

# FORUM SPEAKERS



Marjo Näkki is a Finnish journalist working for Yle - Finnish broadcasting company. Currently she hosts a radio show on current affairs. Previously she worked years as a correspondent in the Baltic States and Russia but calls Tallinn her second home.

## **Moderator:**

**MS. MARJO NÄKKI (Finland)**

**Journalist, YLE - Finnish broadcasting company**



## **RICARDO J. PELÁEZ**

**Counselor for Commercial Affairs for Europe U.S. Mission to the European Union**

Ricardo J. Peláez is a career Foreign Service Officer and, in July 2020, began his assignment as Counselor for Commercial Affairs for Europe at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. In this capacity, Ricardo supports programs and operations for offices

in 27 countries across the EU. He has over 20 years of experience with the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service.

Ricardo sharpened his EU expertise while serving for as Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain (2017-2020). Prior to Spain, Ricardo has served as the Commercial Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru (2013-2017) and as a Commercial Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, China (2011-2013). Ricardo began his Foreign Service career by completing an intensive one-year Mandarin language training course at the Foreign Service Institute, followed by a tour as a Commercial Officer in Taipei at the American Institute in Taiwan (2008-2011). Ricardo joined the U.S. Commercial Service in 1997, and for 10 years worked in the Akron and Cleveland, Ohio U.S. Export Assistance Centers.



## PAOLO GENTILONI

**Commissioner, European Commission**  
**@PaoloGentiloni**

Paolo Gentiloni has been European Commissioner for Economy since December 2019.

He served as Prime Minister of Italy (2016-2018), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2014-2016), Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies (2013-2014) and Minister of Communications (2006-2008).

Previously he was Spokesperson for the Margherita Party (2002-2007), Chairman of the Broadcasting Services Watchdog Committee (2005-2006), Spokesperson for the Mayor of



Rome and Commissioner in the City of Rome (1993-2000). Previously he worked as a professional journalist.

Born in 1954, Gentiloni graduated in Political Sciences from La Sapienza, Rome.

His last book was “La sfida impopulista” (*the (Un)populist challenge*), published in 2018.



**TANEL KIIK**  
**Minister of Health of Estonia**

Tanel Kiik is the Minister of Health and Labour of the Republic of Estonia from 26 January 2021. He is a member of the Estonian Centre Party.

Tanel Kiik graduated from the University of Tartu Pärnu College in entrepreneurship and project management in 2016 (cum laude). He has not finished his master's studies at the University of Tartu Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, which started in the same year. Speaks Estonian, English, and German.



**ANDRES SUTT**  
**Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of Estonia**

Andres Sutt is an Estonian politician. He serves as Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology in the cabinet of Prime Minister Kaja Kallas.

Sutt graduated cum laude from the University of Tartu in 1993 with a degree in eco-

nomics and finance. In 2008, he graduated from the Advanced Management Program from INSEAD, and in 2015 with a degree in Negotiations and Leadership from Harvard Law School.

From 1992 to 1993, Sutt was the Chief Specialist of Eesti Pank's Central Bank Policy Department. From 1993 to 1996, the Deputy Head of the Banking Supervision Department, and from 1997 to 1999 Deputy Head of the Central Bank Policy Department. From 1999 until 2001, he was the Adviser to the Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Nordic-Baltic Constituency and Member of the Board of Directors from 2009 until 2012. He was Senior Adviser to the Executive Director of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) from 2012 to 2013 and Head of the Banking Division of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) from 2013 to 2016. From 2017 to 2018, he worked as the Director of Regulatory Relations of Eesti Energia and as a member of the Management Board of the company. In 2008, he was awarded the Order of the White Star, Class III.



## **BORIS KHODANOVICH**

### **Baltics Country Manager, Pfizer**

Boris has 20 years of broad functional and business experience in different therapeutic areas of the pharmaceutical industry where he has progressed his career via various sales, marketing, distribution, and business operations positions. Boris also held positions of increasing responsibility in PricewaterhouseCoopers where he led strategic and operational projects for the Government as well as pharmaceutical, fast-moving consumer goods and metallurgy companies in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Boris holds an MD Degree from Tyumen State Medical University, Russia and an MBA from Duke University, Fuqua School of Business, USA.

## **MARTA POŚLAD**

### **Head of Public Policy & Government Relations in Central and Eastern Europe, Google**

Marta Poślad joined Google in 2012. Before becoming the Head of Public Policy & Government Relations in Central and Eastern Europe Marta was responsible for privacy & security policy in EMEA, as well as analyzing impact of new technologies on societies and democracies on the academic front. She is a Humanity in Action Senior Fellow, Aspen Institute Young Leader and an alumni of Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights' Programme. A graduate of sociology at the University of Cambridge and political science at the University of Warsaw.





## **JANIS VITENBERGS**

### **Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia**

Minister of Economics Janis Vitenbergs joined the government in April, 2020 and just a month later his strategy for mitigating the negative consequences of Covid-19 crisis in Latvia was approved by the government. The Minister believes that it is necessary to support industries with promising export potential and future growth prospects, to reorient the offer of available adult education programs, and to ensure availability of funding for research and growth, as well as for commercialization and marketing of the resulting products. His priorities are economic transformation and increased productivity, housing availability promotion and increased energy efficiency. Mr. Vitenbergs was elected to the Parliament (Saeima) in 2018 and starting from 2019 chaired the Economic, Agricultural, Environmental and Regional Policy Commission.

## **DANIELS PAVLUTS**

### **Minister of Health of Latvia**

Daniels Pavluts assumed his post as the Minister of Health of Latvia on January 7, 2021. Prior to that he was the Head of the Parliamentary fraction of “Development/Pro!” party alliance and a Member of Parliament. Previously he was a management consultant advising both the public and private sector. From 2011-2014 Mr. Pavluts served as the Minister of Economy. He has a MA in the Public Administration from Harvard University.



## RŪTA ARMONE

### Associate Partner, ELLEX

Rūta Armone has over 11 years of experience in corporate law, corporate governance, mergers & acquisitions and private equity. She has advised clients on various matters from day to day corporate issues, legal due diligence and company acquisitions to IPO and listing on Warsaw Stock Exchange, legislative reform and challenging of economic EU sanctions. She is continuously involved in legal marketing and communication with international legal directories.

## MARTIN GAUSS

### Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO of airBaltic

Martin Gauss is the CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board of airBaltic since November 2011. Under his leadership, airBaltic has successfully carried out a robust turnaround plan and achieved a strong growth path. With the early decision of ordering up to 80 Airbus A220 Gauss has built a foundation for the airline's global success story. Martin Gauss is an experienced CEO who has worked in the aviation industry in different countries for nearly 30 years. He still holds a Captain's license on Airbus A220.





## AUŠRINĖ ARMONAITĖ

### Minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania

Aušrinė Armonaitė is a Lithuanian politician, currently serving as the Minister of Economy and Innovation of Lithuania. She is also the chairperson of the social liberal and progressive Freedom party since 2019, which in the last year's parliamentary elections won 11 seats and became represented in the Seimas for the first time.

She stood for election in the newly created Lithuanians abroad constituency, which granted parliamentary representation to Lithuanians living outside of the country. After receiving a plurality of votes in the first round of the election, she ultimately was reelected to parliament in the second round, receiving 53.15% of the vote.

As a young adult, Armonaitė was elected chairperson of the Lithuanian Liberal Youth in 2010, after first joining the organization as a teenager. She graduated from the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius university with a bachelor's degree in political science in 2012 and later with master's degree in public policy analysis in 2014.

She worked and volunteered for ten years in Lithuanian and international organisations: Member, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe; Expert on the Council of Europe international review of the youth policy in Greece (2011–2013); Member of the Board, Lithuanian Youth Council (2010–2012); Member, Vilnius Youth Affairs Council (2009–2010); graduated from a music school (grand piano); played basketball for eight years.



## ARŪNAS DULKYS

### Minister of Health of Lithuania

Arūnas Dulkys is a Lithuanian economist, currently serving as the Minister of Health of Lithuania. He is a former State's Auditor General.

He graduated from Vilnius University, where he studied Finance and Credit, with the qualification of an economist in 1995. In 2010, he defended his doctoral dissertation and obtained a PhD in Social Sciences. His research interests were the European Economic and Monetary Union, the history of Lithuanian national currency (litas) and globalization.

He has worked at the Bank of Lithuania from 1996 to 2004. Then he continued his career as an Economic Adviser to the Speaker of the Seimas.

In 2007 he became the Director of the newly established 8th Audit Department of the State Audit Office of Lithuania, which is responsible for auditing the management and control system of the European Union structural assistance.

Since 2015 until 2020 he was the Auditor General of Lithuania.

## ANDRIUS NACAJUS

### Country Head and Head of Corporate Banking, Baltics Luminor Group

Before becoming Country Head and Head of Corporate Banking, Baltics at Luminor Group, Andrius has been working in the financial sector for over 20 years. He has broad experience in investment and corporate banking.

Andrius obtained Bachelor's degree in business and managerial economics from Stockholm School of Economics. He continued his studies and obtained Master's degree in International Business.

