Dr. Robert GERSCHNER

Head of the Immediate Central Contact (Executive Secretariat) for the HCoC, MFA of Austria

Robert Gerschner, born 10 September 1971 in Linz, Austria, studied at Vienna University where he received a PhD in Classical and Slavonic languages and literature. He has been part of the Austrian Foreign Service since 2001. He joined the Disarmament and Arms Control Department of the Ministry in 2012. Since September 2016, he is the head of the HCoC Immediate Central Contact (Executive Secretariat).

Mr. Tal INBAR

Head, Space Research Center, The Fisher Institute for Air & Space Strategic Studies

Mr. Tal Inbar studied Political Science (Bachelor’s degree) and Security Studies (Master’s degree), both in Tel Aviv University, Israel. He started working at the Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies in 2003, and became the director of the institute’s space and UAV research center in 2007. Mr. Inbar has been following the space and missile programs of many countries for three decades, and has written numerous papers, articles and op-eds in national and international media. Mr. Inbar is a frequent speaker at international conferences, workshops and seminars such as the International Astronautical Congress, Milsatcom, the Tel Aviv University workshop for science, technology and security – to name a few. He is a guest lecturer in various courses, among them the school of Airpower Studies, the Command and Staff College, Intelligence Branch Units and more. In his daily work, Mr. Inbar covers several space issues such as space policy and technical assessments of foreign space and ballistic missiles programs of Iran, North Korea and other nations. He is a visiting speaker on various think tanks and research institutes including RAND, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, Secure World Foundation – to name a few. In an April 2016 visit to the US, Inbar delivered two congressional briefings and several briefings to senators of the US Senate, on the ballistic missile programs of Iran and North Korea. He is an adviser to the Israeli Space Agency on various issues including space education.
Ms. Emmanuelle MAITRE  
*Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research*  
Emmanuelle Maitre joined the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique as a Research Fellow in 2014, where she focuses mainly on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and deterrence. Prior to joining the Fondation, Emmanuelle Maitre worked as a research assistant at the Brookings' Centre on the United States and Europe. Emmanuelle holds a master's degree from Sciences Po Paris (public affairs).

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Mr. Sébastien MORANTA  
*Coordinator of Studies, European Space Policy Institute*  
Sebastien Moranta is Coordinator of Studies at the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) in Vienna, an independent and public think-tank providing decision-makers with an informed view on short to long-term issues relevant to the European space policy. Prior to supervising the research activities of the Institute, he was a Senior Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory where he managed studies in space strategy for the European Commission, ESA and other space sector stakeholders. Former analyst at Eurospace, the association of the European space industry, he has worked on a variety of space policy topics but he specialized more particularly in space markets and economics.

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Dr. Xavier PASCO  
*Director, Foundation for Strategic Research*  
Dr. Xavier Pasco has been nominated Director of the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique in Paris in 2016, after working for more than 20 years as Senior Research Fellow for the Foundation, expert of space issues. Dr. Pasco previously worked at CRESTEcole Polytechnique. He has specialized in international space policy and security related issues and been in charge of numerous studies and working groups about National and European space policies in the field of civilian and military activities. In addition to authoring numerous books and articles, Dr. Pasco is also an Associate Fellow at the Space Policy Institute (George Washington University) and the European Editor of Space Policy since 2002.

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Mr. Daniel PORRAS  
*Space Security Fellow, UNIDIR*  
Mr Daniel Porras is the Space Security Fellow for the UN Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva. His work focuses on political/legal issues surrounding space security and, in particular, the progressive development of sustainable norms of behaviour. Mr. Porras has been an Associate for LMI Advisors (Washington, DC), advising clients on a wide range of international legal issues related to space activities, telecommunications and experimental equipment. He was also an Associate Officer for UNIDROIT (Rome) where he worked on the Space Protocol to the Cape Town Convention, an international instrument for financing space assets. Mr. Porras has held a visiting fellowship at the Observer Research Foundation (New Delhi) and holds an LL.M in International Business and Economics Law from the Georgetown University Law Center (Washington, DC).

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Amb. François RIVASSEAU  
*Head of security and space policy and special envoy for space to the High-Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the European External Action Service*  
François Rivasseau currently serves as director of security policy and space policy at the European External Action Service. He previously served as minister counsellor and deputy chief of mission
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(DCM) of the Delegation of the European Union in the United States (2011–2015); minister counsellor, DCM, of the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C. (2007–2011); permanent representative of France to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2003–2006); and assistant secretary for press and communication and spokesperson of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2000–2003). Prior to this, Mr. Rivasseau took part in negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the Ottawa Convention banning antipersonnel landmines, in addition to serving in the French Bureau of the United Nations and other International Organizations (1993–1995). Born in Bordeaux, France, Mr. Rivasseau graduated from the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies and holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of Bordeaux I. He is a graduate of the National School of Administration and also holds a degree of Roman languages from the University of Bordeaux III. He speaks fluent English, Spanish, and German and has basic knowledge of Russian.

Dr. Markus SCHILLER
CEO, ST Analytics

Markus Schiller holds degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Technical University Munich. He has been employed at the small specialized consulting firm Schmucker Technologie in Munich since 2006, except for a one-year fellowship at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, California, in 2011, where he wrote a report assessing North Korea’s missile program. In 2015, he started his own consulting firm ST Analytics, focusing on space technology, security and threat, and—of course—rockets and missiles. He has contributed to missile-related studies for NATO, the German federal government, the European Union, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the German and Austrian armed forces, the EastWest Institute, various aerospace companies, and other institutions. Since 2015, he teaches a course on missiles at the Bundeswehr University in Munich. He also is a regular contributor to Jane’s Defence Weekly and Jane’s Intelligence Review since 2016.

Amb. Marek SZCZYGIEL
Ambassador at large, Department for UN and Human Rights, MFA, Poland

Amb. Marek Szczygiel holds Master’s Degree in International Relations and Law. He started his diplomatic career as a desk officer for South-Eastern Europe, the Nordic countries, then moved to the position of Second Secretary for Political Affairs at the Polish Embassy in Stockholm. He later joined the Department of European Security Policy and was appointed Head of the OSCE Unit in 2001. In 2002, he was named Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department before leading the Polish Mission to OSCE and UN Office in Vienna. He came back to Warsaw as Deputy Director of the Security Policy Department (non-proliferation, disarmament and export control) before a last appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Romania between 2011 and 2015.