Speakers' Profiles

Karmenu VELLA

European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission

Mr. Karmenu Vella is the European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. He was born in Malta on June 1950. Mr. Vella graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and later obtained a Master of Science in Tourism Management from University of Sheffield. He was first elected to Parliament in 1976 and continued to be reelected in the elections that followed for nine consecutive times. During his political career he has been appointed Minister for Public Works, Minister for Industry and Minister for Tourism twice.

Elżbieta BIEŃKOWSKA

European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Mrs Elżbieta Bieńkowska is EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the European Commission of Jean-Claude Juncker since 1 November 2014. Between 2007 and 2013 she was the Minister for Regional Development of Poland and from 2013 to 2014, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Poland. As the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Infrastructure and Development, she was in charge of the strategic development system of the country, including the effective investment of the European funds. Her work resulted in the full absorption of the EU funds from the budget for 2004-2006 and the successful distribution of almost EUR 68 billion granted to Poland for the years 2007-2013. She was managing the process of the preparation of the efficient EU funds implementation system from the EU budget for the years 2014-2020. Apart from the European funds her tasks in the Polish Government included also the management of transport infrastructure (roads, railway, air traffic and ship transport) and issues related to construction and housing. Before from 1999 to 2007 she was working for the local government of the Silesia Region in Southern Poland. A graduate of the Jagiellonian University. She also graduated from the Polish National School of Public Administration and completed the business administration postgraduate studies at the Warsaw School of Economics.
Luca JAHIER

President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Mr. Luca Jahier has been elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 18 April 2018 for a period of two and a half years, until October 2020. He has been a member of the Committee since 2002. Within the EESC, he has worked extensively on the European Union's social and cohesion policies, as well as on international matters. Mr. Jahier was previously elected for vice-president of the EESC's Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship, as well as for vice-president and for president of Group III at the EESC. During his professional career, he was President of ACLI's national council and a member of the Council's national management committee, responsible for international relations. Mr. Jahier is founder of Initiative of Christians for Europe and of Retinopera, both networks of organisations. He graduated with honours in political science (international studies), University of Turin.

Frans TIMMERMANS

First Vice-President of the European Commission

Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN

Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the ENVI Committee

Mrs Adina-Ioana Vălean is the Chairwoman of the European Parliament’s Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. From 2014 to 2017, she has been Vice-President of the European Parliament, on behalf of the EPP Group, in charge of ICT. Adina Vălean has been a member of the European Parliament since 2007. Before becoming a politician, Mrs Vălean was a social activist, member of several foundations and associations, which promote tolerance, dialogue and a liberal economic market. Mrs Vălean began her professional career as a teacher of Mathematics in Bucharest.

Ismo TIAINEN

Director of International Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Finland

Mr. Ismo Tiainen works as Director General of the Administration and International Affairs at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland. His work history includes posts at private and public sectors in the field of environmental protection. At the beginning of his career he worked as an environmental consultant in a private company, and after that at the Finnish Environment Institute. In 2010, he was hired by the Ministry of the Environment. In 2017, China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development invited Mr. Tiainen to work as a Special Advisor for the Council. The Council acts as an advisory body for the Chinese government. In 2018 he became a member of the Management Board of the Nordic Environment Financing Corporation NEFCO.
Ronald VAN ROEDEN
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, the Netherlands

Mr. Ronald Van Roeden was born in 1957 in the Netherlands. He graduated Human Geography in the State University Utrecht and Ecole Nationale d’Administration in Paris. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1985. Previously he was appointed as Third Secretary in Bagdad, as policy officer in the International Organisations Department in The Hague. During his professional experience, he was First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands at the OECD in Paris, Head Staff Unit of the Directorate General for International Cooperation, Netherlands Ambassador to Norway and Iceland, Diplomatic Advisor on Europe in the Prime Minister’s Office and Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2017 he was assigned as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, the Netherlands.

Joss BLÉRIOT
Executive Director, Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Mr. Blériot has an academic background drawing focus on literature, philosophy and sociology. Having spent most of his career in the media industry as a journalist and editor, he notably develops written and video content, coordinates the production of reports and edits books produced by Ellen MacArthur Foundation Publishing. He represents the Foundation on the European Resource Efficiency Platform (European Commission) and manages the relationship with EU institutions.

Alexandre AFFRE
Industrial Affairs Director, BusinessEurope

Mr. Alexandre Affre is Director for the Industrial Affairs department at BusinessEurope, the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level. The organization speaks for national employers and industrial federations across 34 European countries on all business issues dealt with by the European Union. In this role since 2013, Mr. Affre is responsible for developing and communicating the organization’s positions on energy, climate and environmental policy as well as industrial policy and research & innovation. Since 2018, he is also managing the corporate Advisory and Support Group (ASG) of BusinessEurope. The ASG offers particular services to a selection of companies in all sectors of activity. He joined BusinessEurope in 2007 as advisor in environmental affairs. Prior to that, he worked at the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN. He is a trained scientist and holds a Master in Ecology from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie. A French national, he is married and has two children.
Antti PELTOMÄKI

Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

In this function, Mr. Peltomäki is responsible for Single Market Policy, Regulation and Surveillance; Industrial transformation and Advanced value chains; Consumer, Environmental and Health Industries; and Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Directorates. Mr. Peltomäki is also the Commission representative at the Management Boards of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Before that, Mr. Peltomäki was Deputy Director-General in the Information Society and Media Directorate General where he was firstly responsible for research cooperation in the context of the seventh research framework (2007-2013) and thereafter for regulatory policy in the telecommunications, media and internet fields. Mr. Peltomäki has also worked as Head of the Commission’s representation in Helsinki in 2006 – 2007. Prior to joining the Commission in 2006, Mr. Peltomäki worked for almost ten years in the office of the Prime Minister of Finland, initially as State Under-Secretary, then State Secretary for EU affairs. A lawyer by training, Mr. Peltomäki began his career as a coordinator of international research and training courses at the Helsinki University of Technology.

Per MØLLER

Head of Kalundborg Simbiosis

Mr. Møller works as Head of the Symbiosis Center Denmark - a knowledge center activity run by the development department of Kalundborg Municipality aiming to create sustainable value growth in companies and in society through green conversion. His work is related to the initiation of new areas of activities and securing political support and funding to projects and initiatives under the overall strategy of the Center. This involves building networks and partnerships by raising awareness and engaging with multiple partners from business, public authorities and knowledge institutions to ensure commitment and local anchoring. Further, he is responsible for ensuring knowledge transfer and best practices to other related institutions in Denmark and internationally.

Mr. Møller educational background is a Master’s degree in Biology (1999), a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry and Nutrition (2006) and a Prince2 project management degree (2014).

He has been working for Kalundborg Municipality, Development, since 2009, initially as an external consultant, later as a project manager primarily within test- and demonstration activities in EU projects, and most recently as Head of Symbiosis Center Denmark.
Jennifer SHAW-TABERLET

Alexera Cluster

Jen Shaw-Taberlet is the European Mission Coordinator at Axelera. A PhD chemist, she performed chemistry research for 5 years in fields ranging from hydrogen fuel cells to molecular devices to targeted drug delivery. She went on to gain 11 years’ experience in setting-up R&D projects and infrastructures at the European level. She now focuses on helping set-up circular value chains for the chemical and ecotech industries.

Mesbah SABUR

Circularise

Mr. Sabur got his MSc. in Industrial Design Engineering from Delft University of Technology. From the age of 19, Mesbah started co-founding several start-ups and combined that work with his studies. He became fascinated with circular economy and has been a passionate advocate ever since. Through his experience as an industrial design engineer he was able to work for top Hong Kong based companies and experience many phases of the supply chain first hand, such as manufacturing and smelting. His Master’s thesis laid the foundations of CIRCULARISE, which was soon funded by the European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT). His primary focus at CIRCULARISE is on management, design and front-end development.

Roberto FERRIGNO

Novamont

Mr. Ferrigno has an extensive background in environmental advocacy, strategic policy advice, and EU public affairs. He held senior management positions in global and European organizations, such as Greenpeace International, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), WWF, and Weber Shandwick. He was also the appointed national expert for Italy in the Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities in Brussels. He also worked in the Italian Agency for the Protection of the Environment as strategic and policy advisor to the President. He was appointed by Weber Shandwick Brussels as Communications Director, and Vice President of Public Affairs. Most recently, he advised major producers of bio-polymers on their advocacy on the Circular Economy Action Plan and the adoption of the European Strategy for Plastics. Roberto provides strategic advice to partners of the initiative on the New Plastics Economy launched by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, and assisted
members of the High-Level Panel of the European Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative, established by the European Commission to mobilize science and innovation for implementing the Paris Agreement and supporting EU climate action. He set up Lumina Consult, a consultancy specializing on EU environmental and energy policies.

Guido LENA

Mr. Guido Lena has been Director for Environmental Affairs in UEAPME from 1999 till 2008, when he was appointed Director for Sustainable Development, extending his competences to the EU energy and climate change policies. In a nutshell his experience covers the challenges and the opportunities of sustainability applied to SMEs. In this roles he’s been representing UEAPME in several consultative committees set up by the EU Commission, he’s been working as Sherpa in High Level Groups set up by the European Commission and worked as an expert for the EESC. Due to the recent name change of his organisation he is now Sustainable Development Director in SMEunited.

Humberto DELGADO ROSA

Director for Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Mr. Humberto Delgado Rosa is the Director for Natural Capital, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission. Previously he was Director for Mainstreaming Adaptation and Low Carbon Technology in DG Climate Action. He is experienced in European and international environmental policy, particularly in biodiversity and climate change issues. He served as Secretary of State for the Environment of the Portuguese Government from March 2005 to June 2011. Between 1995 and 2002 he was an advisor for environmental matters to the Prime-Minister of Portugal. He holds a PhD in Evolutionary Biology. H. Delgado Rosa was born in Lisbon in 1960.
Mr. Wijnand Broer studied Horticulture and Marketing at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and is a partner and senior consultant at CREM, a Netherlands based consultancy in the field of sustainable development, founded in 1989. He has been working with CREM since 1993 and has specialised in the areas of Corporate Social Responsibility, Natural Capital / Business & Biodiversity, Sustainable sourcing & international supply chains and Socially Responsible Investment. He contributed to the publications ‘Natural Capital & Financial Institutions’ (2015), ‘Sustainable Public Procurement & Natural Capital’ (2016) and ‘Natural Capital and a Circular Economy; Facts, figures and examples’ (2016; for the Dutch Ministry of Environment). Mr. Broer is currently working on the integration of biotic materials in the online ‘Raw materials scanner’, focusing on the criticality of raw materials and he supports ASN Bank in the development of the bank’s biodiversity policy, the assessment of the bank’s biodiversity footprint and the identification of biodiversity positive investments.

Mr. Mark van Oorschot is a senior researcher at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). The main task of PBL is evaluating government policies on environmental issues. His work concentrates on biodiversity, such as assessment of economic impacts on biodiversity and the societal benefits from nature. He has performed policy evaluation on several topics, like biodiversity effects of increased bio-energy use, performance of market standards for agricultural and forest production, and international supply-chain governance to promote sustainable trade. He has contributed to numerous global outlook studies on request by international organisations such as the UN-CBD, OECD and FAO using the integrated IMAGE-GLOBIO model framework. He is currently working on policies to stimulate Corporate Social Responsibility, and the EU policy on transparency and its potential to promote sustainable business models.
Henry Le FLEMING

Henry is an Assistant Director in the Sustainability and Climate Change team at PwC with 18 years of business and environmental consulting experience. Henry has worked on projects to assess the sustainability impacts of waste, packaging and recycling projects, including both environmental and economic indicators. This has included work with clients to help them comply with legislation and exploit the sustainability related opportunities. These opportunities have included investment in new waste treatment facilities, operational cost improvement and the capturing value from increased resource recovery. This includes work on projects in India and Africa as well as those in Europe. Henry is one of the technical leaders globally at PwC on the circular economy. He has lead the development of PwC’s plastic foot printing methodology that helps companies to understand the impact of their use of plastics and to create an action plan to reduce the impacts from their use of these materials.

Guillaume NEVEUX

Mr. Guillaume Neveux is co-founder and president of I Care & Consult, an environmental consultancy company founded in 2008. He is in charge of the corporate sector and of the development of Business & Biodiversity Practice. He is also coordinating the projects of research & development of the company. Crossing Circular Economy methodologies and Natural capital stakes, Mr. Guillaume Neveux initiated the Product Biodiversity Footprint (PBF) methodology in 2016 and is now overseeing its development and diffusion. Before founding I Care & Consult, he had accumulated over 10 years of experience in large companies (Total, VINCI) and in Strategic Consulting (Boston Consulting Group). Fascinated by the challenges raised by environmental issues, he decided to devote himself full time with the creation of I Care & Consult. Mr. Guillaume Neveux is a graduate engineering of MinesParisTech (P94).
**Marie-Paule BENASSI**

Acting Director Consumer Affairs, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Mrs Benassi is Acting Director in charge of the EU consumer policy at the European Commission since 1st September 2018. She has been dealing with this policy since 2003 as head of communications, head of consumer protection, public health and food safety at the EU Delegation in China and most recently as head of enforcement of consumer law and redress. She has notably managed the network of consumer protection authorities and modernised the enforcement cooperation framework used among these authorities to tackle practices of large players harming consumers’ interest at the EU level. Recently, these authorities worked on issues such as the dieselgate, unfair terms in social media contracts or price transparency in online travel services. She has also been active in developing concrete redress tools for consumers: the network of European Consumer Centres and the legislation on alternative dispute resolution and online dispute resolution.

A lawyer and economist from La Sorbonne, her career begun in Paris, in the Ministry of Economy, within the department for short-term economic forecasts. At the European Commission she previously worked as a trade economist at Eurostat and then a head of Euro-Mediterranean policy in the Trade General Directorate.

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**Ivo MECHELS**

Euroconsumers

Mr. Ivo Mechels, born in 1960 in Antwerp, studied law at the KU Leuven and European Administration at the College of Europe. He is well known as the former spokesperson of the Belgian Consumer Organisation, Test-Aankoop. Since 2013, he has been director of the Lobby & Press department of the consumer organisation on an international level. Since February 2016, he is CEO of Euroconsumers, the international umbrella of consumer organisations working together in 5 countries and General Director of Test-Aankoop. Before he started working for Test-Aankoop, he worked at the Belgian Parliament and for the ministry of Defense and of Agriculture. He’s also a guest lecturer at the University of Ghent and Odissee, author and a devoted father of 2 children.
Bert KEIRSBILCK

Mr. Bert Keirsbilck (*1980) is an associate professor at the Faculty of Law of the KU Leuven (assistant professor since 2011, associate professor since 2016). Bert teaches commercial law, company law and European economic law. He is a co-founder and co-director of the Consumer Competition Market research institute (since 2013). He is also the Faculty’s campus dean in Brussels (2016-2020 term); from 2012 to 2016 he was a member of the Law Faculty’s doctoral commission. He was an Of Counsel in the Commercial Department of the Brussels law firm Eubelius from 2015 to 2017. Bert studied law (lic.iur. 2003) and philosophy (lic.phil. 2004) at the KU Leuven. In 2010, he defended a PhD thesis on the interaction between unfair trading law and antitrust law (The New European Law of Unfair Commercial Practices and Competition Law, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2011, lxiv + 702 p.). His thesis received positive reviews. Bert has been a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics (2013) and the University of Stellenbosch (2015). He has been a guest professor at the China EU School of Law (2011, 2014). Bert regularly organizes and presents papers at national and international conferences.

Nicoletta FASCETTI LEON

Mrs Nicoletta Fascetti Leon is journalist and communication expert. She has been working for the Italian Ministry for the Environment since 2012 in the Directorate for Sustainable Development. Italian representative in the EU Environmental Communicators Network and member of the Task Force on communication for the EU climate change actions. Part of the working team in charge of the drafting of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, implementing the UN 2030 Agenda, setting goals and targets for the national sustainable development. Part of the Task Force set up for the national program on the evaluation of the environmental footprint, she has been responsible for projects such as “VIVA” for sustainability in the wine sector and “Expo Milano 2015” for sustainability of mega events. Her work focuses on sustainable production and consumption patterns, communication and collaboration with productive sector.
Paolo FALCIONI

Paolo Falcioni has been APPLiA’s Director General since January 2014. In this position he focused on improving the association visibility and effectiveness within Europe and internationally. To that extent, he has been one of the founders of the International Roundtable of Household Appliance Manufacturers Associations (IRHMA) which tackles world-wide issues like sustainability and innovation in a global manner. He served for three years as Chairman of the Coalition for Energy Savings, a multi-stakeholder group aiming at improving energy efficiency in Europe. He is one of the Board members in Smart Energy Europe, smartEn fostering demand side management to help consumers to reap the benefits of the new Energy market. In 2016 he has been nominated member of the REFIT platform as a representative of the stakeholder group. The REFIT Platform brings together the Commission, national authorities and other stakeholders in regular meetings to improve existing EU legislation. Paolo graduated in electronic engineering from University of Ancona, in Italy. He started working in the telecommunication sector and, after that, he worked within the household appliance industry sector where he held positions with growing responsibilities. An Italian national, Paolo also speaks English and French fluently. In his free time, he likes baking homemade delicacies.

Joanna DRAKE

Deputy Director General for the Environment, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Mrs Joanna Drake has been the Deputy Director-General of the European Commission’s Directorate-General (DG) for the environment since March 2016. In this role, she is in charge of the coordination of Resource-efficiency policies and other legal instruments. She also chairs a cross-cutting Task Force spearheading strategic positions for the DG on (inter-alia) the post-2020 Commission financial framework negotiations, Brexit co-ordination, the urban agenda and the future-proofing of the EU’s environmental acquis. By training, Joanna is a doctor of laws from the University of Malta, where she also lectured full time in the Department of European and Comparative Law. She acquired a postgraduate degree in Advanced European Legal Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She held various legal and management posts in the private and public sector before joining the European Commission as head of the European Commission Representation in Malta in 2005. She also had a key role in the Malta-EU accession negotiations as member of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee. Between 2010 and 2015 she was director for SME’s and Entrepreneurship in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. During her tenure in DG GROW she also led the Commission’s Task Force on The Collaborative Economy, New Business Models And SME’s.
Jim SEWARD

Lyondellbasell

Mr. Jim Seward is Vice President Sustainability, Technology and Joint Ventures for LyondellBasell, one of the world’s largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies. Jim Seward assumed his current position in September 2018, serving on LyondellBasell’s Leadership Team, led by Chief Executive Officer Bhavesh (Bob) Patel. Mr. Seward serves as Executive Office of the global Alliance to End Plastic Waste, the first-ever international coalition of chemical and plastics manufacturers, converters, consumer goods companies, retailers and waste management companies dedicated to partnering with the finance community, government, and environmental and economic development NGOs to find market-based solutions to ending plastic waste in the environment. The Alliance is jointly led by LyondellBasell’s CEO Bob Patel, together with the CEOs of Procter & Gamble, David Taylor, and Veolia, Antoine Frérot. Jim Seward is also the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Plastics Council, the organisation leading the global plastics industry in addressing international issues such as resource management, sustainability and marine litter. Jim Seward’s career with LyondellBasell and its predecessor companies spans over 30 years and six different countries. Mr. Seward holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Bristol and a master’s in business administration from Cranfield School of Management, both in the United Kingdom.

Myriam TRYJEFACZKA

Tarkett

Myriam Tryjefaczka started her career as Quality Environment and Sustainability manager in different industry sectors, packaging, electronics, air filtration. In 2015 Myriam joined as Sustainability and Public Affairs Director Tarkett EMEA division, where she drives the shift towards a healthy and circular economy, as part of Tarkett’s Group sustainability strategy. In 2018, Myriam joined AFNOR’s Circular Economy Experts Group for the development of AFNOR XP X30-901 standard, related to circular economy project management, and the creation of ISO/TC 323 circular economy. In the past she contributed as well to EPBD related standards, and eco-design directive development work for ventilation systems, air filtration and indoor environment quality. Myriam is a French national. She has a scientific background in Biochemistry and holds a Master’s in Business Administration. Myriam Tryjefaczka is involved in several European and international industry associations as well as think tanks dedicated to sustainable development and circular economy.
Pedro SÃO SIMÃO

Pedro SÃO SIMÃO is the General Manager of Ernesto SÃO SIMÃO Lda., an SME dedicated to the engineering of tools/moulds for plastic injection and to the fabrication of plastic products. He is also the company’s representative at the Board of Smart Waste Portugal. With a Master’s degree in Economics, Pedro have dedicated his academic and professional career to the field of sustainability. In University, he focused on the transition to a European Bioeconomy. Currently, he is finishing a postgraduation on Sustainable Value Chains at the University of Cambridge. Within his professional career, he is contributing for the implementation of a sustainable business model in his company and also putting his professional efforts on the transition of the Portuguese plastic value chains towards circular economy.

Miguel Ángel GONZÁLEZ SAN ROMÁN

Mr. Miguel Ángel González San Román is Head of Connected Infrastructures, Cities and Products at Minsait (the digital division of Indra). He joined Minsait in 2016 as Director of Foresee area (new Business model development), focused on defining the new IoT offering for Smart Cities, Connected Home, Smart Energy and Smart Mobility with leading organizations in Public sector, Utilities, ICT and industrial companies. Since then Miguel had the chance to set up high value deals as the Circular Economy Platform SmartWaste, co-developed with Ecoembes (Spanish Organization managing the waste recycling ecosystem for light packaging), currently being deployed at a nation-wide scale in Spain (Middle East and European deployments planned for next two years). Miguel has 20+ years experience in Consulting. He started his career at Accenture, mainly focused on Aerospace and Defense sector (Airbus and European Space Agency) and Telecom &High Tech companies (Telefónica, Ericsson, Nokia, BT) as well as managing the Accenture’ SRM European Center of Excellence. After Accenture, he managed the re-start up of a Telematics company driving digital transformation programmes for clients as Arval Car Lease, OHL, BBVA Insurance, Abengoa or Técnicas Reunidas. Miguel Ángel holds a Computer Science Engineering Degree by The Polytechnic University of Madrid and an Executive Programme at IESE Business School.
Mario Nava (born Milan, 1966) holds an undergraduate degree in Economics from Bocconi University (1989), an MA from the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium (1992) and a PhD in Public Finance from the London School of Economics (1996). Mario joined the European Commission in 1994 and held various senior positions. Since October 2018, he is the Director for “horizontal policies” in the Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union Directorate General. Prior to that, from 2016 to April 2018, he was Director of the “Financial system surveillance and crisis management” Directorate and, from 2011 to 2016, Director of the “Regulation and prudential supervision of financial institutions”. Previously, he was Head of the “Banking and Financial Conglomerates” Unit, of the Financial Markets Infrastructure Unit, a member of the Group of Policy Advisers of the EU Commission President, Prof. Romano Prodi, and a member of the Cabinet of the Competition Commissioner, Prof. Mario Monti. Alongside his current work, he is active in research and teaching. He is currently Visiting Professor at Bocconi University (Milan) and at Solvay Business School (Brussels) and has been teaching in several universities in Europe and Latin America. From April to September 2018 he also served as Chairman of CONSOB, Italy’s financial markets supervisor.

Jonas Byström is a lead Engineer, Urban Development Division, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank, Luxembourg. Following studies in Civil Engineering and Engineering Geology, Mr. Byström worked 20 years as environmental and waste management consultant, based in Sweden, Japan, Malaysia and Denmark. He also held a position as Assistant Technical Attaché at the Swedish Embassy in Tokyo, Japan. In 2007, Mr. Byström joined JASPERS in Luxembourg as waste management specialist, supporting preparation of EU co-funded projects. In 2010, he joined the Projects Directorate at European Investment Bank, where he carries out due diligence and monitoring of solid waste, circular economy and urban development projects. He also undertakes sector development work and supervises technical assistance assignments. Mr. Byström has worked in about 50 countries.
PPGM

Mr. Frido Kraanen is a Principal Director Health and Sustainability, PPGM. PPGM is a Dutch pension service provider, working for multiple pension funds, with €220 bln assets under management and working for 4.4 million participants. PPGM is a cooperative with 750.000 members, an association for people who works or have worked in health care or social services. Mr. Kraanen is responsible for the PPGM’s cooperative principles, our connection with the health care and social services sector and the corporate sustainability program. He is also a board member of the Cooperative WeHelpen, Deltaplan Dementia (a nationwide program to fight Alzheimer’s disease), chairs a front runner group The Caring City (a cross over between housing and care board members) and chairs an international working group on the role of money and finance in the transition to a circular economy.

Before Mr. Kraanen joined PPGM he worked for the Netherlands’ Ministry of Health care, Welfare and Sports, lately as a deputy director for Macroeconomic policy and Labor relations. Besides that he was the Netherlands’ delegate and council member of the Health Committee of the OECD. Frido has a degree in business administration.

Climate-KIC, Sustainable Finance Technical Expert Group

Mrs Sandrine Dixson-Declève has 30 years of international experience with a particular focus on climate change, sustainable development, green growth, energy solutions and sustainable finance. She is currently the Co-President of the Club of Rome and a respected senior advisor, facilitator and lecturer. She also divides her time between the following positions: Senior Associate and faculty member of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL); Senior Associate, E3G; Special Advisor for Xynto & Energy Transition Commission (ETC); Senior Advisor, Interel; Chair, INKEMIA Scientific Advisory Board; Member of the following Advisory Boards: European Aluminium Association; IEEP; Climate KIC. She sits on the Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Financeand is co-founder of the Women Enablers Change Agent Network (WECAN). Sandrine was recognised by GreenBiz as one of the 30 most influential women across the globe driving change in the low carbon economy and promoting green business. Until recently, Sandrine was Chief Partnership Officer for UN Agency Sustainable Energy for All and prior to that the Director of the Prince of Wales’s Corporate Leaders Group and the EU office of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (2009-2016). During that period she was also appointed Executive Director of the Green Growth Platform bringing together EU Ministers and CEO’s.
Guy THIRAN

Eurométaux

Mr. Thiran has a Business and Chemical engineering background, starting his career as a research engineer in the petrochemical industry. He then accumulated experiences in the Chemical (CEFIC) and Metal Industry Associations (Eurométaux and International Council on Mining and Metals) in Europe and worldwide to defend the interest of industry. He has held leading positions in environment and product policy, and chaired the Coordination Group of all metals and mining associations member of ICMM.

Carlo PETTINELLI

Director of the Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Mr. Carlo Pettinelli is an official of the European Commission. He holds a University degree (Laurea) in Economy and Business Administration and is a Chartered Accountant (Dottore Commercialista), Certified Professional Auditor (Revisore contabile) and Certified Forensic Auditor. After several years of professional experience in the private sector, in Italy and abroad, he joined the European Court of Auditors in 1994. In 1998 he moved to the European Commission where, dealing with different tasks, he worked in the Directorates-General for Competition, Audit, Education & Culture and Employment & Social Affairs, where he has been appointed Director. Mr. Pettinelli joined Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (former Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry) in February 2011. Since 1st June 2015 he is in charge of the "Consumer, Environmental and Health Technologies" Directorate, which is responsible for the Chemical Industry, Biotechnology and Food Supply Chain, Health Technology and Cosmetics as well as of the REACH Regulation, among other sectors. He is also member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in London, as well as of the Innovative Medicines Initiatives 2 (IMI2) and Bio Based Industry (BBI) Joint Undertakings in Brussels.
Mr. Peter-Boris Schmitt is a Head of Henkel EU Office, Senior Manager Political Environment and Product Affairs. He has been working in Henkel since 2009. His previous professional experience between 2007 and 2009 is related to European parliament, the Secretariat of the Temporary Committee on Climate Change. Mr. Schmitt was a Deputy Head of Office, political advisor and parliamentary assistant to K.H. Florenz, Chairman of the European Parliament’s Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in the period 2001-2007. He obtained Magister Artium in Communication Sciences in Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz in Germany.

Mr. Mauro Petriccione was born in Taranto, in 1957. Graduated in Law from the University of Bari in 1982 and after a brief spell doing research at the same University, moved to London in 1984, first as a Visiting Research Scholar at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and then as postgraduate student at the London School of Economics. Obtained an LL.M. from the University of London in 1986 and joined the European Commission in September 1987. Worked in trade policy since then, covering a wide range of activities and negotiations: from trade defence to standards, investment, competition, WTO, dispute settlement, relations with Member States and European Institutions. From 2014 to early 2018, Deputy-Director General of DG Trade, responsible for trade relations concerning services and investment, intellectual property, public procurement, agri-food and fisheries; trade relations with Asia, Latin America and countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific; trade and sustainable development. Served as Chief Negotiator for the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA); the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement; the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement. In March 2018 he has been appointed Director General for Climate Action.
Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO
Director-General for the Environment, European Commission
Since he first joined the Commission in 1986, Daniel Calleja has worked in several different areas which accounts for his broad expertise and experience. Prior to being appointed Director General for DG Environment on 1st September 2015, he was Director General of DG GROWTH. From February 2011 to January 2012, he was Deputy Director General of DG ENTR, and Special Envoy for SMEs. From 1993 to 2004, Mr. Calleja worked in the cabinets of several Commissioners, including the President of the European Commission, advising on Transport and Competition matters, State Aids and the application of Community Law. Between 1999 and 2004 he was Head of Cabinet for both Commissioner Oreja and Vice-president Mrs. Loyola de Palacio, in charge of Transport and Energy where he contributed decisively to the development of some key files. Daniel Calleja started his career in the Commission as Member of the Legal Service between 1986 and 1993. During that period, his background being Law and Business Administration, he represented the institution in numerous cases before the European Court of Justice.

Nanqing JIANG
Secretary-General, China Plastics Reuse and Recycling Association
Ms. Jiang Nanqing is Secretary-General, China Plastics Reuse and Recycle Association (CPRRA). He posses PhD in Ecology, graduated from Beijing Normal University, former National Officer of UNEP China. She is working on the plastic pollution issue of the global issues, and her association is the only association on plastic recycling in chemical industry sector of China. Under her efforts, CPRRA joined Ellen MacArthur Foundation Global Commitment on Plastic New Economy, she organized the teams to to align with up and down streams of plastics and business sectors for a close loop to look for solutions on recycling plastics under circular economy, and provide action plans for policy level. In professional field, she owns ecological and environmental research background, collaborates broadly with research institutions to promote the transfer of scientific findings to policies. She conducted researches agricultural ecology for 10 years including 7 years international working experience in universities, institute and international centers located in the Netherlands, Israel, Japan and Kenya with more than 20 papers, and was the associate professor of Beijing Normal University. Prior to joining UN Environment China in 2008, she worked in International Network for Bamboo and Rattan on EU biodiversity conservation project as the senior programme officer. She worked in UNEP China Office for 10 years working on the national partnership and implementation of UN Environment global initiatives and priorities on national level to raise the impact of UNEP. She is familiar with the structure and framework of UN and implementation on national level, She provided cross-
cutting solutions in environmental, energy and resource areas with international visions and strategies to serve the country needs. She built up broad partnerships to achieve multi-benefits to achieve sustainable development. She has rich experience on national programme development and management, including scientific assessment, project solutions, partnership and resource mobilization. She also played the role of UN as the most important platform to setup multi-stakeholder partnership to promote cross-cutting sustainable development issues, such as sustainable consumption, environmental education, sustainable cities and energy. She engaged different partners to achieve environmental sustainability to integrate science, policies and management. With her efforts, several UNEP initiatives were successfully implemented in China, including the Green Economy Initiative, Sustainable Consumption and Sustainable Value Chain, The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity Initiative, Resource Efficient Cities, City District Energy and Youth Environmental Education. She also has her own social media.

Kari HERLEVI
Circular Economy Director, SITRA

Mr. Kari Herlevi is a project director in Sitra’s Circular economy focus area and a multi-skilled circular economy expert. Previously, he led the Green Growth programme at Tekes, which was associated with the circular economy and had a financing volume of more than 100 million euros. He also has experience of Silicon Valley, where he had the privilege of working with the best people in the field. Mr. Herlevi has master’s degrees in finance and political sciences.
Brendan EDGERTON
Circular Economy Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Mr. Brendan Edgerton is the Director of Circular Economy at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Since arriving at WBCSD in 2015, he has managed the delivery of the Practitioner Guide (www.CEguide.org) and the 8 Business Cases to the Circular Economy and contributed to the Environmental Priorities for Business in the Circular Economy and the CEO Guide to the Circular Economy. He also contributed to the development and launch of Factor10, WBCSD’s circular economy program. This program launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in January 2018 with over 30 members, spanning across 16 industries and claiming over USD $1.3 trillion in annual turnover. He now manages multiple workstreams under Factor10 on circular metrics and sector deep dives. Prior to WBCSD, Mr. Edgerton’s work experience includes life cycle assessment and costing at Walt Disney Imagineering, renewable and energy efficiency project identification at Office Depot and green building consulting with Green Dinosaur. Brendan has an MBA from the Yale School of Management, a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and a bachelor’s with honors from the University of California Santa Cruz.

Lieze CLOOTS
Rapporteur from World Resources Forum 2019, Head of International Policy, OVAM

Mrs Lieze Cloots is head International Policy at OVAM, the Public Waste Agency of Flanders. She is Belgian EU pilot on the EU circular economy Actionplan and member of the coordination group for the EU CE Stakeholderplatform. She has a 20 year experience in environment and sustainability policies at international and national level. Previously Lieze Cloots was policy director at the federation of environment and nature NGO’s in Flanders. Before she held a function as legal advisor of the federal Minister of Environment. She holds a degree in Law at KUL and European Law at the Université de Liege.
Ladeja Godina KOŠIR

Director of Circular Change, Chair of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform’s Coordination Group

Mrs Ladeja Godina Košir is a circular economy enthusiast - an entrepreneur with a background in the creative industries, and today recognised as the driving force of the circular economy in Slovenia and Central-Eastern Europe. She is the Founder and Executive Director of Circular Change, the first circular economy platform in the Adriatic Region. She was the finalist of The Circulars - Leadership Award 2018 – by the World Economic Forum, Davos. Under her leadership, the Circular Change platform managed to address more than 3,000 different stakeholders and to connect them with international circular economy players, joining the Circular Hotspot Network. She is co-author of the “Roadmap towards the Circular Economy in Slovenia”. Her passionate engagement encouraged Slovenian government to integrate the CE in the Vision 2050, National Strategy 2030 and Smart Specialization, and to join the EAF CE100.

Mrs Košir is a Chair of the CG of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder platform in Brussels, an active member of AmCham, Slovenian Dutch Business Platform, Managers Association of Slovenia, as well as a member of several international CE juries. She is and an inspirational speaker and empowering moderator at CE events.

Jyrki KATAINEN

Vice-President of the European Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness

Jyrki Katainen is currently Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. He joined the Commission in July 2014 as Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the euro. Before that he served as Prime Minister of Finland from 2011 to 2014 and Minister of Finance from 2007 to 2011. From 1999 to 2014, he was a Member of Finnish Parliament for the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus). Katainen was a Member of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly from 2003 to 2007, a Member of the Administrative Council of the Finnish Broadcasting Company from 2003 to 2005, a Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly from 2004 to 2005 and a Deputy Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council from 2001 to 2003. Jyrki Katainen has an M.Sc. in Political Science from the University of Tampere, Finland and he did an Erasmus exchange year at the University of Leicester, UK.