



## 2015 OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION SEMINAR

### THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRI) IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OSCE AREA

WARSAW, 1-3 June 2015

#### Biographical Information of Speakers

Day 1: Monday, 1 June 2015
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**10:00-13:00**      **OPENING SESSION**

#### Opening Remarks

##### **Mr. Michael Georg Link**

Michael Georg Link (Germany) began his tenure as ODIHR director on 1 July 2014. Before joining the Office, he served from January 2012 to December 2014 as the Minister of State for Europe in the German government, responsible for OSCE, EU, Council of Europe and NATO affairs. He was elected to the German parliament in 2005, representing Heilbronn/Baden-Württemberg, and served through 2013. During that term, from 2006 to 2013, Link established a strong OSCE connection as a member of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The ODIHR director is a past member of the boards of the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), the German Foundation for Peace Research and the Foundation for German-Polish Cooperation, and remains active in international NGOs, including the German Council on Foreign Relations, the German Association for Eastern European Studies, the Southeast Europe Association, and the German Atlantic Association.

Born in Heilbronn in 1963, Link studied Russian, French, Political Science, Public Law and Eastern European History at the University of Augsburg, the University of Lausanne and Heidelberg University.

##### **Ambassador Sanja Milinkovic**

Ambassador Sanja Milinkovic currently holds the post of the Deputy Permanent Representative of Serbia to the OSCE, UN and other international organizations based in Vienna. Ambassador Milinkovic, a career diplomat since 1988, over the years has held a number of senior posts both in the MFA and Embassies of the former Yugoslavia, respectively Serbia where her work was focused on international legal issues, but also multilateral and bilateral relations. She has headed numerous negotiating teams both in

bilateral and multilateral contexts and has participated in various international conferences relating to international law and meetings of MFA Chief Legal Advisers. Ambassador holds degrees in Law from University of Belgrade.

**Ms. Henryka Mościcka-Dendys**

Ms. Henryka Mościcka-Dendys was appointed Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland in charge of European policy, human rights and parliamentary affairs on April 16, 2013. Prior to that, she served as Director of the European Policy Department (from 2012) and Deputy Director of this Department, responsible for institutional affairs and Northern Europe (2011-2012).

She graduated in law and classics at the University of Silesia in Katowice and holds a Ph.D. in international law from the University of Warsaw.

She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland in 2002. Her previous postings include Copenhagen, where she got seconded to the office of the CBSS Commissioner for democratic development (2003) and Berlin where she served as 1st secretary and later as counsellor at the Polish Embassy, covering EU policies including enlargement and institutional issues (2007-2011).

Since 2011, she is a Member of Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation.

**Keynote**

**Mr. Saša Janković** (1970), Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia, is graduate lawyer and specialist for national and global security. On 23 July 2007, Mr Saša Janković was elected in the National Assembly as the first ever Serbian Ombudsman. He was reelected on 04 August 2012 for the new five-year term with the consensus of all parliamentary political parties.

From 2003 until the election for Ombudsman, Mr Janković was a national legal advisor in the Democratization Department of the OSCE Mission in Serbia. Prior to that, he worked as a journalist as well as in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

**15:00-18:00      WORKING GROUP 1**

**Mr. Byambadorj Jamsran**, Chief Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia was born in 1954, in Darvi soum, Khovd Province, Mongola. He acquired his doctor's degree in law at the Lomonosov Moscow State University in 1985. His specialization in law is constitutional law. He was a lecturer at the Institute of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party from 1985 to 1990 and a lecturer in the Institute of Politics of People's Great Khural from 1990 to January 25, 1992.

His political career began in 1992 when he was elected as a member of the People's Great Khural and a member of the State Lesser Khural. Since then he was elected to the parliament 4 times. From 2004 he worked as a member of the Constitutional Court of Mongolia and as the Chairman of the Constitutional Court until 2010 when he was appointed as Chief Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia.

**Ms. Debbie Kohner** is the Secretary General of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). ENNHRI brings together National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from across wider Europe. The Secretariat supports and coordinates the work of its members to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights across Europe.

Prior to taking up her role at ENNHRI, Ms. Kohner worked in the NGO sector. She also co-convened a coalition of equality and human rights civil society organizations in Northern Ireland. Previously, Ms. Kohner led a research project into racist incidents in New Zealand, from which her recommended reporting system has now been put into place. Debbie Kohner studied law at Jesus College, Oxford, at Université de Paris II, at College of Europe; as well as Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ulster. Debbie is a qualified solicitor and has practiced law in London and Madrid, specializing in EU and IP law. Ms. Kohner has also worked as a parliamentary researcher and speechwriter at Westminster (the UK Parliament) for Constitutional, Legal and Home Affairs.

<b>Day 2: Tuesday, 2 June 2015</b>
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**10:00-13:00**      **WORKING GROUP 2**

**Mrs. Laurien Koster** is the chair of the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, established in 2012 and accredited with A-status in 2014. In the preceding years she was - as the chair of the Equal Treatment Commission - leading in the process of establishing this NHRI in which the Equal Treatment Commission has been fully integrated.

After being a lawyer at the Amsterdam Bar she was a magistrate and has a broad experience in many sectors of the judiciary. At managerial and administrative level – for example as president of the District Court of Alkmaar –she was responsible for various transformation processes within the judiciary like strategies to increase customer orientation and true access to justice. On several occasions she has contributed to capacity building of human rights structures and the judiciary abroad.

**Mr. Aleksandr Glushenkov** (1968), is Head of Secretariat, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation. Prior to joining the Office, Mr. Glushenkov as a lawyer and Head of the Department for Legal Consultancies at “Межрегион” bar. In 2002, he was selected as one of the five best lawyers in Russian Federation.

Mr. Glushenkov has participated in the work of the American Bar Association as expert for Central and Eastern Europe; he teaches public international and customary law and co-operates with organizations such as Center for Anti-corruption Investigations and Initiatives and Transparency International –Russia.

**Mr. Kent Harstedt**, is the Head of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He was elected Vice-President of the Assembly at the 2014 Annual Session in Baku. A member of the Swedish Parliament since 1998, he has served on the Committee on Defence, the Committee on Health and Welfare, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. Prior to joining the Swedish

Parliament, Mr. Harstedt worked as a freelance journalist and served as chair of UNICEF Sweden from 1999 to 2005.

**15:00-18:00**      **WORKING GROUP 3**

**Ms. Sirpa Rautio**, lawyer by profession, currently director of the Finnish Human Rights Centre, which together with the Parliamentary Ombudsman forms the Finnish NHRI. Finnish NHRI received the A-status in December 2014.

Prior to returning to Finland in 2012 to set up the Human Rights Centre, Ms. Rautio has held various positions in the field of human rights working e.g. for the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe and the World Bank. She has some 20 years of experience in the protection and promotion of human rights in intergovernmental organisations both in the field and at the HQ positions.

**Ms. Eva Csergö** is the Europe and Central Asia Programme Officer at the Association for the Prevention of Torture, Switzerland. She studied law, political science and international relations in France and Turkey, and holds a Master's degree in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

Before joining the APT in 2014, she worked for a number of NGOs throughout the Europe and Central Asia region, including Minority Rights Group International and the Danish Refugee Council, and as cooperation officer and humanitarian correspondent for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgia.

<b>Day 3: Wednesday, 3 June 2015</b>
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**10:00-13:00**      **WORKING GROUP 4**

**Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska** (1972), Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights graduated from Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University (Philology) and in 1999 from National Academy of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (Specialist of Law). As of now Ms. Lutkovska is a Honoured Jurist of Ukraine.

In 1995 she started her career in civil service as 1st category consultant at the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. Since 2005 she held a position of the Deputy Minister of Justice of Ukraine, since 2011 – Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. On 2012 Ms. Lutkovska was appointed to the position of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine."

**Ms. Lora Vidovic** (1973), Croatian Ombudswoman, graduated from the Faculty of Law in Zagreb in 1997. In 2001, she obtained her Master's degree with the thesis „Ombudsman for children“. She took over the duty of the Ombudsperson on March 1st 2013, after the Parliament appointed her the commissioner responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms, for a term of eight years.

She has been working in the field of human rights protection and promotion throughout her working career, especially from the perspective of public international law, as well as on establishing highest international human rights standards within the legal system of the Republic of Croatia. Prior to being appointed Ombudsperson she worked as the Head of the UNICEF Office in Croatia and in the period from 2006 to 2010 she worked as a Deputy Ombudsman for Children

**Ms. Etilda Gjonaj** was appointed as Commissioner at the Albanian Ombudsman institution by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania on 10 April 2014, for a three-year term in office.

She completed higher studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Tirana in the period 1999-2003. In 2004 she was conferred the title of Lawyer from the National Chamber of Lawyers. During the period 2009-2011 she followed postgraduate studies in criminal sciences at the University of Tirana and was awarded the Scientific Master in Criminal Science.

In 2002, Ms. Gjonaj joined the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC), during her 11-year long tenure at AHC she has held leading positions in various national and regional projects and processes, including domains such as the judicial reform and electoral reform. During the 2008-2011 period she been a Lecturer at the Department of Criminal Law at the University of Tirana. Ms. Gjonaj has also been engaged as a leading expert in a series of national and international reports and studies, including the assessment and monitoring of the action-plan for EU integration in the field of fight against corruption, the implementation of European Commission recommendations for 2008-2012 and of the action-plan for legislative reforms for 2011-2013.

#### **15:00-18:00**      **CLOSING PLENARY**

#### **Ms. Beatriz Balbin**

**Ms. Beatriz Balbin** joined the United Nations in 1997 and served in different capacities with the UN over 16 years in Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and the Balkans. She has worked for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as for the UN Department for Peacekeeping Operations and the UN Department of Political Affairs. Her last assignment was as Head of the Human Rights Component of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone where she also doubled as the Country Representative for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Previously she served in different electoral observation and human rights assignments including as a member of the Commissions of Inquiry mandated by the UN Secretary General and other UN bodies.

She joined the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in September 2013 as First Deputy Director.