



Digital Justice Ministerial Forum

12 October

Speaker's biographies



Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice

A father of four, Didier Reynders was born in Liège on 6th August 1958. In 1981, he obtained a degree in law at the University of Liège. Guest lecturer at the universities of Liège and Louvain, he has never really left the academic life until he became on 1st December 2019 European Commissioner for Justice.

After presiding the Belgian railways and the Belgian Airways Agency, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the PRL (Liberal party), before becoming a Member of Parliament in 1992.

On 12th July 1999, he became Minister of Finance (until 6th December 2011) and, on 18th July 2004, (concurrently) Deputy Prime Minister (until 30th November 2019).

He was Chairman of the Mouvement Réformateur (liberal party alliance) from 11th October 2004 until 14th February 2011. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs from 6th December 2011 until 11th October 2014.

He became Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, in charge of Beliris and Federal Cultural Institutions on 11th October 2014 (until 30th November 2019).

He has also been Minister of Defense since 9 December 2018.

Since 1st December 2019 he is European Commissioner for Justice, in charge of Rule of Law and Consumer Protection.



Marjan Dikaučič, Minister of Justice - Slovenia

Marjan Dikaučič graduated at the Faculty of Law in 2006 and attained his law degree. Afterwards he was employed as a trainee lawyer at Ljubljana Court of Appeal. He passed his bar examination in 2009 and then continued his career in the private business. His work to this date was interconnected with both public service and private business. He gained knowledge and experience in a variety of fields of law and business activities. After passing the professional examination to act as a liquidator in insolvency and compulsory liquidation proceedings he worked as a liquidator and was engaged in studying issues related to insolvency law. He was appointed Minister of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia 15 June 2021.



Adrián Vázquez Lázara, Chair, JURI Committee, European Parliament

Adrián Vázquez Lázara (Madrid, 1982) is a Spanish politician, Member of the European Parliament for Ciudadanos (Citizens), which is part of the Renew Europe parliamentary group.

He is currently chairing the Legal Affairs Committee (JURI), and he is a Substitute Member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee (AGRI).

Previous to his nomination as a Member of the European Parliament in February 2020, Mr. Vázquez was the Chief of Cabinet of the Delegation of “Ciudadanos Europeos”. From this position, he coordinated the international and European activity of Ciudadanos, contributing to its incorporation into the ALDE European liberal family and negotiated the electoral coalition between ALDE and Emmanuel Macron’s political party. Renew Europe, the third largest political group of the Parliament, is the result of that coalition.

With a Master in International Relations from the University of Warwick (United Kingdom) and a Degree in International Studies from the University of Lindenwood (Missouri, United States), Mr. Vázquez has a vast experience in international affairs and international organizations. He has worked in different organizations such as the OSCE, NATO or the Korean Trade Agency, and was an advisor to the former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ana Palacio. He has also worked as a Public Affairs consultant.

Convinced pro-European, Mr. Vázquez has spent most of his professional career defending and empowering the European project. He has also played a key role in the promotion of youth movement “CCEuropa”.

Currently, his work and efforts are focused in the JURI and AGRI Committees, as well as in his membership of the Delegation for relations with the People’s Republic of China (as a full member) and the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (as a substitute member).



Maris Lauri, Minister of Justice - Estonia

Maris Lauri (born 1 January 1966) is an Estonian politician, Minister of Justice since 2021 and a member of the Reform Party. She was the Minister of Finance in Taavi Rõivas’s first cabinet from November 2014 to April 2015 and later as the Minister of Education and Research in 2016. Before her nomination, Lauri worked as the adviser for the Prime Minister. Previously she has worked as the head economist of Swedbank and for the Bank of Estonia.

Lauri was chosen to the Riigikogu in the 2015 election with 4,019 personal votes. She was elected again to the Riigikogu in 2019.



Marta Cartabia, Minister of Justice - Italy

Marta Cartabia is an Italian jurist and academic who has been serving as Minister of Justice in the government of Prime Minister Mario Draghi since 2021. Cartabia previously was Judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy between 2011 and 2020, Vice President from 12 November 2014 to 11 December 2019 and President from 11 December 2019 to 13 September 2020. She is a professor of constitutional law. She was the first woman to hold the office of President of the Constitutional Court



Judit Varga, Minister of Justice - Hungary

Dr Judit Varga was born in 1980 in Miskolc. In 2004, she graduated summa cum laude from the Faculty of Law of University of Miskolc. After obtaining her law degree, she worked as a trainee associate at Freshfields, Bruckhaus, Deringer and then at Hogan & Hartson law firms in Budapest. After that, until 2009, she worked as a trainee judge at the Budapest Regional Court and the Central District Court of Pest. She passed her bar exam in 2009 and then worked for nine years as a political advisor to several MEPs, in Brussels, among others, for Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary during his MEP's mandate. She also attended a summer training on energy law at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies of the European University Institute in Florence in 2015. Since 2018, she has worked as Minister of State for EU Relations at the Prime Minister's Office and as Minister of Justice since July 2019. She speaks English, German and French fluently, Spanish at conversational level.



Edward Zammit Lewis, Minister for Justice and Governance - Malta

First elected in 2013, he was immediately appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Through his office, Dr Zammit Lewis spearheaded two flagship initiatives, namely the Global Residence Programme and the Individual Investor Programme.

Dr Zammit Lewis was subsequently appointed Minister for Tourism, which post he occupied until the 2017 general election. During his tenure, the Ministry for Tourism managed to surpass the 2 million tourist a year target, eradicate seasonality and enhance airline connectivity to the Maltese Islands.

Under his stewardship, Malta strengthened its legal framework regulating the aviation industry in a bid to establish itself as a European hub for aircraft leasing, finance and other related activities.

Following his re-election to Parliament in 2017, the Hon. Zammit Lewis chaired two important Parliamentary Standing Committees; the Committee for Foreign & European Affairs and the Committee for the Scrutiny of Certain Public Appointments; besides his active participation in four other Parliamentary Standing Committees.

Dr Zammit Lewis returned to Cabinet in 2019 as Minister for European Affairs and Equality, with his first Parliamentary endeavors being the 2 landmark bills enshrining the Equality Act and the Human Rights and Equality Commission Act into Maltese law.

Following the appointment of Dr Robert Abela as Malta's fourteenth Prime Minister in January 2020, Dr Zammit Lewis was entrusted with the very important brief of Justice, Equality and Governance. This at a time when Government is fully committed to accelerate the implementation of cross-cutting reforms which will strengthen the rule of law and the autonomous functioning of national institutions.

Edward Zammit Lewis is a lawyer by profession, and has led a successful career in the civil, commercial, administrative and constitutional law areas. He also holds a BA in European Studies and International Relations.



Sander Dekker, Minister for Legal Protection - The Netherlands

As part of his degree, Sander Dekker conducted research on the police and criminal justice system. He went on to work for the COT Institute for Safety, Security and Crisis Management, which initiates and provides research studies, courses and training in disaster response and large-scale police operations. He was also a member of the temporary parliamentary committee reviewing investigative methods.

After graduating, Mr Dekker conducted research and taught public administration at Leiden University. In 2001 he was an associated visiting researcher at Oxford University's Centre for European Politics, Economics and Society.

From 2003 to 2006 he represented the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) in The Hague municipal council, and from 2006 to 2010 served as portfolio holder for education, youth and sport. From 2010 to 2012 he was portfolio holder for finance and city management.

On 5 November 2012 Mr Dekker was appointed State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science in the second Rutte government.

On 26 October 2017 Sander Dekker was appointed Minister for Legal Protection in the third Rutte government.

Mr Dekker has held various outside posts connected with his membership of The Hague municipal council. He was also chair of the Rathenau Institute and a member of the city's 2028 Olympic Committee.



Sebastian Kaleta, Deputy Minister of Justice - Poland

Sebastian Kaleta was born in 1989.

In 2013, he graduated with honours in law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, then in 2017 completed his attorney-at-law training at the Regional Association of Attorneys-at-Law in Warsaw.

In 2016, Sebastian Kaleta joined the Ministry of Justice, where he was the spokesman of the Minister of Justice Zbigniew Ziobro and since June 2017 a member of the Warsaw Real Estate Reprivatisation Committee. In March 2018, he became deputy Chairman of the Warsaw Real Estate Reprivatisation Committee and dealt with mitigating the effects of decisions to reprivatize Warsaw real estate which were issued in violation of law.

He was one of the founders and for many years the Chairman of the Youth for Poland Association [Stowarzyszenie Młodzi dla Polski] (2012-2016). He is a Warsaw city councillor since 2018.

On 10 June 2019 he was appointed Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice.

In October 2019, in the parliamentary elections, he was elected to the Sejm on behalf of the Law and Solidarity Party, receiving 17,459 votes in constituency No. 19 (Warsaw). He remained Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice and moved from the Law and Solidarity Party to the Solidary Poland Party still within the United Right Coalition.

As the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice, he is responsible for legislation in the field of administrative law and European civil law and supervises bailiffs and legal professions. He is also responsible for cooperation and contacts with the European Union, including cases concerning the examination of the rule of law in Poland by EU bodies and the Court of Justice of the European Union.



Emil Radev, Vice-Chair, LIBE Committee, European Parliament

Dr Emil Radev is a Bulgarian lawyer, politician, and a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) since 2014 for GERB (part of the EPP Group). He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). Mr. Radev is also a member of the Committee on Petitions and the Delegation to the Africa Caribbean Pacific-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Additionally, he serves as a substitute member on the Committee on Legal Affairs; the Delegation for Relations with the Korean Peninsula; and the Delegation for Relations to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly.

In his parliamentary work, Emil Radev focuses on justice, home affairs, and fundamental rights. As rapporteur, he has worked on major files such as the Common minimum standards of civil procedure in the EU and the Cooperation between the courts: taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters.

Emil Radev's Bulgarian political career spanned the 41st and 42nd National Assembly. He holds a PhD in Civil and Family Law and a Master of Public Administration.



Sam Muller, CEO of the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law

Sam Muller is the founding director of HiiL. It's mission is to empower 150 million people to prevent or resolve their most pressing justice problems by 2030. An international lawyer by training, Sam works on justice strategy and innovation at the highest political levels, connecting knowledge about needs and what works with change processes that make a difference. The clients he has worked for include governments, international businesses and leading civil society organisations. Sam also led the setting up of the Justice Leadership Foundation and the Wildlife Justice Commission.

Before his work at HiiL he was closely involved in building the International Criminal Court. He worked as legal adviser at UNRWA and the then newly established ICTY. Sam holds a law degree and a doctorate from Leiden University and has taught there. He has published and spoken extensively on various topics: legal trends and strategy, justice leadership, justice innovation, and international justice issues. Sam has served on many boards. He is currently chair of the supervisory board of World Wildlife Fund - The Netherlands and a member of the International Board of WWF. He was chair of the supervisory board of the Wildlife Justice Commission until September 2021 and is now a board member. He served as Senior Adviser to the Task Force on Justice that published a ground-breaking report in July 2019. In addition, he is a member of the Advisory Board of the Impact Investment Exchange, IIX. He was active within the World Economic Forum on the topics of rule of law and justice, chairing two agenda councils. Sam is an alumnus of the Future Leaders Programme of the French Foreign Ministry and of the High Performance Leadership Programme of the IMD. He is also a facilitator of leadership retreats for the Foundation for Natural Leadership.



Wojciech Wiewiórowski, the European Data Protection Supervisor

European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) since December 2019.

Adjunct professor in the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk. He was among others adviser in the field of e-government and information society for the Minister of Interior and Administration, the Director of the Informatisation Department at the Ministry of Interior and Administration. He also represented Poland in committee on Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (the ISA Committee) assisting the European Commission.

The Inspector General for the Protection of Personal Data (Polish Data Protection Commissioner) 2010-2014 and the Vice Chair of the Working Party Art. 29 in 2014. In December 2014, he was appointed Assistant European Data Protection Supervisor. After the death of the Supervisor - Giovanni Buttarelli in August 2019 - he replaced Mr. Buttarelli as acting EDPS.

His areas of scientific activity include first of all Polish and European IT law, processing and security of information, legal information retrieval systems, informatisation of public administration, and application of new IT tools (semantic web, legal ontologies, cloud, blockchain) in legal information processing



Raul Rădoi, Secretary General of the Council of the Notariats of the European Union, Brussels

Raul-Mihai Rădoi, born in 1977 in Timisoara, Romania, has been Secretary General of the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNUE) since 1 January 2016. Between 2007 and 2015, he was Adviser on EU affairs and representative in Brussels of the National Union of Civil Law Notaries of Romania, where between 2012-2016 he coordinated the European Notarial Network. Beforehand, he worked as a diplomat and counsellor on EU affairs at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds two University degrees, in Law and in European Studies from the University of Cluj and obtained a Master's Degree in Political Science in 2003. He graduated the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna 38th Promotion "Bertha von Suttner". He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of European Law, of the European Law Institute Council and of the European Commission's Expert group on European Judicial Training.



Margarete von Galen, President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe

Since 1 January 2021, the CCBE has been chaired by Margarete von Galen (Germany) following her election by the CCBE Plenary Session on 27 November 2020. Margarete von Galen has been practising as a lawyer in Berlin since 1983 and as a specialist lawyer in criminal law since 1998. Alongside activities as criminal defence lawyer, she advises on compliance issues and acts as External Ombudsperson for several companies. From 2004 to 2009, she was the President of the Berlin Bar. She has been a judge at the Constitutional Court of the State of Berlin since 2014. In 2008, she joined the CCBE Criminal Law Committee and, from 2015 to 2017, she was a member of the German CCBE Delegation



Patrick Sannino, President of the French National Chamber of commissaires de justice and the European Bailiff's Foundation

Patrick Sannino, born on January 11, 1952 in Algiers, is the president of the French National Chamber of commissaires de justice and the European Bailiff's Foundation. He received his diploma from the National School of Procedure in 1978. In 2008, he joined the board of the National Chamber of Bailiffs, as treasurer from 2008 to 2012 and subsequently as vice-president from 2012 to 2013. He was elected president of the National Chamber of Bailiff in 2014. He is the president of the National Chamber of commissaires de justice since January 2019, after being elected President of the Professional Section of Bailiffs of said chamber, and the president of the European Bailiffs' Foundation since January 2018. Patrick Sannino is a Commander in the National Order of the Legion of Honour since 2019.



Salla Saastamoinen, Acting Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

Salla Saastamoinen has been acting Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers since February 2020, overseeing a wide range of policy areas, including civil and criminal justice, fundamental rights, data protection, rule of law, equality, citizenship and consumer protection. She is also Director for Civil and Commercial Justice since October 2016. Previously she was the Director for Equality as from 2014. As Director for Civil and Commercial Justice, she is in charge of the development and consolidation of the European area of civil justice, in particular of civil procedural law, private international law, contract law and company law. Salla Saastamoinen has worked in the Commission for 20 years, starting in the Directorate-General for Environment and then working in several areas in the Directorate-General for Justice. Before joining the Commission, Salla Saastamoinen was an associate partner in a law office in Helsinki, Finland. She has a licentiate degree in law from the University of Helsinki, Finland, and post-graduate studies in law from the universities of Saarbrücken, Germany and Zürich, Switzerland.



Krum Garkov, Executive Director of eu-LISA

Krum has more than 20 years of cross-cultural experiences spanning the public and private sectors. He took up the Executive Director post at eu-LISA in November 2012 and has led the Agency with the vision to promote information and communication technologies as a key success factor for integrated border management and law enforcement at the EU level. He sees eu-LISA's mission in helping Member States in their efforts for safer Europe and ensuring the continuous and stable service delivery to them in the ever evolving digital environment.

Before eu-LISA, he was the Operations Director for Experian Group Ltd., a leading global information provider serving the finance industry. Prior to that, Krum was Program Manager at Hewlett-Packard. He has also served the National Revenue Agency, as well as the Centre for Mass Privatization in Bulgaria. Krum holds an M. Sc. in Computer Technologies (Varna), an MBA in Information Systems (Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey) and has received executive education from London School of Business & Finance with an MBA in Management Consulting.



Alfredo Nunzi, Acting Deputy Executive Director Governance Europol

Alfredo Nunzi is the Head of the Institutional and Legal Affairs Department of Europol, which he joined in 2001 and where he has also held the positions of Secretary of the Management Board and Head of Administration.

From 1991 to 2001, he served with the United Nations, initially as legal expert and then as project manager in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice in post-conflict areas.

Holds a degree in law from the University of Rome (Italy) and a doctorat en droit penal from the University of Nantes (France).



Andrés Ritter, Deputy European Chief Prosecutor

Andrés Ritter joined the Prosecution Service in Germany in 1995 and served at different Prosecution Offices before he became Deputy Prosecutor General in the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in 2008. From 2010 on, he headed various Public Prosecution Offices, most recently from 2013 to 2020 being Chief Prosecutor at the specialized Public Prosecution Office for Economic Crime and Cybercrime in Rostock. He is a German representative at the International Association of Judges which is committed worldwide to judicial independence and is a member of the Study Commission on Criminal Law. Andrés Ritter was appointed Deputy European Chief Prosecutor by the College of the EPPO on 11 November 2020.



Ladislav Hamran, President of Eurojust

Ladislav Hamran has been the President of Eurojust since November 2017. In addition, Mr Hamran is National Member for the Slovak Republic at Eurojust.

Mr Hamran is a prosecutor with over 20 years of experience, particularly in cases involving economic crime, corruption and asset recovery.

After completing his legal studies at the Faculty of Law of Comenius University in Bratislava, Mr Hamran started working as a prosecutor in 1997. In 2003, he joined the General Prosecution Office in Bratislava, where he was mainly investigating and prosecuting cases involving economic crime and corruption until his secondment to Eurojust in September 2007.

In December 2013, Mr Hamran was elected Vice-President of Eurojust. He was re-elected Vice-President in December 2016. Mr Hamran intends to use his term of office to further modernise and professionalise Eurojust, based on the principles of objectivity, fairness, transparency and integrity.

Mr Hamran is married with two children. He speaks Slovak, English, Hungarian and Russian.



Ernesto Bianchi, Deputy Director-General. European Anti-Fraud Office, European Commission

Ernesto started his career in the European Commission in 1994 in the Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs where he became Assistant to the Director-General. In 2000 Ernesto moved to the Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security to work as an assistant to the Spokesman and Director-General, and in 2004, he was appointed Head of Unit and subsequently managed several units in different Directorate Generals. Ernesto became Director in the European Anti-Fraud Office in 2015, first responsible for Agricultural and Structural funds and later for Trade and Customs Fraud, Tobacco and counterfeit goods. Currently he is overseeing Revenue and International Operations, Investigations and Strategy, in addition to acting Deputy Director-General in-charge of Operations and Investigations since 2020.



Věra Jourová, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency

Věra Jourová is currently Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency and deals with democracy, rule of law, disinformation and media pluralism. From 2014 to 2019, she served as EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality. In 2014, before arriving to the European Commission, Ms Jourová held the position of Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. Previous to this, from 2006 to 2013, she worked in her own company as an international consultant on European Union funding, and was also involved in consultancy activities in the Western Balkans relating to the European Union Accession. She holds a Degree in Law (Mgr.) and a Master's degree (Mgr.) in the Theory of Culture from the Charles University, Prague.