

**Mr. Drahoslav Štefánek**

*Special Representative on Migration and Refugees  
Council of Europe*

In January 2020, Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek took up his functions as Special Representative on Migration and Refugees of Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejčinović Burić.

His mandate is to gather information on how the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees are protected on the ground in the member states, and to develop proposals for action at national and European level, including liaising with international partners. A lawyer by training, and a career diplomat, Drahoslav Štefánek was Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo from 2017 to 2019 and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Council of Europe from 2012 to 2016. Before that he was the Director General for the UN, International Organisations, EU Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia. He also chaired the UN Working Group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. From 2004 to 2009, he was the Deputy Permanent Representative to the Slovak Permanent Mission to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva and from 1997 to 2001 he acted as the Second Secretary and Legal Adviser of Slovakia to the United Nations in New York.

He was also the Agent of Slovakia and Member of the Delegation representing Slovakia before the International Court of Justice. Mr Drahoslav Štefánek holds a JUDr in Law from Matej Bel University and law degrees from the Bratislava and Utrecht universities.