



Jean Monnet  
Centre of  
Excellence



With the support of the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# The European Union and Norway

Navigating Together in a Turbulent World

*EU Ambassador to Norway*

*HE Nicolas de La Grandville*

University of Agder

June 21, 2022

12:30-14:30 followed by reception

Room Gimle 25 E U 007

Russia's unjustified and brutal war in Ukraine has changed the political landscape of Europe in a way unseen since the end of World War II. With the arrival of refugees from Ukraine, its consequences are also felt in Norway. Furthermore, Finland and Sweden have embarked on a path towards NATO membership, and the European Union, in general has become a central force in orchestrating Europe's overall response *vis-à-vis* Russian aggression. What does this mean for EU-Norway relations in the years to come? How can both partners work closely together to address some of the key issues related to the war in Ukraine – as well as other closely intertwined issues that dominate the current bilateral agenda?

**12:30**

**Welcome**

*Anne Pintsch, Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence, UiA*

**12:45**

**EU and Norway: Navigating together in a Turbulent Time**

*Nicolas de la Grandville, EU Ambassador to Norway, Oslo*

**13:15**

**Panel Discussion**

*Erik Rostoft, Deputy Mayor of Kristiansand*

*Sunniva Whitaker, Rector, UiA*

*Isabelle-Louise Aabel, EU Advisor, GCE Node*

*Christophe Pinck, International Affairs and EU Advisor, Eyde*

*Nicolas de la Grandville, EU Ambassador to Norway*

Moderation *Clare P. Jortveit and Stefan Gänzle, UiA*

**14:30**

**Reception**

Snacks and light refreshment

## The panellists



**Nicolas de La Grandville** is the Head of the EU Delegation to Norway. He took up his duties in the EEAS on 1 September 2022. De La Grandville has headed the Commission's protocol service since April 2010. Ambassador de la Grandville worked in the French foreign ministry and was spokesman for France's permanent representation to the European Union until 2007. Then he became diplomatic adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy. In 2008, De La Grandville was appointed deputy director and deputy head of protocol in the French ministry of foreign affairs.



**Erik Rostoft** has been deputy mayor of Kristiansand since 2019. In addition to his political career, he has a long track record in the non-profit organizations management industry. He has been the chairman of the supervisory board of *Agder Kommunevisjon IKS*, the chairman of *ERDA Eiendom AS* and the managing director of *Sørlandsparken Næringsforening AS*.



**Sunniva Whittaker** is the rector of the University of Agder and chair of Universities Norway. She holds a PhD in French linguistics from the University of Bergen. Before becoming rector, Sunniva was the dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education. She has previously held positions as Department Head and Vice Rector at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). Sunniva is also a trained conference interpreter.



**Isabel-Louise Aabel** is Project Manager in Sustainability, Equality and EU at GCE NODE one of three Global Centres of Expertise in Norway focusing on ocean technology and the transition from oil, and gas. She has worked in Brussels with policy development on behalf of Agder municipalities and county council. She graduated from UiA in 2013 with a MA degree in political science and management specializing in EU affairs.



**Christophe Pinck** has been responsible for international and EU affairs at Eydecluster since 2016. Grown up in Germany, with a French father, he moved to Norway in 2008 after periods in England and France. With a background in "Design for Sustainability", his focus today is on the green and robust transition of the European process industries through circular economy, carbon emissions, smart digitalization and new business models.

**How to get there: Room Gimle 25 E U 007**

