"Enhancing security through water diplomacy: The role of the OSCE"

Vienna, 08 July 2014

SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Opening

H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier, OSCE Secretary General

Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy took up the post of OSCE Secretary General on 1 July 2011. Zannier is an Italian career diplomat. From June 2008 to June 2011 he was UN Special Representative for Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). From 2002 to 2006, he was the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE. Previous senior positions include Permanent Representative of Italy to the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague (2000–2002), chairperson of the negotiations on the adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (1997–2000) and Head of Disarmament, Arms Control and Cooperative Security at NATO (1991–1997).

H.E. Dr. Thomas Greminger, Head of the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council

Dr. Thomas Greminger has been Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the UN and other international organizations in Vienna since 2010. In 2014, he chairs the OSCE Permanent Council during Switzerland’s Chairmanship. During his long career at the interface of diplomacy and development co-operation he held various leading positions in the areas of conflict management, human rights, humanitarian policy and migration policy at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. He is a General Staff Officer of the Swiss Army and holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of Zurich.
His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

A pluralist, believing in consensus and respect for the other, His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, believes in societies in which all peoples can live, work and function in freedom and with dignity. This goal has been the moving force behind his interest and involvement in humanitarian and interfaith issues, with particular stress on the human dimension of conflicts. His Royal Highness has initiated, founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees. He co-chaired the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICIHI), 1983 and is currently Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, the Royal Scientific Society and President and Patron of the Arab Thought Forum. HRH is the Chairman of the West Asia – North Africa (WANA) which was established in 2009. HRH is a Trustee of the UK-based Coexistence Trust and is President of the Foundation for Inter-religious and Intercultural Research and Dialogue and President Emeritus of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. His Royal Highness is a Board Member of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), served as a Commissioner on Legal Empowerment for the Poor and is a Patron of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. From 2013 to 2014, His Royal Highness was the Chairman of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). In July 2014, His Royal Highness assumed the chairmanship of the High Level Forum for the Blue Peace Middle East Plan. Prince El Hassan is the author of nine books.

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden, Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Dr. Halil Yurdakul Yigitgüden from Turkey assumed the post of Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on 1 February 2013. Yigitgüden served from 1997-2003 as the Under-Secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, responsible for energy, water and mining policy. He took a leadership role in Caspian region energy diplomacy and in implementing energy market reforms. Prior to that, he held the position of CEO of Fenis Holding in Istanbul, he served as Chairman and Director General of the State Airports and Air Traffic Authority, and as Deputy Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Most recently Yigitgüden was a consultant on energy economics, energy efficiency, renewable energy and Caspian geopolitics and board member of the steel pipe manufacturer Borusan Mannesman. Yigitgüden is an Eisenhower Fellow and holds a diploma and doctoral degree in engineering from RWTH Aachen University. He has published numerous articles on energy security and energy economics.
Panel 1

Hinrich Thoelken, Head of Division on Climate and Environmental Foreign Policy, Sustainable Economy, German Federal Foreign Office

Hinrich Thoelken has been Head of Division of Climate and Environmental Diplomacy, Sustainable Economy at the German Federal Foreign Office since 2010. In his assignment he has focused on geopolitical and security implications of climate change and natural resource competition. As a career diplomat with the Foreign Office since 1989 he served in German missions in Namibia, United States and France. In addition he was involved in regional Asian issues, communication and press work and the German EU Presidency in 2007. Mr. Thoelken has a scientific background and holds a Medical Doctorate. He worked for several years as a researcher at the Heidelberg University Medical School and as Head of Communication and Media Relations at the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centres.

Parviz Davlatzoda, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan

Mr. Davlatzoda is a graduate from the Tajik National University and has been a career diplomat with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan since 1994. He held different positions within the Ministry and in its embassy in Moscow. In 1997-1998 he was leading expert in the Department of Foreign Relations in the Executive Administration of the President of Tajikistan. From 2007-2010, and again from 2013-2014, he was Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2010-2013 he was Deputy Secretary-General of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing. On 15 March 2014, he was appointed as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Lucas Beck, Partner, Hydrosolutions GmbH

Lucas Beck holds an interdisciplinary PhD degree combining International Relations and Hydrology. Since 2002, he has been working in various projects as practitioner and hydraulic engineer in Switzerland and in the humanitarian context in conflict areas in Africa and Eastern Europe. Beck is the co-founder of hydrosolutions ltd., a private enterprise located in Zurich, Switzerland. The firm specializes on providing intelligence for environmental change but also does project management and engineering related to water infrastructure. Beck is affiliated with the Center for Comparative
Jaana Husu-Kallio, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Chairperson of the Finnish party of the Joint Finnish-Russian Commission on the Utilization of Frontier Waters

Since 2012, Jaana Husu-Kallio has been the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. Previously her roles included Director-General of the Finnish Food Safety Authority and Deputy-Director General of DG Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission. Before that she worked in the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as a Chief Veterinary Officer and as the Director-General of the Department of Food and Health. Dr. Husu-Kallio graduated as a veterinarian from the University of Helsinki (1984) and attained a PhD in 1990. She has been a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry since 2004 and received a Doctor Honoris Causa by the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry of the University of Helsinki in 2008.

Li Lifeng, Director Freshwater Programme, WWF International

Dr. Li has been working on water and river basin management in WWF since 2002. He was the coordinator of the Task Force on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) at the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), the highest international policy think-tank of the Chinese government. Since July 2008, he directs the Global Freshwater Programme of WWF, the world leading conservation network that works actively on freshwater conservation in many of the world’s large rivers. Since June 2010, he is board member of the Delta Alliance, an international knowledge-driven network organization with the mission of improving the resilience of the world’s deltas. Dr. Li received his PhD degree on physical geography from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2000.

Panel 2

Bo Libert, Regional Advisor on Environment, UNECE

Dr. Bo Carl Arne Libert, the UNECE Regional Adviser on Environment since 2001, is an environmental policy specialist with a focus on transboundary cooperation. Based in Geneva, Dr. Libert is engaged in the implementation of ECE environmental conventions and facilitates cooperation on the environment and natural resources in regions such as Central Asia, South-East Europe and Eastern Europe. He is a Swedish citizen and has his M. Sci. and Agr. Dr. from the Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences. His work experience includes employment at the OECD and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Miroslav Jenča, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Head of the UN Regional Centre for preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia

Ambassador Miroslav Jenča is Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. Ambassador Jenča was previously Director of the Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia. He served as Ambassador, Head of Mission, for the OSCE Centre in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Mr. Jenča served as Ambassador, Representative of Slovakia, to the Political and Security Committee of the European Union and as Ambassador of Slovakia to Mexico, Venezuela, and Columbia and held a number of positions in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Slovakia. He holds a Doctor of Law (JUDr.) degree from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. Mr. Jenča has studied Foreign Trade at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Diplomacy and International Relations at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, and Diplomacy at Stanford University.

Dejan Komatina, Secretary, International Sava River Basin Commission

Dejan Komatina holds a Ph. D. in Civil Engineering obtained at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade. He began his professional career in 1989 at the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering of the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Belgrade, first as an assistant lecturer and later on as a senior lecturer. As of the year 2004 he was also lecturer for the subject on “Land Reclamation” at the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Banjaluka (Bosnia and Herzegovina). His scientific research work mainly referred to integrated and sustainable river basin management. He published two monographs and a number of scientific papers and is a member of several expert bodies. Since 2006, he is the Secretary of the International Sava River Basin Commission located in Zagreb (Croatia).
Ilya Trombitsky, Eco-TIRAS International Environmental Association of Dniester River Keepers

Ilya Trombitsky was born and is national and resident of Moldova. He graduated from the State University of Moldova in 1976 in Biology, and obtained a PhD of Moscow State University (1984). From 1976-1990, he was a researcher at the Moldavian Fisheries Research Station. From 1990 to 2000, he was Member of the National Parliament of Moldova. In 1993 he co-founded the NGO BIOTICA Ecological Society. He is author of the Moldavian law on NGOs and the Law on Foundations. He was member of the Environmental Committee of the Parliament of Moldova (1990-2000), Chair of Environmental Committee of CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (1995-2000) and Board Member of GLOBE Europe parliamentary NGO (Global Legislators for Balanced Environment, Brussels, 1995-2000). Since 2003, he is Executive Director of the NGO “Eco-TIRAS International Association of River Keepers”.

Desiree Schweitzer, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head Environmental Activities, OSCE

Desiree Schweitzer assumed the position of Deputy Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities/Head of Environmental Activities, with responsibility for energy security matters, in 2011. A career diplomat, she was Deputy Head of the Austrian Permanent Mission to the OSCE as well as Deputy Head of Division in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs for OSCE and Council of Europe Affairs from 2008. Prior to that, she was responsible for European Union (EU) enlargement issues. Her overseas postings have included Washington, D.C., New York and Islamabad. She holds a Doctor of Law degree from the University in Vienna is an alumna of the Austrian Diplomatic Academy.

Concluding Panel

Daniel Guyader, Head of Global Issues and Counter-Terrorism Division, European External Action Service

Daniel Guyader is the head of Division in charge of "Global Issues and Counter-terrorism" within the Department/Directorate Multilateral and Global Issues at the European External Action Service (EEAS). Previously, Mr Guyader worked for the European Commission as an economist, in charge of analysis and coordination aspects on international economic matters. He has held several positions within the European Commission working in such diverse fields as Education and Transport covering various geographic zones, including Eastern
Europe, the Balkans and Asia (and in particular Central Asia). Prior to the European Commission, he worked as a Director for Education and Training for the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Paris. He has been a lecturer both at the IEP Paris (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris) and at the ESSEC, (Ecole Superieure Sciences Economiques et Commerciales), as well as at the University Pantheon Assas. He started his professional life as a researcher at the Fondation nationale des sciences politiques (FNSP) in Paris.

Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Rector, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Co-Chair of the Political Process Commission of the 7th World Water Forum 2015

Prof. Andras Szöllösi-Nagy holds a Dipl. Ing. in Civil Engineering, a Dr. Techn. in Hydrology and Mathematical Statistics as well as a Ph.D. in hydrology from the Budapest University of Technology and in 1994 became full Professor. He joined the Systems Hydrology Division of the Water Resources Research Center (VITUKI), Budapest, Hungary, in 1972. His subsequent academic affiliations included the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria, the University of Lulea, Sweden, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand, and the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada. From 1985 to 1989, he held the post of Deputy Director General at the Water Resources Research Center (VITUKI) in Budapest. Szöllösi-Nagy joined UNESCO in Paris in 1989 as Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme. Since 2000 he served in addition as Deputy Assistant Director-General of the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO. He was a member, and former Chairman, of UN-Water, was elected to serve since its inception the Board of Governors of the World Water Council and has been in leading positions in the preparations of the 5th, 6th and 7th World Water Forum. Since 2009, he is Rector of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft. Since 2010, he is also the Professor of Stochastic Hydrology at the TU Delft, The Netherlands.

Iskandar Abdullaev, Executive Director, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev has over 15 years of experience in irrigation & drainage management, water institutions, allocation and distribution in Afghanistan and Central Asia. He received his PhD in water and land management and MSc in Hydrotechnical Engineering. Dr. Abdullaev is at present Executive Director of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC). Before that he worked as Regional advisor for the Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). Prior to this, he worked in leading academic institutions, including the ZEF Centre for Development Research, University of Bonn (Germany), the International Water Management Institute (Sri Lanka), and the Tashkent Institute of
Irrigation and Melioration, Uzbekistan. He was also a founder of the NGO “Association of Uzbekistan for Sustainable Water Resources Development (Suvchi)”. He has written 3 monographic books, and over 30 peer reviewed articles, policy papers and conference papers.

**Bart Devos, President, World Youth Parliament for Water**

Born and raised in Belgium, Bart Devos was elected European Youth Water Ambassador in 2010 and President of the World Youth Parliament for Water in 2012. In this capacity, he intervenes at major international water-related events, works together with leading institutions and international organizations and partners with youth and youth-led organizations across the world on promoting and empowering youth as an agent for a water safe world. Bart also serves as board member of the International Secretariat for Water, as a board member of GoodPlanet Belgium and a board member of the French Water Partnership. Over the last two years, he has worked with Global Water Partnership as a youth representative (special observer) to the GWP Steering Committee. Bart is involved in the UN Water 2015 Annual Conference as a Stakeholder Group-coordinator, and as a member of the International Youth Steering Committee he is preparing the youth program of the 7th World Water Forum. In 2013 Bart obtained a Bachelor degree in Laws. Currently he is enrolled in a Master’s program in Law at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium).