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Is Europe really a continent in decline? What kind of foreign policy can such a continent pursue?

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Kristof Bender is Deputy Chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI). He leads various ESI research projects on South Eastern Europe and on EU enlargement. Educated in sociology in Vienna and Paris, he has worked in South East Europe in various capacities since 1997, including as Attaché for Humanitarian Affairs in the Austrian Embassy in Belgrade, as a researcher for the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and as a consultant for various institutions, including the Austrian Federal Chancellery, DFID and SIDA. Kristof, who joined ESI in 2000, has been living in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and is currently based in Vienna.

Christine Böhler is Deputy Managing Director of ERSTE Foundation and Programme Director Culture. She has worked as a journalist and curator and was director of event organization in the Literaturhaus Vienna. She directed various international festivals focusing on Literature, Arts and New Media. She developed the concept of the Lichtzeile – an LED billboard and a ticker in the Web as a form of literary publication. In 2001 she published the book "Literatur im Netz. Projekte, Hintergründe, Strukturen und Verlage im Netz" (Triton Verlag). Christine Böhler studied Comparative Literature and Spanish in Vienna and Madrid and gave classes at the University of Innsbruck on crosscultural topics.

Emine Bozkurt was born in 1967 in Zaandam, the Netherlands and holds a master's degree in European Studies from the University of Amsterdam. She is a member of Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA – Social Democrats) and since 2004 a member of the European Parliament where she is currently Chairwoman of the Delegation for Relations with the countries of Central America. She sits as a full member on the Conference of Delegation Chairmen, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. As a substitute, Bozkurt also sits on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and is part of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee. Before joining Parliament, Bozkurt was a member of the core group of the PvdA multi-ethnic women's network, a publisher and spokeswoman at the Rathenau Institute, a senior advisor with Radar (an advice bureau on social issues), and the spokeswoman for a Dutch Muslim Broadcasting Company.

Goran Buldioski is program director of the Open Society Institute Think Tank Fund. He has expertise in strategic planning and capacity building of NGOs and independent policy centres, organizational and project management in the nonprofit sector, and development of democratic and participatory policy change in Eastern and Central Europe. He writes a blog on think tanks, policy processes in Central and Eastern Europe and the development of democracy (<http://goranspolicy.com/>).

Erhard Busek, born in Vienna in 1941, is an Austrian politician. He was Deputy-Mayor of Vienna from 1978 to 1987 and served as Minister of Science and Research and Minister of Education. He was elected Chairman of the Austrian People's Party in 1991 and served as Vice-Chancellor of Austria from 1991 to 1995. In early 2000 Erhard Busek was appointed as Special Representative of the Austrian Government on EU-Enlargement. From 2002 to 2008 he served as Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. He is also Chairman of the "Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe", President of the European Forum Alpbach, and since October 2004 he is Rector of the "Fachhochschule Salzburg".

Milica Delevic is Director of the EU Integration Office of the Government of Serbia since 2008. Previous positions included Assistant Foreign Minister for European Integration and Coordinator for the development of the National Strategy of Serbia for EU accession. Before Montenegro became independent, Milica served as Director of the Office for Relations with the European Union of Serbia and Montenegro and as Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also lectured international politics at the Political Science Faculty at the University of Belgrade.

Karl Fink has been Member of the Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherung Aktiengesellschaft since 1987. Born in Styria/Austria in 1945, he graduated from the University of Business Administration and Economics in Vienna in 1971 and started his career in Tokyo and Berlin as a representative of the Japanese Trading Company Marubeni Corporation, before joining Wiener Städtische as a consultant for Industrial Insurance in 1975. From 1979 to 1987 he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Interrisk Versicherungs AG, an Austrian Insurance Company specializing on international business, and then joined the Board of Wiener Städtische. Currently he is acting as the company's Deputy Chairman with responsibilities for non-life business, reinsurance and international affairs. He is on the Board of numerous insurance- and financial services companies operating in Austria and other European countries.

Peter Hagen is Deputy General Manager and Member of the Managing Board of Vienna Insurance Group. He joined the company in 1989 and was elected to the Managing Board effective 1 July 2004. Between January 1998 and December 2002, he headed the International Division & Reinsurance and served as a Board Member in VIG's Czech and Slovak subsidiaries. From November 2007 until December 2009, Peter Hagen was also Deputy General Manager and Member of the Managing Board of Kooperativa pojišťovna, a.s., Vienna Insurance Group in the Czech Republic. Since 2008 he is General Manager of VIG RE. In October 2009, Mr. Hagen was appointed "Deputy General Manager" of Vienna Insurance Group.

Robin Gosejohann works as project manager for ERSTE Foundation. Based in Vienna, Robin oversees initiatives with focuses on journalism, media, youth and education. Prior to that, he worked for the think tank European Stability Initiative (ESI), where he was responsible for programme coordination and management of the ESI offices in Berlin and Istanbul. He has a strong background in NGOs as well as in grass-roots and political campaigning in both Britain and Germany. Robin studied modern and economic history in Bielefeld and Leipzig as well as peace and conflict studies in Uppsala.

Heather Grabbe is Director of the Open Society Institute Brussels and Director of EU Affairs for the Soros network. From 2004-2009 she was Senior Advisor to European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn, responsible in his Cabinet for the Balkans and Turkey. Before joining the Commission, she was Deputy Director of the Centre for European Reform, the London-based think-tank. Her academic career included teaching at the London School of Economics and research at Oxford and Birmingham universities, the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House, London) and the European University Institute (Florence).

For 10 years, **Thomas Held** was Managing Director of Avenir Suisse, a free market think tank for economic and social policy in Switzerland. Avenir Suisse was established in 2000 by 14 of the largest Swiss Multinationals and is now financed by more than 100 business and individual sponsors. Thomas Held holds a Ph.D. in sociology and German literature. Previous to his position as start-up director of Avenir Suisse he ran his own consultancy company, working mainly for the publishing industry in Germany. From 1992 to 2000 he was CEO of the owner-organization which realized the Lucerne Culture and Congress Centre KKL with its famous concert hall. Prior to that, he worked at Hayek Engineering and in various positions in publishing companies such as Ringier AG of Switzerland and Badischer Verlag in Germany.

Caroline Hornstein Tomić holds an MA in cultural anthropology and a doctoral degree in sociology from Goethe University/Frankfurt. She is Research Associate at Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb and teaches at Zagreb University (areas: political anthropology and sociology of power; migration; minority, gender and identity politics; state building processes in SOE; local economic elites). In 2001 she gained her PhD (Konrad Adenauer Foundation fellow) with a thesis on anthropological discourses about representation, identity and knowledge production and the role of cultural bordercrossers (Grenzgänger), for which she did research at MIT in Cambridge/USA in 1996/97. In 2000 she joined the foreign service of Konrad Adenauer Foundation and headed the Foundation's country office in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2001 until 2005.

Minna Järvenpää was until recently Head of Analysis and Planning in the UNAMA mission in Afghanistan. Before this, she worked on Afghanistan, Iraq and Somalia for the British Government's Stabilisation Unit, and as Senior Advisor to former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, supporting a range of crisis management initiatives throughout Europe, Africa and Asia. Minna's involvement in the Balkan region spanned nine years during which she spent two years working for UNMIK in Kosovo as Strategy Advisor to Special Representative of the Secretary General and then municipal administrator in Mitrovica until April 2004. She previously worked as ESI analyst covering Serbia and Montenegro and Macedonia, and from 1996-1998 as political and refugee affairs advisor to the High Representative in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Minna has a background in international relations from Harvard and the London School of Economics.

Milan Ježovica has been State Secretary at the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs since July 2010. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991 and was posted twice to Washington and headed the Human Rights Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2003 to 2006 he was foreign policy advisor of then Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda. He represented the Slovak Republic in the EU, NATO, UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE as well as at the European Court for Human Rights. From 2006 to 2010 Mr Ježovica was a foreign policy analyst at the M.E.S.A. 10. Institute.

Gerald Knaus is co-founder and chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI). He studied in Oxford, Brussels and Bologna. He taught economics at the State University of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and worked for five years in Bulgaria and Bosnia for NGOs and international organisations. He was also director of the Lessons Learned and Analysis Unit (LLA) of the European Union Pillar of UNMIK in Kosovo. He co-authored many scripts for 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 the

Harvard University Kennedy School where he also spent one year as a visiting fellow lecturing on state building and intervention.

Ivan Krastev is a political scientist and Chairman of the Board of the Centre for Liberal Strategies. He is a member of the Board of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ecfr.eu) and a Council member of the International Institute for Security Studies IISS in London. Ivan Krastev is the editor-in-chief of Foreign Policy Bulgaria and associated editor of Europe's World. His latest books in English are *The Anti-American Century* (co-editor with Alan McPherson), CEU Press, 2007 and *Shifting Obsessions: Three Essays on the Politics of Anticorruption*, CEU Press, 2004.

Miroslav Lajčák, born in 1963, is a Slovak diplomat. He holds a Ph.D. in international relations from the State Institute of International Relations in Moscow and is also a graduate of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. He joined the Czechoslovak foreign ministry in 1988 and was posted to Moscow (where he changed to the Slovak diplomatic service after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia), Tokio and Belgrade. He served as chef de cabinet of two Slovak foreign ministers, Jozef Moravčík (1993-1994) and Eduard Kukan (1998-2001). He had an important role in overseeing the 2006 Montenegrin independence referendum as EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana's personal representative. From June 2007 to December 2008 he served as High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina/EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. From January 2009 until July 2010 Mr. Lajčák served as the Foreign Minister of Slovakia.

Mark Leonard is Co-Founder and Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, the first pan-European Think Tank. Previously, he worked as Director of Foreign Policy at the Centre for European Reform, and Director of the Foreign Policy Centre, a think-tank he founded under the patronage of the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Mark has spent time in Washington as a Transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and in Beijing as a visiting scholar at the Chinese Academy for Social Sciences. He is a prolific writer and commentator, with work appearing in many top publications. His two books, *"Why Europe will run the 21st Century"* and *"What does China think?"* have been translated in 19 and 14 languages respectively. Mark's recent publications for the European Council on Foreign Relations include *"New World Order: The Balance of Soft Power and the Rise of Herbivorous Powers"*, *"A Power Audit of EU-Russia Relations"*, *"Can the EU win the Peace in Georgia?"*, *"Re-wiring the EU-US Link"* and *"The Spectre of a Multipolar Europe"*, all available from the website at www.ecfr.eu.

Johanna Mair is a Professor of Strategic Management at IESE Business School and the Hewlett Foundation Scholar at the Stanford's Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society. She currently serves as the Academic Editor of the Stanford Social Innovation Review. Professor Mair has held a visiting position at the Harvard Business School and has received numerous awards for her research and publications. She is the co-author of three books on social entrepreneurship and has written or co-written numerous book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, articles on management practice and case studies. Before earning her Ph.D. in management from INSEAD (France), Prof. Mair was directly involved in many aspects of the executive decision-making process in international banking. Today, alongside her academic responsibilities, she advises governments on innovation; is a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum; carries out consultancy work for several

multinational companies and international institutions such as the World Bank, and serves on the advisory board of globally operating entrepreneurial companies, foundations and social venture funds.

Boris Marte is Managing Director of ERSTE Foundation since 2005 and Member of the Board since 2007. He has been Director of Corporate Sponsoring of Erste Group since 2001. Before that he held various positions in the fields of politics and cultural politics, among others with Erhard Busek, Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Science and Research, (1991-1995), and Peter Marboe, Cultural Commissioner of the City of Vienna, (1997-2001). From 1998 until 2000 Boris Marte was responsible for the project management for the installation of the Holocaust Monument (Rachel Whiteread) in the city of Vienna. In 1999 he published the book “Die Neue Ordnung des Politischen – Die Herausforderungen der Demokratie im 21. Jahrhundert“ (Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York).

Felix Martin currently works for Thames River Capital, a London-based asset management company, where he is part of a team that specialises in investing in emerging markets. Prior to joining Thames River Capital in 2008, Felix spent two spells working for the World Bank: the first, between 1998 and 2002, on the energy sectors of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Kosovo; and the second, from 2006 to 2008, as the Bank’s Country Economist for Kosovo during the negotiations over its independence. Felix has degrees in Classics (Oxford), Development Economics (Oxford), and International Relations (Johns Hopkins SAIS); and a doctorate in Economics (Oxford).

Liz Mermin’s documentary features explore a variety of subjects: like the personality quirks of Irish Racehorses (HORSES), culture-clashes between American and Afghan hairdressers (THE BEAUTY ACADEMY OF KABUL), or the complex relationship between Bollywood and gangster-terrorists (SHOT IN BOMBAY). She’s made five films for BBC/Storyville and international broadcast (the above, TEAM QATAR, OFFICE TIGERS); three were released in cinemas. She’s also made many docs for US broadcasters (including PBS, ABC, and Sundance Channel). She was a 2006 Rockefeller Media fellow, has degrees in literature and cultural anthropology, and became interested in film as a Fulbright scholar in Senegal. A former New Yorker, she lives in London. Reviewers observe that her films provide an entertaining mix of humour and social critique, without preaching or judging.

Rainer Münz is Head of Research & Development at Erste Group and Senior Fellow at the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI). He is an expert on population change, international migration and demographic aging, their economic impact and their implications for social security. Since 2008 he is Member of the high level “Reflection Group Horizon 2020-2030” of the European Union (the so-called EU “Group of the Wise”).

Knut Neumayer has been director of the Europe programme at ERSTE Foundation since 2005. Previously he was head of marketing at the Austrian newspaper *Der Standard*, where he set up an innovative cross-media campaign with A1, an Austrian mobile service provider, and won two Golden Lions at the International Advertising Festival in Cannes. Prior to that he worked at the Austrian Cultural Service (ÖKS) designing and implementing programmes in the field of Arts and Education.

Milan Nič works as Special Advisor to the State Secretary Milan Ježovica and Deputy Head of his Cabinet at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Prior to this assignment, he was advisor to the High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia, Miroslav Lajčák (2007 – 2009), analyst for the European Stability Initiative think tank, Development Director of the Bratislava-based Pontis Foundation, and broadcaster for the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Mr. Nič holds degrees in international relations, modern history and political science from the Charles University in Prague, the Central European University in Budapest and one-year diploma from the SAIS Johns Hopkins University. He is holder of the 2004 Karol Rybárik's Award for the best young professional in Slovak foreign policy.

Anna Nöst has led the internal organisational department at ERSTE Foundation since 2007. She is a business administration graduate, and started her career in controlling and financial management at A.S.A. Abfall Service AG. She was Chief Financial Officer at Treibacher Industrie AG and has worked as a business consultant for Libro Nuevo GmbH, Stadttheater Klagenfurt, ICG Infora and BfC Business Frauen Center.

Wolfgang Petritsch, born in 1947 in Klagenfurt (Austria), studied history, politics and international relations at Vienna University and USC Los Angeles. He was personal assistant to Austrian Federal Chancellor Bruno Kreisky for six years before he joined the Austrian Foreign Service in 1984. After postings in Paris (OECD), New York (UN) and Belgrade, in 1998/99 Mr Petritsch was the EU's Special Envoy for Kosovo and EU chief negotiator at the Kosovo peace talks in Rambouillet and Paris. Between 1999 and 2002 he served as High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2002 to 2008 Ambassador Petritsch represented his country at the UN and since 2008 he is the Austrian Representative to the OECD in Paris. Mr Petritsch has published extensively on humanitarian intervention and post-conflict reconstruction, with a focus on former Yugoslavia. He is the Chair of the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam), of the Center for European Integration Strategies (CEIS, Geneva), the Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding (IICP, Vienna) and the Paul Lazarsfeld Gesellschaft (Vienna). Mr. Petritsch is the recipient of the 2006 European Human Rights Award.

Nicu Popescu is adviser on European integration and foreign relations to Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat since early 2010. Previously he was a research fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), London office, dealing with the Eastern neighbourhood of the EU. From 2005-2007 he was a research fellow at CEPS and in early 2005 he was visiting research fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris. Before, in 2004, he taught European and Russian foreign policies at the Mathias Corvinus Collegium and the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. He was OSI International Policy Fellow (2005-2006), fellow of the European Foreign and Security Policy Studies Fellowship of Compagnia di San Paulo (2007-2008), and editor of Eurojournal.org. He holds a doctorate in International Relations from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Christoph Prantner heads the foreign desk of *Der Standard*, the leading quality daily in Austria. He covers mainly the U.S., Transatlantic Relations, the EU and the Far East. Prior to his appointment as foreign editor in 2007 he was a reporter on foreign news as well as on metro news. Christoph, who is based in Vienna, has worked also for the German daily *Die Welt* and is a contributor to *Internazionale*, the *BBC* and *Al-Jazeera*. He holds a masters degree in Philosophy, Political Science and History of the University of Vienna and spent a

year on a scholarship at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA). In 2007 he was a U.S.-Austrian Journalism Exchange Fellow in Washington, D.C., working for *USA Today*.

Franz Karl Prüller is Programme Director Social Affairs and has been with ERSTE Foundation since 2005. He comes from 17 years of service with Caritas Austria, one of the main charitable organisations and social service providers in Austria. He has served for the last 9 years as secretary general in charge of the international programmes and project department of Caritas Austria. Before 1996 he was in charge of the Central and Eastern European programme and the disaster relief programme of Caritas. During his time with the CEE programme from 1989 to 1993 he helped to re-establish Caritas organisations from the Czech Republic to Romania and Bulgaria. Franz Karl Prüller has studied forestry at the University for Agriculture and Forestry in Vienna and holds a BA in International Studies from Webster University, St. Louis/USA as well as a Master of Science in Development Management from the Open University in England.

Filip Radunović studied communication and political science at the University of Vienna. His Master's and PhD Thesis focused on semiotics and media psychology. He worked as a researcher at the Institute for Communication and Media science in Vienna on projects about journalism in crisis and conflict situations and studies about the effects of print and TV advertisements. Beside his academic interests Filip also worked for KulturKontakt Austria in Podgorica on the reform of the Montenegrin vocational education system and is currently working as a project manager at ERSTE Foundation's Europe programme in Vienna, where he oversees initiatives with focuses on gender, architecture and community affairs of the Foundation. He continues his research interests as a lecturer of media theories and psychology at the University of Montenegro.

Claudia Reinprecht works in the cabinet of the Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger in Vienna. Within the cabinet, her portfolio includes international law issues, including human rights and humanitarian law, Austrian foreign cultural policy and development cooperation. She has been working for the Austrian Foreign Ministry for six years with duty stations in Brussels during the Austrian EU presidency in 2006, Vienna and Amman/Jordan. Her responsibilities in Brussels included work in council groups on Eastern Europe and Central Asia as well as for non-EU West Europe countries, including EFTA and EEA. She has worked in several departments of the Austrian Foreign Ministry, including in the Legal Office and the Political Department. Prior to entering the Foreign Ministry, she acquired experience in research and advocacy work as well as in the Austrian justice system. Claudia studied law in Salzburg, Austria and Salamanca, Spain.

Alex Rondos has 12 years experience in relief and development work, in the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. After two years at the World Bank, he became an adviser to then Foreign Minister of Greece, George Papandreou, counselling him and implementing changes in Greek strategy in the Balkans and Turkey as well as helping manage the Greek Presidency of the European Union during the Iraq crisis. He led the Greek humanitarian mission to Turkey following the earthquake there in 1999 that led to a rapprochement between Greece and Turkey. Since 2004, Mr. Rondos serves on the board of various international initiatives, and advises leading politicians in South East Europe, the Caucasus and the Middle East.

Franz Salm-Reifferscheidt, born in 1944, finished his university education in Vienna and Linz with a PhD in law in 1970 and first worked in banking, for Sal. Oppenheim bank in

Cologne, Chemical bank in London and Carl Spaengler & Co. bank in Salzburg. Since 1978, Mr. Salm-Reifferscheidt has been with Messrs. HiPP, the baby food producer, establishing and developing the markets in Austria, Switzerland and Israel. He successfully established two production plants in Hungary (1995) and Croatia (2000) with 6 daughter sales companies, several representative offices and delivery to a total of 34 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle Far East. Mr. Salm-Reifferscheidt is also the founder of “Pro Infantibus”, an association for postgraduate education at Austrian hospitals for paediatricians coming from CEE-countries. Mr. Salm-Reifferscheidt is, among many other distinguished posts, member of the Advisory Board of ERSTE Foundation.

Michael Spindelegger has been Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria since December 2008. Born in 1959, he held various positions in Austrian politics, including member of the Cabinet of the Minister of Defence, speaker on European Relations and later Deputy Head of ÖAAB, the Employees’ Association of the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP), Member of the Federal Council and later of the National Council in the Austrian Parliament, and Member of the European Parliament. An Austrian MP again since 1996, he held the positions of Party Speaker on Foreign Affairs and Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs for ten years. From 2000 until 2006 he was Deputy Parliamentary Group Leader of the Austrian Peoples Party and – from 2002 until 2006 – Head of the Austrian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. From 2006 to 2008 Mr Spindelegger was second President of the Austrian National Council. He is married and has two children.

Kai Strittmatter was born in 1965 in Lindenberg, Germany. From 1984-92 he studied Sinology in Munich, Xi’an (PR China) and Taipeh (Taiwan) and joined “Süddeutsche Zeitung” as an editor at the Foreign Desk in 1994. From 1997-2005 he served as Süddeutsche Zeitung’s correspondent in Beijing, China. Since 2005 he has been correspondent in Istanbul, Turkey. Kai Strittmatter is author of several books on Istanbul, China and Hongkong.

Rory Stewart was born in Hong Kong in 1971 and grew up in Malaysia. He served briefly as an officer in the British Army (the Black Watch), studied history and philosophy at Balliol College, Oxford, and then joined the British Diplomatic Service. He worked in the British Embassy in Indonesia and then, in the wake of the Kosovo campaign, as the British Representative in Montenegro. In 2000 he took two years off and began walking from Turkey to Bangladesh. He covered 6000 miles on foot alone across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal – a journey described in the New York Times bestseller *The Places in Between*. In 2003, he became the coalition Deputy Governor of Maysan and Dhi Qar – two provinces in the Marsh Arab region of Southern Iraq, an experience described in *The Prince of the Marshes*. In 2004, he became a Fellow of the Carr Centre at Harvard University and set up the Turquoise Mountain Foundation in Kabul, which is investing in the regeneration of the historic commercial centre of Kabul. Since May 2010 he is a Member of Parliament for Penrith and the Border in the county of Cumbria, North West England.

Vessela Tcherneva is Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria and member of the Political Cabinet of Foreign Minister Mladenov since February 2010. Between 2008 and 2010 Mrs Tcherneva was Director of the Bulgarian office of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Before she was Programme Director of the Centre for Liberal Strategies since 2003. Between 2004 and 2006 she worked as Secretary of the International Commission on the Balkans, chaired by former Italian Prime Minister Giuliano

Amato. She is observing editor of the Bulgaria edition of *Foreign Policy* since its launch in 2005.

Andreas Treichl was born 1952 in Vienna. After studying economics at Vienna University from 1971 to 1975, he went to New York being responsible for Corporate Finance from 1977-1983 at Chase Manhattan Bank. He entered Die Erste österreichische Spar-Casse in 1983, responsible for key accounts. In 1986, Mr Treichl became CEO of Chase Manhattan Bank Austria and, 1993, CEO of Crédit Lyonnais Austria. From 1994 to 1997 he was Member of the Managing Board of Die Erste österreichische Spar-Casse Bank AG. Since July 1997 he is CEO and Chairman of the Managing Board of Die Erste österreichische Spar-Casse Bank AG, now Erste Bank. Since 2003 he is also Chairman of the Managing Board of ERSTE Foundation, the major shareholder of ERSTE Bank.

Alexandros Yannīs is currently Member of the Cabinet of Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission. Between 2002-2009 he worked in the EU Council General Secretariat and for Javier Solana, the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, covering particularly the Balkans, including the Kosovo status negotiations, the Caucasus as well as the Cyprus negotiations. In 1999-2000 he worked in Kosovo in the office of Bernard Kouchner, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, and between 1994-1997 he was based in Kenya where he worked with the EU Special Envoy to Somalia. He has also worked as an Associate Professor at the Fletcher School in Boston and he is Research Associate of ELIAMEP in Athens. He studied law and international relations in the Law School of Athens University, the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva University (PH.D) and the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University in New York.

Samuel Žbogar is the Foreign Minister of Slovenia. He was born in 1962 and graduated in international relations at the University of Ljubljana. In his 22 years as a diplomat he was included in all major political projects of Slovenian foreign policy. Between 2004 and 2008 he was Ambassador to the United States. As State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs between 2001 and 2004 he supported the strengthening of the humanitarian aspect of foreign policy and led the project group for the preparation of Slovenia's OSCE Presidency. He was also a member of the EU membership negotiation group and the main negotiator for NATO membership. Between 1997 and 2001 he was Deputy Ambassador to the UN and the Deputy of Slovenia's Permanent Representative to the UN Security Council during Slovenia's elected membership in 1998 and 1999. He opened the Slovenian Embassy in Beijing, where he worked from 1993 to 1995. After returning from Washington in October 2008 he briefly became the Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies in Ljubljana before being appointed Foreign Minister in November 2008.