

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND MEDIA IN EUROPE

### Speakers

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#### Panel I

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**Victor NEGRESCU** is a Romanian MEP, Quaestor of the EP and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT). He worked on the digital education policy, the system of the EU schools and the budgetary procedure related to education and culture, including the EP position for the multi-financial framework (MFF). He won the MEP Award in 2015 for Digital Agenda and initiated numerous pilot projects spanning entrepreneurship, education, innovation, digitalisation, health, culture and media.

**Marcos ROS SEMPERE**, a Spanish MEP since February 2020, is a member of the Committees on Culture and Education (CULT) and Regional Development (REGI). He is a professor on leave of urban planning, holds a PhD in architecture, and is an expert on architectural heritage restoration. In the CULT committee, he focused, among others, on the New European Bauhaus, the European Education Area (EEA), the European Capitals of Culture (ECOCs), the prevention of child sexual abuse and Historical Consciousness.



**João ALBUQUERQUE** is a Portuguese MEP since September 2022. He is a member of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), and the Committees on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and Fisheries (PECH). His diverse perspective, from education at Universidade Nova de Lisboa to President of Young European Socialists (2017-2019), reflects his dedication to social and international causes. He focused, among others, on implementing the 2018 Geoblocking Regulation and promoting cultural exchanges.

**Mikael LEYI**, Secretary General of SOLIDAR since 2020, brings a wealth of experience to lead the European and global network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) advocating for social justice. Formerly from the Olof Palme International Center, he has experience in international development cooperation. He has addressed the challenges posed by the global pandemic through forging a new social contract. He actively promotes collective action against inequalities, reinforces welfare states and ensures quality healthcare and education for all.



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## Panel II

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**Massimiliano SMERIGLIO** is an Italian politician, MEP, and writer. He is also an associate professor at the Humanities and Social Sciences faculty at Link Campus University. He is the S&D co-coordinator in the Culture and Education Committee (CULT) and a member of the Committee on Petitions (PETI). As rapporteur for the Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027, he emphasised cultural heritage and cross-cutting priorities like social inclusion, environmental impact reduction, and gender equality. During the current term, he has worked on different CULT Reports and Opinions such as the future of the European book sector, effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps, Quality traineeship in the EU, Europe's Media in the Digital Decade, Towards an EU strategy to promote education for children in the world.

**Predrag Fred MATIĆ** is a Croatian MEP, serving since 2019. He is member of the Committees on Education and Culture (CULT) and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Fisheries (PECH). He is also a member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM). He worked on the EU Strategy for Gender Equality, on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies, Strengthening Democracy and Media Freedom and Pluralism in the EU, as well as on the regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising.





**Hannes HEIDE** is an Austrian MEP since 2019 serving on the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), Budgetary Control (BUDG) and Regional Development (REGI). He worked on Property rights and AI, on files such as Shaping the Digital Future of Europe, the Intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience, the EU sport policy and challenges of sports events' organisers, and the impact of COVID-19 closures of educational, cultural, youth and sports activities on children and young people in the EU. He also worked on the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation agreement and the participation of Switzerland in Erasmus+.

**Domenec RUIZ DEVESA** has been a Spanish MEP since 2019. He is a member of the Committees on Culture and Education (CULT), Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), Petitions (PETI), and of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO). He has been the rapporteur in the INL on the EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS). Equally, he has led the dossier on EU actions on citizenship education. He has worked as a shadow rapporteur, among others, on the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, boosting Europe's innovative talent and capacity, and the implementation of the current European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027.



**Lars EBERT** is the Secretary General of Culture Action Europe (CAE) since January 2023. He was previously the programme director at the cultural centre H401 in Amsterdam and deputy director of the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA). For 15 years, he developed and implemented EU-funded projects on heritage, education and research in the arts. He is a founding board member of EQ-Arts, the first interdisciplinary and transnational accreditation agency for higher arts education. His appointment as CAE Secretary General reinforces his commitment to shaping dynamic and impactful cultural sectors.



**Petra KAMMEREVERT** is a German politician and a member of the EP since 2009. She is the S&D co-coordinator on the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) and a member of the Committee on Internal Market (IMCO). She was Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education from 2017 to 2019. She is the S&D Shadow rapporteur on the European Media Freedom Act. She worked, among others, on Erasmus+, the Digital Services Act, the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the European Year of Youth 2022 and the budgetary procedures related to culture and education.

**Sylvie GUILLAUME** is a French politician who has been MEP since 2009. She is a member of the Committees on Education and Culture (CULT), Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) and Committee on Petitions (PETI). As a Vice-President of the EP from 2014 to 2019, she led initiatives on information, communication and transparency and played a pivotal role in advocating for progressive values and combating extremism. She worked, among others, on protecting journalists worldwide, the EU's policy on the matter and protecting people who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (SLAPPs).



**Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO** is a Spanish MEP, formerly President of Spanish Cultural Action. He is a member of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT), Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) and Committee on Petitions (PETI). He worked on the Artificial Intelligence Act and the use of AI in education, culture and the audio-visual sector, the role of culture, education, media and sport to address racism, virtual worlds and, more recently, on a report on cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market.

**Gerard Rinse OOSTERWIJK** is the Digital Policy Analyst of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies. Before joining FEPS, Gerard served as a political secretary and director of the Vooruit movement in the Brussels Parliament, as well as a senior policy advisor in the European Parliament. His experience in the private sector includes roles as an operational manager and marketer at ING Bank, and he was co-founder of a political start-up. Recently, he has been setting up digital initiatives to promote a public space on the Internet. Gerard holds a Master's in European Social Policy from the London School of Economics and an LLM in Private Law from Leiden University.



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## Welcoming and concluding remarks

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**Alex AGIUS SALIBA** is a Maltese politician and has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019. He is Vice-President of the S&D group in charge of Culture and Education. He is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Petition (PETI), a member of the committees on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), and Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE). He was listed as one of the key players in the digital arena by POLITICO in 2020.

**Eduardo FERNÁNDEZ PALOMARE**, is the Culture, Audiovisual, and Media Attaché in the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU. He is Chair of the Cultural Affairs Committee/Audiovisual and Media Working Party for the Council of the EU. He has a background in law and holds a degree from the Autonomous University of Madrid and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions. He has had roles in various government departments, including serving as Deputy Director for Music and Dance in Tourism Cooperation and Director of Finance and Resources for Cultural Action. He was previously the Undersecretary for Culture and Sport.



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## Moderator

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**Jack PARROCK** is a TV and radio correspondent and moderator for events in Brussels and worldwide. Specialised in EU matters, he contributes insightful expertise to event discussions. With over a decade of experience reporting for major outlets like Deutsche Welle and Euronews, he combines his exceptional journalistic skills with engaging event hosting. He is a former EU correspondent for Euronews and Brussels bureau chief for Feature Story News.