



# **CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AT THE PERMANENT MISSION**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PERMANENT  
MISSION ITALY TO THE OSCE IN VIENNA  
(2021-2024)**

**STEFANO BALDI**



**Permanent Mission of Italy  
OSCE**



# **CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN THE PERMANENT MISSION**

The experience of the  
Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna  
(2021-2024)

**Stefano Baldi**

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## INTRODUCTION

When examining the title of this publication, one might question the connection between cultural diplomacy and the work of a Permanent Mission. At first glance, apart from Missions accredited to UNESCO in Paris, the link between cultural and multilateral diplomacy may seem weak. However, the interplay between these two realms is both profound and multifaceted.

Day-to-day operations at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna, like all Permanent Missions to International Organizations, primarily revolve around typical activities of multilateral diplomacy. Meetings, negotiations, and the finalization of documents such as statements and decisions occupy a significant portion of our time. These activities are the result of extensive discussions and coordination, involving interactions among numerous individuals. In this complex web of diplomacy, personal relationships become crucial for reaching common positions and negotiating compromises.

It is within this context that I have consistently viewed external cultural activities as an indirect yet powerful tool to foster better human relations. These activities lay the basis for finding common ground in personal interactions, which is essential in the realm of multilateral diplomacy. Concerts, performances, exhibitions, and other cultural events form part of a soft power toolkit. Their purpose extends beyond showcasing national traditions and culture; they provide a safe space to set aside tensions and misunderstandings, allowing for empathy and peace of mind to flourish. While achieving this ideal is not always possible, the effort is invariably worthwhile.

This volume highlights many of the activities I have organized as the Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE. These events, hosted at various venues including the Official Residence, the Italian Cultural Institute, and Palais Metternich (the Embassy of Italy in Austria), encompassed a wide spectrum of cultural forms. From concerts featuring classical and electronic music to book presentations of essays and poetry, and exhibitions showcasing art and history, each event was carefully curated to present different facets of Italian culture and tradition.

This publication serves as a continuation of my previous work, "Culture in the Residence<sup>1</sup>," which documented cultural activities I organized as Ambassador of Italy in Sofia from 2016 to 2020. The parallel between my experiences in bilateral diplomacy (at an Embassy) and multilateral diplomacy (at a Permanent Mission) is striking. In both contexts, I have observed not only a great interest in cultural diplomacy but also significant appreciation for the inspiring moments generated by art and beauty.

Cultural diplomacy plays a crucial role in enhancing mutual understanding, promoting national interests, and addressing global challenges through cultural exchange and cooperation. Whether in bilateral or multilateral settings, it serves as a powerful tool for fostering peace, stability, and international relations.

There is one final aspect of cultural diplomacy that I find particularly compelling and wish to emphasize. It is one of the few institutional activities where diplomats can express their creativity to its fullest extent. Cultural diplomacy allows for innovation, personal touch, and the ability to bridge divides through shared appreciation of art and culture. It is this unique blend of diplomacy and creativity that makes cultural diplomacy not just a professional duty, but a passion.

Stefano Baldi

Vienna, July 2024

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<sup>1</sup> The publication is available online at: <https://tinyurl.com/cultureresidence>



## EVENTS



(MUSIC)

## Musical event “Six degrees of separation. An unusual musical journey”



The “six degrees of separation” theory of Frigyes Karinthy, popularized by John Guare in 1990, which underpins the event, states the idea that everyone is six or less social connections away from each other.

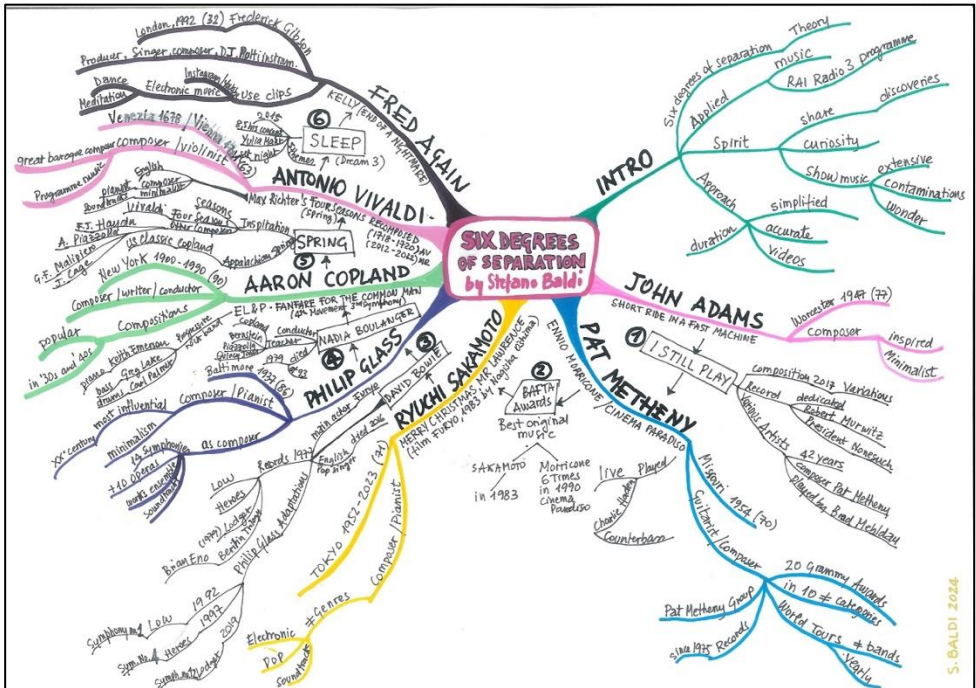
The event was a musical tale articulated in six steps (degrees) of 45 minutes that linked the contemporary music of John Adams to the singer-songwriter and DJ Fred Again, passing through the composer Ennio Morricone and the classical musician Antonio Vivaldi.

Ambassador Stefano Baldi led the guests on an auditory and visual journey that defied initial expectations, yet elegantly closed the circle within six degrees. The seven videos shown during the evening were interwoven with logical, occasionally surprising references.

The intent was to wake up audience's curiosity and to show the beauty of contamination within music and its multifaceted nature.



The musical event took place twice at the Ambassador's residence in two different language versions. The first one was held on 8th May 2024 in Italian and the second one, on 25th June 2024, was presented in English. Both events gathered in total around sixty guests.



The events took place on 8 May and 25 June 2024

(EXHIBITION)

## Panel exhibition “Italian Regions. Art, Nature, Cuisine and Products of the Italian Regions”



To commemorate Italy’s National Day on 2 June 2024, an exhibition featuring panels dedicated to Italian regions was held at Metternich Palace in Vienna, the Italian Embassy in Austria.

The collection consists of 20 panels, one for each region. They show significant land-

scapes, cities, and products of the region as well as a representative character and a quote from them. The idea behind this exhibition was to portray an image of Italy as the result of a thousand years of history and fascinating geography.

Ambassador Stefano Baldi, the curator of the event, personally selected pictures, quotes and highlighted characteristics. The project was conceived to foster a greater understanding of the invaluable heritage of Italy, underlining the diversity of the Italian regions.

During the official occasion celebrating Italy’s rich cultural heritage, guests had the opportunity to immerse themselves in familiar surroundings



by strolling among twenty distinct panels.

This exhibition was also set up at the Embassy of Italy in Vienna but also at the Italian Embassies in Jerevan (Armenia) and Accra (Ghana).



*The event took place on 1-3 March 2024.*

(EXHIBITION)

## Panel exhibition “La Penna del diplomatico”



The third edition of the Italian Literature Festival took place in Vienna at the Odeon Theatre from 1 to 3 March 2024.

An intense weekend with authors from Italy to tell the story of contemporary Italian literature through different genres and languages. The authors of the 2024 festival were (in order of appearance)

Serena Dandini, Alessandro Barbero, Dacia Maraini, Benedetta Tobagi, Domenico Dara, Fabio Genovesi, Manuele Fior, Stefano Mancuso, Silvia D'Achille, Davide Morosinotto and Gianrico Carofiglio. A special event was dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of La Storia by Elsa Morante.



As part of the Italian Literature Festival “La Fonte” in Vienna and in collaboration with the local Italian Cultural Institute, the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE organised a panel exhibition titled “*La Penna del Diplomatico*” (the diplomat’s pen), realised by Amb. Stefano Baldi.

The exhibition consists of 18 thematic panels with 340 book covers. It showcases a lesser-known side of diplomats, namely the volumes they published, and is based on the homonymous research project that Amb. Baldi has been carrying out for over 20 years, which has led to the identification and cataloguing of 1400 books published by more than 340 Italian diplomatic authors.



The genres that most appeal to Italian diplomats and inspire them to publish books are mainly history and international politics, but also memoirs. However, there is no shortage of fiction and books of poetry, as well as numerous volumes dedicated to the palaces that house the Diplomatic Representations abroad. Lastly, a section of the exhibition is dedicated to the various volumes published in foreign languages.

*The event took place on 1-3 March 2024.*



(FILM)

## Screening of the documentary film “Wartime Notes”



On the occasion of the second anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE, in cooperation with the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna, organised the screening of the documentary film “Wartime Notes” by Barbara Cupisti, produced by Clipper Media with Rai Cinema.

The film chronicles the unarmed resistance in Ukraine and highlights the experience and choices of some individuals who tried to “find meaning in the futility of war by discovering the strength and courage of Ukrainian women and men”. One of the film’s protagonists is Oleksandra

Matviichuk, Nobel Peace Prize 2022.

“Wartime Notes” has received numerous international awards. It was presented out of competition at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Molodist Kyiv Film Festival, at the ninth International Documentary Festival Visionsi dal Mondo in Milan and at the 44th Florence Film and Women’s Festival. “Wartime Notes” won the Best Foreign Film award at the Bir Duino Film Festival in Kyrgyzstan.

The screening was introduced by Amb. Stefano Baldi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE, and Amb. Giovanni Pugliese, Ambassador of Italy to Austria, followed by the President of Rai Cinema Nicola Claudio and director Barbara Cupisti. Clipper Media producers Sandro Bartolozzi and Barbara Meleleo, the director of photography Antonello Sarao and the Head of Rai doc production Gabriele Genuino, as well as the Hon. Eugenio Zoffili, President of the Italian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, were also present.



The event was attended by numerous Ambassadors and other representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Vienna as well as OSCE officials. The screening confirmed the strong emotional impact of the film's stories and images among the Viennese audience.

The film is available on the RAI Play platform:  
<https://www.raiplay.it/programmi/wartimenotes>

### **Barbara Cupisti**



Born in Viareggio, Italy, Barbara Cupisti is an award-winning film director with a elongated career as a film actress.

She has emerged as one of the most gifted documentary film directors of her generation with her breakthrough film *Mothers* (2007), which explored the reality of life in the Occupied

Territories through a series of conversations with both Israeli and Palestinian mothers who lost their children to conflict. The film was shown at the Venice Film Festival and won a David di Donatello for Best Documentary of the year.

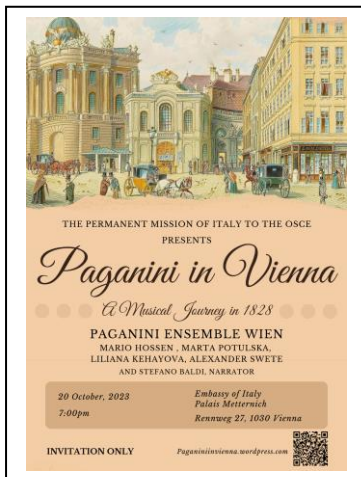
Cupisti released nine documentaries focused on human rights issues, many of them earning patronage from UNICEF, UNHCR, and Amnesty International, as well as awards at various international film festivals.



*The event took place on 23 February 2024.*

(MUSIC)

## Musical event “Paganini in Vienna: A Musical Journey in 1828”



Niccolò Paganini had an extraordinary stage presence and was a major innovator in both musical composition and concert organisation. By fuelling the mystery around his persona and through unforgettable virtuoso performances, he always managed to attract an enthusiastic audience to all his shows.

As a way of recreating the atmosphere of 1828 Vienna (i.e. when Nicolò Paganini spent four intense months in the imperial capital), the Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE Amb. Stefano Baldi and the Quartet Paganini Ensemble Wien staged an original production of a concert

featuring both music and anecdotes, which provided a better understanding of why Vienna was so important to the celebrated musician.

The first performance of this project consisted of alternating episodes from the musician’s life – evoked and narrated by Amb. Stefano Baldi – with particularly significant musical pieces performed by the Quartet, which is composed of Mario Hossen on violin, Marta Potulska on viola, Liliana Kehayova on cello and Alexander Swete on guitar.





The Paganini Ensemble Wien is among the most prestigious international interpreters of Paganini's chamber music.

During the evening, among the pieces performed were "La Campanella" and "Capriccio No. 24", both in an original arrangement for quartet.



The full video recording of the evening is available online (<https://tinyurl.com/paganinivienna>), providing an extraordinary opportunity not only to listen to Paganini's music but also to learn more about the musician and his life.

In addition to the recording, more information can be found on the website [paganiniinvienna.wordpress.com](http://paganiniinvienna.wordpress.com) dedicated to the project "Paganini in Vienna", which offers insights into the composer's life and oeuvre as well as numerous illustrations of his time. It is a significant contribution to the preservation and divulgation of the rich musical heritage of Nicolò Paganini.



## **Paganini Ensemble Wien**

### **Mario Hossen**



Mario Hossen is the founder of the Paganini Ensemble Wien. He is a Bulgarian-Austrian concert violinist, considered as one of the leading interpreters of Paganini music. He made his debut as a soloist with an orchestra at the age of eight. As a concert soloist of international acclaim, Mario Hossen has performed with renowned orchestras such as the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra, the Bruckner Orchestra, the Orchestra della Scala di Milano and the English Chamber Orchestra. Hossen's musicological and artistic endeavors are focused among other things on source research on Niccolò Paganini. Mario Hossen performs on G.B. Guadagnini Violin (1749), which is at his disposal by the Austrian National Bank. He plays all concerts exclusively with his preferred strings, the Vision Titanium Solo strings, manufactured by the Viennese company Thomastik-Infeld.

## **Marta Potulska**



Marta Potulska is a laureate of several international competitions including first prize at the Johannes Brahms Competition in Austria (2007) and at the International Bled Competition and Festival in Slovenia (2011). She is also the recipient of a special award at the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition on the Isle of Man, UK (2006). Marta Potulska is an active participant in many international music festivals such as Salzburger Festspiele, Styriarte, Eggenberger Schlosskonzerte, St Gallen Festival, Austria, the Park City Music Festival in Las Vegas, USA, the International Suzuki Institute in Salt Lake City, USA. She is currently a member of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Wien International Soloists Ensemble and Varietas Ensemble as well as a member of the Ensemble of Burgtheater in Vienna.

## **Liliana Kehayova**



Liliana Kehayova a fourth generation musician, received her Master degree in cello performance at the Vienna Conservatory studying with Lilia Schulz-Bayrova. As a passionate solo and chamber music performer, Ms. Kehayova has participated in numerous music festivals and recitals throughout Europe. She performed as a soloist with orchestras such as Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, Mitteleuropa Orchestra Udine, North Czech Philharmonic, Varna Philharmonic Orchestra, New Symphony Orchestra, Camerata Orphica among others. She has performed in venues such as Musikverein, Austria, Athenaeum, Romania, Rudolfinum-Dvorak Hall and Smetana Hall, Czech Republic, Palau de la Musica Catalana, Spain and Bulgaria Hall, Bulgaria. In 2012, Liliana was honoured with the grand scholarship of the Austrian foundation "Alban Berg".

## Alexander Swete



Alexander Swete is one of the leading and internationally most sought-after guitarists in Austria. His expressive playing, sense of sound and virtuosic ease delight both critics and audiences. During his studies at the Conservatory in Bregenz with Georg Gaupp-Berghausen and at the Vienna Music Academy with Konrad Ragossnig, he had already achieved great success in prestigious international guitar competitions (Havana / Cuba and ARD Munich). His international breakthrough started in 1991 after winning the first prize at the International Guitar Competition of Radio France in Paris, the world's most guitar important competition. Alexander Swete is professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and is D'Addario Artist, playing on D'Addario Pro Arte Nylon strings.

*The event took place on 20 October 2023.*



## Concert “EKO: Sound Reflection for Piano and Electronics”



EKO is a music project that seeks to combine the melodic and sophisticated atmospheres of Lello Petrarca’s piano with the refined electronic sounds of Martux\_m. Piano and electronics, two instruments seem to represent tradition and innovation respectively, are in this case merging into a “now and here”. The project is an “emotional geography”, a sound map that brings the listener in touch with one’s inner worlds. This union embodies one of the most innovative and original Italian musical artistic projects at present.

During the concert “EKO. Sound Reflection for Piano and Electronics”, organised by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE with the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna, Martux\_m (electronics) and Lello Petrarca (piano) gave an



outstanding performance and executed tracks named after human emotions, e.g. Trust, Inspiration, Regret, Wonder, Surprise.

At the end of the concert, Amb. Stefano Baldi explained the origin of the initiative as follows: “Italy is world famous for its music and its musicians. I wanted to present something original to prove that, even in the field of music, creativity and beauty do not simply belong to the past, but are well present in the present and continue to make our country a point of reference for international culture. The success of and interest in an unconventional programme such as the EKO project confirms the vitality of our contemporary music and the need to make it known and appreciated abroad.”

### **Lello Petrarca**



Pianist, composer, multi-instrumentalist and arranger. At the invitation of Tullio De Piscopo he played in 2009 at Sorrento Jazz. Among the many festivals in which he has played are the Nick La Rocca Jazz Festival, the Atina Jazz Festival, the 2011 Napoli Jazz Festival with

Trovesi and Stockhausen, the Luglio Jazz Festival in 2015 and 2016 at the Centro Campania in Caserta, respectively opening concerts by Al Jarreau and Richard Bona. In early 2016, he released the album *Musical Stories* for the well-known Apulian record label Dodicilune, which was received with great interest by the press. In 2018, he released the album “*Reflections*” considered by the press to be among the 100 best Jazz albums of 2018. In 2019 he released the album “*International Songs*” made in solo piano and dedicated to international song. In 2022, he released the album “*Napoli Jazzology*”.

## Maurizio Martusciello *aka* Martux\_m



Pioneer of Italian electronic music, starts his activity as a musician and producer of electronic music in the 90s. He starts several groups of electronic art with the name Martux\_m, among which Ossatura, Metaxu and the Martux\_m Crew, producing numerous electronics and electro-jazz CDs. He publishes more than 20 CD with the most important international labels. In his projects, he collaborates with musicians such as Markus Stockhausen, Arto Lindsay, Eivind Aarset, Nils Petter Molvaer, Jon Hassel, Danilo Rea, and many more. He is invited in the most known international festivals such as Biennale Musica di Venezia, Sonar (ES), Mutek (CND), RomaEuropa (IT), Dissonanze (IT), Villette-Numerique (FR). He works as well for productions and installations of multimedia digital art. He was commissioned digital arts' works by Fendi, Roberto Capucci, MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma, RomaEuropa Festival, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal. He has been artistic director and curator of electronic music Festival such as Sensoralia and SonarSound. He has been teaching the Mester corse "Remix - Estetiche della manipolazione Elettronica" at the Conservatorio of Saint Cecilia of Rome.

The concert was filmed and a series of videos is available on the YouTube channel of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ekovienna>

*The event took place on 16 June 2023.*

(ART)

## Panel exhibition “Il Perugino: The Best Master of Italy”



By means of 15 panels, the panel exhibition “Il Perugino: The Best Master of Italy” dedicated to the Renaissance painter concisely narrates the life of Pietro Vannucci, largely known as ‘Il Perugino’.

The exhibition illustrates the geographical surroundings and the artistic phases that shaped his oeuvre, other than displaying some of its most famous works. Considered to be one of the most famous and influential painters of

his time, he was mainly active in Perugia, Florence and Rome. Most of his works are located in Umbria, Tuscany and the Marches. He died of the plague in 1523 in Fontignano, near Perugia.

The exhibition, which commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of the great Umbrian painter, was designed and curated by Amb. Stefano Baldi who was born – just like Perugino – in Città della Pieve.

The project, consisting of an exhibition on ‘Perugino’ chiefly intended for a non-specialist target group, was conceived in order to give greater visibility and foster greater awareness of this painter abroad.

The exhibition will be displayed and adapted in



various countries around the world by other Embassies, Consulates and Cultural Institutes. It has already been on show in in universities or other public spaces related to Italian art and language in 18 countries (Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Lebanon, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Panama, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Tanzania, Türkiye).



The panels were initially written in Italian and English only, but have now been translated into French, Spanish, German, Turkish, Albanian, Macedonian, Greek, Slovak and Swahili.

Further information on the content of the exhibition and on the previous as well as next shows

around the globe can be found online at <https://perugino500.wordpress.com/>

In Vienna, the panel exhibition was inaugurated at Palais Sternberg (premises of the Italian Cultural Institute) on the occasion of the Italian National Day celebrations on 2 June 2023 and remained open to the public for the whole month.

*The event took place during the whole month of June 2023.*

(BOOK PRESENTATION)

## Presentation of the book “Italy and the CSCE Paris Charter for a New Europe”



The book “Italy and the CSCE Paris Charter for a New Europe” (currently available only in Italian; original title: “*L’Italia e la Carta di Parigi della CSCE per una nuova Europa*”), a collaborative project between the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE and the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento, aims to provide a better understanding of the process culminating in the adoption of the Charter of Paris in 1990. It is also complemented by extensive documentation on the negotiations of the Charter of Paris, which is available on the website of the Permanent Mission: <https://tinyurl.com/oscedocum>



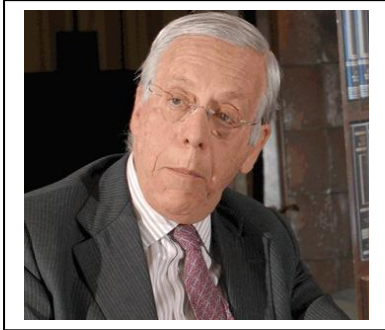
The volume was presented at the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna on 26 April 2023 by its author, the Italian career diplomat Amb. Antonio Armellini, former Ambassador to the CSCE from 1990 to 1992. He highlighted the role played by Italy during the delicate and complex negotiations and was joined in conversation by Amb. Lamberto Zannier (former Secretary General of the OSCE), Matteo Mecacci (Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR), and Amb. Igli Hasani (OSCE Coordinator of the Economic and Environmental Dimension at the time of the event). Amb. Stefano Baldi moderated the panel discussion.

The event was attended by over 20 Permanent Representatives to the OSCE as well as many other international officials, scholars, and distinguished guests.

A video of the book presentation is available on the Permanent Mission of Italy's YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeCIK5IH88Y>



## Antonio Armellini



Antonio Armellini is an Italian career diplomat. In the early 1970s, he served in the private office of Foreign Minister and subsequently Prime Minister of Italy Aldo Moro. He was spokesperson for the European Commissioner Altiero Spinelli in Brussels from 1972 to 1974. During the 1980s and 1990s, he served in many foreign diplomatic postings. He was Ambassador to the CSCE from 1990 to 1992 and Ambassador to Algeria

from 1998 to 2000. He was Ambassador at large in charge of international terrorism in 2002 and was appointed Head of the Italian mission and Special Envoy to Iraq in 2003. He was Ambassador to India and Nepal from 2004 to 2008 and Permanent Representative to the OECD in Paris from 2008 to 2010.

He is the author of *Il terrorismo internazionale dopo l'11 settembre: l'azione dell'Italia* (IAI Quaderni, 2003) with Paolo Trichilo, *If the elephant flies: India confronts the twenty-first century* (Har-anand, New Delhi, 2012) and *Né centauro né chimera. Modesta proposta per un'Europa plurale* (Marsilio 2017) with Gerardo Mombelli. He is a regular columnist for *Corriere della Sera* and *Huffington Post*.

## Igli Hasani



Ambassador Igli Hasani is the former Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities. Before joining the OSCE, Ambassador Hasani was the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna. In this capacity, Ambassador Hasani was the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council during the Albanian OSCE

Chairmanship in 2020, and he was Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group as part of the OSCE Troika in 2019. He is the current Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Albania.



## Matteo Mecacci



Matteo Mecacci is Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) since December 2020. He was President of the International Campaign for Tibet from 2013 to 2020. He headed the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Georgia in 2013 and was a Member of the Italian Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee

and of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 2008 to 2013. From 2000 to 2008 he was Representative to the United Nations in New York of “No Peace Without Justice” and the “Transnational Radical Party”.

## Lamberto Zannier



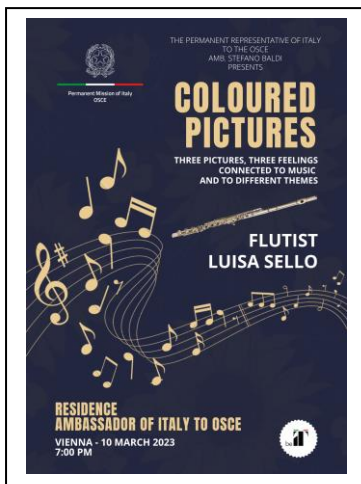
Ambassador Lamberto Zannier was OSCE Secretary General from 2011 to 2017 and OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities from 2017 to 2020. He is currently an Adviser for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. He joined the Italian Foreign Ministry as a career diplomat in 1978. From 2008 to 2011 he was UN Special Representative for

Kosovo and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). From 2002 to 2006, he was the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE.

*The event took place on 26 April 2023.*

(MUSIC)

## Musical event “Coloured Pictures: Three Pictures, Three Feelings Connected to Music and to Different Themes”



The New York Concert Review defines the internationally renowned flutist Luisa Sello as a “lovely mix of extroverted passion and genuine tenderness, with excellent breath control, brilliant technical rendering, engaging intensity, sonorous range and abundance of charm”. Sello is a Miyazawa Artist as well as an Ambassador of Music and Italian Culture, supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture.

Sello gave a spectacular performance on 10 March 2023 at the Residence of the Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE, Amb. Stefano Baldi, where she played a number of famous pieces by well-

known classical and contemporary composers, including Vivaldi, Bischof, Debussy, Verdi, Bach, Rossini, and Mozart. By dividing the music pieces into three groups, Luisa Sello sought to represent a trinity of different colours, emotions, and themes that music can interpret, thus explaining the concert’s title “Coloured Pictures”.

Her performance is publicly available on the YouTube channel of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE: <https://tinyurl.com/SelloVienna>

## Luisa Sello



Luisa Sello international career includes collaborations with Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Riccardo Muti, Wien Symphoniker Orchestra, Thailand Symphony Orchestra, Trevor Pinnock, Alirio Diaz, Philippe Entremont, Bruno Canino, Karl Leister, Carnegie Hall, Juilliard School, Suntory Hall, Prazak string quartet, the composers Salvatore Sciarrino, Aldo Clementi, Rainer Bischof (première performances).

Already Flute Professor at the Academy of Music in Milano and Trieste (Italy), she is currently Professor for doctoral PhD in ‘Flute Performance’ at the New Bulgarian University of Sofia (Bulgaria) and visiting professor at the Universities in Vienna, Madrid, Beijing, Melbourne, New York, Kyoto, Bangkok, and Buenos Aires, among others.

In obtaining both her ArtD in Performing Arts and her PhD in Linguistic and Literary Sciences, she studied in Paris with Raymond Guiot and Alain Marion, who proclaimed her “very musical, superb,” at the Accademia Chigiana with Severino Gazzelloni, who remarked her “magnificent interpretive sensibility and excellent sound”, and with Conrad Klemm in Rome who wrote about her ‘virtuosity without sacrificing expressiveness’. She records for Stradivarius, Dynamic (Italy) and Millennium (Beijing).



*The event took place on 10 March 2023.*

(BOOK PRESENTATION)

## Presentation of the book “Il cappello dell'imperatore”



The book “*Il Cappello dell’Imperatore. Storia, memoria e mito di Napoleone Bonaparte attraverso due secoli di culto dei suoi oggetti*” by Arianna Arisi Rota, Professor of Contemporary History at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Pavia, was presented on 10 February 2023 at the bookstore “Hartliebs Bücher” in Vienna. After an introduction by Amb. Stefano Baldi, the author was joined in conversation by Amb. Gilles Pécout, Ambassador of France to Austria and prominent historian.

The event was attended by a large audience and several members of the diplomatic staff accredited in Vienna. These included the Ambassador of Italy to Austria, Stefano Beltrame, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN in Vienna, Alessandro Cortese, and the Ambassador of Lithuania, Vaidotas Verba.

A video recording of the conversation is available on the YouTube channel of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/cappelloimperatore>



### Arianna Arisi Rota



Arianna Arisi Rota is Full Professor of Contemporary History at the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Pavia, where she teaches courses on 19<sup>th</sup> century history and the history of diplomacy. She graduated in Political Sciences in Pavia in 1988 and obtained a PhD in “History of European Society” at the University of Milan in 1992. She has worked on diplomacy in Italy during the

Napoleonic era, on the political mobilisation of the youth in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, and on memory-building of the political Risorgimento. Her research falls along four main axes: history of Italian foreign policy, history of political mobilisation on the Italian peninsula and in Europe in the long 19<sup>th</sup> century (youth, transnational networks of conspiracy, politico-military volunteering, associationism), as well as memory-building of Risorgimento in the liberal age. Her publications include: *Il processo alla Giovine Italia in Lombardia, 1833-1835* (Angeli, 2003), *I piccoli cospiratori. Politica ed emozioni nei primi mazziniani* (Mulino, 2010), *1869: il Risorgimento alla deriva. Affari e politica nel caso Lobbia* (Mulino, 2015), and *Risorgimento. Un viaggio politico e sentimentale* (Mulino, 2019). Furthermore, she has edited the book *Formare alle professioni. Diplomatici e politici* (Angeli, 2009).

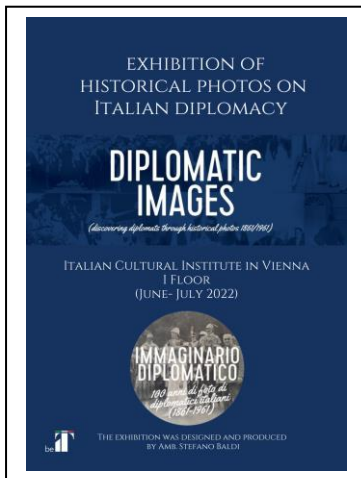
### Gilles Pécout



Gilles Pécout is a French historian, academic, and diplomat. He is currently the French Ambassador to Austria in Vienna. He is one of the main experts of 19<sup>th</sup> century Italy. He graduated from the École normale supérieure in Paris, where he was also a professor and director of the History Department. In September 2016, he was appointed rector of the Île-de-France Academic Region.

*The event took place on 10 February 2023.*

## Panel Exhibition of historical photos “Diplomatic Images: Discovering Diplomats through Historical Photos 1861/1961”



This exhibition of historical photos on Italian diplomacy aimed to illustrate some of the functions of diplomacy as well as some aspects of diplomatic work through a series of old photographs of Italian diplomats taken between 1861 and 1961. These images, some of them which have never been published before, are the result of a research that began a few years ago.

All the photos included in this exhibition are part of the larger “Immaginario diplomatico” project conceived and coordinated by Ambassador Stefano Baldi

([https://baldi.diplomacy.edu/italy/Baldi\\_Diplomatic\\_images\\_web.pdf](https://baldi.diplomacy.edu/italy/Baldi_Diplomatic_images_web.pdf)).

The project led to the creation of a dedicated website of historical photos (1861-1961) concerning Italian diplomats of the past. The website is available at the following address: <http://www.flickr.com/immaginariodiplo>.

The main purpose of the initiative and of the exhibition is to preserve significant photographic evidence of the history of Italian diplomats. It also contributes to spreading awareness and thus appreciation of the Italian diplomatic tradition of many



personalities – more or less known – which have represented Italy across the world.

The exhibition, of an informative nature comprises 20 coloured panels: The beginning, The presentation of credentials, Cultural diplomacy, Economic diplomacy, Consular activity, Multilateral diplomacy, International treaties, Official ceremonies, Official visits, The diplomatic uniform, Seen up close, The Embassy's life, Family life and Books written by Italian diplomats.



The exhibition has also been shown in other countries in the world: <https://tinyurl.com/immaginariomondo>

In Vienna, the event took place during the whole month of May 2022 at the Italian Cultural Institute as well as on 2 June 2022 on the occasion of the Italian National Day.

*The event took place during the whole month of May and on 2 June 2022.*

(BOOK PRESENTATION)

## Presentation of the book “Nel deserto dell’ora”



The book of poems “*Nel deserto dell’ora*” (ed. Passigli, 2022) by Silvio Mignano, former Ambassador of Italy in Bern, was presented at the bookstore “Hartliebs Bücher” in Vienna on 13 May 2022. Amb. Stefano Baldi introduced the conversation between the author and his interviewer, writer Lorena Pircher.

The presentation sparked a great deal of interest and gathered many members of the Italian community in the beautiful Viennese bookshop. The attendees included, among others, Amb. Stefano Beltrame (Ambassador of Italy in Austria), Amb. Alessandro Cortese (former Perma-

nent Representative of Italy to the International Organizations in Vienna); Luca Fratini (former Director of the Office of the OSCE Secretary General); and Fabrizio Iurlano, former Director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna.

Amb. Stefano Baldi’s introduction highlighted the many existing international and Italian examples of diplomats-poets. This is still a little-known aspect of the book production of diplomats despite the fact that some of them went on to win the Nobel Prize for Literature (Saint-John Perse, Ivo Andric, Gheorghios Seferis, Octavio Paz).



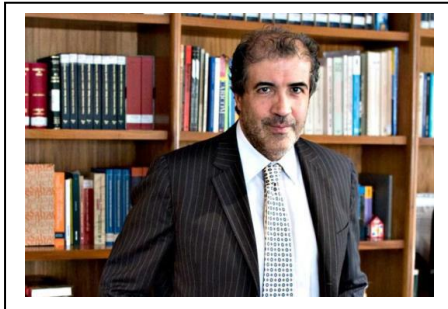


During the conversation, Amb. Silvio Mignano looked back on some professional as well as personal life events and experiences. He spoke about his love for literature passed on to him by his parents, a simple football game, and his work as a diplomat, which allowed him to deal with many different realities. Prompted by Lorena Pircher, he also read some of his poems, which were much appreciated by the audience. The interview with Mignano also resulted in a lively debate with the audience who were particularly interested in learning about various aspects linked to the genesis of the book and its contents.

The event starring Silvio Mignano was the first of a series of book presentations that the Permanent Representation of Italy to the OSCE organised to promote and highlight certain aspects of our diplomacy and history.

Two videos of Silvio Mignano reading two of his poems during the event are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/mignanovienna1> and <https://tinyurl.com/mignanovienna2>

## Silvio Mignano



Born in Fondi in the province of Latina in 1965, Silvio Mignano, career diplomat, has written several novels (“*Una lezione sull’amore*”, “*Le porte dell’inferno*”, “*La favola del mercante Docibile e della principessa siriana*”, “*Pilar degli invisibili*”, “*Il danzatore inetto*”). His previous poetry collections are “*Taccuino nero per il viaggio*” (2003), “*Non abbiamo uno sceneggiatore di scorta*” (2009), “*La nostra ribelle buona educazione*” (“Sertoli Salis Grytzko Mascioni” Award, 2011), and “*I Venerdì Santi*”. His other publications include the fairytales “*Il regalo del rinoceronte*” as well as the short stories in “*El Bolígrafo Boliviano*”. He is also the author, under the pen name Mario Cabrera Lima and together with Claudio Del Punta, of the screenplay for the film “*Haiti Chérie*,” winner of the Young Jury Prize at the Locarno Film Festival in 2007 and the Screenplay Prize at the Mons Festival in 2008. At the time of the event, he was the Italian Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.



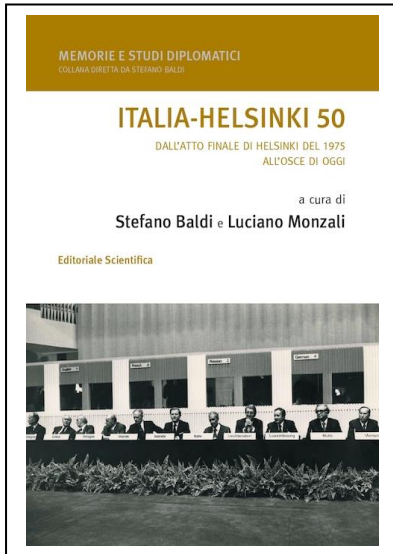
The Author, Amb. Silvio Mignano (second from right) with the three Italian Ambassadors of Italy in Vienna (from left to right): Amb. Stefano Baldi (OSCE), Amb. Alessandro Cortese (United Nations) and Amb. Stefano Beltrame (Austria)

*The event took place on 13 May 2022.*

## BOOKS



## Italia-Helsinki 50. Dall'Atto finale di Helsinki del 1975 all'OSCE di oggi



In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna produced the book "*Italy-Helsinki 50. From the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 to the OSCE of today*" (Editoriale Scientifica, 2024) edited by Prof. Luciano Monzali and Amb. Stefano Baldi, which brings together original contributions from various historians and diplomats.

This volume is the first attempt at a comprehensive study of Italy's role in the genesis of the Helsinki Accords and the evolution of the CSCE and OSCE. It presents a series of historical

analyses, also based on previously unpublished and never-before-used Italian documentary sources, which help to understand the main moments of pan-European cooperation from the 1960s to the outbreak of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of the Italian role. The volume also collects assessments and reflections of some of the most eminent Italian diplomatic personalities who devoted special attention and participated firsthand in the development of the Helsinki process.

The book is thus a must-read for understanding an important aspect of the most recent history of Italian foreign policy and, more generally, of the European continent.

Stefano Baldi, Luciano Monzali (editors), *Italia-Helsinki 50. Dall'Atto finale di Helsinki del 1975 all'OSCE di oggi*, Editoriale Scientifica, Napoli, 2024, pp. 444.

The book is only available in Italian and can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ItaliaHelsinki50>

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## Italy in the OSCE. Italian Initiatives and Statements at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



The publication “*Italy in the OSCE. Italian initiatives and statements at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*” by the three diplomats currently working at the Permanent Mission – Stefano Baldi, Massimo Drei, and Vito Mosè Piero – aims to fill the knowledge gap on the OSCE, which is a very peculiar international organization that is often underestimated and even unknown to the wider public.

The book is divided into four main parts. Part I’s objective is to provide basic information on the functioning of the OSCE. Part II gives an overview of Italy’s role within the Organization and highlights several Italian initiatives.

Part III represents a collection of statements delivered by the heads of the Italian delegations at Ministerial Councils (i.e. a OSCE body composed of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all 57 participating States). Finally, Part IV deals with the Italian statements at OSCE Summits (namely the highest decision and policy-making body of the Organization).

S. Baldi, M. Drei, V.M. Piero, *Italy in the OSCE. Italian Initiatives and Statements at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*, Napoli, 2024, Editoriale scientifica.

The book can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ItalyinOSCE>

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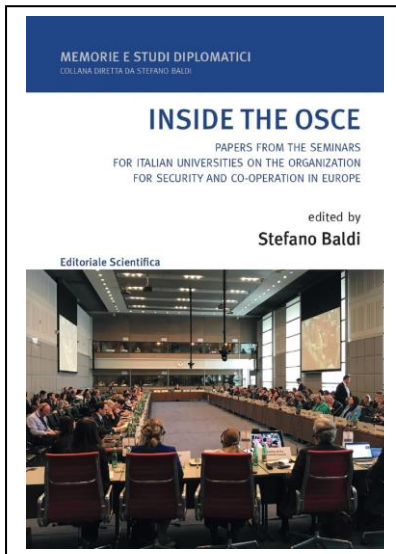
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## Inside the OSCE. Papers from the seminars for Italian Universities on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



“Inside the OSCE”, edited by Ambassador Stefano Baldi and produced with the contribution of all the diplomats of the Permanent Representation of Italy, describes the role and activities of the OSCE in promoting the all-encompassing concept of security, declined in its three dimensions of the political-military, economic-environmental and human security.

The publication is structured into several chapters in which various aspects of the OSCE's functioning are explored. These encompass conflict prevention instruments and procedures, combating transnational threats, activities of the Office for Democratic

Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), promotion of cooperation in the economic-environmental field, the Mediterranean Partnership, the Parliamentary Assembly and opportunities for young people in the Organization.

The publication is part of a strategy to make accessible to everyone a range of information that is generally known only to OSCE insiders. The cycles of seminars on the OSCE, organized by the Italian Representation in Vienna in cooperation with several Italian universities, from which the book is based on, are also part of this context.

The book is part of a series recently created by the publishing house “Editoriale Scientifica” titled “Memoirs and Diplomatic Studies”, which aims to highlight the activities and role of diplomats in international politics. One of the features of the series is to provide, in addition to the paper version in

bookstores, a digital version made freely available online to ensure ease of reference and the widest dissemination.

S. Baldi, *Inside the OSCE. Papers from the seminars for Italian Universities on the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe*, Naples, 2023, Editoriale scientifica.

The book can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/InsideOSCE>

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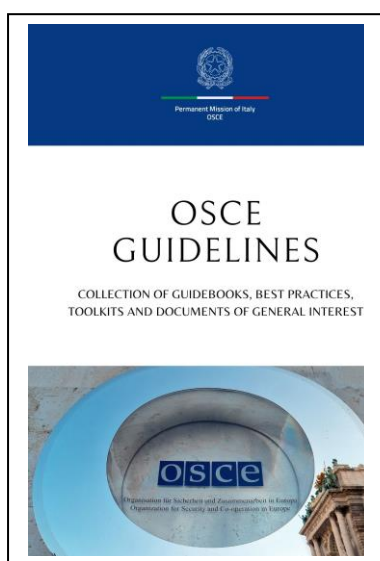
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## OSCE Guidelines. Collection of Guidebooks, Best practices, Toolkits and Documents of General interest



The publication is an unofficial reference collection of OSCE resources, which includes guidebooks, best practices, manuals, toolkits and documents of general interest covering the entire work of the Organisation on the politico-military, economic- environmental and human dimensions of security as well as on cross-dimensional issues.

Such material has been published by the OSCE Secretariat, by the Autonomous Institutions (the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - ODIHR, the Representative on Freedom of the Media - RFoM, the High Commissioner on National Minorities - HCNM), and by the OSCE field missions.

This collection highlights the wide range of practical work carried out by the OSCE to support participating States in the implementation of OSCE commitments as well as civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders.

*OSCE Guidelines. Collection of Guidebooks, Best practices, Toolkits and Documents of General interest*, Vienna, 2023, Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE.

The ebook can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://delegazioneosce.esteri.it/it/news/stampa-media/pubblicazioni-osce/>

## **L'Italia nell'OSCE. Iniziative ed interventi dell'Italia nell'Organizzazione per la Sicurezza e Cooperazione in Europa**



Italy is among the five largest contributing countries to the OSCE in terms of both financial contributions and human resources made available to the Organization. These figures alone highlight Italy's prominent role. However, little is known about a number of activities in certain sectors and countries in which Italy, often through the funding of specific projects, is involved.

This volume has been produced to provide, in simplified form, a set of basic information that facilitates understanding of the OSCE and contains some examples of the action that Italy is taking today and has taken in

the past within the organization. The book also contains a brief description of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a list of the main acronyms used in the work.

The publication updates and expands the volume "Italy at OSCE Ministerial Council Meetings", published in November 2021.

S. Baldi, *L'Italia nell'OSCE. Iniziative ed interventi dell'Italia nell'Organizzazione per la Sicurezza e Cooperazione in Europa*, Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE Vienna, 2022.

The book can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/Italiainiziativa>

## L'Italia e la Carta di Parigi della CSCE per una nuova Europa. Storia di un negoziato (luglio-novembre 1990)



The publication provides a unique opportunity to delve into the complex diplomatic negotiations that led to the adoption of the “Charter of Paris” of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in 1990. This was a particularly important moment for Europe's political balances at a time of profound change, and the negotiation, whose memory has faded over the years, acquires renewed relevance in the current crisis phase. Amb. Armellini, as head of the Italian delegation, highlights the role Italy played in the delicate and complex negotiations.

The first part of this volume covers the negotiations that led to the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and describes what happened between July and November 1990. The second part contains contributions on the content of the Charter written by some of the diplomats and academics involved in the negotiations and concludes with a selection of unpublished documents that help the reader to understand what happened.

The book, completed by an introduction by Giuseppe Nesi and an afterword by Ettore Greco, includes contributions by Stefano Baldi, Fabio Cristiani, Pier Benedetto Francese, Natalino Ronzitti, and Paolo Trichilo.

A. Armellini, *L'Italia e la Carta di Parigi della CSCE per una nuova Europa. Storia di un negoziato (luglio-novembre 1990)*, Editoriale Scientifica, Napoli, 2021.

The book can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ArmelliniParigi>



## L'Italia alle riunioni del Consiglio dei Ministri dell'OSCE. Raccolta degli interventi delle delegazioni italiane 2000-2020



The publication collects speeches delivered by the various heads of Italian delegations who participated in OSCE Ministerial Council meetings between 2000 and 2020. The book also contains a brief description of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a list of the main acronyms used in the organization's work.

The idea of the volume on Italy's speeches stems from the desire to provide relevant documentation for a reflection on the role our country has played in the Organization so far. A careful reading of the published speeches can help to understand how the OSCE, for the past thirty years, has represented that point of encounter and dialogue that was in the

intentions of the “spirit of Helsinki” that underlies it.

The initiative is part of the #vivereallitaliana program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

S. Baldi, *L'Italia alle riunioni del Consiglio dei Ministri dell'OSCE. Raccolta degli interventi delle delegazioni italiane 2000-2020*, Rappresentanza Permanente presso l'OSCE, Vienna, 2021.

The book can be downloaded or accessed free of charge at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/Italiariunioni>

Composition: Stefano Baldi 2024



The daily work at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna, like all Permanent Missions to International Organizations, primarily revolve around typical activities of multilateral diplomacy. Meetings, negotiations, and the finalization of documents such as statements and decisions occupy a significant portion of our time. These activities are the result of extensive discussions and coordination, involving interactions among numerous individuals. In this complex web of diplomacy, personal relationships become crucial for reaching common positions and negotiating compromises.

It is within this context that I have consistently viewed external cultural activities as an indirect yet powerful tool to foster better interpersonal relations. These activities lay the basis for finding common ground in personal interactions, which is essential in the realm of multilateral diplomacy. Concerts, performances, exhibitions, and other cultural events form part of a soft power toolkit. Their purpose extends beyond showcasing national traditions and culture; they provide a safe space to set aside tensions and misunderstandings, allowing for empathy and peace of mind to flourish. While achieving this ideal is not always possible, the effort is invariably worthwhile.

This publication highlights many of the activities that the Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE has organised between 2021 and 2024. These events, hosted at various venues including the Official Residence, the Italian Cultural Institute, and Palais Metternich (the Embassy of Italy in Austria), encompassed a wide spectrum of cultural forms. From concerts featuring classical and electronic music to book presentations of essays and poetry, and exhibitions showcasing art and history, each event was carefully curated to present different facets of Italian culture and tradition.

Stefano Baldi is a career diplomat. He has been Ambassador of Italy in Bulgaria (2016-2020) and Permanent Representative of Italy to the OSCE in Vienna (2021-2024).