OSCE SECURITY CHAT

The Framework for Arms Control in an age of Emerging Technologies

BIOGRAPHIES

Secretary-General of the OSCE: Helga Maria Schmid

Helga Maria Schmid was appointed to the post of Secretary General of the OSCE in December 2020 for a three-year term.

She first joined the diplomatic service as Assistant Private Secretary to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Germany in charge of European Affairs (1990–1991). Since then she has held several prominent diplomatic positions during her career. Early on, she was Political Adviser to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Head of Cabinet to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer; and just prior to her appointment as OSCE Secretary General, she was Secretary General for the European External Action Service.

From 2011 to 2016, she was the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs for the European External Action Service. Preceding that, she was the Director of the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit (Policy Unit) of the High Representative for the CFSP in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels.

Ms. Schmid has an MA in English and Romance languages, literature, history and politics (1980–1987) from Munich University (Ludwig Maximilians Universität) and the Sorbonne in Paris. Her mother tongue is German and she speaks fluent English and French.

Ambassador Luis Cuesta Civís

Ambassador Luis Cuesta is the Permanent Representative of Spain to the OSCE since 2019.

He has worked at the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York, and he has been posted at the Spanish Embassies in Colombia, Italy and Tanzania, where he has been Ambassador, also accredited to Rwanda, Burundi and the East African Community. He has been Diplomatic Advisor for the Minister of Defense from 2005 to 2007 and Secretary General for Defense Policy, in the Spanish Ministry of Defense, from 2007 to 2012.

He speaks Spanish, Catalan, English, French and Italian.
Expert: Dr. Anya Fink

Anya Loukianova Fink is a research analyst with the Russia Studies Program at the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA). Her research focuses on Russian military thought, Russian approaches to deterrence and technological innovation, as well as arms control and nuclear weapons issues.

Prior to joining CNA, Fink spent a year as a fellow focused on national security and nuclear policy in the U.S. Senate. She was also a postdoctoral fellow at the RAND Corporation. She previously worked as a program officer in nuclear materials security at the Stanley Foundation and as a research associate focused on nuclear and missile proliferation issues in Russia and Eurasia at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

Fink holds a PhD in international security and economic policy from the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park and an MPIA from the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. She has native fluency in Russian.

Expert: Prof. Andrei Zagorski

Prof. Andrei Zagorski is Head of Department at the Evgeniy Primakov National Research Institute of Word Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russian Academy of Sciences, and Professor at the Department of IR History of the MGIMO University. He is a member of the Russian International Affairs Council; Steering Committee of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions.

Previously, he has served as Vice-Rector of the MGIMO University; Senior Vice President of the EastWest Institute, Faculty Member of the Geneva Center for Security Policy and Deputy Director of the Institute for Applied International Research, Moscow.

His areas of expertise include: European security, post-Soviet studies, arms control, Arctic studies, applied policy analysis.

Expert: Dr. Jürgen Altmann

Jürgen Altmann is a physicist and peace researcher at TU Dortmund University, Germany. After a PhD in physics (1980, Universität Hamburg) since 1985 he has studied scientific-technical problems of disarmament, first concerning high-energy laser weapons and ballistic-missile defence (1986-87 at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt). 1988, at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, he started experimental research for automatic sensor systems for co-operative verification of disarmament and peace agreements, advising master’s and PhD theses to do with acoustic, seismic and magnetic sensing, continued from 2000 on at TU Dortmund University. Later work looked at seismic monitoring of an underground nuclear storage site for potential nuclear safeguards.

Prospective assessment of new military technologies and analysis of preventive-arms-control measures form a second focus of his work. Major studies have dealt with “non-lethal” weapons, the interactions between civilian and military technologies in aviation, military uses of microsystems technology and of nanotechnology, armed uninhabited vehicles, and confidence and security building measures for cyber forces.

He is a co-founder of the German Research Association for Science, Disarmament and International Security (FONAS) and of the International Committee for Robot Arms Control (ICRAC). He teaches about the relationship of natural science, armament and disarmament and has authored chapters in corresponding text books.
Expert: Maaike Verbruggen

Maaike Verbruggen is a Doctoral Researcher at the International Security Cluster. She specializes in Emerging Military Technologies, Military Innovation, and Arms Control. For her PhD she researches the enablers of and obstacles to Military Innovation in Artificial Intelligence. The cross-cutting issues fascinate her. Why have humans been obsessed with Artificial Intelligence for nine decades, and why do we keep on not achieving our goals? How will the Fourth Industrial Revolution affect arms acquisition, production, diffusion and diversion? How do states try to keep a grip on defence innovation, in a time where transnational civilian companies are at the forefront of innovation? What are the implications of the convergence between different technological logics? How do emerging military technologies change the environmental impact of warfare? How do different arms control regimes deal with changes in Science & Technology? How does this impact disparate actors and countries differently? How has this changed over time, and what can we learn from the Industrial Revolution? As a result, she is engaged with a wide range of military technologies, from surveillance technologies to Small Arms and Light Weapons, and from conventional weapons to Weapons of Mass Destruction. She works with a variety of theoretical approaches, and is especially interested in identifying those mundane boring factors that are much more important than our theoretical models would imply.

Maaike Verbruggen has a BA in History and a BSc in Sociology from the Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (the Netherlands), and a MPhil in Peace and Conflict Studies from Universitetet i Oslo (Norway).

She has experience working on military innovation, arms trade, export controls, arms control and disarmament. Previously, she worked at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); and she interned at the Department of Arms Control, Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Export Controls at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and at the Information and Outreach Branch at the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Moderator: Dr. Alexander Graef

Alexander Graef is a researcher in the project Arms Control and Emerging Technologies at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH). His research focuses on Russian foreign and security policy, conventional arms control and confidence- and security building measures in Europe, and the politics of security expertise. He holds a BA in Cultural Studies from the European-University Viadrina and an MA in International Relations from the Free University Berlin and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO). His PhD thesis (2019) at the University of St. Gallen explored Russian experts and think tanks in the field of foreign and security policy. He is a member of the Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security (YGLN) and a fellow of the Arms Control Negotiation Academy (ACONA) led by the Negotiation Task Force at Harvard University’s Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. His work has been published among others by the European Leadership Network, the Carnegie Moscow Center, the Berlin Policy Journal, the Atlantic Council, New Perspectives and Osteuropa. He is also a regular contributor to German and English speaking media debates.