



László ANDOR is Secretary General of FEPS. An economist and former EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (2010-2014), Andor has been Head of the Department of Economic Policy at Corvinus University (Budapest), Senior Fellow at Hertie School of Governance (Berlin) and a visiting professor at ULB (Brussels) and Sciences Po (Paris). He was editor of the journal *Eszmélet* and a regular columnist for *Figyelo* and *Népszava*. He has authored, edited or co-edited a dozen books in Hungary. Andor has also taught at Rutgers

University as Visiting Fulbright Professor, worked as an advisor for the World Bank on SAPRI, the Budget Committee of the Hungarian Parliament (1998-1999) and the prime minister's office (2002-2005), and was also a member of the Board of Directors of the EBRD. He holds a degree in Economic Sciences from Karl Marx (now Corvinus) University, an MA in Development Economics from the University of Manchester and a PhD from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa at Sofia University of National and World Economy and the Legion of Honour by the President of France (2014).



Yossi BEILIN is the founder, chairman of the board and president of Beilink International Affairs Ltd, an international consulting firm, as well as chairman of the steering committee of the H. L. Education for Peace (The Geneva Initiative, Israel). He is the architect of the Oslo Agreement and Geneva Accords. In his long political career, he has held several positions, including chairman of the Meretz-Yachad Party (2004-2008), Minister of Justice (1999-2001), Minister of Religious Affairs (2000-2001), Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (1995-

1996), Minister of Economy and Planning (1995), Deputy Foreign Minister (1992-1995) and Deputy Finance Minister (1988-1990). He also served as a member of the Knesset between 1988 and 2008. He holds a PhD and an MA in political science from the University of Tel Aviv and is the author of several books, including *The Path to Geneva: The Quest for a Permanent Agreement* (2004).



Marek BELKA has served as a member of the European Parliament since 2019. From May 2004 to October 2005, he was Prime Minister of Poland. Previously he served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Poland (1997 and 2001-2002). He has also held numerous high-ranking positions within the international community, such as chairman of the Council for International Coordination for Iraq (2003) and Director of Economic Policy in the Coalition Provisional Authority (2003-2004). From 2006 to 2008, he held office in the

United Nations as Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva. Between 2008 and 2010, he worked as Director of the European Department at

the International Monetary Fund. He has also chaired the World Bank/IMF Development Committee (2011-2015) and served as a member of the G20 Eminent Persons Group. Between 2010 and 2016, he has been governor of the National Bank of Poland. Belka received his PhD in 1978, a postdoctoral degree in 1986 and the title of professor of economics in 1994.



Mathieu BLONDEEL is an assistant professor of Global Energy and Climate Politics at the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. His research primarily focusses on the geopolitics of the energy transformation and the political economy of the global oil and gas industry. Previously, he obtained a PhD in international relations at the Ghent Institute for International and European Studies (GIIES) of Ghent University, Belgium, and he held a postdoctoral research fellowship at the Warwick Business School, UK.

His scholarly work has been published in high-ranking international academic journals. He is also often invited as a specialist commentator in international media. Mathieu is also part of the eighth FEPS Young Academics Network (YAN) cohort, for which he worked on a publication on “progressive geopolitics” in the EU.



Udo BULLMANN is a German member of the European Parliament, chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights in the European Parliament and spokesperson for development policy of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) Group. The UN sustainable development goals and the fight against inequalities are the focus of his work. He took up his parliamentary duties in 1999. Udo Bullmann was S&D coordinator in the ECON committee from 2009 to 2012. From 2012 to 2017, he led the German SPD delegation in the S&D Group until

his election as first vice-president of the S&D Group, responsible for economic and social model policies. He also served as president of the S&D Group in the European Parliament from 2018 to 2019. Dr Bullmann is a political scientist by education and received his doctorate in social sciences. Prior to his election to parliament, he worked as a university lecturer and Jean Monnet professor for European studies at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany, and as a visiting research fellow at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK.



Caroline DE LA PORTE, a professor at the Copenhagen Business School, is a comparative political economist, specialising in European integration and the Europeanisation of national policies, especially in the social policy area. Her recent publications include “The EU’s work-life balance directive: Institutional change of father-specific leave across member states” (with Z. Im, B. Pircher and D. Szelewa) in *Social Policy & Administration*, and “An examination of ‘instrumental resources’ in earmarked parental leave: The case of the work-life balance directive”

(with Z. Im, B. Pircher, N. Ramos and D. Szelewa) in *Journal of European Social Policy*. Her work has also focused on the Nordic model, with a particular emphasis on the welfare state and labour market dynamics. Her work has societal impact, as she continuously liaises with various stakeholders, including in Brussels, and it also showcases the importance of progressive policy in Europe.



Pascal DELWIT holds a PhD in political science, focusing on the positions and attitudes of socialist parties concerning European integration from the post-war period to the close of the 20th century. Currently, he serves as a professor of political science at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and conducts his research at the Centre d’étude de la vie politique (Cevipol). His primary research interests revolve around political parties and their organisational transformations. Within the European context, he has extensively examined European political parties, political groups

in the European Parliament, the status of European political families and the demographic profiles of their respective voters. More broadly, he is dedicated to the study of political and electoral dynamics in Belgium and Europe. He is the author of *Les gauches radicales en Europe. XIXe-XXIe siècles* (2016) and *La Vie politique en Belgique de 1830 à nos jours* (2022), both published by Éditions de l’Université de Bruxelles.



Fabian FERRARI is a postdoctoral researcher at Utrecht University. He focuses on the governance of generative artificial intelligence. He holds a PhD in information, communication and the social sciences from the University of Oxford and an MSc in politics and communication from the London School of Economics. At LSE, he received the Prize for Excellence in MSc politics and communication. His PhD at the Oxford Internet Institute was fully funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the University of Oxford (Scatcherd

European Scholarship). He co-edited *Digital Work in the Planetary Market* (MIT Press).



Louise FROMONT has been a doctor in law since February 2020. She also holds a master's in public law from the Université libre de Bruxelles and a master's in European law. After completing her PhD, she was a post-doctoral researcher at the Equality Law Clinic and at the Refugee Law Clinic at the ULB. She has been in charge of the National Funds for Belgian Scientific Research (since October 2021), and a post-doctoral researcher at the HEC Paris school as part of the European project "Respond to Emerging Dissensus: SuPranational Instruments and Norms of European Liberal democracy". Her research and academic journey has been rewarded with several awards: the Ganshof van der Meersch Award (2014); the Van Buuren-Demoulin-Jaumotte Award (2019); and the Alice Seghers Award (2021). Since May 2021, she has also been a member of the Council of Regency of the Belgian National Bank.



Miquel ICETA I LLORENS was Minister of Territorial Policy and Public Function and later Minister of Culture and Sports in the Sánchez government, a position he held until 11 November 2023. On 5 December 2023, he resigned and the government appointed him Ambassador of Spain, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO. Miquel has also been councillor for the Cornellà City Council (1987-1991), director of the analysis department and deputy director of the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Government of Spain (1987-1991), member of congress for Barcelona and member of the parliament of Catalonia. From 2014 to 2020, he was president of the Socialist Group. His last responsibility was that of deputy first secretary and spokesman of the party. He has also been a member of the Federal Executive Commission of the PSOE. He returned to the PSC Executive Commission in 2014 as the first secretary. He was elected president of the PSC at the extraordinary congress of the party held in Barcelona in December 2021. In July 2022, he was appointed secretary of democratic memory and secularism of the Federal Executive Commission of the PSOE.



Michał KAPA graduated from the University of Warsaw in 2009 with a master's degree in international relations. He holds post-graduate diplomas in management from the Warsaw School of Economics (2011) and the Institute of Economics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2016). From 2012 to 2017, he worked at the National Bank of Poland as a specialist in the Office of the President and as a senior specialist in the International Department. Since July 2019, he has worked as foreign affairs and trade policy advisor to member of the European Parliament Marek Belka, assisting him in his work on the INTA committee and in the delegation for relations with the US. He specialises in international commerce policy

and EU-Ukraine trade relations. His research focus concentrates on the EU's ESG legislation, EU strategic autonomy and the European agriculture and food production sector.



Howard LEE is Malaysian politician and activist. He is a member of the Malaysian Federal Parliament for Ipoh Timor (since November 2022), a member of Malaysia's Minister of Foreign Affairs' Consultative Council for Foreign Policy. He also serves in the Parliamentary Special Select Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Trade and is a central executive committee member of the Malaysian Democratic Action Party (DAP). Howard was the 24th president of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY).



Paul MAGNETTE is the President of the Belgian Socialist Party. He appeared on the political scene after the legislative elections of 2007. He then became Walloon Minister of Health and, after a few months, Federal Minister of Climate and Energy. In 2011, he was appointed Federal Minister for Public Enterprises, Science Policy and Development Cooperation. In October 2011, he was elected mayor of Charleroi with a large absolute majority in the municipal council. Three months later, he was appointed president of the Socialist Party and resigned from the federal government. Following the regional elections of 2014, he became minister-president of the Walloon government at the head of a coalition with the Humanist Democratic Center. His fight against the CETA trade agreement left its mark. Magnette studied political science at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). He graduated in 1993 and submitted a doctoral thesis six years later.



Giles MERRITT is the founder of the Brussels think tank Friends of Europe. He is a former *Financial Times* correspondent, and as a journalist, author and broadcaster, he has specialised in European public policy questions. In 2010, he was named by the *Financial Times* as one of 30 influential 'Eurostars'. He joined the *Financial Times* in 1968, and from 1972 until 1983, he was successively the *Financial Times* correspondent in Paris, Dublin/Belfast and Brussels. From 1984 to 2010, he was a columnist for the *International Herald Tribune*, where his op-ed page articles ranged across EU political and economic issues. He is the author of several books, including *When Ageing Explodes: Understanding the Demographic Time-Bomb* (forthcoming), which examines the impact of ageing on Europe's political economy; *People Power: Why We Need More Migrants* (Bloomsbury, 2021) and *Slippery Slope: Europe's Troubled Future* (Oxford University Press 2016). His first book, *World Out of Work*

(Collins, 1982), was an award-winning study of unemployment in industrialised countries. His second, *The Challenge of Freedom* (Kogan Page 1991), was about the difficulties facing post-communist Eastern Europe and was published in four languages.



Uwe OPTENHÖGEL is a political scientist and economist. He holds a master's degree and a PhD from the University of Hamburg. He is an expert on European and international politics, security and defence policy, labour relations, and the role of think tanks and foundations. During his long professional career at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), he worked for 20 years abroad as head of different offices in countries (Brazil, Madagascar/Mauritius, Cuba/Dominican Republic, Nordic Countries, Belgium). His last assignment was head of the foundation's EU office in Brussels until 2018. At the FES headquarters in Bonn and Berlin in the 1990s and early 2000s, he was head of the Department for Central and Eastern Europe. From 1999 to 2004, he was international director of the foundation. As of 2017, he is a publisher at the traditional German publishing House J.H.W. Dietz. Apart from his work for FES, he has been a freelance political analyst and consultant to a broad range of public and private organisations in Germany, Europe and beyond. He is vice-president of FEPS.



Tapio RAUNIO is professor of political science at Tampere University. His research interests cover representative democracy and political institutions, both in the context of national politics and at the European level, with a specific focus on legislatures, executives, political parties and foreign policy decision-making. His recent publications include two special issues co-edited with Wolfgang Wagner, "Challenging executive dominance: Legislatures and foreign affairs" (*West European Politics*, 2017) and "Political parties and foreign policy" (*Foreign Policy Analysis*, 2020), and the book *Semi-Presidential Policy-Making in Europe: Executive Coordination and Political Leadership* (2020, co-authored with Thomas Sedelius). His publications have appeared in journals such as the *European Journal of Political Research*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Party Politics*, and *Scandinavian Political Studies*.



Teresa RIBERA RODRÍGUEZ is vice-president of the Government of Spain and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. Prior to that, she was director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) from 2014 to 2018, and enabled the IDDRI to play a key role in the negotiation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the transition towards sustainable development. She served as the Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change and

Biodiversity from 2008 to 2011 and was responsible for environmental and climate policies, as well as the National Meteorological Agency. A public official from the Senior Corps of State Civil Administrators, she has also taught at the Autonomous University of Madrid.



Maria João RODRIGUES, President of FEPS and former Portuguese minister to Prime Minister António Guterres, is a European politician with a long track record in all European institutions: EU presidencies; Council; European Council; European Commission; and, more recently, European Parliament. She played a relevant role in several big European initiatives: the EU growth and jobs strategy; the Lisbon Treaty; the Eurozone reform; the European Social Pillars; the interface with EU external strategic partners; and the Roadmap for the EU's future.

Recently, she was vice-president of the S&D Group in the European Parliament, where she was in charge of the coordination of parliamentary work and interinstitutional negotiation on the EU agenda. As an academic, she is full professor and was the chair of the European Commission Board for socio-economic research. She has around a hundred publications and, as an expert and politician, has attended more than 2,000 conferences across Europe and the world.



David ROIZEN has worked in communications for 25 years, both in the public sector (ministries and local authorities) and in the private sector (advertising and communications agencies). He is now a teacher, trainer and consultant. He works with students, elected representatives, local government officials, private leaders and public figures in all these areas. Sports columnist for RCJ radio, he is also an associated expert with the Fondation Jean Jaurès, for which he published a paper on the phenomenon of 'sportwashing'.



Francesco RONCHI, EU official overseeing democracy support activities for the European Parliament and former Deputy of the Cabinet of the President of the Socialists and Democrats Group, is Adjunct Professor of Public and International Affairs at Columbia University in New York. He also served in 2022 and 2023 as a visiting professor at the Colin Powell School for Global and Civic Leadership at City College in New York. Ronchi is the author of the recent book titled *The Disappearance of the Balkans: The Resurgence of Nationalism, Fragile Democracies, and the Weight of the Past*.

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Ania SKRZYPEK (Skrzypek-Claassens) is FEPS Director for Research and Training. She holds a PhD cum laude in political sciences from the University of Warsaw, a degree which she obtained for her thesis “Cooperation of the socialist and social democratic parties in uniting Europe. From Liaison Bureau to PES. 1957-2007” (published in 2010). Before joining FEPS in 2009, Skrzypek worked as a PhD researcher and taught at the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences at the University of Warsaw (2003-2009). In parallel, she served as secretary general of Young European Socialists for two consecutive terms (ECOSY, 2005-2009). She is an author of over 100 published pamphlets, papers and articles, available in English, German, French, Spanish, Bulgarian and Polish. She is an academic reviewer for *Przegląd Europejski* of Warsaw University and regularly appears on the radio (TOK FM) as an expert on EU affairs. She is also a member of the high-level advisory board on international affairs for Nowa Lewica in Poland, which is chaired by former President Aleksander Kwasniewski.



Sofie Amalie STAGE holds a degree in political science from the Southern University of Denmark. An active member of the social democratic family since she was 17 years old, she has held a number of local and regional positions in the Danish Social Democratic Youth Party (DSU), while simultaneously working with democracy and capacity-building projects in Ukraine through the International Committee of DSU. She has focused most of her voluntary political work on campaigning and training, as she has taken on the responsibility of campaign leader in local, regional and national elections. In May 2023, she was elected secretary general of YES and is now based in Brussels, where she continues her fight for an equal and free Europe.