhil (with distinction) and DPhil (PhD) from University of Oxford.

Luisa Raegher, Head of Division for Human Rights, European External Action Service

A national of Italy, Luisa Raegher holds a degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Trieste, and a Master Degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges. She started her career in the private sector as European and Governmental Affairs Manager for Ford Motor Company Europe. In 2001 she joined the European Commission External Relations Directorate General with responsibilities for relations with the US. During her time in headquarters, she has also been responsible for relations with Japan and worked for two years in the office of the Chief Operating Officer of the European External Action Service. Between 2006 and 2010 she served at the EU Delegation to the United States as head of section for transport, energy and environment. Between 2014 and 2018 she served as deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Thailand. She is currently Head of the Human Rights Division of the European External Action Service.

Myriam Ferran, Director Strategy and Turkey DG Near, EU Commission

Myriam Ferran joined the European Commission in 2001 after having worked in the French government for almost a decade. Since 2001, Ms Ferran has worked for the European Commission in various capacities - in the DG for Enlargement, DG for Transport and Energy, DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - as well as in the Cabinet of the European Enlargement Commissioner, Olli Rehn. She was Head of Unit managing EU relationships with Iceland, Serbia and Turkey, and was appointed Director in charge of Strategy and Turkey in 2017. Prior to joining the Commission, she held various administrative positions in the French Ministry of Budget and Agriculture, and was Deputy Head of Cabinet of the French Minister for Environment, Dominique Voynet.