

GIFGRF

GLOBAL İLİŞKİLER FORUMU GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM

GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM

75th

ANNIVERSARY EVENT

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

**“NAVIGATING AN UNCERTAIN,
COMMON GLOBAL FUTURE”**

PROGRAMME & BIOGRAPHIES

P R O G R A M M E

GLOBAL RELATIONS FORUM 15TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT (GRS 2024)
Istanbul – Turkey

Monday, October 14, 2024

İBB Artİstanbul Feshane

“ NAVIGATING AN UNCERTAIN,
COMMON GLOBAL FUTURE ”



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ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

Master of Ceremony - Ms. Afşin Yurdakul, Journalist

10:30 - 11:00 | Opening Remarks

Amb. (R) Selim Yenel, GRF President

Ms. Zeynep Bodur Okyay, GRF Chairperson

11:00 - 11:30 | Keynote Speech

H.E. George Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece (F)

11:45 - 13:15 | PANEL 1: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL REALITIES AND CHALLENGES

As the global economy continues to recover and reshape in the aftermath of the disruptive COVID-19 pandemic, the state of labor markets and consumer behavior across the world remains in a complex and precarious state owing to a combination of geopolitical tensions, inflation, and technological advancement. Although net global economic growth has remained resilient, the persistence of significant regional disparities and varying development among countries constitute a worrying trend.

Central banks, particularly in the United States and the European Union, have adopted tighter monetary policies, including raising interest rates, to combat inflation. The effects of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict have exacerbated fears of a global recession. As the global economy progresses, several challenges loom large. The threat of a potential global recession remains a concern due to high interest rates and weak consumer spending. Additionally, geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China risk further fragmenting global trade and investment. Climate change and environmental degradation also present long-term risks, with the frequency of extreme weather events threatening agriculture, infrastructure, and human livelihoods. Furthermore, the rising income inequality between advanced and developing economies threatens sustainable global growth, exacerbating social tensions and migration pressures. The key conundrum being put to this panel will be: “How to secure future economic growth while addressing these global vulnerabilities, and is there a need to re-prioritize the current trajectory of economic development?”

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

Moderator: Mr. Açıl Sezen, Anchor & Editor in Chief, Bloomberg HT

Speakers:

Prof. Ufuk Akçığit – Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics, University of Chicago

Ms. Ümit N. Boyner – Member of Board of Directors, Boyner Group

Dr. Uğur Namık Küçük – Deputy Governor and Monetary Policy Committee Member (F), Central Bank of Turkey

Dr. Somik V. Lall – Senior Adviser, Office of the Chief Economist & Interim Director, Development Policy, World Bank Group

13:15 - 13:45 | Light Lunch

13:45 - 14:15 | Guided Exhibition Tour: “A Collector’s Story” (Taviloğlu Collection)

14:15 - 16:00 | PANEL 2: FACING NEW AND OLD CONFLICTS: CAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BECOME RELEVANT AGAIN?

The global order established in the wake of the Second World War has been steadily eroding in the face of concurrent, widespread crises. As organizations like the United Nations become mired in slow, bureaucratic processes, the world has shifted toward a transactional, bilateral relations-focused model and a growing desire for alternate systems of power.

The United States itself has debated the relevance of the current rules-based system, especially during the Trump presidency, and may do so again depending on the outcome of the 2024 presidential elections. Conversely, over the past two decades, China has expanded its efforts to become a viable alternative to the Western-dominated international order while attempting to reshape existing economic and political institutions in its favor. Russia has disrupted the relative peace in Europe with its invasion of Ukraine. The European Union stands at a crossroads, torn between enlargement and strengthening the Union's founding democratic, liberal structure in the face of a right-wing shift in European politics. Age-old conflicts like the Israel-Palestine issue continue to cause regional and international instability, with no resolution in sight. The global health crisis has demonstrated the need for reform in institutions like the World Health Organization.

The world is now entering a new age, driven not only by technological innovations such as the proliferation of AI but also by resource scarcity and instability resulting from climate change. Meanwhile, global governance remains fragmented, inconsistent, and still centered around great power competition. This panel will examine the reasons behind the 'ossification' of international institutions, explore how and why they should be reformed, and consider whether a new global organizing principle can address today's crises—as well as those of the future.

Moderator: Prof. İltur Turan - Emeritus Professor of Political Science and Former Rector, Bilgi University

Speakers:

Dr. Fonteh Akum – Executive Director of the Institute for Security Studies, South Africa

Ms. Daniela Carmela Cicchella – Deputy Representative, UNHCR in Turkey

H.E. Vuk Jeremić – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia (F); President of the United Nations General Assembly (F)

Amb. Burak Özügergin – Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

16:00 - 16:15 – COFFEE BREAK

**16:15 - 18:00 | PANEL 3: NATO AND EUROPEAN UNION ENLARGEMENT:
WILL IT PROVIDE SECURITY?**

The global security landscape is undergoing rapid transformations due to geopolitical shifts, emerging threats, and the resurgence of great power competition. In response to these evolving challenges, both NATO and the EU have taken significant steps to adapt and strengthen their strategic roles, with one of the most notable developments being the ongoing enlargement of these institutions, expanding their reach and influence across Europe and beyond.

As NATO celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2024, it has grown to 32 member states. This enlargement aims to build a more unified and resilient Alliance, addressing contemporary security challenges such as Russia's aggression and competition with China. By incorporating new members with strategic locations and strong military capabilities, NATO seeks to enhance its power projection and maintain security across the Euro-Atlantic area. Similarly, the EU, originally an economic union, has evolved into a key political and security player, utilizing its enlargement policy to promote stability, democracy, and the rule of law within its neighborhood. Russia's war in Ukraine has intensified the EU's commitment to expansion, leading to accession talks with Ukraine and Moldova, and granting candidate status to Georgia.

However, ongoing conflicts in neighboring regions raise questions about the effectiveness of these enlargement strategies. This brings forward key questions: Can this process genuinely reinforce the security architecture of Europe and its periphery, or does it risk exacerbating tensions with other global powers, ultimately undermining the security it aims to enhance?

**Moderator: Prof. Füsün Türkmen – GRF Vice Chairperson, Emeritus
Professor of International Relations**

Speakers:

**Amb. (R) Tacan İldem – NATO Assistant Secretary-General (F) and Permanent
Representative of Turkey to NATO and the OSCE (F)**

H.E. Ana Palacio – Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (F)

**Dr. Jamie Shea – Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security
Challenges at NATO (F), Senior Adviser at European Policy Center**

B I O G R A P H I E S



Prof. Ufuk Akçigit
**Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics
& Director of the Global Center for Economic
Growth, University of Chicago**

Ufuk Akçigit is the Arnold C. Harberger Professor of Economics and the director of the Global Center for Economic Growth at the University of Chicago. He is an elected Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, the

Center for Economic Policy Research, and the Center for Economic Studies. He earned a BA in economics at Koc University in 2003 and a Ph.D. in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2009.

As a macroeconomist, Akçigit's research focuses on economic growth, technological creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity, and firm dynamics. His work has been consistently published in top economics journals, cited in numerous policy reports, and featured in popular media. In his recent book, "The Economics of Creative Destruction," co-edited with John Van Reenen, he explores how technological innovation can drive growth and address challenges ranging from inequality to climate change. He is also the lead academic for the World Development Report 2024 published by the World Bank.

The contributions of Akçigit's research have been acknowledged by the National Science Foundation with the CAREER Grant (one of NSF's most prestigious awards supporting early-career faculty), the Kauffman Foundation's Junior Faculty Grant, and the Kiel Institute Excellence Award, among many other institutions. In 2019, Akçigit was honored as the recipient of the Max Planck-Humboldt Research Award (endowed with 1.5 million euros and aimed at scientists with outstanding future potential). In 2021, he was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and was named a Fellow of the Econometric Society. In 2022, he received the Sakip Sabanci International Research Award and Kiel Institute's Global Economy Prize.



Dr. Fonteh Akum
**Executive Director of the Institute for Security
Studies, South Africa**

Fonteh Akum is Executive Director at the Institute for Security Studies. He previously served as Head of the Lake Chad Basin programme in the Regional Office for West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, based in Dakar, Senegal.

He joined the ISS in 2017 as a Senior Researcher in the Peace and Security Research Programme in Pretoria. Fonteh previously worked for the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Africa Program of the United Nations University for Peace and at the International Monetary Fund.

His research covers governance, social ordering, insecurity and human security in Africa. He has a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024



Ms. Zeynep Bodur Okyay GRF Chairperson

From 1992 to 1993, Zeynep Bodur Okyay served in various positions as a management trainee in the production units of Çanakkale Ceramic Factories in Çan, Çanakkale. In 1995, she was appointed as a Member and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Kale Group's Marketing Companies and has been serving as the President and CEO of Kale Group since 2007.

Zeynep Bodur Okyay actively contributes to many non-governmental and international organizations by taking part in their management levels. Served as the President of the Assembly of the Istanbul Chamber of Industry for two consecutive terms between 2013 and 2022, Okyay currently serves as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Global Relations Forum Association, Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the Foreign Economic Relations Board (DEİK), Chairman of the Türkiye-Morocco Business Council at DEİK and member of Turkish Industry and Business Association (TÜSİAD), Impact Investing Advisory Board, and Carnegie Europe Advisory Board. Zeynep Bodur Okyay, who has been actively supporting the G20 processes since the 2015 Turkish Presidency, will continue to serve as Co-Chair of the B20 "Women Diversity Inclusion Action Council" during the Brazilian Presidency through 2024.

Zeynep Bodur Okyay was awarded the **"Cavaliere di Lavoro"** decoration by the Italian State in 2006 for her contributions and services to Turkish-Italian relations and received the **"Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana"** high-level state decoration in 2014. In 2010, she was honored with the Franco Nobili Award within the scope of "Türkiye in Europe" for her contribution to the relations between Türkiye and the European Union countries. In the same year, Zeynep Bodur Okyay received the Distinguished Service Award from the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye.

Also supported the establishment of a Turkish Chair at Harvard University through her work at the Harvard Alumni Association, of which she is one of the founders, Okyay leads many pioneering programs within Kale Group to contribute to Türkiye's education, design, art, local development, and social entrepreneurship ecosystem as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dr. (h.c.) İbrahim Bodur Kaleseramik Education, Health, and Social Aid Foundation.

Zeynep Bodur Okyay is fluent in Italian and English, having graduated from the Italian High School, Istanbul Technical University Department of Management Engineering, and Harvard University's graduate executive training programs, respectively. Zeynep Bodur Okyay is married to Osman Okyay, Vice Chairman of Kale Group, and has one child.

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024



Ümit N. Boyner Member of the Board of Directors, Boyner Group

After graduating from the University of Rochester (USA), Department of Economics, Ümit Boyner completed programs in Financial Management and Management Training at Columbia University. She started her professional career as Credit Marketing Manager at Chemical Mitsui Bank, Finance Manager at Türk Petrol Holding A.Ş. and continued as Finance and Treasury Manager at Turcas Petrolcülük A.Ş. until 1996. From 1996 until 2002, she served as Finance Director at Boyner Holding, overseeing the restructuring of the financial departments of Group companies, and the establishment of a central treasury system. Since 2002, as a Board Member at Boyner Group, she has focused on the Group's new investment and finance related projects. Between 2013 - 2020, she served as Member of the Board of Directors of Euler Hermes. Currently, she is a member of the International Advisory Board of CHUBB Inc. She is also the Chairperson of Boyner Foundation and Co-Chair, Scientific Committee of L'Institut du Bosphore, Paris.

Nazlı Ümit Boyner acted as a TUSIAD Board Member between 2005 and 2010 and held the position of chairwoman of TÜSİAD from 2010 until 2013. She is currently Vice President of TUSIAD High Advisory Council.

She is a co-founder of the women entrepreneurs' association KAGIDER and held the position of Vice President between 2002 and 2005. Acted as ÖSGD (Turkish Corporate Volunteers) Chairperson, she was a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Tohum Otizm Vakfı.

She was presented the order of "Légion d'Honneur" in 2013 for her contributions to the development of socio-economic relations between France and Turkey.



Ms. Daniela Carmela Cicchella
Deputy Representative, UNHCR in Turkey

Daniela Cicchella is the Deputy Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Ankara, Türkiye since February 2020.

She joined the UN Refugee Agency in Türkiye in 1995, after having practiced law in Italy. She worked for UNHCR in different management positions in

Asia, Africa, Europe and Middle East, with three assignments at Headquarters in Geneva and a number of field deployments.

As UNHCR Head of Field Office in Croatia, she helped refugees and Internally Displaced Persons return home after years of war. In 2000, she managed the UNHCR Sub Office of Hong Kong and Macao shortly after their handover to China. In 2004, Ms. Cicchella became in charge of the Regional Resettlement Hub in Kenya as responsible for the resettlement of refugees in the East and Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes and Southern Africa.

Ms. Cicchella later joined the Division of International Protection at Headquarters in Geneva leading the Human Rights Liaison Team and then worked again with the Inspector General's Office as a Senior Investigator dealing with sexual abuse and exploitation, fraud and corruption claims.

In 2013, she was assigned as the Assistant Representative (Protection) in Jordan managing the protection response during the Syrian emergency. In 2018, she moved to the Division of External Relations at UNHCR Headquarters in charge of Communicating with Communities.

Daniela Cicchella, also a qualified attorney to the Supreme Court of Justice in Italy, holds an LLM in Sociology of Law/Criminology (Spain/UK) and an MA in Legal Theory/Anthropology (Belgium/France).

Ms. Cicchella is married with a daughter.



Amb. (R) Tacan İldem
NATO Assistant Secretary-General (F) and
Permanent Representative of Turkey to NATO
and the OSCE (F)

Ambassador (R) Tacan İldem is a senior Turkish diplomat with a career spanning from 1978 to 2021. As a member of NATO's Experts Group, he contributed to the report "NATO 2030: United for a New Era." Throughout his distinguished diplomatic career, Ambassador İldem held several high-level bilateral and multilateral positions, including NATO Assistant Secretary-General from 2016 to 2020. He served as the Turkish Ambassador to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to NATO and the OSCE. He also served as Director-General for International Security Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chief of Cabinet, Principal Foreign Policy Advisor and Spokesperson of the President of the Republic. His postings abroad have included Embassies in Washington DC, Athens and New Delhi.

Currently, Ambassador İldem chairs the Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM). He is a graduate of Ankara University Faculty of Political Science. He is a recipient of the Decoration of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity and the Medal of Gratitude of Albania.

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024



H.E. Vuk Jeremić Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia (F); President of the United Nations General Assembly (F)

Vuk Jeremić is the President of the Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD), a global public policy think-tank and Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly magazine Horizons – Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development. He is also a Professor at the Sciences

Po Paris School of International Affairs, where he's teaching a full graduate course "Introduction to Contemporary Geopolitics". Since 2017, Jeremić has been a Senior Advisor to Partners Group, a leading global private equity firm based in Switzerland, with USD 147 billion in assets under management.

In 2016, Jeremić participated in the official election for UN Secretary-General. After six rounds of voting in the UN Security Council, he finished in the second place, behind Mr. Antonio Guterres.

In June 2012, Jeremić was directly elected by the majority of world's nations to be the President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, in the first contested vote since the end of the Cold War. During his term in office he played a leading role in steering the UN towards the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Jeremić served as Serbia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2007 to 2012. In 2007, he chaired the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

Jeremić has lectured at major universities, think-tanks, and institutes around the world, as well as published opinion pieces in leading outlets including New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times and Le Monde.

Jeremić holds a bachelor's degree in Theoretical and Experimental Physics from Cambridge University and a master's degree in Public Administration/International Development from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Jeremić served as the President of the Serbian Tennis Federation from 2011 to 2015.



Dr. Uğur Namık Küçük Deputy Governor and Monetary Policy Committee Member (F), Central Bank of Turkey

Uğur Namık Küçük was born in Ankara in 1981.

His expertise encompasses monetary policy, macro-financial economics, and global financial markets. He graduated from Koç University's Department of Economics in 2004, and in 2010, he earned his PhD in Monetary Policy and Financial Economics through a joint program between the University of Rome II and Boston College.

During his doctoral studies, Dr. Küçük served as a lecturer at the University of Rome and simultaneously worked as a financial economist at the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance from 2007 to 2011. From 2011 to 2014, he held the positions of Economist and Strategist at İş Investment. Between 2014 and 2017, Dr. Küçük served as Principal Economist at Garanti BBVA Bank.

In 2017, he joined the Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye as a Chief Advisor. He was subsequently appointed Deputy Governor and a member of the Monetary Policy Committee in August 2018, serving in these roles until October 2021. During his tenure as Deputy Governor, he was primarily responsible for the Bank's monetary policy, research, statistics, international relations, and communications.

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024

GLOBAL RELATIONS SUMMIT - #GRS 2024

ISTANBUL – TURKEY | OCTOBER 14, 2024



Dr. Somik V. Lall
**Senior Adviser, Office of the Chief Economist
& Interim Director, Development Policy, World
Bank Group**

Somik Lall is Senior Adviser to the Chief Economist of the World Bank Group.

Lall has recently directed the World Bank's 2024 World Development Report on the "Middle Income Trap" which examines how middle-income countries can break into the ranks of the wealthiest economies.

Previously, he headed the climate economics and policy team in the World Bank's Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions vice presidency, where he developed and supervised policy research programs on resilience and economic development, the macro-criticality of climate change, and innovations for the low-carbon transition.

His other roles include being the Global Lead for territorial development and Lead Economist for the World Bank's Cities Practice where he developed a novel data-driven approach to help city mayors rapidly respond to protect their citizens from the ravages of COVID-19.

Lall is widely published in academic and policy journals. His 2021 book, Place, Productivity, and Prosperity, provides a new analytic framework to discipline policies targeting specific places within countries. His 2017 book, "Africa's Cities: Opening Doors to the World," provides new evidence on institutional and regulatory constraints that hobble urbanization in Africa.

Dr. Lall also teaches at Johns Hopkins University and has been a Visiting Professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in New Delhi.



Amb. Burak Özügergin
**Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey**

Ambassador (R) Burak Özügergin joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985. He served as Undersecretary and First Undersecretary at the Embassy in Washington in 2003-2007, Head of the European Union Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2007-2008, Head of the Information Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as Ministry spokesperson between 2008-2010.

Özügergin was appointed as Ambassador to Croatia in 2010-2014 and Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs and Maritime-Aviation-Border between August 2015 and May 2018. Between May and August 2018, he was the Deputy Undersecretary for Bilateral Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between December 1, 2018 and January 16, 2023, he served as Ambassador to Greece. As of 2023, he is the Director General for Bilateral Political Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Burak Özügergin is married and has three daughters.



H.E. Ana Palacio
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain (F)

Ana Palacio was the first woman to serve as Foreign Minister of Spain, from 2002-2004. She has held various relevant positions in the European Parliament – notably, she chaired the Legal Affairs and Internal Market Committee, the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, and the Conference of the Committee Chairs, the most senior decision-making body on legislative policy and programs. She served as Head of the Spanish Delegation to the European Union’s Intergovernmental Conference and as a member of the Presidium of the Convention for the Future of Europe (2001-2003) in the debate and drafting of the European Constitution, as well as EU Coordinator for the strategic integrated corridors known as the Trans-European Transport Network. Additionally, she was a member of the advisory panel on judicial appointments provided for in Article 255 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Nationally, she served on Spain’s Consejo de Estado (Council of State), and chaired the Joint Committee of the two Houses for European Affairs in the Spanish Parliament.

Ana Palacio’s internationalist vocation led her to hold the institutional position of Senior Vice-President and General Counsel of the World Bank Group, as well as Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Among the positions she has held in major foundations and think tanks, her tenure as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York stands out. She is also a member of the Board and the Strategy Committee of the Atlantic Council and was the first non-American member of its Executive Committee. Ms. Palacio is a visiting professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and at the UM6P University, and she is a member of the governing bodies of several public and academic institutions. She is a regular speaker at international conferences and a contributor to different publications, including a monthly column for Project Syndicate, and a weekly column for El Mundo (Spain).

In the private sector, Ms. Palacio was a member of the Executive Committee and Senior VP for International Affairs of the nuclear energy leader AREVA. She currently sits on the corporate boards of Enagás, Ecoener, and Emissions Reduction Corp and is a member of the International Advisory Board of OCP Group.



H.E. George Papandreou
Prime Minister of Greece (F)

George A. Papandreou is former Prime Minister of Greece (2009-2011) and currently Member of Parliament with the Panhellenic Socialist Movement/Movement of Change.

As an MP, he represents Hellenic Parliament in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and has led over the years the work of several Committees in producing recommendations for the deepening of democracy, human rights and the rule of law across its 47 member-states. He currently serves as the Council's General Rapporteur on Democracy.

First elected as MP in 1981, he served in many governmental posts. As Minister of Education (1994-1996), he founded the Greek Open University and promoted multicultural programs. As Minister of Foreign Affairs (1999-2004), he promoted peace building and European integration in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Balkans and managed a breakthrough in Greek-Turkish relations. In 2004, Papandreou was elected leader of PASOK in the party and country's first open primary – a move highly symbolic of his commitment to participatory governance. Throughout his political career, he has actively sought to maximize citizen participation in governance through information technologies.

From 2006 to 2022, he was the President of the Socialist International, the largest global political family. Around the world, Papandreou has deployed 'Green Diplomacy,' calling for the protection of the environment by placing sustainable development at the epicenter of policy-making and multilateral cooperation.

During his premiership, he applied a series of structural reforms in his attempt to modernize his country whilst avoiding bankruptcy during Greece's 2010 debt crisis. For his achievements related to government Transparency, he received the Quadriga Award in the category "Power of Veracity". In 2010, he was named one of the Foreign Policy magazine's TOP 100 Global Thinkers. In 2017, he was honored with the International Leadership Association (ILA) Distinguished Leadership Award.



Mr. Açıl Sezen,
Anchor & Editor in Chief, Bloomberg HT

Açıl Sezen has been working as an anchor for Ciner Media Group's Habertürk and Bloomberg HT brands since 2008. In addition to hosting TV shows on Bloomberg HT, he also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Bloomberg HT. In 2006, he worked as Chief of the Business Desk at Vatan Daily Newspaper. From 1995 to 2006, he held managerial and presenter roles at Doğuş Media Group (CNBC-e and NTV) and Sabah Daily Newspaper. He completed his undergraduate and master's degrees at Istanbul University, and he is currently pursuing a PhD in business journalism.



Dr. Jamie Shea
Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Challenges at NATO (F), Senior Adviser at European Policy Center

Jamie Shea CMG is Professor at the College of Europe Natolin. He is also a Senior Fellow responsible for security and defence programmes at Friends of Europe and a Senior Advisor with the European Policy Centre. Both of these think tanks are based in Brussels. More recently, Jamie Shea has assumed the position of Senior Counsel to the Founder and CEO of Fanack/The Chronicle and Fanack Water.

Between 2018 and 2022 Jamie Shea was the Professor of Strategy and Security at the University of Exeter and prior to that, for 38 years he was an international public servant and a member of the International Staff of NATO. His last NATO post was Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges. Other positions included Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secretary General, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Public Diplomacy Division, Director of Information and Press and Spokesman of NATO.

Outside NATO, Jamie Shea has been involved with several prominent academic institutions. For 20 years, he was Professor at the Collège of Europe, Bruges. He was also Visiting Lecturer in the Practice of Diplomacy, University of Sussex and Associate Professor of International Relations at the American University, Washington DC.

Jamie Shea is a Senior Transatlantic Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and a Senior Fellow at the London School of Economics, where he teaches a course on crisis management and political communication.

Amongst his many associations and memberships, Jamie Shea is an Associate Fellow at Chatham House. He serves on the Board of the Danish Defence College, Copenhagen and is currently a Senior Advisor at the European Policy Centre and a Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe. These are two of the most active and influential policy think tanks in Brussels.

Jamie Shea has been awarded two honorary doctorates: one from the University of Surrey and the other from the National School of Public Administration in Bucharest, Romania. He is a recipient of the NATO medal for Meritorious Service.

Jamie Shea received the honour of the Companion of St. Michael and St. George in the Queen's New Year's Honours in 2020.

English mother tongue, in addition Jamie Shea speaks French, Italian and German fluently.



Prof. İlder Turan
Emeritus Professor of Political Science and
Rector (F), Bilgi University

Prof. Dr. İlder Turan is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Istanbul Bilgi University. He previously worked at Istanbul and Koç Universities and has been a visiting professor at American and British universities. He has published in English and Turkish on Comparative Politics, Turkish Politics and Foreign Policy.

He served as the Rector of Istanbul Bilgi University (1998-2001). He is the past president of the International Political Science Association (2016-2018) and the Turkish Political Science Association (2001-2009). He is a foreign policy columnist for Ekonomi newspaper and serves on the boards of various companies and foundations. He holds a BA in Government from Oberlin College (1962), an MA from Columbia University (1964) and a PhD from Istanbul University (1966).

He is married to Dr. Gül Turan and they have one child.



Prof. Füsün Türkmen
GRF Vice Chairperson, Emeritus Professor of
International Relations

Prof. Füsün Türkmen is an Emeritus Professor of International Relations. Born in Istanbul, Turkey, she graduated from the French High School Notre Dame de Sion in Istanbul before attending George Washington University in Washington,

D.C., where she obtained her B.A. in Political Science with honours in 1982. She then completed her Ph.D. at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1991 and became an international civil servant at the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until 1996.

In 1999, she began teaching at the Department of International Relations at Galatasaray University and served as the Head of the Department from 2015 until her retirement in 2022. She has also held the positions of President of the Turkish Political Science Association and President of the International Network of Senghor Chairs of La Francophonie. Currently, she serves as the President of the Educational Foundation of the Lycée Notre-Dame De Sion, is a member of the International Political Science Association. Additionally, she is the Honorary President of the International Network of Senghor Chairs of La Francophonie, a member of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee, and the Vice-Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Global Relations Forum.

She has been awarded the Prof. Besim Üstünel Research Award twice, received the Honor Award from the Notre Dame de Sion Association, and was honoured with the 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' from the French Republic. Fluent in French, English, and Italian, Prof. Türkmen has published extensively on international human rights and U.S. foreign policy and continues to pursue her academic activities.

**Amb. (R) Selim Yenel**
GRF President

Selim Yenel, born in 1956 in Istanbul, has been president of the Global Relations Forum since January 2020. He entered the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. He served as undersecretary at the Ministry of EU Affairs (2017–18), ambassador and permanent delegate of Turkey to the European Union (2011–17), deputy undersecretary for bilateral political affairs and public diplomacy (2009–11), and ambassador to Vienna (2005–09). He also worked on EU affairs in Ankara until the opening of accession negotiations (1999–2005) and served as a member of the Turkish delegation to the European Union in Brussels (1994–99), the UN in New York (1988–92), the Turkish Embassy in Kabul (1984–86), and the OECD (1981–84). He has published “The European Union’s Turkey Challenge” in Turkish.

**Ms. Afşin Yurdakul**
Journalist

Afşin Yurdakul is an award-winning Turkish journalist, news anchor, and moderator. During the last decade, she hosted prime-time daily news programs and served as the chief foreign editor at a leading private news network in Turkey. She reported extensively on global affairs and interviewed prominent Turkish and international figures. Afşin has written about Turkey and the Middle East for a variety of publications, including The New York Times and Foreign Policy, among others. She has moderated high-level international panel discussions for organizations such as the World Bank, UN Women, UNFPA, and the World Economic Forum/Davos. Afşin was selected as the inaugural Robert Long Fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard in 2018 and has recently completed a fellowship at the University of Chicago’s Booth School of Business to study political economy. She holds an M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in New York.

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