



International Conference “Czechia and Ibero-America – Facing Together the Challenges in the Globalized World“

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
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SPEAKERS

Jan Lipavský (Czechia)



Jan Lipavský (The Czech Pirate Party), the current Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, was appointed on December 17, 2021. From 2017 to 2021, he served as a member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. He held the position of Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Defense. He was a member of the Standing Commission on Hybrid Threats, the Subcommittee on Defense, Cyber and Security Policy and the Strategic Concept of the Czech Republic, and the Subcommittee on Migration and Asylum Policy. As an MP, he focused mainly on energy and international security issues and hybrid threats. Jan Lipavský is the author of the Czech version of the Magnitsky Act, which allows the imposition of sanctions against foreigners and companies who have committed serious illegal acts. In November 2022, he received the Magnitsky Human Rights Award for contribution to the protection of human rights. In the same year, he was awarded the Ukrainian Order of Merit. Before entering politics, he worked in the private sector in banking information technology. He worked for companies such as McKinsey & Company, Euro RSCG, ZOOT, Total Solutions and Moro Systems.

Jiří Kozák (Czechia)



Jiří Kozák graduated from Political Sciences at Faculty of Social Sciences of the Charles University in Prague. In December 2021, he was appointed the first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Jiří Kozák worked as a Policy Manager for Civic Democratic Party, the leading right wing party in the Czech Republic. He was a member of the campaign team of the SPOLU coalition for the 2021 general election. He was a Director of CEVRO (www.cevro.cz) between 2009 and 2019. He was also a teacher at CEVRO Institute University for 9 years. Prior to his appointment with CEVRO, he was an Advisor to the Chairman of Committee for European Affairs of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. Jiří Kozák was a member of the Steering Committee of European Network of Political Foundations in Brussels between 2007 and 2019. Jiří Kozák has organized many training programs for political representatives of centre-right parties in the Czech Republic as well as many international programs of democracy assistance around the world. He lectured on democracy building, human rights, political party building and political education in many countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. He is an author and co-editor of the project The Memory of Nations - Democratic Transition Guide, one of the biggest comparative studies of democratic transition in 13 countries around the world.

Edita Hrdá (Czechia)



Since October 1, 2020, Edita Hrdá has served as the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the EU and the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the COREPER II Committee. At the end of 2015, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy appointed Ms. Hrdá as Managing Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service (EEAS). She has thus become the highest-ranking Czech citizen within the European External Action Service since its establishment in 2010. During her rich diplomatic career, in 2011 – 2015 she held the prestigious position of Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York. She was further elected as Chair of the Executive Board of the UN Development Program - UNDP and the UN Population Fund - UNFPA). She also served as the Czech Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay in 1999 – 2003. Ms. Hrdá joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in 1992 working in Prague as the director of the Department of Latin America, director for Central Europe and between 2006 and 2010 also as the Director General of the Section of the Minister and Chief of Staff.

Dana Baschová (Czechia)



Dana Baschová is Department of Americas' Director, after serving as the Head of North America Unit (2020-2023). Previously, she served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Vienna, Austria (2014-2017), and as Deputy Head of Mission at the Czech Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel (2010-2013), and as a Czech expert to the Coalition Provisional Authority and at the Czech Embassy to Baghdad, Iraq (2003). In Prague, she worked as the Head of Office of the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs prior and during the first Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU (2006-2009) and in the NATO Summit Task Force (2002). Besides her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she served as Deputy Director of Aspen Institute Central Europe (2017-2020) and worked with People in Need Organization (2004-2005), one of the most influential NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. Dana Baschová graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences (Charles University Prague) with a master's degree in International Area Studies/German and Austrian Studies. She studied for her Master Thesis at the Heinrich Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. She speaks German, Spanish and English.

Luis Almagro Lemes (Organization of American States)



Luis Almagro was re-elected for a second term as Secretary General of the Organization of American States on March 20, 2020. He was first elected as Secretary General of the OAS in March of 2015, with the support of 33 of the 34 member states and one abstention. As Secretary General, Almagro has prioritized defense of democracy and human rights in his daily work and has not hesitated to speak out when democracy and human rights are being trampled, as in the case of Venezuela, or he has put the struggle to restore democracy in Cuba at the very top of the regional agenda. A career diplomat, he has extensive regional and international experience. Almagro was his country's foreign minister from March 1, 2010 to March 1, 2015. Under his tenure, Uruguay set new records for exports year after year. He also defined several landmark initiatives of President José Mujica's government that put the country on the global map. Uruguay decided to take in former prisoners from Guantanamo, granted asylum to dozens of Syrian families who were victims of their country's civil war, and secured the endorsement of GRULAC for its election to a seat on the United Nations Security Council in January 2016. Almagro was also ambassador to China for three years, after occupying senior diplomatic posts in his country's foreign ministry and at its embassies in Germany and Iran. In addition, he was elected as a senator in Uruguay's national elections in October 2014.

Andrés Allamand (Ibero-American Secretariat General)



Andrés Allamand, lawyer, attended University of Chile's Law School, where he graduated with the highest distinction. He signed the "National Agreement for the Transition to Full Democracy", a key document for the Chilean transition that took place in the 1990s. Subsequently, he was elected deputy of the Republic of Chile for one term and senator twice. During his parliamentary career, he was a member of the Education, Constitution, Legislation and Justice, Labor and Social Security Commissions and attended to matters related to International Relations and regionalization processes. Formerly, he worked as a consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington DC, focusing on issues of democratic governance, strengthening of Congresses and empowerment of civil society. In the academic field, he was Dean of the School of Government at the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez. On February 8, 2022, he was elected Ibero-American Secretary General.

Charles Powell (Spain)



Charles Powell read History and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford, where he later wrote a D. Phil. thesis on Spain's transition to democracy. He was subsequently a Lecturer in History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, the J. A. Pye Research Fellow at University College, Oxford, and a Junior Research Fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford, where he is currently a Member of the Senior Common Room. In 1996, his family decided to settle in Spain where from 1997 to 2000 he was deputy director of the European Studies program of the Ortega y Gasset University Institute, and was later appointed deputy director of the Ortega y Gasset Foundation's Spanish Centre for International Relations (CERI). In 2002, he joined the recently created Elcano Royal Institute for International and Strategic Studies as Senior Analyst for Europe, and in 2004, he was appointed Deputy Director for Research and Analysis. Since 2002, he is also a Professor in Contemporary History at the CEU San Pablo University (Madrid). Since 2011, he is a member of the council of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). In June 2017, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in recognition of his services to British – Spanish relations. In addition, in 2019, Charles Powell was awarded the medal of the Spanish Cortes Generales (Parliament), for his services to the Spanish Constitution of 1978.

Nicolas Albertoni (Uruguay)



Nicolas Albertoni is the current Uruguay's Deputy Foreign Minister. He holds two PhDs: in political science and international relations from the University of Southern California (USC) - where he received the Order of Arethe, the highest honor accorded to graduate students -, and in Business Administration from The Pontifical Catholic University of Argentina (UCA). He is the author of three books about trade policy in Latin America and Uruguay: "Uruguay como solución" (Penguin Press, 2019), "Instrucciones para inventar la rueda" (Penguin Press, 2014) and "Entre el barrio y el mundo ¿Mercosur o el modelo chileno?" (Penguin Press, 2011). In 2018, he was recognized by the Global Americans Journal as one of the 20 New Generation of Public Intellectuals of Latin America. The same year he received the US National Council on International Trade Development Award for his research on the impact of trade protectionism in Latin America.

Jennifer Feller (Mexico)



Jennifer Feller is member of the Mexican Foreign Service since 2003 serving currently as the Director General for Europe and Mexico's G20 Sherpa. Previously, at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations, she worked also as the Director General of Political Planning and G20, Acting Director General for Europe at the Deputy Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Acting Deputy Foreign Minister. Between 2016 and 2021, she served as the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassies of Mexico in Portugal and in France. She also occupied different positions at the Mexican Embassies at the United States of America (Head of the Political Affairs Division, Chief of Staff to the Ambassador of Mexico), in Portugal (Head of the Political and Consular Affairs Sections) or the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York (Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Human Rights and Organized Crime). Jennifer Feller is a graduate of International Relations, specialized in International Law, Iberoamericana University (Mexico). She completed postgraduate courses in Political Science and International Relations at the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (Mexico). She recently became a postgraduate from the University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal) after completing a Master in Humanitarian Assistance.

Néstor Francisco Popolizio Bardales (Peru)



Ambassador Néstor Popolizio is a career diplomat with 40 years in the Peruvian Foreign Service. He studied international relations and law postgraduate course in international political relations at the International Institute of Public Administration IIAP in Paris. He worked in a number of diplomatic positions at the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations in New York and at the embassies of Peru in the USA, Colombia and Brazil. He was the ambassador of Peru to Portugal and Colombia.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, he held the positions of Junior Deputy Minister for the American section, General Secretary and Deputy Minister. The highlight of his diplomatic career was serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs from April 2, 2018 to September 30, 2019, when he was appointed Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations. On December 21, 2021, he handed over credentials as the Ambassador of Peru to the Czech Republic to President M. Zeman.

Mariana Llanos (Germany, Argentina)



Mariana Llanos holds the joint professorship for "Democratic Institutions in the Global South" at the University of Erfurt and the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) where she is also the Co-Director of the GIGA Institute of Latin American studies since 08/2023. Mariana Llanos studied political science in Argentina, her country of origin, and later obtained a D.Phil in Politics (1999) from the University of Oxford, St. Antony's College, in the United Kingdom with the thesis "Privatization and Democracy in Argentina" (Palgrave, 2002). Since her graduation, Mariana Llanos has published extensively in English, Spanish, and Portuguese both in academic journals and books. Her work on Latin American comparative political institutions has appeared, for example, in *Government & Opposition*, *Democratization*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Latin American Politics and Society*, and the *Journal of Latin American Studies*. In 2022, she won the American Political Science Association (APSA)

Laurent Sillano (European Commission)



Within the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships, Laurent Sillano is currently an advisor to the director for Latin America and the Caribbean, in charge of the Global Gateway investment strategy. Mr. Sillano has a thirty-year long career in international cooperation and development. For the European Union, he has been posted to Nicaragua, Honduras, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic. Before that, he had worked for UNDP in Venezuela in the area of public sector reform and was an advisor to the minister of social affairs in Chad. In a previous assignment at EU headquarters in Brussels, he covered the development chapter of the economic partnership agreement with West African countries. A French national, Laurent Sillano holds a graduate degree in business administration from HEC in Paris and an M.A. in International Affairs from Carleton University in Ottawa.

Radek Buben (Czechia)



Radek Buben works at the Institute of Political Science of the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague and cooperates with the Center for Ibero-American Studies of this faculty. He mainly focuses on democratic transitions and political processes in Southern Europe and Latin America. He has contributed to several publications focused on Latin America.

Ricardo Ferreira Reis (Portugal)



Ricardo Ferreira Reis, Guest Assistant Professor of Accounting, is Director of the Center for Applied Studies (CEA). PhD in Business Sciences and Applied Economics from the Wharton School, U. Pennsylvania, USA and a degree in Economics from the University of Porto. Prof. Reis teaches Financial Accounting at the MBA, Graduate and Executive Education levels. His areas of research interest are based on information economics, with an emphasis on accounting, ranging from agency theory to corporate governance. Previously, he taught Financial and Cost Accounting at the Wharton School. He completed his PhD and Masters in Economics at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, where he also taught several Economics and Business courses. Prof. Reis was a consultant at the Lisbon Stock Exchange and the Porto Derivatives Exchange and worked as a credit risk analyst for investment banking at the beginning of his career.

Matyáš Pelant (Czechia)



Matyáš Pelant is Principal Advisor at EU and Foreign Trade Section of the Ministry of Industry and Trade since 2023. From 2018 to 2023, he served at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU as Head of the Trade Policy Unit. Matyáš was the head of the Americas Unit at the Ministry of Industry and Trade since August 2013 being previously an employee of the Ministry of Industry and Trade since 2011. In 2009-2011, he worked in Brazil at the Delegation of the European Union. Before that, he worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Department of the Rectorate of Charles University in Prague. He is a graduate of Charles University (Ph.D. in Iberoamerican Studies, MA in Portuguese and BA in International Area Studies).

Roberto Ramos Bustos (Honduras)



Ambassador Roberto Ramos Bustos is a career diplomat who has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1978. He has held positions as Director of Consular Affairs, Director General of the Department of International Organizations, Director General of Special Affairs and Director General of Foreign Policy. He has served abroad as Councilor-Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador to the OAS, Ambassador to Argentina, Ecuador and Sweden, Denmark and Norway. He currently serves as an advisor to the Minister.

Merili Soosalu



Merili Soosalu has been leading European Union's cyber capacity building initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean for the past three years. She serves currently as the LAC Regional Programme Lead for the EU CyberNet project where she leads and coordinates through the Latin America and Caribbean Cyber Competence Centre (LAC4) EU cyber capacity building activities in the region.

Prior to this, Merili was the Consortium Partner Leader of Estonia in the first global EU cyber capacity and resilience building project EU Cyber4Dev in charge of the LAC region with special focus on supporting priority countries with policies, CSIRT development and cyber awareness. Before that, Merili has worked 10 years in various positions within the Estonian government (Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Equality Commissioner's office), mainly focusing on EU politics and international relations. Merili has ample project management experience from various OECD and EU projects from the development, cyber security and gender equality areas. Merili holds an MA degree in European Politics from the Institute of Political Science of Strasbourg, France.

Tomáš Minárik (Czechia)



Tomáš Minárik is the Head of International Organizations and Law Unit at NÚKIB (National Cyber and Information Security Agency of the Czech Republic) since July 2019. Since 2014, he worked as a researcher in the NATO CCD COE Law Branch, focusing on the legal aspects of cyberspace operations (the International Cyber Law: Interactive Toolkit project), activities of international organizations regarding cyberspace (the INCYDER project), and cyber defense exercises (Locked Shields, Crossed Swords). He holds a law degree from the Charles University in Prague.

Václav Stupka (Czechia)



Václav Stupka is a cybersecurity specialist focusing on regulatory and compliance issues. He is a founding member of both the Centre of Excellence for Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, and Critical Infrastructure Protection (C4e) and the National Centre of Competence for Cybersecurity (NC3) at Masaryk University. He engages in pioneering research and development in cybersecurity, and serves as a deputy director at the CyberSecurity Hub established by Czech universities to coordinate efforts in cybersecurity research, certification and compliance across various sectors. Vaclav is involved in various national and international research and networking projects focused on cybersecurity including CyberVAC project led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which focuses on capacity building in cybersecurity in developing countries.