

# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

[www.gpf-europe.com](http://www.gpf-europe.com)

*What the South Caucasus Could Be:*

**Exploring the Role of Economic Initiatives as Peace Building  
Tools in the Nagorno-Karabakh Context**

*Expert Roundtable with Interactive Discussion*

*~ European Parliament ~  
Brussels, March 27, 2014*

*Common Heritage, Shared Future?*





# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

---



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

## Concept Note February 2014

### *About the European Geopolitical Forum*

The European Geopolitical Forum (EGF) is an independent, Brussels-based think tank and research organisation focused on security and external relations issues in Eurasia. Highly active since its establishment in 2010, EGF has special links with the countries of the former Soviet Union. It has a highly established track record of conducting an array of specialised research on this region. EGF also has a strong focus on Turkey, as well as the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. For more information please visit our website at: [www.gpf-europe.com](http://www.gpf-europe.com).

### *Background to current research on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict*

As part of a several-year-long sequence of work on the Black Sea region, EGF recently published a study entitled “[\*A Pragmatic Review of Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Resolution: Could Economic Incentives Help Break the Deadlock?\*](#)”. The study explored the possibility of economic incentives as a means of helping to break the current deadlock over the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

While this research was well received by stakeholders monitoring developments on Nagorno-Karabakh, the work concluded that economic incentives, on their own, could not substitute for a political settlement to the conflict itself.

In light of the above, EGF was subsequently invited by Armenian, Azerbaijani and international conflict stakeholders to expand on the above-mentioned research. More specifically, EGF was invited to make a far more compelling case identifying specific ‘projects of common economic interest’ in which all South Caucasus-level stakeholders could possibly participate in a future post-conflict scenario. We were asked by both Armenian and Azerbaijani researchers to demonstrate more clearly what exactly the parties would gain from considering hypothetical future economic cooperation.

### *Objectives of current research*

In 2014 EGF will deepen its existing research on ‘economic incentives as peace building tools in the unresolved conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh’. The aim of our current research is to identify possible pilot projects in the spheres of, for example, energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, trade, agriculture, tourism or other areas, enabling potential economic cooperation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Such projects should be technically feasible and commercially attractive for all stakeholders in a possible post-conflict scenario. This is underscored by the fact that the history of the Caucasus region suggests that conflicts such as Nagorno-Karabakh come and go, but the diverse peoples of the area will continue living and coexisting for centuries to come. Economic cooperation and development scenarios will at one point, therefore, become not only highly desirable but a necessity of life.



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

To that end, this year we plan to publish a new study exploring several options. If it can be demonstrated that the economic benefits from such projects would be substantial, and that these could offset security risks, a fresh approach towards our thinking about the Karabakh peace process might be considered.

## ***Brussels, March 27, 2014: The first post-conflict scenario building roundtable***

As part of our efforts to explore the idea of economic initiatives within the context of South Caucasus peace building processes, we are planning to hold several outreach sessions/consultation rounds with stakeholders and/or experts during the course of 2014. The first of these sessions is due to be held in Brussels on March 27, 2014.

The event will be comprised of three main interactive discussion sessions of around two hours each:

- ***Session I: Missed opportunities and lessons learned from conflict resolution processes***
- ***Session II: Can economic initiatives make a difference for Karabakh?***
- ***Session III: Consensus building techniques and regionalism in the South Caucasus***

Each session will be initiated by one or more ‘discussion openers’, to be followed by fully interactive discussion under the Chatham House rule. EGF experts will provide moderation throughout the day. Participants may provide feedback on our initial ideas, as well as present ideas of their own. These can then be evaluated in an objective, off the record setting governed by the Chatham House rule.

We envisage participation from around 30 Nagorno-Karabakh and South Caucasus-related experts. A list of invited-envisaged participants will be distributed shortly. Participants will come from government organisations, the EU institutions, NATO, think tanks, academia and NGOs. The roundtable will be conducted in a constructive, informal ‘atmosphere of exchange’ between mature experts. Rash political messages and/or statements will be disqualified from the discussion by the event organisers.

## ***The way forward***

It is expected that the Brussels March 27 roundtable may lead to further dialogue, and it is envisaged that more expert level meetings will be organised during the course of 2014. Ideas generated during the meeting will enter the scope of EGF’s new study on the economic dimensions of Karabakh conflict resolution processes. The establishment of a task force comprised of international experts intended for monitoring and evaluating the study is also foreseen. A presentation of the study is envisaged in a conference framework in the South Caucasus region towards the end of 2014 .



## *What the South Caucasus Could Be:*

### **Exploring the Role of Economic Initiatives as Peace Building Tools in the Nagorno-Karabakh Context**

#### *Expert Roundtable with Interactive Discussion<sup>1</sup>*

*Thursday, 27 March 2014  
European Parliament (Room A1 E201)  
Rue Wiertz/Wiertzstraat 60, B-1047 Brussels*

### **Agenda for the Day**

#### **9.30am-9.45am**

Arrival of all participants at the European Parliament at the Altiero Spinelli entrance, issuing of access passes. Escorted walk to Room A1 E201.

#### **9.45am-10.15am**

Registration, tea and coffee

#### **10.15am-10.30am**

*Introduction to the substance and format of the day's proceedings*

Dr Marat Terterov, *Director, European Geopolitical Forum*

#### **10.30am-12.30pm**

*Session I: Missed opportunities and lessons learned from conflict resolution processes*

The year 2014 marks 20 years since the signing of the cease fire agreement over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, following which negotiations over a peace process commenced under the auspices of the Minsk Group. The aim of this session is to reflect on opportunities lost with the subsequent peace process and to consider lessons which may have been learned for future occasions. While there may be a general view that the peace process is currently in a state of stalemate, would considerations of 'missed opportunities' provide us with clues for onward normalisation and peaceful coexistence between Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples?

#### **Moderator:**

Dr Marat Terterov, *Director, European Geopolitical Forum*

---

<sup>1</sup>Under the Chatham House rule



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

## **Initial presentations by:**

- Ambassador Bernard Fassier, *former co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group*
- Ambassador Matthew Bryza, *former co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group (pre-recorded video address)*
- Pascal Heyman, *former Deputy Director, Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE Secretariat*
- Fred Labarre, *co-Chair, PFP Consortium, South Caucasus Group*

## **Initial responses (followed by moderated discussion):**

- Dr Gulshan Pashayeva, *Deputy-Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, Baku*
- Armen Grigoryan, *Research Fellow, Central European University, Budapest*

## **12.30pm-1.30pm**

Lunch (with 'mystery' guest speaker addressing the Arab-Israeli peace treaties and subsequent energy co-operation between Israel and the Arab states)

## **1.30pm-3.30pm**

### ***Session II: Can economic initiatives make a difference for Karabakh?***

In 2012, the European Geopolitical Forum published research exploring the possibility of economic incentives helping to break the current deadlock in the Karabakh peace process ([http://gpf-europe.com/upload/iblock/99c/egf\\_nk\\_paper\\_october\\_10\\_2012\\_formatted.pdf](http://gpf-europe.com/upload/iblock/99c/egf_nk_paper_october_10_2012_formatted.pdf)). While the research concluded that economic incentives, on their own, could not substitute for a political settlement to the conflict, we were since invited by Armenian, Azerbaijani and international conflict stakeholders to provide more concrete proposals for 'projects of common economic interest' in which all stakeholders could possibly participate in a future post-conflict scenario. The aim of this session will be to explore, with roundtable participants, ideas for 'projects of common economic interest' for future post-conflict regional economic development scenarios. Which economic initiatives in the sphere of, for example, energy, transport and telecommunications infrastructure, trade, agriculture, tourism or other areas could work, could attract investment, and be justified in commercial terms?

## **Moderator:**

Ambassador Douglas Townsend, *Senior Advisor, International Tax and Investment Centre, Washington DC, former-Australian Ambassador to Kazakhstan and Hungary*

## **Initial presentations by:**

- Ambassador Urban Rusnák, *Secretary General, Energy Charter Secretariat*
- George Niculescu, *Head of Research, European Geopolitical Forum*
- Dr Natalia Mirimanova, *Senior Adviser to the Eurasia Program, International Alert; Eurasia Peace Initiative, Director*
- Sevak Sarukhanyan, *Deputy-Director, Noravank foundation, Yerevan*



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

## **Initial responses (followed by moderated discussion):**

- Dr Vusal Gasimli, *Economist, Centre for Strategic Studies, Baku*
- Vahagn Ghazaryan, *Trade Expert, IBF International Consulting S.A. Germany (Yerevan office)*
- Dr Oktay Tanrisever, *Associate Dean, Middle East Technical University, Ankara*

## **3.30pm-4.00pm**

Coffee break

## **4.00pm-6.00pm**

### ***Session III: Consensus building techniques and regionalism in the South Caucasus***

Our longer term vision for the South Caucasus is of an economically developed, integrated and prosperous region, where greater power is devolved to local levels of governance. While we are a long way off from this type of scenario in the South Caucasus at present, consensus already exists amongst stakeholders that a regional development strategy may be highly desirable. A diversity of peoples will need to live and coexist with one another in South Caucasus territories for centuries to come. The aim of this session will be to explore practical consensus building techniques and share people-to-people experiences. In particular, consensus building techniques that give rise to institutions for the promotion of regional strategies in the Caucasus may be considered. Such strategies could play a key role in enabling mutual trust by committing the stakeholders to greater levels of inter-dependence and building regionalism.

## **Moderator:**

Lutful Kabir, *Executive Director, Centre of Excellence for Talent and Management, Baku*

## **Initial presentations by:**

- Frédéric Soudain and Matteo Pederzoli, *Principals, MCI Benelux, Brussels*
- Emmanuel Dupuy, *President, Institute of Prospective Security in Europe, Paris*

## **Initial responses (followed by moderated discussion):**

- Dr Stepan Grigoryan, *Chairman, Analytical Centre for Globalisation and Regional Cooperation, Yerevan*
- Zaur Shiriyev, *Editor-in-Chief, Caucasus International, Baku*

## **End of Roundtable**

## **7.00pm-10.00pm**

Team building dinner for all speakers and participants from abroad

- Salon Les Anges, Hotel Leopold, Rue du Luxembourg 35, Brussels



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

## Biographies



### **ORKHAN AKBAROV**

Orkhan Akbarov is the chairman of the coordinating council in Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabakh region. The Azerbaijani Community is the biggest union and NGO, and covers more than 80 thousand IDP from the Nagorno-Karabakh region. He has worked in this organization since 2012. Previously, in 2010-2012 he was a chairman at one of the biggest youth organizations in Azerbaijan – ASAIF (Azerbaijani Students and Alumni International Forum). He was the professional adviser on tourism issues in UNDP in Azerbaijan and at the same time worked as a project assistant at “Good governance through civil service reforms” project, implemented by UNDP together with Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He has tens of articles, interviews, and TV programs, most live, inside Azerbaijan and foreign countries’ media structures (including TV and radio).



### **EMMANUEL DUPUY**

Emmanuel Dupuy is President of the Institute for Prospective and Security in Europe (IPSE). He is also a researcher associated to several institutes or research centres, working on military and strategic studies. He is Special Advisor to President of Unicomm (Communication & lobbying & PA & Strategy Company), and Collaborator of Senator of Haut-Rhin, Jean-Marie Bockel (former Minister, former Mayor of Mulhouse).

Mr. Dupuy was political advisor of French Task Force Lafayette (Kapisa province & Surobi district, Afghanistan) from February to July 2011 and prior to that, Researcher at Institute For Strategic Research at Military Academy (IRSEM- Ecole militaire) and Chief of Staff for Research and Defense Issues, Office of the Secretary of State for Defense and Veterans Affairs.

### **Ambassador BERNARD FASSIER**



Bernard Fassier is a retired French diplomat, one of the former co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group. B. Fassier graduated from the Saint-Cyr Military Academy and Senior War College. He has a degree from the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Russian language, and from the Paris Institute of Political Studies in International Relations. Deputy Military Attache in Moscow (1981-1982), B. Fassier finished his military career in 1986 as the Head of Operations and Training Department of the French Military Government in West Berlin and joined the French Foreign Service in early 1987. From 1987 to 1990, Bernard Fassier held the position of Vice Director for the USSR. Then, he worked in the French Embassies in Switzerland as Deputy Chief of Mission (1990-1993), in Georgia (1993-1997) and Belarus (1997-2002) as Ambassador. In July 2002 he was appointed as Ambassador Senior Deputy High-Representative of Lord Paddy Ashdon, International Community High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. As head of “Rule of Law Unit” he was responsible for the restructuring of the Bosnia and Herzegovina’s judicial system, he created in Sarajevo a Special Criminal Court to prosecute locally war criminals non-indicted by the Hague ICTY, and a “Srebrenica Commission” to establish truth and responsibilities in these dramatic events. In 2004, Ambassador Fassier became one of the 3 co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group, representing France during 7 years until end of 2011, in the American-French-Russian mediation promoting peace to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



## **DR. VUSAL GASIMLI**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vusal Gasimli works as a Head of Department in the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. He was president of “ANS-PRESS” Publishing House from 2005-2007 and expert in the European Union in 2009-2010. He graduated Azerbaijan State Economic University and received his Master degree in Economics in 1997. He received his MA in journalism from the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (based on the study program of Louisiana State University) in 2004. He received a PhD on Economics in the Scientific-Research Institute in Baku in 2009.

Being a results-driven researcher with strong background in macro-economics, he focuses his studying on economic development, competitiveness, modernization and agriculture. In recent years, he has hosted and participated in more than 20 academic research projects, published about 500 articles, wrote or co-authored 10 books. A recent book of Dr. Gasimli entitled "Resource-rich countries: Modernization and Diversification" was printed by German Academic Publishing House in 2013. Dr. Vusal Gasimli got the award of Astana Economic Forum for outstanding research achievements in 2012. He worked as a guest scholar in Korea Institute for International Policy in 2013. He has delivered lectures at prestigious universities such as Washington, California, Hanyan, Milan Catholic, Warsaw, Hankook, Cairo etc. He knows Azerbaijani, English, Russian, Spanish (elementary level) and Turkish. More information on Dr. Gasimli can be found at <http://sam.az/en/about/staff/>



## **VAHAGN GHAZARYAN**

Mr. Vahagn Ghazaryan has over 19 years experience in the fields of trade policy formulation, trade related legislation drafting, and developing economic research and analysis. He has considerable experience in dealing with policy development in a capacity of a state official when heading a department of WTO and EU affairs in the Ministry of Economic Development of RA. Being involved in the processes of RA trade policy formulation and the regional trade facilitation and implementation of multilateral trade rules, he was a key participant of Armenia accession to the WTO and implementation of post accession commitments. He was responsible for revision and drafting RA trade related legislation to ensure their compliance with the provisions of WTO

rules and regulations. He was a part of different bi- and multilateral negotiation teams, such as: RA-Iran FTA, RA-EU PCA and ENP AP preparation, RA-NATO IPAP, other negotiations team on trade, economic, political dialogue related issues.

One of the main directions of his expertise is exploring the ongoing trade policy developments in the RA, and in close cooperation with different (governmental and nongovernmental) agencies delivering the reports, suggestions and provisional drafts. As an expert and a former official he is well aware of overall economic and public developments in the Region; and has a thorough knowledge of the ongoing global and regional trade related integration processes.



## **ARMEN GRIGORYAN**

Mr. Armen Grigoryan is a political scientist based in Armenia. He completed a Masters diploma from the Central European University in 2006. His research interests include post-communist transition, EU relations with Eastern Partnership countries, transatlantic relations, energy security, and conflict transformation. He is the author of several book chapters, journal articles and policy papers. He also analyses investment-related political risks in Armenia for Exclusive Analysis Ltd. (London). Previously he did an internship at the European Parliament (2007), received two research grants from the National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic (stayed at the University of Prešov in 2009 and at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica in 2013), was an Open Society Institute Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative visiting fellow (2010-2011), International Visegrad Fund research fellow (2011), Think Visegrad research fel-

low (2013), and peer reviewer for Global Integrity (2011).



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



## **Dr. STEPAN GRIGORYAN**

Dr. Grigoryan is Chairman of the Board of the Yerevan-based Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC). He is a lecturer on diplomacy and foreign affairs at the Yerevan TV and Radio Academy, and advisor to the Rector of the Brysov Yerevan State Linguistic University on international cooperation and programs. Between 1998-2000 Dr. Grigoryan was advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. In 1996-1999 he was Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia in the Collective Security Agreement of CIS. In 1995-1998 he was Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister of the Republic of Armenia in the Russia Federation, and was Member of the Armenian Parliament between 1990-1995. He holds a diplomatic class of Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Minister.

## **PASCAL HEYMAN**

Pascal Heyman is currently serving within the Security Policy department at the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. From 2008 to the end of 2013 he was Deputy Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Head of Policy Support Service, amongst others overseeing the work of OSCE field operations. Previous to that, he worked as a counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OSCE in Vienna, including during the 2006 Belgian Chairmanship. Between 1997 and 2002 he served at the delegation of Belgium to NATO dealing with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as PFP, NATO enlargement and NACC / EAPC. He joined the diplomatic service in 1991 and worked at the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the delegation of Belgium to the EU (dealing with relations with Russia, the CIS and Eastern Europe, as well as with trade matters). From 1994 to 1997 he was attached to the Department for Transatlantic Security at the MFA, dealing with European security issues. From 1990 to 1991 he was assistant at the Chair of Public International Law at the Catholic University of Leuven. Pascal Heyman received his academic education in Public International Law at the University of Leuven and a masters in International Politics at the University of Antwerp.



## **LUTFUL KABIR**

Mr. Lutful Kabir is a multi-lingual professional with extensive line management and leadership background with the UN for about 11+ years, with International NGOs (CARE, SCF-UK, Plan International and SCF-USA) for about 16 years and with Academic Institutions (ATI & ADA) about 4+ years, in South Asia, South-east Asia, Africa, South Caucasus and Central Asia. He has undertaken numerous consultancy assignments, successfully established several country/program offices, trained national and international staff of numerous organizations and managed large program and operational budgets.

Teaching Development Management, Resource Mobilization, Program Management and HICD (Human and Institutional Capacity Development) are Lutful's core competences. On numerous occasions, Lutful had worked as advisor/trainer/moderator and key-note speaker for WB, ADB, USAID, OSCE, EU, DRC, NRC, numerous INGOs and UN agencies on various aspects of their works. Lutful is a native of Bangladesh. He holds a Master Degree in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management, Manila, and a BSc (H) Degree from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. He also received a Post-graduate Diploma (Masters equivalent) on General Management from BMDC, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Lutful has authored several HR/Administrative Policy & Procedure Manuals, M & E Guide book and NGO Manual during the 32 years of his professional career. He is the Chief Author of a widely used Community Development Manual (published in Azerbaijan in 1999). Lutful is currently the Executive Director of CETaM (Center of Excellence for Talent Management) in Azerbaijan.



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



## **FREDERIC LABARRE**

Frederic Labarre is a strategy and security analyst who has also managed a variety of projects specialising in the former Soviet Union. He was policy advisor to the Ministry of Defence of Estonia in 2000-2001, working on that country's Membership Action Plan, Security Concept and Military Doctrine, as well as establishing the baseline for a NATO documents translation cell.

From 2001 to 2004, Fred worked as International Liaison for the Royal Military College of Canada, developing, seeking funds for, and managing the "MA with Scholarship Program" enabling Baltic and Ukrainian civil servants and military officers to benefit from a first rate security and policy education in Canada. He also negotiated successfully an exchange program with the St-Cyr Military Academy in Rennes, France, enabling French Cadets to perform their international curriculum at RMC Kingston, and later at CMR St-Jean.

From 2004 to 2007, he was the first Advanced Distributed Learning Chair at the NATO Defense College, on secondment from Canada, where he established a knowledge portal for the NDC, as well as the policies and systems for NATO distance learning in cooperation with stakeholders at NATO School Oberammergau, NATO SACT, as well as the ETHZ in Zurich. He also advised on the Bologna Process and international copyright legislation to help bring the "anytime, anywhere" concept of education to NATO. From 2008 to 2010, he was the first Head of Department of Political and Strategic Studies at the Baltic Defence College in Tartu, Estonia, creating an integrated feedback/evaluation system to correlate student performance with department performance. In addition to lecturing on international theory and strategic issues, managing department affairs, he also advised on the Bologna Process of program accreditation, created curriculum for an accredited MA program, and created an embryonic distance learning concept and student/lecturer quality assurance method.

Since 2010, he has worked as a consultant for Public Safety Canada, the Royal Military College of Canada, Agriculture Canada, Defence Research and Development Canada as well as private sector agents. He has been appointed Co-chair of the Regional Stability in the South Caucasus Study Group, sponsored by the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes in 2012, and became research associate for the Security Governance Group (SecGovGroup.com) in Canada in March 2013. A member of the PFP Consortium editorial board from 2005 to 2012, he is also widely published in French and English on the topics of NATO-Russia relations, Canadian defence policy, Estonian foreign and defence policy, Russian defence and security policy, international relations theory, and the former Soviet Union, including the Caucasus. He holds a BA cum laude in Political Science from Ottawa University (1998) and an MA in Conflict Resolution from Bradford University (UK) (2000).

## **Dr. NATALIA MIRIMANOVA**

Natalia Mirimanova is a conflict resolution scholar-practitioner and has over twenty years of work experience throughout Russia, South Caucasus and Central Asia, in Moldova, Ukraine, Western Balkans and Eastern Europe. She taught several university courses and ran training programs on conflict analysis and resolution. Natalia carried out numerous research projects. She authored and co-edited several books, articles and training manuals on conflict transformation, democracy building in transitional societies and mass media. She also produced and co-authored documentary films on conflicts in Cyprus, Bosnia and Northern Ireland as well as news reports. These projects and programs were carried out under the aegis of the UN, OSCE, EEAS, Internews, International Alert, Conciliation Resources, Aga Khan Foundation, National Democratic Institute and other international, national and local organizations.

Natalia received her Ph.D. from the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA.



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



## GEORGE VLAD NICULESCU

Mr. George Vlad Niculescu is originally from Bucharest, Romania, and is currently acting as Head of Research at the European Geopolitical Forum. He holds a postgraduate diploma in European integration and international relations from the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA) Bucharest, and has completed Advanced Studies at the College of Strategic Studies and Defence Economics of the George Marshall Centre in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. He has also completed training with Welcomeurope on how to prepare and manage European funded projects, as well as on how to manage the budget of an European project. Between 2004-2010, he worked as NATO staff

officer focusing on partnerships and cooperation, mostly with the countries from the Greater Black Sea Area, in areas like: security sector reform, combating terrorism, and cyber defence. Prior to that, he held various positions with a focus on defence policy and international cooperation in the Ministry of Defence of Romania (1994-2004). He has also academic experience as assistant professor and/or visiting lecturer at the NSPSPA, "Dimitrie Cantemir" University, NATO Studies Centre, and the PfP Training Centre from Bucharest (1997-2004). He is also affiliated with the Centre for East European and Asian Studies, Bucharest (Romania), as Director of Programs in Brussels, for whom he published articles on <http://www.cseea.ro>, and has been involved in various international research projects, including CRISHOPE, that was funded by the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation.



## Dr. GULSHAN PASHAYEVA

Dr. Gulshan Pashayeva is Deputy Director of the think tank *The Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan*. She previously worked for the United Nations Office in Azerbaijan as National Programme Coordinator for the UN Women (UNIFEM) project "Women for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the Caucasus" (2001–2006), and as Public Information Associate for the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI). From 1996 to 2001, Dr. Pashayeva directed the NGO *Conflict Research Center* and taught at various state and private universities in Azerbaijan. She was awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship and conducted post-doctoral six-month research at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in 1998/99. Dr. Pashayeva specialises in conflict resolution and security studies, as well as gender and language policy. She is the author of more than 70 publications.



## MATTEO PEDERZOLI

A communicator inspired by challenges while striving to build on previous successes, Matteo has a demonstrated track record of presenting to audiences of <3,700 spanning 21 countries to facilitate performance improvement and organizational growth through change/activity management within the public and private sectors.

An accomplished Non-Profit Organization Business Executive Advisor, he demonstrates in-depth analytical and strategic ability to facilitate operational and procedural planning throughout 14 years' experience in international organization management and development. Portfolio includes the Office of U.S. Senator John McCain, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), EU40 (the association of young Members of the European Parliament), the Organizing Committee for the Torino 2006 Twentieth Olympic/Paralympic Winter Games, SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) and the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT). Matteo currently heads the MCI/Logos Public Affairs' Business, Financial and Trade Services Practice; in this role, he's leading the concept translation & expression and design development process for the realization of the overall visitor experience for the EU Pavilion at the World Expo Milano 2015. Together with EU40, he's producing the EU Elections 2014 "EU Unplugged" debate series.

He serves as Vice-Chair of the Membership Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium. He's a past



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

board member of the Society of National Association Publications (SNAP), a member of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF), and of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), having presented at their Annual Meetings and International Conferences. Matteo holds degrees in Communication and Political Science from Arizona State University; and a Master's in International Affairs with concentration in International Law & Organizations along with Certificate in International Trade Association Management from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.



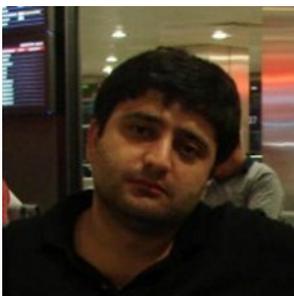
## **Ambassador URBAN RUSNAK**

Ambassador Urban Rusnák became Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat in January 2012. Amb. Rusnák is Slovak by nationality. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Oil and Gas in 1990 with an M.Sc. and received his Ph.D. from the Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences in 1998. Amb. Rusnák also holds an Honoris Causa doctorate from the Kiev Slavonic University since 2009.

Prior to his appointment with the Energy Charter Secretariat, Amb. Rusnák worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic and was the Leader of the Project for Slovakia's External Energy Security. Before that, he was Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ukraine (2005-2009), Head of the MFA Political Analysis Division (2003-2005), Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Turkey (1994-1998) and MFA Desk Officer for South Caucasus, Central Asia, CIS and South East Europe. He also held the position of Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund in Bratislava (2000-2003) and Director of the Slovak Institute for International Studies (1999-2000).

Additionally, Amb. Rusnák was a Lecturer at the Kiev Slavonic University (2005-2009) and at the International Relations Faculty of the Economic University in Bratislava (2000-2003). He was also Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Slovak Institute for International Studies (2000-2003), Editor in Chief for the MFA International Issues Journal (1998-1999) and is the author of several articles on international relations, energy security, development assistance and Caspian oil and gas issues.

Besides his mother tongue, Amb. Rusnák speaks English, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, French and Hungarian. Amb. Rusnák is married and has two children.



## **SEVAK SARUKHANYAN**

Sevak Sarukhanyan is the deputy-director on research at the "Noravank" foundation - Armenia, Yerevan. He has studied Political Sciences at the Slavonic university in Yerevan and conducted a PhD research at the Moscow State University (MGU) and Russian State university for Humanities (RGGU) - ("Russian-Iranian scientific-technical cooperation in the nuclear sphere"). He is author of three books - "Modernity and Political Change in the Middle East" (with V.Sergeev: MGIMO-university press, 2012); Nuclear Factor in Russian-Iranian relations - (Middle East Institute Press, Moscow, 2007); Russia-Iran: Ten Years of Nuclear Cooperation ("Noravank" foundation, 2006) and of 20 articles on energy security and regional cooperation. He is an associate

professor at the Slavonic university and teaches a course "Regional energy policy in the South Caucasus".



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



## **ZAUR SHIRIYEV**

Zaur Shiryev is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Caucasus International*, a foreign policy journal that examines policy-making and the role of the Caucasus region in the international arena. He is a senior research fellow in the Foreign Policy Analysis Department at the Baku based think-tank Center for Strategic Studies (SAM), where he has worked since 2009. Previously, in 2004-2008, he was a researcher at the Caucasus-Middle East Department at the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) in Istanbul, and a senior researcher for the Caucasus-Central Asia Department at the International Strategic Research Organization (USAK) in Ankara.

He writes a weekly column for Today's Zaman, one of Turkey's two main English language newspapers. *His areas of expertise* include security issues and EU policy in the Black Sea region, conflict resolution in the post-Soviet space, Turkish foreign policy, and the *foreign* and *national security* policies of the South Caucasus states, with an emphasis on the domestic determinants of such policies. Mr. Shiryev is the author of more than one hundred professional articles and commentaries. He is co-editor of the book *The Geopolitical Scene of the Caucasus: A Decade of Perspectives* (Istanbul, 2013).



## **Dr. OKTAY F. TANRISEVER**

Dr. Tanrisever is a Professor of International Relations at the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. He is also the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences and the Chairperson of the Area Studies PhD Program at the same university. After graduating from the BSc and MSc programs in International Relations of the Middle East Technical University, he received his PhD degree from the University of London. His research interests include the foreign policies of Turkey and Russia, security and peace-building in the Black Sea, the Caucasus and Asia, international politics of energy, water and environment as well as theories of international relations. His recent publications include "EU's Eastern Partners and the

Vilnius Summit: Opportunities Seized and Missed", Turkish Policy Quarterly (TPQ), Vol.12, No.4, Winter 2014, pp. 99-107, Afghanistan and Central Asia: NATO's Role in Regional Security since 9/11, ed. Oktay F. Tanrisever, Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2013, (Co-authored with Prof. Gregory Gleason) "A Bridge to Central Asia", per Concordiam: Journal of European Security and Defense Issues, Vol.4, No.3, 2013, pp.10-15., and Turkey and Russia in the Black Sea Region: Dynamics of Cooperation and Conflict, EDAM Black Sea Discussion Papers, No.1, 2012, pp.1-26.



## **Dr. MARAT TERTEROV**

Dr. Marat Terterov is the Principal Director of the Brussels-based European Geopolitical Forum, a think tank and research group focused on foreign policy and international security affairs. Dr. Terterov is also a Research Fellow at the Energy Charter Secretariat Knowledge Centre in Brussels, responsible for the design and delivery of a range of training programmes for the younger generation of energy leaders, as well as the drafting of strategy papers analysing the onward evolution of the Energy Charter Process. Furthermore, he is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Brussels Energy Club, a newly established information exchange platform for senior energy professionals. Dr. Terterov received his education in Australia, the United States and the United

Kingdom, and holds a PhD in Middle Eastern studies from St. Antony's College, Oxford University (obtained in 2002). During the period 2010-13 inclusive he was a visiting lecturer at the University of Kent in Brussels, where he taught a academic module on 'conflict, Islam and the state' to Masters and PhD students. Prior to that he was for many years the Editor-in-Chief of a series of business and investment publications on the Middle East and former-Soviet Union in association with the London-based publishing house, Kogan Page. He was also a researcher at the Gulf Research Centre in Dubai, the UAE, and a consultant to USAID in Cairo, advising the Egyptian government on economic reform. He has written widely on the countries of the former USSR and Middle East from the perspective of their geopolitics, domestic security and international relations. His commentaries and rather frank opinions are visible widely in the international media and in frequent public meetings between experts. He speaks English and Russian fluently, while also being conversational in Egyptian Arabic and



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

having very basic knowledge of French.



## **Ambassador DOUGLAS TOWNSEND**

Ambassador Townsend is currently Senior Adviser at the International Tax and Investment Centre. He is Secretary of the Caspian Minerals Tax Committee and Project Director, Kazakhstan Minerals Tax Academy and Azerbaijan Minerals Tax Academy. He is Honorary Consul for Kazakhstan in Wales, Member, UK/KAZ IGC Trade & Investment WG, and Member, Chatham House Caucasus & Central Asia Experts' Group. He is Director of the British-Kazakh Society and Member of the Anglo-Azerbaijani Society.

Previously, Ambassador Townsend was Australian Ambassador (Kazakhstan, Hungary, Switzerland, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal), Australian Investment Commissioner Europe, and Australian Disarmament Negotiator. He also served in Australian Diplomatic Missions in Austria, Ireland, Pakistan, and Vietnam.



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

## Participants

Leyla ABDULLAYEVA	Azerbaijan Mission to NATO
Orkhan AKBAROV	Azerbaijani community of Nagorno-Karabakh, region of Azerbaijan
Atanas BALTOV	European External Action Service (EEAS)
Vardan BARSEGHIAN	Armenian Mission to the European Union
Bedo DEMIRDJIAN	European Armenian Federation For Justice and Democracy (EAFJD)
Emmanuel DUPUY	Institut Prospective and Sécurité en Europe
Steffen ELGERSMA	NATO IS
Amb. Bernard FASSIER	Former co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Group
Dr Vusal GASIMLI	Strateji Arasdirmalar Merkezi (SAM)
Vahagn GHAZARYAN	IBF International Consulting S.A. Germany (Yerevan office)
Armen GRIGORYAN	Matej Bel University
Dr Stepan GRIGORYAN	Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation
Pascal HEYMAN	OSCE - Conflict Prevention Centre
Roman HUNA	The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS)
Adel IBRAHIM	Arab Republic of Egypt to the European Union
Aygun ISMAYILOVA	The European Azerbaijan Society (TEAS)
Lutful KABIR	Center of Excellence for Talent Management (CETaM)
Angele KEDAITIENE	Xinhua News Agency
Frederic LABARRE	Regional Stability in the South Caucasus Study Group of the PFP Consortium
Togrul MALIKOV	Azerbaijan Mission to NATO
Lianna MARGARYAN	European Armenian Federation For Justice and Democracy (EAFJD)
Dr Aude MERLIN	Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
Dr Natalia MIRIMANOVA	International Alert
Rashad NAVRUZ	Azerbaijan Mission to NATO
George Vlad NICULESCU	European Geopolitical Forum (EGF)
Dr Gulshan PASHAYEVA	Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Amanda PAUL	European Centre Policy (EPC)
Matteo PEDERZOLI	MCI Benelux
Amb. Urban RUSNÁK	Energy Charter Secretariat
Amb Salome SAMADASHVILI	Center for European Studies (CES)
Sevak SARUKHANYAN	NORAVANK Foundation Armenia
Dmitry SEMENOV	Russian Federation Mission to the EU
Dr Demir Murat SEYREK	Global Communications
Mesrop SHABOYAN	Armenian Mission to the European Union
Zaur SHIRIYEV	Strateji Arasdirmalar Merkezi / Caucasus International
Dr Oktay TANRISEVER	Middle East Technical University / European Geopolitical Forum (EGF)
Nicolas TAVITIAN	Voice in Europe / Globe Europe / Armenian General Benevolent Union
Dr Marat TERTEROV	European Geopolitical Forum (EGF)
Amb. Douglas TOWNSEND	International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC)
Tom TRIER	European External Action Service (EEAS)



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

---

## Notes



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

---

## Notes



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM

---

## Notes



# THE EUROPEAN GEOPOLITICAL FORUM



14 – 16 May 2014

Energy Charter Secretariat



## Third Executive Training Programme For Young Professionals

Visegrad Session

*Addressing Energy Challenges at Regional and Global Levels by Applying Common Rules and Good Governance Practices*

Building on the success of the Training Programmes held at the Energy Charter Secretariat in May and October 2013, the Knowledge Centre has just opened registrations for the next three-day long event which will take place in May 2014.

This year's programme will primarily focus on the interplay between energy governance at regional and global levels.

Taking Europe's Visegrad region and the Gulf as focal points, the training will help participants appreciate how the tools of energy governance at the regional level complement multilateral approaches to governance and energy security.

The young generation of energy practitioners will learn how the processes of energy governance work in practice and will receive in-depth exposure to how good governance can help address the challenges facing international energy markets.

Participants are invited from the spheres of non-governmental organisations, international government, energy industry, and should have a relevant background in, but not exclusively, energy, law, economics, international relations, investment, finance,...

Please email [training.course@encharter.org](mailto:training.course@encharter.org) for more information.

ALMATY · ASTANA · BAGHDAD · BAKU · BANGKOK · DUBAI



KIEV · LONDON · MANILA · MOSCOW · WASHINGTON

## Welcome to ITIC

The International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC) serves as a clearinghouse for information on best practices in taxation and investment policy, and as a training center to transfer such know how to improve the investment climates of transition and developing countries, thereby spurring formation and development of business and economic prosperity.

Organized in 1993, ITIC is an independent nonprofit research and education foundation with offices in Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States.

## About Us

ITIC spreads knowledge of taxation and investment to nations around the world and serves as a neutral forum for discussion and resolution of problems in tax and investment policy – a place where governments can go for technically sound, objective, field-tested advice. ITIC builds bridges from the West to the East and from the private to the public sector. We help nations with statutory language and accounting expertise, but also with a more important objective: adopting policies that encourage the formation of legal, taxpaying businesses. Through the four regional tax forums, «hands-on» working sessions, and special relationships with tax officials, lawmakers, academic experts, industry experts and professionals, ITIC brings together stakeholders in the tax systems of its focus countries to address a range of issues and problems.