

**Delegation to Israel for Members of European Parliament (MEP) and EU Diplomats
October 29-November 3**

Participant List and Biographies

PARTICIPANT LIST

Greti Borojević

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Slovenia

Adrian Bourceanu

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Romania

Tsvetomira Georgieva

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Bulgaria

Antonio López-Istúriz White

EPP/Center-right, Spain

Sven Mikser

S&D/Socialist, Estonia

Marion Walsmann

EPP/Center-right, Germany

Tom Vandenkendelaere

EPP/Center-right, Belgium

Loránt Vincze

RMDSZ, EPP Group, Hungary

Alexandr Vondra

ECR/Conservative, Czech Republic

Javier Zarzalejos

EPP/Center-right, Spain

STAFF

Daniel Schwammenthal

Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute

Benedetta Buttiglione

Senior Advisor, AJC Transatlantic Institute

BIOGRAPHIES

Greti Borojević

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Slovenia

Mrs. Greti Borojević is Minister Plenipotentiary at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Union, and is in charge of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy with regard to the MENA region. In this context, Mrs. Borojević represents Slovenian policy positions in the Mashreq/Maghreb and the Middle East/Gulf Working Party. Previously, she was assigned to the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Warsaw and Berlin, where she was responsible for consular affairs, cultural cooperation, and economic issues. During her work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana, she was working in the Diplomatic Protocol Department, Department for Central and Eastern Europe, and Department for NATO.

Mrs. Borojević earned her M.A. in political science at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana.

Adrian Bourceanu

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Romania

Mr. Adrian Bourceanu is Minister-Counselor in the Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU, representing his country in two working groups of the Council of the EU, Middle East and Northern Africa (MaMa) and the Gulf (MOG). He was also a delegate in the Committee for Civilian aspects of crisis management – CIVCOM (2010-2014). He started his career of public service in the Ministry of Culture and Religions, including as head of unit (1997-2006). In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he dealt mainly with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CDSP), as well as the Romanians abroad (2007-2009), and was director for the MENA region (2020). As head of CFSP unit and European correspondent (2016-2020), he was responsible for organizing the main European officials' meetings during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU (informal Gymnich of the ministers for foreign affairs, political directors, PSC ambassadors). He therefore was conferred the *Diplomatic Merit* in the rank of Knight (2019).

Mr Adrian Bourceanu holds a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Bucharest (UB, 2007). He has postgraduate studies in Philosophy of Culture (UB, 1998), MA in European Studies (UB, 2005) and MA in Defense Diplomacy (University of Sibiu, 2009).

Tsvetomira Georgieva

Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party, Bulgaria

Mrs. Tsvetomira Georgieva is a diplomat at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union. She is the Bulgarian delegate to the Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party of the Council of the EU, which deals with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy towards the countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. Mrs. Georgieva previously worked on the EU Enlargement policy at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was a trainee at the European Parliament back in 2014 at the Official Mail Unit. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations from the University of Milan in Italy.

Antonio López-Istúriz White

EPP/Center-right, Spain

Mr. Antonio López-Istúriz White is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), representing the Spanish center-right People's Party (Partido Popular). He is also Secretary Treasurer of the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies (WMCES) and the Secretary General of the Centrist Democrat International (IDC-CDI). Between 2002 and 2022 he served as Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP)

Mr. López-Istúriz White has been in Brussels since 1997, when he worked as an assistant to the People's Party delegation at the European Parliament. He held this position until 1999, when he was called by then-President of the Spanish Government José María Aznar to become his personal advisor for almost four years. In 2002, he returned to Brussels upon his election as Secretary General of the European People's Party. Two years later, he was elected MEP, holding the two positions simultaneously until April 2022. Since January 2008, López-Istúriz White has been Secretary Treasurer of the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies

As an MEP, he is the Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with Israel. He sits on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a substitute on the Subcommittee on Security and Defense. Mr. López-Istúriz White is also a Member of the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean and the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, as well as a substitute for the Delegation for Relations with the United States. In addition, he serves as President of the European Union-United Arab Emirates (UAE) Parliamentary Friendship Group and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights.

Mr. López-Istúriz White is also Vice-President of ANAR Foundation that helps adolescents at risk and Board Member of Aequitas Foundation, providing free legal advice for disadvantaged groups or those in need of better social protection.

In 2013 he received the Parliamentarian Prize Eurodiputado del Año (MEP of the Year), awarded by the Asociación de Periodistas Parlamentarios (Spanish Parliamentarian Journalists Association). He has also received the "Bouclier honorifique" award from the European Press Association for the Arab World (APEMA-Association De La Presse Européenne Pour Le Monde Arabe)

He holds a bachelor degree in Law and studies in Economics.

Sven Mikser

S&D/Socialist, Estonia

Mr. Sven Mikser was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019. He is the Vice-Chair of the EP Delegation for Relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee as well as the Committee on Security and Defense. Mr. Sven Mikser was a long-standing member of the Estonian Parliament from 1999 to 2019, and was the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the National Defense Committee. From 2002 to 2003 and 2014 to 2015, Mr Mikser served as the Minister of Defense of Estonia. From 2008 to 2010, he was the Vice-President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. From 2010 to 2015, Mr. Mikser was the chairman of the Estonian Social Democratic Party. He served as the Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2016 to 2019. He served as the Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2016 to 2019. From 2002 to 2003 and 2014 to 2015, Mr Mikser served as the Minister of Defense of Estonia.

Marion Walsmann

EPP/Center-right, Germany

Ms. Marion Walsman was born in Erfurt, Germany. She studied law in Leipzig from 1981 to 1985, and helped establish the Thuringian Ministry of Justice in 1990. From 1995 to 2013, she served as the district chairwoman of the CDU Erfurt and from 2004 to 2019 served as a Member of the State Parliament for the constituency of Erfurt III. In 2008, Ms. Walsman was appointed state minister of justice in the Althaus cabinet, and in 2009 was appointed state finance minister in the Lieberknecht cabinet. In 2010, Ms. Walsman served as head of state chancellery through a cabinet reshuffle. She has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2019 and has served as: vice chairwoman in the Legal Affairs Committee, member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, member of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence & Digital Agenda, member of the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee, State Chairwoman of the "Weißer Ring" (White Ring), and Chairwoman of the Arbeiter Samariter-Bund Regionalverband Mittelthüringen (Workers' Samaritan Association of Central Thuringia).

Tom Vandenkendelaere

EPP/Center-right, Belgium

Mr. Tom Vandenkendelaere is a Member of the European Parliament, within the European People's Party Group. He is the Chair of the European Parliament Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and the Internal Market Committee, the subcommittee on Security and Defense, and a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Civil Liberties, and the Agriculture Committees. Currently, Mr. Vandenkendelaere is serving his second mandate in the Parliament. Before becoming a Member of the European Parliament, Tom Vandenkendelaere worked at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and was the chairman of the youth wing of his national party CD&V (Christen-Democratisch & Vlaams).

Mr. Vandenkendelaere obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Kent with a thesis on the influence of Poland's EU accession on Polish-German bilateral relations. He also holds an M.A. in international relations from the University of Kent and an M.A. from the Institut Libre Marie Haps as a certified translator English-German.

Loránt Vincze

RMDSZ, EPP Group

Mr. Loránt Vincze is a Hungarian politician from Romania. In May 2019, he was elected as Member of the European Parliament on behalf of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ, EPP Group). He is the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO).

He studied Journalism and holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and E-government at the University of Bucharest. Since 2009, he has been working in the field of European minority protection as NGO representative. He is the International Secretary of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ). Between 1997 and 2009 he worked as radio journalist and manager at various Hungarian media outlets in Romania. He also worked for several years as advisor in the European Parliament.

Since 2016, he is President of the Federal Union of European Nationalities – FUEN. He coordinated the Minority SafePack European Citizens' Initiative running under the auspices of the FUEN.

Alexandr Vondra

ECR/Conservative, Czech Republic

Mr. Alexandr Vondra currently serves as Member of the European Parliament, where he is member of the ENVI committee and SEDE subcommittee and member of the Delegation for relations with the United States on behalf of ECR Group. Mr. Vondra is former Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs, as well as Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs. Mr. Vondra also served as Czech Ambassador to the United States. He was the Czech Government's Plenipotentiary for the preparation of the NATO Summit in Prague. He worked as a foreign policy advisor to former President Václav Havel.

In 1989, he was a spokesperson for Charter 77 and one of the authors of the petition Several Sentences. During the Velvet Revolution in November 1989, he became a co-founder and leading member of the Civic Forum movement

Javier Zarzalejos

EPP/Center-right, Spain

Mr. Javier Zarzalejos was born in 1960 in Bilbao, Spain. He graduated in Law at Deusto University, Bilbao. He has belonged to the High Corps of the Spanish State Civil Administrators since 1984. Mr. Zarzalejos engaged in politics at a very early age in the Basque Country region, where he held the position of Secretary General of the Popular Coalition [Coalición Popular], which integrated the political parties that would then become the PP [Spanish Popular Party]. He has broad experience in the public administration sector where, as a top civil servant, he has held several positions, including Assistant Secretary of the Spanish-North American Council (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), General Deputy Director of Information (Ministry of the Spokesperson), and Information Advisor (Embassy of Spain to the United Kingdom), among others.

In 1996, he was appointed Secretary General of the Prime Minister's Office by Jose Ma Aznar, where he stayed until the end of Mr. Aznar's office in 2004. He has published various pieces of work on terrorism, the territorial organization of the state and nationalism.

Since July 2019, he is Member of the European Parliament in the Group of the European People's Party, which is the largest political group with 177 Members from all European Union Member States. He is Vice Chair of the Special Committee on Foreign Interference in all Democratic Processes in the European Union, including Disinformation, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs.

Daniel Schwammenthal

Director, AJC Transatlantic Institute

Daniel Schwammenthal was named Director of the AJC Transatlantic Institute (TAI), AJC's EU office in Brussels, in 2011. Before joining TAI, Schwammenthal worked as an editorial page writer and op-ed editor for The Wall Street Journal Europe in Brussels and Amsterdam, writing

about EU politics and economics, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iran, antisemitism, and terrorism. Prior to that, he was a correspondent for Dow Jones Newswires in Bonn, Berlin, and Brussels, covering German and European politics, economics, and regulatory affairs. Schwammenthal, a native of Germany, studied Political Science and Political Economy at the University of Aachen, received an M.A. in International Relations and International Communications from Boston University, and a Master's of Law (European Law and Policy) from the University of Manchester.

Benedetta Buttiglione

Senior Advisor, AJC Transatlantic Institute

Ms. Benedetta Buttiglione is a journalist and currently serves as Senior Advisor for the AJC Transatlantic Institute in Brussels. In this role, she keeps contact and establishes relationships with Members of the European Parliament, diplomats of the European Council, officials of the European Commission and oversees the European legislative process. Ms. Buttiglione previously worked at the European Parliament as the Press Officer for the Italian European People's Party delegation and as Policy Advisor for a Member of the European Parliament. Ms. Buttiglione was previously the Director of the Political Sciences Program at the University of Technology in Monterrey in Monterrey, Mexico, where she taught international politics. Ms. Buttiglione earned her M.A. in political science and international politics from the Sapienza University of Rome. She is fluent in Italian, Spanish, French and English.