



## EU ARCTIC FORUM

### Brussels, 10 November 2021

### BIOGRAPHIES



#### **Josep BORRELL FONTELLES**

High representative/Vice-president of the European Commission in charge of coordinating the external action of the European Union. He also chairs the Commissioners' Group on a Stronger Europe in the World, which coordinates the Union's foreign policy. Previously, Mr. Borrell Fontelles was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (2018-2019) and the President of the European Parliament (2004-2007).



#### **Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS**

Currently Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, European Commission, Virginijus Sinkevičius was the former minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania (2017-2019) and a former member of the Lithuanian Parliament (2016-2019). As Commissioner, one of his main tasks is ensuring the environment, oceans and fisheries remain at the core of the European Green Deal, promote international ocean governance and develop a sustainable blue economy. He is also in charge of the Commission's Arctic Policy.

## High level Panel “International Cooperation in the Arctic”



**Andreas RASPOTNIK**

Mr. Andreas Raspotnik is a Senior Fellow and Leadership Group member at The Arctic Institute. His research focuses on European Union Arctic policies, maritime transportation, international law, and new technologies' introduction to the North. He received his jointly awarded PhD in Political Science from the University of Cologne, Germany, and the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom in October 2016.

Mr. Raspotnik is also a Senior Fellow & Leadership Group Member at The Arctic Institute - Center for Circumpolar Security Studies in Washington, DC, a Senior Researcher at the High North Center, Nord University in Bodø, Norway and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of European Studies (IES), University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Raspotnik is a Member of the Arctic Economic Council's Blue Economy Working Group and was the host of both the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2021 and the High North Dialogue 2021.



**Pekka HAAVISTO**

Mr. Pekka Haavisto currently serves as Minister for Foreign Affairs, Finland. He was the Minister for Environment and Development in Lipponen's first government (1995-1999). He has also recently served as a Minister for Development and State Ownership in

Katainen-Stubb government (2013-2014).

In autumn 2014, he was appointed as Foreign Minister's Special Representative for African Crises. Before he worked as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Sudan and Darfur (2005-2007) and as a Special Advisor for the UN (ASG) in Darfur peace process (2007). He has also led several missions to conflict areas as the Chairman of UNEP's post-conflict work in 1999-2005.



**Robert RYDBERG**

Mr Rydberg is the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. Between 2015 and 2019, Mr Rydberg was Ambassador to the Italian Republic, the Republic of San Marino, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Previously he was the Deputy Director

General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa (2008–2015), Ambassador at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Africa Department on a special mission for Chad (2007–2008), Ambassador to the State of Israel (2003–2007), Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (2001–2003). He also was the Chair of the EU

Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom) in 2001 and the Director, Deputy Head of the Department for European Security Policy (1999–2001).



### **Thomas WINKLER**

Mr. Thomas Winkler is Arctic Ambassador and Head of the Arctic and North America Department at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As Arctic Ambassador, he is also the Senior Arctic Official in the Arctic Council for the Kingdom of Denmark. He is a career diplomat and has worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1986.

Prior to his appointment as Arctic Ambassador, he worked as Legal Adviser of the Minister (2008-2013), as Danish Ambassador to Russia (2013-2018) and to Canada (2018-2019). Previously, he has also been posted in Kiev and Stockholm. He has an extensive background and experience in Arctic matters. In 2008, he drafted the Ilulissat Declaration, which addresses issues relating to Arctic Ocean jurisdiction, climate change, and maritime safety.



### **Ólafur Ragnar GRÍMSSON**

Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson served as President of Iceland for twenty years, 1996-2016. Previously, he was Minister of Finance and Member of Parliament. He now serves as Chairman of the Arctic Circle, which he founded in 2013 with various Arctic partners.

Before and after his presidency, President Grímsson worked closely with members of the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate as well as with many key members of governments in European countries. He was the

Chairman of a commission established by IRENA on the new geopolitics emerging from global renewable energy transformation. Mr Grímsson served on the Advisory Board of Sustainable Energy for All, created by the United Nations and the World Bank. Mr Grímsson is also involved in international cooperation on the oceans and the evolution of sustainable use of marine resources.



### **Åsa LARSSON BLIND**

Ms. Åsa Larsson Blind is vice-president of the Saami Council. She was the President for the Saami Council between 2017 and 2021.

In June 2019 she was, as first woman, elected chair of the National Sámi Association in Sweden (SSR). Ms. Larsson Blind has been a member of Saami Council since 2008, and elected vice President in 2011. She was also a Saami Council board member of

IPS, Indigenous Peoples Secretariat and Head of Delegation for the Saami Council at Arctic Council SAO meetings. She holds an MSc in Human Resources Management and Development. She has been active in several Sámi organizations in Sweden.



**Louise C. FLENSBORG**

Ms. Louise Flensburg is a PhD student from Center for Ocean Life, Technical University of Denmark. Her background is marine biology and a strong interest in conservation and biodiversity. Her main area of work is on ecological resilience, structures and functioning of marine ecosystems. She also studies how anthropogenic activity alter ecosystems in the Arctic and has travelled to different areas such as Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard. Furthermore, she has worked at the Natural History Museum of Denmark for 5 years. She is part of the All-Atlantic Ocean youth ambassador programme as Arctic representative.

## Panel “Addressing the climate change and environmental challenges”



**Thomas JUNG**

Mr Jung is the Vice-Director of the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI). He is Head of the Climate Dynamics Division at the AWI, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research in Germany. He has received his PhD in atmospheric physics from University of Kiel and the Institute for Marine Research (now GEOMAR). He then went on to work for 10 years in the Research Department of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in the UK. He is a professor for physics of the climate system at the University of Bremen. He is an expert in the analysis, modelling and prediction of the climate system. Currently his work is focusing on the development of a new generation Earth system models that effectively and realistically simulate critical processes, such as ocean eddies, along with their impact on climate. Mr. Thomas Jung is also spokesperson of AWI’s research programme. Furthermore, he acts as the chair of various committees, including the Polar Prediction Project of the World Meteorological Organisation. Mr. Jung coordinates major research projects such as APPLICATE, which is funded through the Horizon2020 program, and Advanced Earth System Modelling Capacity, which is funded through the Helmholtz Association.



**Florika FINK-HOOIJER**

Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer is the Director-General of the Directorate General for the environment (DG ENV) of the European Commission. She has been working in the European Commission for more than 20 years. Prior to her arrival at DG ENV, Ms. Fink-Hooijer was the Director General at the European Commission’s department for interpretation (SCIC) (2016-2020) and Director for strategy, policy, and international cooperation at the Directorate in charge of humanitarian aid and civil protection (DG ECHO). Before joining the European Commission, she worked for a Dutch Law firm in The Hague and for a German law firm in Berlin.





### **Mia RÖNKÄ**

Dr. Mia Rönkä is the Chair of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council. As the CAFF Chair Rönkä is with the Finnish Ministry of the Environment. Rönkä is also Chair of the Circumpolar Seabird Expert Group (CBird) under CAFF. Rönkä is Adjunct Professor at the Biodiversity Unit of the University of Turku in Finland and has addressed environmental topics in her work both as researcher, science writer and poet.

Her specific interest is in multidisciplinary research projects, science-art interface and communications.



### **Christel SCHALDEMOSE**

Ms. Christel Schaldemose is the S&D coordinator to the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the European Parliament. She is Parliament's Rapporteur on the DSA file and sits on the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA). She is also a member on the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Chair of the Parliament's Japan Delegation. Christel Schaldemose has been a member of the European Parliament since 2006 and heads the Danish delegation of social democrats.



### **Olivier POIVRE D'ARVOR**

Mr Poivre d'Arvor, is a diplomat and writer. He was appointed Ambassador for the Poles and Maritime Issues in 2020 and, in this capacity, chaired the 43rd Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in June 2021 and has been designated to prepare the One Ocean Summit due to take place in Brest early 2023. He formerly served as French ambassador to Tunisia (2016-2020),

and director of radio channel France Culture (2010-2015). Since 2014, he has also been chairman of the board of the French national Navy museum.

Olivier Poivre d'Arvor is the founder with Pascal Lamy in 2018 of the World Sea Forum in Bizerte and of the Blue Season (Tunisia).



### **Jan DUSIK**

Mr Dusik leads the sustainable development agenda in the WWF Arctic Programme since 2020. Previously, he was the Principal Adviser for Strategic Engagement for the Arctic and Antarctic at UN Environment. Mr. Dusik has been active in international environmental relations for two decades. He has been heading UN Environment's Europe Office since joining the organisation in summer 2011. Prior to joining UN Environment, Mr. Dusik worked with the Ministry of Environment of

the Czech Republic on managing accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union, coordinated international activities including served as Head of the Delegation of the Czech Republic to numerous meetings of multilateral conventions and international organizations. He was also in charge of the environmental portfolio of the 2009 Czech EU presidency. In

2009-2010 he served as Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic in the care-taker government. Previously, Mr. Dusik also worked in the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission in Brussels, handling cases of infringements of EC environmental legislation.



**Giulia CASTELLANI**

Ms. Castellani is a researcher in ice-ecosystems at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research. As a polar scientist she works with sea ice in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Her main interest is in the sea-ice microbial ecosystem, in particular on the physical drivers for the spatial variability of sea ice algae. A large part of her work happens in the field, where she collects sea ice samples and applies newly developed methods to estimate, e.g., sea-ice algal biomass from bio-optical platforms. She also works with sea-ice physical and biogeochemical numerical models with the goal to upscale field results

Ms. Castellani took part in the MOSAiC expedition. In September 2019, the German research icebreaker Polarstern set sail from Tromsø, Norway, to spend a year drifting through the Arctic Ocean - trapped in ice. The goal of the MOSAiC expedition was to take the closest look ever at the Arctic as the epicenter of global warming and to gain fundamental insights that are key to better understand global climate change. MOSAiC is spearheaded by Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research (AWI).

## **Panel “Enhancing sustainable and inclusive economic development”**



**Michael MANN**

Mr. Michael Mann has been the EU’s Special Envoy for Arctic matters since April 2020. Prior to that, he was the EU’s Ambassador to Iceland. Between 2011 and 2017, he was head of Strategic Communications at the European External Action Service, doubling up as Chief Spokesperson to High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton from 2011 to 2014. Mr. Mann worked as a European Commission Spokesperson between 2002 and 2011, covering a wide range of portfolios. He began his career in Brussels as a journalist, working for the Financial Times, Reuters and Bloomberg News, among other media.



### **Charlina VITCHEVA**

Ms Charlina Vitcheva was appointed Director General of the directoral general on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) in June 2020. Prior to this, she was appointed Deputy Director General of the Joint Research Center (JRC) in September 2016. She was acting Director general for the JRC from the 1st of November 2019 to the 30th of April 2020. Previously, she was Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe at DG REGIO, and also held a Director's position on Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development and Northern Europe. Before joining the Commission, Charlina spent 15 years in the Bulgarian public administration including at the Permanent Representation in Brussels, dealing mainly with agricultural and fisheries issues. She was actively involved in the accession negotiations of Bulgaria.



### **Emily HÖCKERT**

Ms. Emily Höckert Researcher at the University of Lapland. Her research explores the multiple ways in which different kinds of hosts and guests – human and more-than-human – welcome and take care of each other in tourism settings. She approaches the questions of hospitality, ethics, care and storytelling at the crossroads of hermeneutic phenomenology, postcolonial philosophy and new materialism. She is also a member of the research team called Intra-living in the Anthropocene (ILA) that explores possibilities of proximity tourism and travelling to places close by. She is the author of *Negotiating Hospitality* (2018 Routledge) and co-author of *Disruptive Tourism and Its Untidy Guests* (2014 Palgrave MacMillan), which both discuss about relational ways of being and knowing in tourism settings.



### **Anu FREDRIKSON**

Ms. Fredrikson is the Executive Director of the Arctic Frontiers since October 2020. She previously worked as Director of the Arctic Economic Council (2016-2020). She worked 10 years at the Norwegian Embassy in Finland, working on many topic, including the Arctic. She is originally from Oulu in Northern Finland.



### **Lise Lotte SØRENSEN**

Ms. Sørensen is Head of Section (Atmospheric measurements), Senior Scientist at Aarhus University and Council member of the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). Ms Lise Lotte Sørensen's research area includes climate and environmental research focusing on atmospheric chemistry and biogeochemical cycling, atmosphere-surface exchange of gases and particles, gas-particle reactions, particle formation and transformation, carbon cycling and atmosphere-surface exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> in the marine and coastal areas. Her research is mainly focused in the Arctic area.



**Mads Qvist FREDERIKSEN**

Mr Mads Qvist Frederiksen is the Director of the Arctic Economic Council since 2020. Previously, he was a Senior adviser to the Confederation of Danish Industry responsible for Arctic affairs. He also worked with sanctions and export control and the promotion of Danish export opportunities.



**Fokje SCHAAFSMA**

Ms. Schaafsma is a marine biologist working in polar research at the Wageningen Marine Research. Since January 2020, her post-doc project is on the role of sea ice in the life cycle of polar cod (*Boreogadus saida*) and its prey in the central Arctic Ocean. She also works on the conservation and management of Antarctic marine ecosystems and currently serves as the CCAMLR Scientific Committee Representative for the Kingdom of The Netherlands. Ms. Schaafsma took part in the MOSAiC expedition.

## Panel “A safe, secure and resilient Arctic”



**Andreas RASPOTNIK**

Mr. Andreas Raspotnik is a Senior Fellow and Leadership Group member at The Arctic Institute. His research focuses on European Union Arctic policies, maritime transportation, international law, and new technologies' introduction to the North. He received his jointly awarded PhD in Political Science from the University of Cologne, Germany, and the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom in October 2016.

Mr. Raspotnik is also a Senior Fellow & Leadership Group Member at The Arctic Institute - Center for Circumpolar Security Studies in Washington, DC, a Senior Researcher at the High North Center, Nord University in Bodø, Norway and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of European Studies (IES), University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Raspotnik is a Member of the Arctic Economic Council's Blue Economy Working Group and was the host of both the Arctic Frontiers Conference 2021 and the High North Dialogue 2021.



**Matthias PETSCHKE**

Mr. Matthias Petschke is Director for Space at the European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS), Brussels.

A lawyer by training, he joined the EU Commission services in 1995, and has since been involved in a variety of EU policies, such as Trade policy and negotiation, in different positions at DG TRADE (from 1997 to 2003); and Internal Market policy and legislation, notably as Head of Unit for Public Procurement policy at DG MARKT (from 2004 to 2008).

He was Head of the European Commission's Representation in Germany before becoming Programme Manager for the EU Satellite Navigation Programmes, Galileo



and EGNOS, in 2013. Since the beginning of 2020, he is Director for Space, including Space Policy, Satellite Navigation and Earth Observation.



#### **Sara-Elvira KUHMMUNEN**

Ms. Sara-Elvira Kuhmunen comes from Jokkmokk in Sweden. In May 2021 she was elected President of Sáminuorra, the Sámi national youth organisation in the Swedish part of Sápmi. Sáminuorra aims to promote and protect the interests and rights of Sámi youth.



#### **Magda KOPCZYNSKA**

Magda Kopczynska is Director for Waterborne Transport in the European Commission's Department for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE) since 2016. She previously held different positions at the European Commission including Director for Innovative and Sustainable Mobility (2014–2016), Head of Unit dealing with maritime and transport policy and logistics (2011–2014); and clean transport, urban transport and intelligent transport systems (2009–2011). She also worked at the European Commission's department for Internal Market and Services (2006–2009).



#### **Nina ÅGREN**

Ms. ÅGREN Nina is the Executive Secretary of the Emergency Preparedness, Prevention and Response Working Group (EPPR) of the Arctic Council. The EPPR focuses on the prevention, preparedness and response to environmental emergencies, search and rescue, natural and manmade disasters and accidents in the Arctic.



#### **Thomas INGEMAN-NIELSEN**

Mr Thomas Ingeman-Nielsen, is an Associate Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark. His research field is Arctic built infrastructure, with a special focus on geotechnical site investigations, physical and mechanical properties of frozen ground, and permafrost interaction with infrastructure and constructions in Greenland. He teaches Arctic geotechnics and site investigations to Greenland students at the Arctic Engineering educations at Arctic DTU Ilinniarfeqarfik Sisimiut, West Greenland, and is vice-chair of the

Greenland Reseach Council (<http://nis.gl>).

Thomas participates in the EU Horizon 2020 project Nunataryuk (<http://nunataryuk.org>), which focuses on the impact of thawing permafrost on Arctic coastal communities. In the context of the Nunataryuk project, Mr Ingeman-Nielsen leads the work on establishing a technical basis to build decision support tools for local communities based on advanced multi-disciplinary hazard mapping frameworks.



## EU ARCTIC INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DIALOGUE

Brussels, 11 November 2021

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue : High level Panel “Welcome”



**Charlina VITCHEVA**

Ms Charlina Vitcheva was appointed Director General of the directoral general on Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) in June 2020. Prior to this, she was appointed Deputy Director General of the Joint Research Center (JRC) in September 2016. She was acting Director general for the JRC from the 1st of November 2019 to the 30th of April 2020. Previously, she was Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe at DG REGIO, and also held a Director's position on Inclusive Growth, Territorial and Urban Development and Northern Europe. Before joining the Commission,

Charlina spent 15 years in the Bulgarian public administration including at the Permanent Representation in Brussels, dealing mainly with agricultural and fisheries issues. She was actively involved in the accession negotiations of Bulgaria.



**Åsa LARSSON BLIND**

Ms. Åsa Larsson Blind is vice-president of the Saami Council. She was the President for the Saami Council between 2017 and 2021.

In June 2019 she was, as first woman, elected chair of the National Sámi Association in Sweden (SSR). Ms. Larsson Blind has been a member of Saami Council since 2008, and elected vice President in 2011. She was also a Saami Council board member of IPS, Indigenous

Peoples Secretariat and Head of Delegation for the Saami Council at Arctic Council SAO meetings. She holds an MSc in Human Resources Management and Development. She has been active in several Sámi organizations in Sweden.



**Inuuteq Holm OLSEN**

Mr. Inuuteq Holm Olsen is currently the Head of Representation of Greenland to the EU. In 2014, he was appointed, as Head of Representation at the Greenland Representation at the Danish Embassy in Washington DC . Previously, he served as Deputy Minister for the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Greenland, from 2004 to the end of 2012.

## Panel “Fostering an inclusive policy”



**Michael MANN**

Mr. Michael Mann has been the EU’s Special Envoy for Arctic matters since April 2020. Prior to that, he was the EU’s Ambassador to Iceland. Between 2011 and 2017, he was head of Strategic Communications at the European External Action Service, doubling up as Chief Spokesperson to High Representative/Vice President Catherine Ashton from 2011 to 2014. Mr. Mann worked as a European Commission Spokesperson between 2002 and 2011, covering a wide range of portfolios. He began his career in Brussels as a journalist, working for the Financial Times, Reuters and Bloomberg News, among other media.



**Elle Merete OMMA**

Ms Elle Merete Omma is currently the head of the Saami Council’s EU Unit. Previously she held the position of Executive Secretary of the Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples Secretariat. Prior to her work with the Arctic Council she was Senior Advisor on Sámi Affairs at the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.



**Embla Eir ODDSDOTTIR**

Ms. Eir Oddsdottir is the Director of the Icelandic Arctic Cooperation Network (IACN). She has held leadership roles and directed projects at the Northern Research Forum and the Stefansson Arctic Institute, Iceland. She has also taught courses on northern issues at the University of Akureyri and Western Kentucky University, where she holds a position of adjunct professor at the Department of Geography and Environmental Science.



### **Romain CHUFFART**

Mr Chuffart is a Research Associate and Leadership Group member at The Arctic Institute. His research interests include international law, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, environmental law, and Arctic cooperation. His doctoral research focuses on the relationship between the implementation of Indigenous rights and environmental protection mechanisms (e.g. environmental impact assessments) in the Arctic. He has published several articles in Arctic-specific journals on Arctic governance and Indigenous rights. He recently guest-edited a special issue of Polar Record on International Law for Sustainability in Arctic Resource Development (Cambridge University Press 2020).



### **John BELL**

Mr. John Bell is the "Healthy Planet" Director in Commission's department for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).

He is responsible for leading the Research and Innovation transitions on Climate Change within planetary boundaries, Bioeconomy, Food Systems, Environment and Biodiversity, Oceans and Arctic, Circular Economy, Water and Bio-based innovations. This includes harnessing the investments of 10bn Horizon Europe, Circular Bioeconomy, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, and Governing Board of 3.7bn in Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking, as well as delivering policy initiatives as FOOD2030, and the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance.

## **Panel "A young Arctic"**



### **Gunn-Britt RETTER**

Ms. Gunn-Britt Retter is a teacher of training from Sámi University College (Guovdageaidnu - Kautokeino, Norway) and holds an MA in Bilingual studies from University of Wales. Since 2001, Ms. Retter has worked with Arctic Environmental issues, first at Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) (Copenhagen, Denmark) and since 2005 in the present position as Head of Arctic and Environmental Unit of the Saami Council. She has served as a board member of the Sámi University of Applied Sciences (2011-2019) and has served as Member of Saami Parliament (Norway) for two terms (2005 – 2013). In her position as Head of the Arctic and Environmental Unit in the Saami Council, Ms. Retter has been involved in issues related to indigenous peoples and indigenous knowledge related to climate change, biodiversity, language, pollution and management of natural resources.





### **Nuiana HARDENBERG**

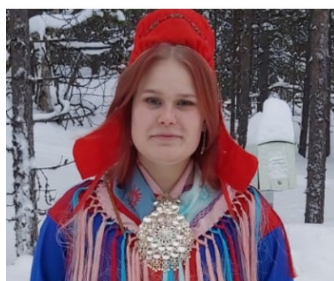
Ms. Hardenberg is a member of the Youth Advisory Team of the Arctic Council's CAFF working group which was launched to amplify youth voices and to engage young people in an open and transparent dialogue on the climate emergency.

Members of this working will bring the voices of young people into high-level decision-making and advise the Secretary-General on the implementation of his 2020-2021 Climate Change Strategy.



### **Antoaneta ANGELOVA-KRASTEVA**

Ms Antoaneta Angelova-Krasteva joined the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) in 2016 and she is currently Director for Innovation, Digital Education and International cooperation. Ms Angelova-Krasteva started her European Commission journey in 2008 in DG Justice, Liberty and Security where she was dealing with external relations and enlargement. She also worked at DG HOME on matters related to internal security and police cooperation. In the period 2011 – 2016 Ms. Angelova-Krasteva was Head of Unit in DG INFSO/CONNECT responsible respectively for cyber security, stakeholder relations and international affairs. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked for her national administration in expert and managerial positions on matters related to Bulgaria's accession to the EU in the field of justice and home affairs. She moved to Brussels in 2003, where she spent 5 years working at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU.



### **Anni-Sofia NIITTYVUOPIO**

Ms Anni-Sofia Niittyvuopio is supplementary board member of the Finnish Saami Youth organisation. She has been part of the Finnish Saami Youth organisations board since 2014. She works as accounts payable clerk in the energy industry and as a reindeer herder.



### **Slawomir TOKARSKI**

Mr. Slawomir Tokarski worked in the Polish administration and headed a team co-ordinating the preparations for the accession negotiations and preparing policy analysis for the Chief Negotiator. In 2004 he joined the Commission as a Cabinet member of Mr. Danuta Hübner, Commissioner responsible for the regional policy. In 2009 he was nominated Head of Unit dealing with economic policy and co-ordination of EU funding in the Commission's department for Maritime affairs and fisheries (DG MARE). In March 2012 he became a Head of Unit for Defence, Aeronautics and Maritime industries in department responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). In 2016, Mr. Slawomir Tokarski became Director

for Industrial Policy in DG GROW. In 2021, he joined the Commission's department for regional and urban policy (DG REGIO) as a Director for the European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programmes Implementation.



### **Ole Martin MELBØE NYGÅRD**

Mr. Melbøe Nygård is a youth leader at the Troms and Finnmark County Council, Norway since February 2021.

The Troms and Finnmark county council is the regional governing administration of Troms and Finnmark county in northern Norway. The council essentially acts as a Parliament or legislative body for the county. The youth county council works to safeguard young people's

interests in county politics and ensure that young people are heard.

## **Keynote Speech**



### **Mariya GABRIEL**

Ms. Mariya Gabriel is the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth and Sport. Under her leadership, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) will be defined and implemented. Her main priorities are excellence in research, innovation and education (ERA, EEA, EIA); tackling the R&I divide in Europe; Europe as a leader in strategic innovation areas through the digital and green transition, with a particular

attention for young people and regions.

“No one left behind” and “Think out of the box” are her mottos. Between 2017 and 2019, Ms. Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She proposed the new Digital Europe programme, worked on EU Strategy on AI, disinformation online, cybersecurity and launched the EuroHPC strategy. She was elected as Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

