

**OPEN DAYS – January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Executive Master in International Politics (MIP)**  
**Executive Master in Governance & Development Policy (MADEV)**  
**Registration ([info@ceris.be](mailto:info@ceris.be)) / Phone : 02 537 40 75 / [www.ceris.be](http://www.ceris.be)**

Opening Lecture on **Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**  
on “*The Diplomacy of the Holy See*”, will be delivered by  
**H.E. Mgr. Franco Coppola** (Nuncio to the Kingdom of Belgium and Luxembourg)



**H.E. Mgr. Franco Coppola** (Apostolic Nuncio to the Kingdom of Belgium and Luxembourg) will deliver the lecture on “*The Diplomacy of the Holy See*” on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. H.E. Mgr. Franco Coppola is an Italian prelate of the Catholic Church who has been Apostolic Nuncio to Belgium and Luxembourg since 2021. He has served in the diplomatic service of the Holy See since 1993. Coppola was born in Maglie on 31 March 1957. He was ordained priest on 12 September 1981. He was incardinated in the diocese of Otranto. He attended the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy while at the same time studying for a doctorate in canon law at a pontifical university. He entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See on 1 July 1993, he served at the pontifical representations in Lebanon, Colombia, Poland and at the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State. He served with the rank of Counsellor at the Nunciature in Burundi. On 16 July 2009, Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi and Titular Archbishop of Vinda. He was consecrated by Pope Benedict XVI. On 31 January 2014, Pope Francis named him Apostolic Nuncio to the Central African Republic. On 2 April 2014, Pope Francis named Coppola Nuncio to Chad. On 15 November, he was named Nuncio to Belgium, and on 14 December 2021, he was named Nuncio to Luxembourg.

**31/01 9:30-12:30 A new era of conflict in a changing world: challenges for official and unofficial mediation**  
**Paul Działkowiec** (CGSP, Director of MPS) **by Zoom** *MIP-MADEV*



**Mr. Paul Działkowiec** (Geneva Centre for Security Policy-CGSP, Director of Mediation and Peace Support-MPS) will deliver the lecture on “*A new era of conflict in a changing world: challenges for official and unofficial mediation*” on Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Mr. Paul Działkowiec** has worked for fourteen years as a mediator and dialogue facilitator in armed conflicts; currently as Director of Mediation and Peace Support (MPS) at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (CGSP), and earlier at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD). In these roles, he has initiated and/or facilitated numerous confidential dialogue processes, including in the Ukraine-Russia context, the Caucasus, Middle East, Asia and Africa. Previously, he was an Australian diplomat for over a decade, serving in the Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Africa, up to acting Ambassador level; and as a Peace Monitor in Bougainville, earning an Australian Service Medal. He has visited more than 100 countries, including 70 on work assignments; written on peacemaking in different regions; and delivered guest lectures on similar themes in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, North America, Europe and Australia. Paul is also a Senior Adviser to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Peace Dividend Initiative, Expert on UNDP’s Crisis Response roster, Fellow at the Oxford Global Society and member of Diplomats Without Borders.

**31/01 14:00-18:00 Water Security and Water Governance: Emerging challenges** *MADEV*  
**Philippe Cullet** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS) **by Zoom**



**Professor Philippe Cullet** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS) will deliver the lecture on “*Water Security and Water Governance: Emerging challenges*” on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dr. Philippe Cullet is Professor of international and environmental law at SOAS University of London and Visiting Professor at the National Law University Delhi. He is the recipient of an ERC Advanced Grant (2025-2030) focusing on multi-scalar dimensions of sectoral water conflicts in South Asia (WATCON.org). His publications reflect his engagement with international law and policy, the global South and India. His latest edited book is *River Rejuvenation and River Rights: Evolving Debates in India* (Routledge, forthcoming 2026) [co-edited with Ruchi Shree]. He was a member of the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation’s Committee drafting the Draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016, and is the Co-chair of the Committee on Rights of Nature of the International Law Association.



**6/02 18:00-19:30 NATO and the Future of Transatlantic Relations** *MIP*

**Jamie Shea** (University of Exeter, Former Senior NATO Official) **On Campus**



**Professor Jamie Shea** (Former Senior NATO Official, College of Europe - Natolin) will deliver the lecture on “*NATO and the Future of Transatlantic Relations*” on Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Jamie Shea CMG is Professor at the College of Europe Natolin and an Associate Fellow with the International Security Programme at Chatham House. He is also a Senior Fellow responsible for security and defence programmes at Friends of Europe and a Senior Advisor with the European Policy Centre, both think-tanks based in Brussels. From 2021 to 2024, Jamie assumed the position of Senior Counsel to the Founder and CEO of Fanack/The Chronicle and Fanack Water. Between 2018 and 2022 Jamie was the Professor of Strategy and Security at the University of Exeter. Prior to that, for 38 years he was an international public servant and a member of the International Staff of NATO. His last NATO post was Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges. Other positions included Director of Policy Planning in the Private Office of the Secretary General, Deputy Assistant Secretary General for External Relations, Public Diplomacy Division, Director of Information and Press and Spokesman of NATO. Outside NATO, Jamie has been involved with several prominent academic institutions. For 20 years, he was Professor at the Collège of Europe, Bruges. He was also Visiting Lecturer in the Practice of Diplomacy, University of Sussex and Associate Professor of International Relations at the American University, Washington DC. Jamie is a Senior Transatlantic Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the United States and a Senior Fellow at the London School of Economics, where he teaches a course on crisis management and political communication. Jamie serves on the Board of the Danish Defence College, Copenhagen. He is also currently a Senior Advisor at the European Policy Centre and a Senior Fellow at Friends of Europe. These are both policy think-tanks based in Brussels. Jamie has been awarded two honorary doctorates: one from the University of Surrey and the other from the National School of Public Administration in Bucharest, Romania. He is a recipient of the NATO medal for Meritorious Service. Jamie received the honour of the Companion of St. Michael and St. George in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours in 2020.

**7/02 9:30-12:30 The EU's Common Defence & Security Policy (CDSP) On Campus MIP**

**Sven Biscop** (Acting Director-General of Egmont, Royal Institute of International Relations, Ghent University)



**Professor Sven Biscop** (Director-General of Egmont, Royal Institute of International Relations, Ghent University) will deliver the lecture on “*The EU's Common Defence & Security Policy (CDSP)*” on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Professor Sven Biscop is currently Acting Director-General of Egmont, Royal Institute of International Relations in Brussels, which he joined in 2002. Previously, he was the Director of the Europe in the World Programme at the Egmont Institute. Dr Sven Biscop is a Professor at Ghent University. His research and teaching focus on the strategies of the European Union, NATO, and their Member States. Sven regularly lectures for the EU's European Security and Defence College (ESDC), as well as in various European and American staff colleges, and at the People's University of China in Beijing. Sven is also a Senior Associate Fellow of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy and of the Baltic Defence College. He is a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and of the Clausewitz Society. Sven's latest book is *European Strategy in the 21st Century – New Future for Old Power* (Routledge, 2019). Sven Biscop has been honoured with the cross of Officer of the Order of the Crown (Belgium, 2020) and the Grand Decoration of Honour (Austria, 2017). In 2015, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, Sven was made an Honorary Fellow of the ESDC. His latest book is *Grand Strategy in 10 Words – A Guide to Great Power Politics in the 21st Century* (Bristol University Press, 2021).

**7/02 14:00-16:00 Food Security: a security challenge for all** *MADEV*

**Laura Hammond** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS) **On Campus**

**7/02 16:00-18:00 The global food price crisis.** *MADEV*

**Laura Hammond** (School of Oriental & African Studies - SOAS) **On Campus**



**Professor Laura Hammond** (SOAS) will deliver the lecture on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on “*Food Security: A Security Challenge for All*” and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on “*Global Food Price Crises*”. Laura Hammond is Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Knowledge Exchange and Professor of Development Studies at SOAS. She has been conducting research on conflict, food security, refugees, migration and diasporas in and from the Horn of Africa since the early 1990s. She lived in Ethiopia from 1993-2000, conducting research and working for the UN Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia (the precursor to UNOCHA). Among her research activities, she is PI of the Impact Acceleration Account on Migration, Displacement, Minorities and Marginalisation. She is also Co-Director of the Work Package on Poverty and Inequalities for the Migration for Development and Equality (MIDEQ) Research Hub on South-South Migration. She is Team Leader of the EU Trust Fund’s Research and Evidence Facility on migration and conflict in the Horn of Africa, and Team Leader of the London International Development Centre's Migration Leadership Team. She has done consultancy for a wide range of development and humanitarian organisations, including UNDP, USAID, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the World Food Programme. She is the author of ‘This Place Will Become Home: Refugee Repatriation to Ethiopia’ (Cornell University Press: 2004), editor (with Christopher Cramer and Johan Pottier of *Researching Violence in Africa: Ethical and Methodological Challenges* [Brill 2011] and several book and journal articles.



**13/02 18:00-19:30 United States and China: From Engagement to New Cold War 1972-2025** *MIP*  
**Michael Cox** (London School of Economics & Political Science- LSE, Founding Director of IDEAS) **by Zoom**

**14/02 09:30-12:30 Trump, Trumpism and the World** *MIP-MADEV*  
**Michael Cox** (London School of Economics & Political Science –LSE, Director of IDEAS) **by Zoom**



**Professor Michael Cox** (LSE) will deliver the lecture on “*The United States and China: From Nixon to Trump 2.0. 1972-2025*” on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and “*Trump, Trumpism and the World*” on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Professor Michael Cox is a Founding Director of LSE IDEAS. He was Director of LSE IDEAS between 2008 and 2019 and now holds a senior fellowship. He is also Emeritus Professor of International Relations at LSE. He was appointed to a Chair at the LSE in 2002, having previously held positions in the UK at The Queen's University of Belfast and the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth. He helped establish the Cold War Studies Centre at the LSE in 2004 and later co-founded LSE IDEAS in 2008 with Arne Westad. Professor Cox, as well as his positions at LSE, is an Associate Fellow for the US and the Americas Programme at Chatham House, an advisor to the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and a Guest Professor at **CERIS**. He regularly lectures at universities worldwide as well as to government bodies and many private companies. He has previously served as Chair of the United States Discussion Group at Chatham House, as Senior Fellow at the Nobel Institute in Oslo, as Visiting Professor at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in Canberra, Australia, and as Chair of the European Consortium for Political Research. He is the author, editor and co-editor of several volumes, including works on the Cold War, US foreign policy, the former Soviet Union, war and peace in Northern Ireland and the international thought of E. H. Carr. His most recent work includes a centennial edition of J. M. Keynes's, ‘*The Economic Consequences of the Peace*’ (Palgrave, 2019), a collection of his own essays ‘*Agonies of Empire: American Power from Clinton to Biden*’ (Bristol University Press, 2022), ‘*Afghanistan: Long War to Forgotten Peace*’ (LSE Press, 2022) and ‘*Ukraine: Russia's War and the Future of Global Order*’ (LSE Press, 2023).

**14/02 14:00-18:00 Populism and the crisis of democracies** *MIP-MADEV*

**Albena Azmanova** (City St George's -University of London) **by Zoom**



**Professor Albena Azmanova** (City St George's -University of London) will deliver the lecture on **"Populism and the crisis of democracies"** on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dr. Albena Azmanova is a professor of political science at City St George's University of London with specialisation in critical social theory and political economy. Her research and teaching interests include, among other things, democratic theory, political epistemology, and critiques of contemporary capitalism. Her most recent research on the political economy and social psychology of the rise of populism in current-day democracies has received numerous awards. Professor Azmanova is a member of the expert group to the Independent Commission for Sustainable Equality of the European Parliament and Honorary Fellow of the Institute for Global Sustainable Development, University of Warwick. As a Senior Fellow at Open Society University Network's Economic Democracy Initiative, led by Bard College, she is curating, with Pavlina Tcherneva, the symposium "Post-Neoliberalism: Pathways for Transformative Economics and Politics". Professor Azmanova is the founder and editor-in-chief (with James Chamberlain) of *Emancipations: A Journal of Critical Social Analysis* and co-director of the Radical Critical Theory Circle. She also serves on the European Civic Academy's Task Force to the European Civic Forum, among other advisory positions in international political institutions.