

The Black Sea Security challenges and its implications for European security
18 January 2017

Speakers' profiles



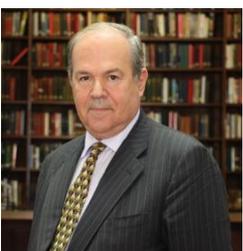
H.E. Dan Mihalache, Ambassador of Romania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Mr Mihalache was appointed as the Ambassador of Romania to the Court of St. James's on the 8th of June 2016. Prior to this, he held the position of the Head of Presidential Chancellery and the Head of Presidential Administration for almost two years. Mr. Mihalache has broad political experience, having led numerous political, policy and communications campaigns on behalf of the National Liberal Party (between 2009 and 2014) and of the President Iohannis in 2014. Between 2004 and 2008, Mr. Mihalache served a complete term as Member of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies, while in 2006 and 2007 he held a seat as Observer Member and then as Member of the European Parliament (MEP). He is a graduate of the Bucharest University Law School (1994) and the Romanian National Defence College (1998), and has a PhD in political science (2008).



Seth Cropsey, director of the Center for American Seapower, Hudson Institute, USA - Seth Cropsey served as Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy in the Reagan and Bush administrations, where he was responsible for the Navy's position on efforts to reorganize DoD, development of the maritime strategy, the Navy's academic institutions, naval special operations, and burden-sharing with NATO allies. He previously directed the editorial policy of the Voice of America on the Solidarity movement in Poland and Soviet treatment of dissidents.



Dan Dungaciu, member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center, director of the Romanian Institute for Political Studies and International Affairs of the Romanian Academy - Mr Dungaciu is also a professor at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work of the University of Bucharest. He studied and worked as associate researcher in many foreign institutions (USA, UK, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Greece) and is author of tens of studies and papers on Eastern Europe subjects.



Jonathan Eyal, Associate Director, Strategic Research Partnerships, and International Director, at the Royal United Services Institute - Mr Eyal was born in Romania, but has lived most of his life in Britain. He is educated at the Oxford and London Universities. After teaching at Oxford for three years, Dr Eyal was appointed a researcher at RUSI. Since 1990, Dr Eyal has been Director of Studies at the Institute and also serves as a

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Senior Research Fellow and Editor of the RUSI Newsbrief. He has published extensively on military relations in the Balkans, ethnic minorities in Eastern Europe and he is a regular commentator on East European affairs for the biggest British newspapers.



Iulian Fota, director of the Romanian National Intelligence College, member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center - Mr Fota served as a national security adviser to the Romanian President (2009-2014). He teaches at the intelligence and defence universities in Romania, previously holding the position of director of the National Defence College. Currently he is the director of the National Intelligence College. He also served as a counselor in the Department for Euro-Atlantic integration and defence policy in the Ministry of Defence and was the chief of Romanian mission at NATO and EU.



Dr Deborah Sanders is a Senior Lecturer at the Defense Studies Department of the King's College London, where she specializes in security issues in the Black Sea.

Her main areas of interest are Black Sea, military transformation and change, small navies, maritime power and Ukraine. The most recent publications include *Maritime Power in the Black Sea* and 'The Bulgarian Navy after the Cold War'



Mihaela Nicola, strategic communication consultant, member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center - Mihaela received a PhD in communication and she is the CEO of the communication holding The Group/Omnicom Media Group. She has published two best-sellers in the field of communication and has been nominated by the Forbes magazine in the first 20 women in Romania in 2010-2015. She is the founding member for several organizations in the field of communication and foreign policy.



Ambassador Sergiu Celac, former minister of Foreign Affairs and former Romanian ambassador to UK, member of the Scientific Council of the New Strategy Center - Ambassador Sergiu Celac held numerous positions in the Romanian diplomatic service and he has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the first post-communist Government. He served as English and Russian interpreter to successive Romanian Presidents (1961-78). He was appointed

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Ambassador to United Kingdom (1990-96) and Ireland (1991-96) and later served as Personal Adviser to the President of Romania and Alternate Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies in Athens.