

	<p><b>Despina SPANOU</b></p>
<p><b>Nationality</b></p>	<p>Cypriot, Greek</p>
<p><b>Academic qualifications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>01/1995 – 02/1999: PhD in European Law</b> – University of Cambridge – Cambridge, United Kingdom</li> <li>➤ <b>10/1993 – 10/1994: LLM in European Legal Studies</b> – University of Exeter – Exeter, United Kingdom</li> <li>➤ <b>10/1988 – 09/1993: “Ptychio” Bachelor in Law</b> – Ethniko &amp; Koapodistriako – Athens, Greece</li> </ul>
<p><b>Professional experience in the European Institutions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025: Deputy Director-General, DG CNECT</b>, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>12/2024 – 10/2025: Principal Adviser for Cybersecurity and cross cutting issues</b>, DG CNECT, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>12/2019 – 11/2024: Head of Cabinet for the Vice-President of the European Commission for Promoting the European Way of Life</b>, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>02/2017 – 12/2019: Director for Digital Society, Trust &amp; Cybersecurity</b>, DG CNECT, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>02/2013 – 01/2017: Director for Consumers</b>, DG Justice &amp; Consumers – DG Health &amp; Consumers (until Nov 2014), European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>04/2010 – 02/2013: Principal Adviser for Communication and Stakeholders</b>, DG Health &amp; Consumers, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>10/2006 – 04/2010: Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Health</b>, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>11/2004 – 10/2006: Member of Cabinet of Commissioner for Health &amp; Consumers</b>, European Commission</li> <li>➤ <b>09/2003 – 10/2004: Desk officer</b>, DG Competition, European Commission</li> </ul>
<p><b>Professional experience before joining the European Institutions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>10/1999 – 09/2003: Associate</b> – Cleary Gottlieb Steen &amp; Hamilton (Brussels, Belgium)</li> <li>➤ <b>09/1991 – 09/1993: Administrator</b> – Motor Oil Hellas – Vardinoyiannis Group of Companies (Athens, Greece)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Other professional activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Since 01/2020: Visiting Professor</b> EU Cybersecurity Policy – Harvard Kennedy School (Cambridge, United States)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Language Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Greek (mother tongue)</li> <li>➤ English, French (fluent)</li> <li>➤ Italian (basic)</li> </ul>