



War in Europe

Sanctions & the Global Financial Architecture

Speaker Biography

Bernard Siman is Head of Financial Diplomacy & FinTech at the Brussels Diplomatic Academy at the VUB. He teaches graduates in Economic Diplomacy the “International Monetary System and Financial Architecture.” He combined a career in investment banking in London, Tokyo, Turkey and the Middle East and Africa with public service as the United Kingdom Trade & Investment Special Representative to the UAE for Financial Services. He also co-chaired the official bilateral Financial & Professional Services Working Group, as well as the Shipping & Maritime Task Force. A significant part of his work in financial services focused on analysing risk and Threat Finance. He specializes in geopolitical and security research in the eastern Mediterranean and Japan and has published extensively on the subject.

He finished his engineering studies in both Belgium and Japan, and obtained an MSc in Planning in the U.K., and an MPhil in Government from the London School of Economics. He speaks in addition to English and Dutch, Japanese, Arabic and some German. HM The Queen honoured him with the Order of the British Empire, and HM King Filip of Belgium honoured him as a Knight in the Order of Leopold.

Host

Ambassador, Dr. Len Ishmael is the Global Affairs Advisor of the Brussels Diplomatic Academy and visiting Professor of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Mohammed 6 University, Morocco. She is a Senior Fellow and Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the German Marshall Fund of the United States of America and a Senior Fellow of the Policy Center for the New South. Dr. Ishmael is a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on COVID-19’s Regional Task Force for Latin America. She is the former Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean States to the Kingdom of Belgium and European Union, and past President of the 79-member African, Caribbean & Pacific (ACP) Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels. She is a former Director & Head of the Regional Headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean; Director General for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Alternate Governor of the World Bank and Director for the Foundation Leadership for Environment & Development (New York) of the Rockefeller Foundation. She is The Fletcher School Tufts University GMAP Endowment Fellow and member of The Fletcher School GMAP Advisory Council. She is the author of several publications on the Global South, Geopolitics, Africa-EU relations, China, and the Trans-Atlantic relationship.

Dr. Ishmael was conferred a Doctoral Degree in Development Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and Global Master of Arts in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. She received a Master of Arts degree in Urban Planning from the City University of New York and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Geography from the University of the West Indies. She was recognized by King Carlos with the Order of Merit of the Kingdom of Spain in March 2010 for her contributions to the Spanish-Caribbean relationship.