



***Women Leaders Roundtable  
Speaker Profiles***

**October 14, 2008  
Renaissance Brussels Hotel  
Rue du Parnasse 19  
Brussels, Belgium**



**ANDROULLA VASSILIOU**  
**EUROPEAN UNION COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH**



Commissioner Vassiliou practiced Law in Cyprus for twenty years (1968-1988). During this period she acted as Legal Advisor to The Standard Chartered Bank and later, to the Bank of Cyprus. She had also been on the Board of many public and private companies. She gave up her legal practice in 1988, upon her husband's election to the Presidency of the Republic of Cyprus.

As First Lady she was very active in social, cultural and other fields, and was for many years actively involved in the work of the United Nations Association of Cyprus and was elected President of the Association for four consecutive terms. As such, she participated in many international and regional conferences especially in the field of Human Rights

In 1991, she was elected President of the World Federation of United Nations Associations and she was re-elected to this position for two terms.

In the year 1996 she was elected Member of the Cyprus House of Representatives representing the Movement of United Democrats, and in 2001 she was re-elected for a second term of five years. During her parliamentary years she served on several key committees - Foreign Affairs Committee, Legal Affairs Committee, Committee on Education and Culture, Committee on Environment and the European Affairs Committee.

She was nominated, and overwhelmingly approved in April 2008, to succeed Markos Kyprianou as EU Commissioner of Health.

We are honoured and delighted that Commissioner Vassiliou has joined us here today



## **Mrs Barbara Miklič Türk – First Lady of the Republic of Slovenia**



Mrs Barbara Miklič Türk was born in Ljubljana. She studied English and Russian languages and literature at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana.

In 1975 she was employed by the Association for the United Nations for the Republic of Slovenia, where, she met her future husband, Danilo Türk.

Mrs Türk accompanied her husband to various conferences to Geneva where she helped him with his research and translating legal texts on human rights. Between 1992 and 2005 she lived in New York. In September 1992 her husband was appointed Ambassador, Head of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York, and later assumed the position of Assistant Secretary-General of the UN.

As a spouse of an ambassador and later of a high ranking UN official she made a variety of international contacts and contributed to the promotion of Slovenia in the world. She was First Vice President and later President of the United Nations Delegations Women's Club (UNDWC). She organized and actively participated in various social, cultural and humanitarian events of the club. She also took part in other groups and activities of UN diplomats' spouses and was a member of the Executive Board of the Women's International Forum (WIF). In August 2005 Mr and Mrs Türk returned to Ljubljana, where this extensive diplomatic experience no doubt prepared for her husband's presidency and her role as First Lady of the Republic of Slovenia where she prepares to engage in a variety of social causes in the fields of education, health, social welfare and culture, including supporting the Slovenian Patient's Society.



## **SUSAN HAMPSHIRE**

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As a child, Susan trained as a classical ballet dancer, educated in the school founded and run by her mother, June. However, by the time she was 15, she had grown too tall for ballet and turned to acting, beginning a long career in which she created many well known parts, from stage and theatre to films to musicals and of course television.

Susan's role as Fleur in the television series "The Forsyte Saga" gained her an Emmy Award for best actress in 1970. She received the award again in 1971 as Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough in "The First Churchills" and again in 1973 as Becky Sharp in "Vanity Fair". Many also know her in the role of Molly, for seven years in the highly popular series "Monarch of the Glen" for the BBC.

In addition to acting, Susan has written several books including the highly acclaimed "Susan's Story", an autobiographical account of her struggle with dyslexia, as well as "Every Letter Counts", also about dyslexia. Several more adult and children's books followed.

Susan has earned 5 honorary degrees, and the prestigious Order of the British Empire in 1995. Her charity work includes having been president of the Dyslexia Institute in Staines, UK and she is currently a Patron of the National Osteoporosis Society in the UK.



## MAGGIE PHILBIN



Maggie Philbin has worked in radio and television for 30 years on a wide range of science, medical and technology programmes. Currently providing analysis and comment on technology for BBC Breakfast News and a regular reporter on BBC 1's "Inside Out", she has a unique resonance with audiences, having grown up with them on much loved shows like "Swap Shop" and "Tomorrow's World". Many of the everyday gadgets we now take for granted were demonstrated on live television for the very first time by Maggie – the first truly mobile phone, the first car navigation system, the first fax machine, even the first supermarket barcode reader.

No-one ever believes the statistics on Osteoporosis apply to them. I've met literally hundreds of women who have been affected by the disease and not one has ever said, 'I always thought I might be at risk.' We're far more likely to check our blood pressure, our cholesterol levels or our star signs than the density of our bones.

She discovered she had low bone density when she was making a programme about osteoporosis sixteen years ago and since then has been a tireless campaigner for better education, prevention and treatment of the disease. She is a patron of the National Osteoporosis Society in the UK and is determined to do all she can to encourage women, the medical profession and governments to take the disease more seriously. "Actions not words", she says.



## PROFESSOR CYRUS COOPER



Cyrus Cooper is Professor of Rheumatology and Director of the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre at the University of Southampton Medical School and Southampton General Hospital in the UK

In 1990, he won an MRC Travelling Fellowship to the Mayo Clinic, USA, where he continued his research in osteoporosis. Cyrus Cooper returned to the UK in 1992 to take up a position as Senior Lecturer in Rheumatology and MRC Senior Clinical Scientist. He was promoted to the foundation Chair in Rheumatology at the University of Southampton in 1997 while continuing as an MRC Senior Clinical Scientist at the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit. In 2003, he was appointed Director of the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre, University of Southampton. In this capacity, he leads an internationally competitive programme of research into the epidemiology of musculoskeletal disorders, most notably osteoporosis.

He has published extensively (over 350 publications) on osteoporosis and rheumatic disorders and pioneered clinical studies on the developmental origins of peak bone mass.

Among other positions, Prof Cooper is Chairman of the National Osteoporosis Society of Great Britain; and Chairman of the Committee of Scientific Advisors, International Osteoporosis Foundation.