

EU CITIZENS' GATHERING 2024



SPEAKERS



Miguel BERGER has been Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Kingdom since May 2022. From May 2020 to January 2022, he was a State Secretary at the Federal Foreign Office. Prior to that he was Director General for Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development (2016-2020), Regional Director for the Near and Middle East and the Maghreb (2014-2016), and Commissioner for Globalisation, Energy and Climate Policy (2013-2014).



Andrzej BIELECKI is Chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of Belgium in the UK. He previously served as adviser in the cabinet of the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs. His international postings include roles at the Belgian Embassy in Kenya, at the EU delegation in Mali, as well as key positions at Belgium's Permanent Representation to the United Nations in New York and the Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels. Bielecki holds degrees in law and political science.



Veronica BORTOLATO is an experienced EUSS adviser for Settled, a UK charity established in 2019 to support EU citizens affected by Brexit. With a master's degree in legal practice and a background as a linguistic and intercultural mediator, Veronica offers a unique perspective on the challenges faced by EU citizens and their families. Over the past four years, she has dedicated herself to assisting individuals in navigating the complexities of the EU Settlement Scheme, in submitting applications and providing guidance to secure their rights to remain in the UK.



Mihnea CUIBUS is a researcher at The Migration Observatory and a DPhil Candidate in Politics at Nuffield College, University of Oxford. Before joining The Migration Observatory, Mihnea worked as a lecturer at Regent's Park College, University of Oxford, and held several research and teaching assistant positions at the University. He previously completed a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and an MPhil in European Politics at the same institution. Mihnea is a quantitative researcher whose primary interests lie at the intersection of migration, politics and policy. His doctoral thesis focuses on the political effects of migration on democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.



Richard FOORD has been a Liberal Democrat MP since June 2022. He served in the Army for more than a decade, reaching the rank of Major. He completed tours in Iraq and the Balkans, serving as a UN peacekeeper in Kosovo. Before being elected as an MP, Richard worked for the University of Exeter and the University of Oxford.



Dominic GRIEVE KC PC is the president of the Franco-British Society. He was awarded the Legion of Honour in 2016, and broadcasts in French on French radio and television. He is a British barrister and former MP who served as Shadow Home Secretary from 2008 to 2009 and Attorney General for England and Wales from 2010 to 2014. He was MP for Beaconsfield from 1997 to 2019 and Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee from 2015 to 2019.



Ilana JACKMAN is a fundraising coach and consultant. Ilana has worked for 25 years in the voluntary and not-for-profit sector, honing her skills and knowledge in income generation and fundraising. Working 12 years in-house in a number of small, medium and large charities, Ilana has directly raised over £20 million of funding from major donors, regular donors, corporate donors and legacies. For the last 13 years, Ilana has worked across the charity sector as a coach and campaign consultant to support not-for-profit organisations to boost their income.



Kyriacós KOUROS became High Commissioner of Cyprus to the UK in April 2024. Prior to this, he served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Cyprus. Previously, he served as the Director of the Diplomatic Office of the President of the Republic, and National Security Adviser to the President of the Republic and Head of the Intelligence Service. Mr Kouros is a career diplomat who joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. During his varied career, he has served in different overseas posts and in various departments within the Ministry.



Ferenc KUMIN has served as the Ambassador of Hungary to the UK since 2020. Previously he held positions as the Deputy State Secretary for the Development of European and American Affairs, the Consul General of Hungary in New York, and the Deputy State Secretary of International Communications. He has a PhD in political science and government from the Corvinus University of Budapest.



Inigo LAMBERTINI has been serving as Ambassador of Italy to the UK and Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organisation since 2022. He began his diplomatic career in 1987 at the Directorate General for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1991 and 2005, he served at Italian embassies in Kinshasa, Brasilia and Washington, as well as at the Permanent Representations to the EU and the OECD in Paris. He also served as Deputy Director General at the Directorate General for Economic, Cultural, and Scientific Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In 2014, he was appointed Italy's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. From 2018 to 2022, he was Chief of the Italian Diplomatic Protocol. He is Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Italy. He has also received many foreign decorations.



Baroness Sarah LUDFORD is a Liberal Democrat peer and a member of the European Affairs Committee. Baroness Ludford has been a Member of the House of Lords since 1997 and was a Member of the European Parliament for London between 1999-2014. In the European Parliament, she was the UK Liberal Democrat European spokeswoman on justice & human rights. Previously she was a councillor in the London Borough of Islington.



Aude MAIO-COLICHE is the Director of Strategic Communication and Foresight at the European External Action Service (EEAS). Previously, Ms. Maio-Coliche served as EU Ambassador to Venezuela and to Argentina and held roles within the European Commission and the EEAS, including responsibility for EU-Colombia and EU-Latin America relations, as well as EU-Central Africa relations. She contributed to the shaping of the human resources policies of the then newly created European External Action Service in 2011. She has also worked in the private sector, providing consultancy services in EU affairs for international companies.



Robert MARIN is the Consul General of Romania in London. He leads the largest and busiest Romanian consular mission abroad, serving approximately 750,000 Romanian nationals in England and Wales. Robert has skilfully guided the consulate through multiple overlapping crises, including Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. His efforts were recognized with the 'Consul of the Year 2022' award from the prestigious Embassy Magazine. For the past 20 years, Robert has championed the fight against human trafficking of Romanian nationals in the UK through projects, campaigns, and partnerships with the British government. He is also a former Secretary of State for International Cooperation at the Romanian Ministry of the Interior, in charge of EU matters and international relations.



Lydia MARTIN has worked with minority and marginalised communities for over 20 years, and for New Europeans UK since 2019. As Deputy Head of Projects her focus is on developing partnerships in the voluntary and community sector to strengthen awareness of post-Brexit life in the UK for EU communities, and the support available to them. She also coordinates the Civil Society EUSS Alliance which is made up of groups and organisations across the UK which support EU citizens.



Irena MOOZOVÁ is Deputy Director-General, DG Justice and Consumers at the European Commission, responsible for the International Dimension of Justice Policies, Rule of Law, and Equality. Ms Moozová has served for nearly 19 years in various roles at the European Commission. Previously, she was a diplomat with the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving as the Permanent Delegate of the Czech Republic to UNESCO, Deputy Chief of Mission to the OSCE, and Deputy Ambassador to Spain.



Victor NEGRESCU is an MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament, and the European Parliament's general rapporteur for the European Union budget for 2025. He is a Romanian politician of the Social Democratic Party and was Minister Delegate for European Affairs in Government of Romania between 2017 and 2018. In the context of Brexit, Negrescu was part of the team which defined the strategy of the Romanian Government in the Brexit process. He met with representatives of the Romanian community in the UK and held consultations with the European Union negotiating team.



Susanne OBERHAUSER has been Head of the European Parliament Office in London since 2019. Previously she worked for the European Parliament in Brussels, where she was involved in the conception and creation of the Parliamentarium, the European Parliament's visitor centre. Previously, Susanne served in the Cabinets of EP Presidents Josep Borrell Fontelles and Klaus Hänsch.



Jack O'CONNOR is Vice-chair of the EESC EU-UK Follow-up Committee, a committee responsible for building and fostering strong relations between EU and UK civil society organisations. From Ireland, his background is in trade union leadership and social policy.



Manuela PERTEGHELLA Manuela PERTEGHELLA has been the Liberal Democrat MP for Stratford-on-Avon since July 2024. She is the Chair Delegate of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Citizens' Rights. After a career in higher education, she was elected to Stratford-on-Avon District Council. Manuela holds a doctorate in literature and translation. She worked for several years as a university lecturer, published research in the field of European literature, and has produced community arts projects.



Isabell POPPELBAUM is the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to the United Kingdom. Prior to her appointment, Ms Poppelbaum served for four years as political adviser to the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs/Political Director of the European External Action Service in Brussels, covering EU relations with the Asia-Pacific, Global Issues and EU-UK relations. From 2018-2020, she worked on Syria and the Middle East at EEAS headquarters. Previously, Ms Poppelbaum served as a political adviser in Myanmar and Thailand.



Fizza QURESHI is CEO of the Migrants' Rights Network. Fizza joined MRN in August 2016. She previously worked at the Terrence Higgins Trust covering the London and East of England sexual health and HIV services. Before this, she worked as a programme manager for an international medical humanitarian organisation where she was responsible for its UK independent health clinic, and health advocacy programme supporting migrants to access healthcare. Fizza has degrees in human rights and social change, and biotechnology. She previously served as board member of MRN, the Institute of Race Relations, the3million and Healthwatch Newham.



Bell RIBEIRO-ADDY is the Labour MP for Clapham and Brixton Hill, and has been a Member of Parliament since 2019. She chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Afrikan Reparations. She has a Master's degree in Medical Law and Ethics and a Graduate Diploma in Law.



Lord Peter RICKETTS is the Chair of the European Affairs Committee in the House of Lords. He was British Ambassador to France and Monaco between 2012-2016. Previously, he was the British Government's first National Security Adviser and, from 2006 until 2010, the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of H.M. Diplomatic Service. He began his career in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1974 and served as the Assistant Private Secretary to former Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.



Pedro SERRANO is the European Union Ambassador to the United Kingdom. He was Chief of Staff to the European Union's High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy and EC Vice President Josep Borrell Fontelles until October 2022. His previous roles include Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defence Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy. Pedro Serrano was also the first EU Ambassador to the United Nations in New York after the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Born in Madrid, Pedro Serrano is married and has two daughters.



Mike TAPP has been the Member of Parliament for Dover and Deal since July 2024. His background is in the military having served in the Intelligence Corps, with three operational tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, before working at the National Crime Agency and later in a counter-terrorism role at the Ministry of Defence.



Maïke TRIBBELS is a German diplomat with nearly 20 years of experience in diplomacy and international relations who has been heading the EEAS Division for relations with the United Kingdom since February 2023. In previous roles, she worked as a Senior Policy Adviser with the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General, as a Speaker of the Press Service of the German Federal Foreign Minister and on assignments with the German Foreign Service Diplomatic Academy in Berlin and the German Embassy in Moscow. In Brussels since 2014, she has worked in different roles at the German Permanent Representation to the EU before joining the European External Action Service (EEAS) in 2021. Relations between the EU and the United Kingdom have been at the heart of her work in the EEAS, both as Adviser to the EEAS Secretary General and on her current assignment.



Piotr WILCZEK has been the Polish Ambassador to the Court of St James's since 2022 and was the Ambassador to the US from 2016 to 2021. With an academic background, he has held professorships at universities in Poland and the US, contributing to international research and conferences.

CHIEF MODERATOR



Bénédicte PAVIOT is an Anglo-French TV and radio journalist based in London. She's the UK Correspondent for France 24, reporting for both their English and French 24-hour global TV news channels on all major news events in the UK. Previously, she worked as a news and current affairs presenter/reporter for BBC World Service, BBC World, BBC News 24, BBC Radio 4, BBC Radio 5 Live and Radio France Internationale. Bénédicte is also Chair of the UK Advisory Board of Reporters Without Borders, and a former President of the Foreign Press Association in London. She has moderated many international conferences and events - in English and in French - across the world.

WORKSHOP FACILITATORS



Aké ACHI is co-founder and CEO of Black Europeans. He is a dual French and Ivorian national, who moved to the UK almost 20 years ago. Aké is the founding chief executive of Migrants At Work, an award-winning organisation campaigning to prevent state-sponsored human trafficking. Aké was the winner of the human trafficking anti-slavery day award in 202. He was also nominated in the Black Talent Awards 2023. He holds a degree in diplomacy studies and a master's degree in international human rights law.



Fabio MAURI is a traveler, photographer, and IT and communication consultant. In 2018, he founded DG MEME, a satirical page aimed at humorously exploring the challenges, contradictions, and beauty of the European Union. In five years, the page has reached 170K followers, with a fanbase that goes from Erasmus students to the President of the European Parliament.



Luke PIPER is a solicitor and the Head of Immigration for the Work Rights Centre. He has over 10 years of experience advising and assisting clients in all areas of immigration. Previously, as Head of Policy at the3million, he was instrumental in numerous legal and political changes to the lives of EU citizens living in the UK. He brings invaluable expertise in policy influencing, strategic litigation and advocacy to the Work Rights Centre.