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List of Participants



Cengiz Aktar is a Senior Scholar at the Istanbul Policy Center, an independent policy research institute in Istanbul created by Sabancı University and the Stiftung Mercator. He is one of the leading advocates of Turkey's integration into the EU and a columnist for the dailies Taraf and Today's Zaman. Formerly a director at the United Nations, he spent 22 years of his professional life in field operations in Africa, Asia and Europe. Since he returned to Turkey in 1999, he has taught courses on EU policies at Galatasaray and Bahçeşehir Universities. Cengiz Aktar is involved in policies of memory regarding ethnic and religious minorities. He is a member and advisor of the French periodical La Revue du Mauss, the Turkish environmental NGO Buğday, the Hrant Dink Foundation and the Aladdin Project, an independent international NGO in Paris that seeks to build bridges between Jews and Muslims. He is also a reviewer for the research directorate-general of the European Commission. Cengiz Aktar has published nine books and numerous articles in Turkey and abroad. The most recent book he edited was "Ecumenical Patriarchate", which was published in Turkish in 2011. Cengiz Aktar received a PhD in Economic Epistemology from Panthéon Sorbonne University in 1982.



Christian Altfuldisch is the head of ESI's Berlin office and ESI's website designer and manager. He also manages projects and conducts research for ESI. Christian Altfuldisch studied Political Sciences and International Law at Freie Universität Berlin and holds a Master in European Union studies from the Centre International de Formation Européenne. During his studies, he worked on several projects in the Balkans. For his diploma thesis, he examined the democratisation process in Bosnia. After graduation in 2002, Christian Altfuldisch lived in Sarajevo and Melbourne, Australia, working part-time for ESI and an international software company. He joined ESI in 2006.



Giuliano Amato is a former prime minister of Italy and, since September 2013, a member of the Constitutional Court of Italy. He used to chair of the ESI White List Advisory Board, but had to resign when he was appointed judge at the Constitutional Court. Giuliano Amato served twice as prime minister of Italy, from 1992 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2001. From 2006 to 2008, he was interior minister. Giuliano Amato was Vice-President of the Convention on the Future of Europe that drafted a European Constitution. Later on, he led the so-called Amato Group which turned the draft constitution into what became the Lisbon Treaty. In 2011, Giuliano Amato chaired a group supervising the festivities marking the 150th anniversary of Italy's unification. Between 2012 and 2013, he was President of the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa, one of Italy's superior graduate schools in the field of applied sciences. Giuliano Amato also serves as Honorary Co-Chair for the World Justice Project, a non-profit organisation committed to advancing the rule of law in the world.



Charles Clarke is a former UK Home Secretary (2004-2006), a former Member of Parliament for Norwich South (1997-2010) and a member of ESI's White List Advisory Board. He is Visiting Professor at the School of Political, Social and International Studies at University of East Anglia, Visiting Professor in politics and faith at Lancaster University, and Honorary Professor of Economics and Migration at University College London. Charles Clarke studied mathematics and economics at King's College in Cambridge. From 1992 to 1997 he was the chief executive of a public affairs consultancy. He was elected to the House of Commons in 1997 and, in 1998, appointed minister in the Department for Education and Skills. In 1999, he moved to the Home Office as a junior minister in charge of policing. Afterwards he served as chair of Britain's Labour Party, Cabinet Minister without Portfolio (2001-2002) and Secretary of State for Education and Skills (2002-2004). From 2004 to 2006, he was Britain's Home Secretary. Charles Clarke is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Transatlantic Council on Migration and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.



Burak Erdenir is the Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry for European Union Affairs of Turkey, which oversees Turkey's EU accession process. His portfolio includes accession policies, EU law and communication and research activities. He has worked for the Ministry for EU Affairs since 2000. He received a Ph.D. in Political Science and Public Administration from Ankara University. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and a Master of Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, as well as a bachelor degree from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. Burak Erdenir has published a book on European identity and articles primarily dealing with Turkey's reform process, EU-Turkey relations, the Customs Union and Islamophobia. His most recent publication is "Vize" in *Yarım Asrın Ardından Türkiye-Avrupa Birliği İlişkileri* ("Visas" in *After Half a Century of Turkey-EU Relations*, 2013).



Diba Nigar Göksel is a Senior Analyst for ESI covering Turkey and the Caucasus. Since 2003, she has also been the editor-in-chief of the Turkish Policy Quarterly (TPQ). Nigar studied international relations at Koç University in Istanbul. She began her professional career in 1998 in Washington DC, first working at the Embassy of Azerbaijan and subsequently at TÜSIAD-US (Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association, Washington Office). After returning to Istanbul in 2001, she was Country Director at IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board), project manager at TESEV (Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation) and the Secretary-General for International Relations at the ARI Movement, an NGO promoting a strong civil society in Turkey. Nigar Göksel regularly writes on Turkey and the Caucasus for various publications and platforms, focusing largely on women's issues, civil society development and relations with the EU. She joined ESI in 2004.



Iulian Groza is Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations and European Integration of Moldova. He is in charge of European affairs and international law issues. Previously he was the Deputy Director of the General Directorate for European Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held various positions at the Moldovan Mission to the EU in Brussels. He is currently a candidate for a PhD in law at the State University of Moldova. Iulian Groza is licenced in law and did postgraduate European Studies at Birmingham University as a Chevening Scholar of the UK Government.



Gerald Knaus is ESI's founding chairman. After having studied in Oxford, Brussels and Bologna, he taught economics at the State University of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and spent five years working for NGOs and international organisations in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2001 to 2004, he was the director of the Lessons Learned Unit of the EU Pillar of the UN Mission in Kosovo. Gerald Knaus has published many articles and reports that have triggered wide public debates, including "Travails of the European Raj" on Bosnia (2003) and "Member State Building and the Helsinki Moment" on the EU's role in the Balkans (2004). In 2011, he co-authored, alongside Rory Stewart, the book "Can Intervention Work?" He has also co-authored more than 60 ESI reports as well as scripts for 12 TV documentaries on South East Europe. He is a founding member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and Associate Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School, where he was a Visiting Fellow in 2010/2011 lecturing on state building and intervention.



Angelo Maria Petroni is the Secretary-General of the Aspen Institute Italia and a professor of logic and philosophy of science at the Sapienza University in Rome. He studied philosophy at the University of Pisa and at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium where he also earned his PhD in philosophy. He has subsequently lectured at several universities in Italy and France, so far spending most of his academic career at the University of Bologna. From 2001 to 2005, Angelo Maria Petroni was the director of Italy's government-run National School of Administration (SNA). He is a member of numerous academic associations and on the board of many institutions, including the banking foundation Compagnia di San Paolo, the Institute of the Enciclopedia Italiana and the Italian public broadcaster RAI. Angelo Maria Petroni has also widely published on issues such as logic of scientific discovery, philosophy of physics, liberalism, federalism in Europe and public administration, and contributed to newspapers including "Il Sole 24 Ore" and "Wall Street Journal Europe". In 2000, he co-authored the book "Il federalismo possibile. Un progetto liberale per l'Europa" (Achievable Federalism. A Liberal Project for Europe).



Alexandra Stigmayer is ESI's Senior Analyst in Brussels, its General Secretary and one of ESI's founding members. As a journalist, she covered the wars in former Yugoslavia from 1992 to 1996 for German and US media including Time Magazine. During that time, she also wrote a book about war-time rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1997/1998, Alexandra Stigmayer was based in Berlin for Time Magazine. From 1998 to 2002, she worked for the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo as a spokesperson and then head of the press office. Following three years as a speechwriter for the European Commission, she began to work for ESI in 2006 as a senior analyst and writer based in Brussels. For ESI, Alexandra Stigmayer has dealt primarily with the Balkans and led the "Schengen White List Project" since 2008.



Jan Taşçı works as a project manager at the Centre for International Affairs of the Stiftung Mercator where he is responsible for the foundation's Turkey-related project portfolio. Previously he worked for Network Turkey, a Berlin-based independent platform for academics and professionals with an interest in Turkey, coordinating this NGO's activities in Germany. During his tenure at the German Institute for International Educational Research in Berlin, Jan Taşçı supported the preparation of the National Report on Education in Germany. Prior to that, he worked at the Orient Institute in Istanbul. Jan Taşçı received a BA in History, Turkology and Anthropology from Freie Universität Berlin and completed a German-Turkish Masters' Programme in Social Sciences (GeT MA) with a joint degree from Humboldt University in Berlin and the Middle East Technical University in Ankara.



Lars Wahlund is the Swedish Ambassador to Turkey. He was previously Sweden's Ambassador to Macedonia, who also covers Albania and Kosovo (2010-2013). Prior to that, he worked for different departments of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Head of the EU Department, and for the Department for Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as the former European Security Policy Department. For many years, Lars Wahlund was responsible for policy towards the Western Balkans region and a key advisor to the government. He has also served at the Embassies in Bonn and Maputo, Mozambique, and as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Swedish delegation to NATO. Lars Wahlund holds a law degree from Uppsala University and University of Minnesota.

The European Stability Initiative (www.esiweb.org)



ESI is an independent not-for-profit think-tank established in recognition of the need for in-depth research and analysis of the complex issues involved in creating stability and prosperity in Southeast Europe. ESI was founded in 1999 in Sarajevo by a multi-national group of experienced practitioners and analysts. Focusing on the Western Balkans, Turkey, some of the EU's neighbours in the East and enlargement issues, ESI has provided policymakers with strategic analysis and policy recommendations that have had a substantial impact on EU policy.

Since 2008, ESI has closely followed the EU's new visa liberalisation policy, contributing to a successful outcome in the Western Balkans and facilitating the start of a process with Turkey (www.whitelistproject.eu). In this, it has received guidance from an Advisory Group that includes former interior ministers and foreign policy experts. Since 2012, the Stiftung Mercator, one of the largest private foundations in Germany, has supported its work on the visa issue in Turkey.

ESI publishes and promotes its research and recommendations free of charge. It is financed by private foundations, governments and international organisations. ESI is registered in Berlin and has offices and representations in Berlin, Brussels and Istanbul.

Stiftung Mercator (www.stiftung-mercator.de)



Stiftung Mercator Stiftung Mercator is one of the largest private foundations in Germany. It pursues clearly defined objectives in its thematic clusters of integration, climate change and arts education and it achieves these objectives with a combination of socio-political advocacy and practical work. Stiftung Mercator implements its own projects and supports external projects in its centres for science and humanities, education and international affairs. It takes an entrepreneurial, professional and international approach to its work. Since 2012, Stiftung Mercator has supported ESI's work on visa liberalisation for Turkey and other initiatives aimed at improving EU-Turkey relations.