

EPP WORKING GROUP 'INTERCULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE' "Islam in Central & Eastern Europe"

Wednesday, 18 May 2022

16.30 - 18.00 hrs.

Room ASP 5H1

Vademecum of speakers' biographies

György Hölvényi MEP

Co-Chairman of the Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue of the EPP Group



Born in 1962, Hungary. Graduated in Hungarian Literature and History from the Eötvös Lóránd University's Teacher Training College, and in Economics and Tourism from the College of Tourism and Economics. Secretary of State for Relations with Churches, National Minorities and Civil Society, 2012- 2014. Secretary-General of the Robert Schuman Foundation, 2009. Advisor on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue in the EPP Group Secretariat, 2009-2012, and Press Advisor, 2003-2009. Head of President's Cabinet Office, Duna Television Broadcasting Co, 2000-2003. Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports, 1999.

Director for Tourism, Tihany Municipality and Tihany Benedictine Abbey, 1996-1999. Press Secretary of the Budapest Group, Christian Democratic Party, Head of Foreign Affairs Department, 1994-1996. Head of Department, Ministry of Welfare, Parliamentary Secretariat, 1991-1994. Teacher, Szent-Györgyi Albert Elementary School, 1990-1991. MEP since 2014.

Jan Olbrycht MEP

Co-Chairman of the Working Group on Intercultural and Religious Dialogue of the EPP Group



Born on 21 September 1952 in Rybnik (Poland), Jan Olbrycht is a Doctor of Sociology, lecturer, expert, politician and social activist. He chaired the Polish Delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in 1990-1998. From 2000-2004, he was a Member of the Management Board of the Assembly of European Regions and a Member of the National Council for Regional Policy. In this current ninth term of the European Parliament (2019-2024), Jan Olbrycht is Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group and sits on the Budgets Committee and is a Substitute Member of the Regional Development

Committee. In addition, he is the EPP Group Vice-Coordinator in the Budgets Committee and the European Parliament's Standing Rapporteur on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). He is also a founder, Member and President of the URBAN Intergroup in the European Parliament. Moreover, he is a Member of the Delegation for relations with Canada and a Substitute Member of the Delegation to the EU-North Macedonia Joint Parliamentary Committee. MEP since 2004.



Prof. Marek Moroń

Lecturer at the Centre for Comparative Studies of Civilisations at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland.

His main lines of academic and research activity are issues of nation, nationalism and identity in South Asia as well as matters of European Islam. Dr Moroń is the author of books, academic articles and other publications on these subjects in Poland, India, Ukraine. He did study tours visit to University of Calcutta, University of Dhaka and field study tour to Tajikistan.

In the years 2008-2012 he was a visiting lecturer at The Warsaw University, Department for European Islam Studies. He did his high school education in Dhaka (Bangladesh). Dr Moroń is a former Polish diplomat. He served in Bombay (Mumbai) as Consul General (2001-2006) and earlier worked in the Consulate of Poland in Kolkata (1988-1992) and with Commercial Office of the Embassy in Tehran (1982-1986). He also lived one year in Bahrain (1993). He has a long experience of working as executive in a private Polish global corporation with responsibilities mainly for markets of South Asia. In that capacity he travelled extensively worldwide also with the Polish Government missions and delegations. Presently he is adviser to the Polish Chamber of Commerce (KIG) in Warsaw. Dr Moroń is a longtime active member of the Muslim Religious Union of Poland (established in 1925). Islam in Poland and European Islam were the subjects of his lectures and presentations just in recent few years in Doha, Amman, Sarajevo, Berlin, Istanbul, Kiev and Polish cities. Some of these visits were organised and supported by Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Dževada Šuško, PhD

Chief-of-Office International Cooperation, Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina and University professor for International Relations

She was the director of the research institute IITB. She is as well Assistant Professor for International Relations and teaches courses related to history, politics and society of South-eastern Europe at the International University of Sarajevo. Dževada Šuško grew up in Germany where she completed most of her studies in history, political science and cultural anthropology at the universities of Heidelberg and Hamburg. She did several studies abroad, such as in Florence, Madrid, Ottawa and Ramallah, and speaks several languages. She completed her PhD in International Relations at the International University in Sarajevo. Her academic focus has always been Muslims in Europe, religion and politics, human rights, interreligious relations and soft diplomacy. She has published several books, such as „The Coexistence of Jews and Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina: examples of tolerance since the 16th century” (Elkalem, 2021) or “Muslims and Europeans: Diasporal and Migrant Identities of Bosniaks” (Brill, 2019). Additionally, she is involved in NGOs, such as the Centre for Education and Research Nahla, which works on the empowerment of women, the Centre for Advanced Studies in Sarajevo, which addresses contemporary issues on Islam and Muslims, and the Committee for Freedom of Religion and Belief, which monitors human rights issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Dr Zorina Kanapatskaya

Islamic studies scholar at the National Pedagogical University in Minsk

A Tatar scholar from Belarus, is an Associate Professor in Department of History, Belarusian State Pedagogical University (BGPU). The field of scientific activity is the history of national minorities, religious studies and cultural studies. She has been studying the Tatar minority in Belarus since 2000.

On 2005 Kanapatskaya defended her PhD thesis “Tatars in Belarus and their culture. (XIV-XVII centuries)”. In 2006 Kanapatskaya carried out the project entitled “Study of History and Cultural Legacy of the ethnic Minority Tatars in Belarus” at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge by the invitation of the British Academy of Sciences. During the research she examined the Tatar manuscripts keeping in the libraries of United Kingdom for the purpose to study modern methods of preservation of ancient manuscripts. In 2006 she became a member of the Islamic Manuscript Association, University of Cambridge. Kanapatskaya is the author and editor of textbooks, a survey of collected works and over 100 articles on the history, culture and religion of the Belarusian Tatars.



Oleg Yarosh, PhD

Scholar at National Academy of Science of Ukraine

Dr. Oleg Yarosh is Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of History of Oriental Philosophy at the Institute of philosophy of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, Ukraine.

He has published extensively in Ukraine and abroad on Islam and Sufism in Central-Eastern Europe.

He received several academic fellowships in UK (Oxford University), US (Kennan Institute), Germany (Leibniz-ZMO and BGSMS of Freie Universität Berlin), Sweden (Gothenburg University) and Poland (Polish Institute of Advanced Studies).