

## *Strategic challenges in the area between the Adriatic and the Black Sea*

*20 February 2017*

### **Speakers' profiles**



**Mr. ambassador Sergiu Celac**, former minister of Foreign Affairs and former Romanian ambassador to UK, member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center

*Ambassador Sergiu Celac held numerous positions in the Romanian diplomatic service and he has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the first post-communist Government. He served as English and Russian interpreter to successive Romanian Presidents (1961-78). He was appointed Ambassador to United Kingdom (1990-96) and Ireland (1991-96) and later served as Personal Adviser to the President of Romania and Alternate Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies in Athens.*



**Dr. Sandro Knezović**, Senior Research Associate, Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb (Croatia).

*Sandro Knezović earned his academic degree in Political Science at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb. His research is concentrated on IR topics, especially those related to international and European security and defence (CFSP/CSDP), the EU and NATO enlargement and its impact on the region of Southeast Europe.*

*He was the first Croatian visiting researcher fellow at the renowned EU Institute for Security Studies in Paris and a visiting lecturer at several universities in Japan. He is a member of numerous international expert teams and research networks and he has participated as a researcher on many international research projects and he has published a number of scientific and professional papers and books related to the field of his expertise.*



**H.E. Davor Vidiš**, Ambassador of Croatia in Romania

*Davor Vidiš has entered the Croatian diplomatic service in 1993. He served in several Croatian embassies in Central-East and South-East Europe (Belgrade, Bratislava, Prishtina, Vilnius). Moreover, he occupied also the position of Director General for Neighboring Countries and South Eastern Europe (2008-2012). Since 2015 he has been the Ambassador of Croatia to Romania. In 2014, he received received a PhD. in Information's and Communication Science at the University of Zadar and he speaks English, Slovakian, Czech and German.*



**Dr. Cosmin Ioniță**, Director for research programmes, New Strategy Center

*Cosmin Ioniță received a PhD. in Russo-Romanian relations from the University of Bucharest in 2015. His main research interests are the geopolitics in South-East Europe and the relations between Russia and Romania. He has been the Director for research programmes at New Strategy Center since 2015. He is a member of an international academic project dedicated to the political situation in the Balkans. Since 2016 he is an assistant professor at the Faculty of History, University of Bucharest. He published several academic articles and policy papers. He speaks English, French, Italian and Russian.*



**Mr. Horia Ciurtin**, Associate Expert, New Strategy Center

*Horia Ciurtin was one of the co-authors of the volume dedicated to the ICSID Convention and published by Kluwer Law International, signing the study "Paradoxes of (Sovereign) Consent: On the Uses and Abuses of a Notion in International Investment Law", in Crina Baltag (ed.), ICSID Convention After 50 Years: Unsettled Issues, Kluwer International, 2017.*

*In 2014, awarded with the Honorable Mention in the Nappert Prize in International Arbitration and International Commercial Law (organized by McGill University).*

*Author of two books, numerous chapters in collective volumes, as well as of multiple studies and policy papers in domestic and international academic journals, in the field of international law and international relations, constitutional law and legal philosophy.*

*He is also Legal Adviser in the field of international investment law and international arbitration; Managing Editor of the EFILA Blog which appears under the auspices of the European Federation for Investment Law and Arbitration (Brussels), as well as Editor at VERSO Journal (Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, Romania).*



**Dr. Ana-Maria Boromisa**, President of Scientific Council, Institute for Development and International Relations in Zagreb (Croatia).

*Ana-Maria Boromisa took her doctorate at the Economics Faculty in Zagreb (2004), a master's in European Studies, College of Europe, Natolin, Poland (1995) and her first degree at the Electrical Engineering Faculty in Zagreb (1994). She was a member of the Croatian Energy Regulatory Council (2001-2005)*

*and of the IRMO management board (2006-2012)- Since 2013 she is president of the IRMO Scientific Bord.*

*Her research interests include trade policy, energy economics and environmental economics. In these areas Ana-Maria Boromisa manages projects, publishes papers, teaches and gives speeches at lectures and participates at conferences. She teaches at postgraduate level at the University of Zagreb (the Advanced Master of European Studies Programme at the Faculty of Political Science and Preparation and Implementation of EU-funded projects). She writes and speaks in Croatian and English, and also uses French and German.*



**H.E. Mihnea Constantinescu**, Ambassador at Large, Special representative for Energy Security, MFA, Romania

*Mihnea Constantinescu is Ambassador at large, Special representative for Energy Security in the MFA. Previously, he served for different Governments as Director of the Prime Minister's Office, State Counselor and Diplomatic Counselor to the Prime Minister, spokesman of the Government. As a*

*diplomat in the MFA he was State Secretary Coordinator, General Director for political affairs, and director of policy planning. In 2001 he acted as Personal Representative of the CiO-OSCE for South Eastern Europe during Romanian Chairmanship and in 2003 he was the Romanian representative to the Provisional Authority in Baghdad and advisor to the Iraqi MFA. Before joining the diplomatic service he was a faculty member at the University Politehnica of Bucharest in Nuclear Power Engineering where he obtained the doctorate in Power Engineering.*