

Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference

9-10 March 2017



European Economic and Social Committee

Speakers' Profiles

Frans TIMMERMANS

First Vice-President of the European Commission



Frans Timmermans began his career in 1987 as an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. After taking part in the induction course for diplomats, he worked as a policy officer in the ministry's European Integration Department from 1988 to 1990, before joining the Dutch embassy in Moscow as Second Embassy Secretary.

After a brief period back in The Hague as deputy head of the Ministry for Development Cooperation's European Affairs Section, Mr Timmermans became a member of the staff of European Commissioner Hans van de Broek. He later became adviser and private secretary to Max van der Stoep, the High Commissioner on National Minorities for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

From 1998 he was a member of the House of Representatives for the Labour Party (PvdA). In that capacity, he dealt principally with foreign affairs. He was chair of the Permanent Committee on Economic Affairs and represented the House of Representatives in the European Convention. In the fourth Balkenende government, from February 2007 to February 2010, Mr Timmermans was Minister for European Affairs. After the fall of that government he returned to the House as the PvdA's spokesperson on foreign policy.

On 5 November 2012, Mr Timmermans was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Rutte-Asscher government. Since 1 November 2014, Mr Timmermans is the European Commission's First Vice-President, responsible for better regulation, inter-institutional relations, the rule of law and the Charter of fundamental rights.

Georges DASSIS

President of the European Economic and Social Committee



Trade-union activist in Greece from the age of 15. Activist against the colonels' regime in Greece (1967-1974). Permanent member of the national staff of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB) from 1976 to 1980.

Since 1981, representative of the Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE) to the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), taking part in its Executive Committee since 1982, to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC, formerly ICFTU) and to the International Labour Office (ILO). Member of the EESC from 1981 (president of the regional section of the EESC from 1986) to 1990 and from 2002.

Founder member of the Labour Institute of the GSEE (1990) and secretary for international relations. President of the ECO section of the EESC from 2004 to 2008 and President of the Workers' Group of the EESC from 2008 to 2015. President of the EESC from 2015 to 2018

At the EESC, Georges Dassis has been a Rapporteur on opinions such as the [European minimum income](#), [Social dialogue](#) in the Economic and Monetary Union and [the Cost of non-Europe](#).

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Karmenu VELLA

European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



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 re-elected 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. Mr Vella had also held various senior posts in the private sector.

Elzbieta BIENKOWSKA

European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs



Elzbieta Bieńkowska holds a Master's degree in oriental philology, a post-graduate diploma from the Polish National School of Public Administration and an MBA from the Warsaw School of Economics.

She worked in the Business Department of the Silesia region, where she managed local implementation of the EU's pre-accession programmes. Between 1999 and 2007 she served as the Director for Regional Development in the administration of the Silesia Region. She served as Minister for Regional Development from 2007 to 2013 and as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Development until 2014.

Since 1 November 2014, Ms Bieńkowska is the European Commissioner responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.

Guido BRAAM

Director, Circular Valley



In 2012, Guido Braam decided to put all his energy and focus on the transition towards the circular economy and so he became the executive director of the action driven Circle Economy cooperative. He strongly believes that social entrepreneurship will become the new normal. Enticing the establishment into the circular economy, a more balanced system full of innovation and (shared) value creation, is the first step. Guido is the founder of several (impact driven) start-ups and co-owns Kirkman Company (part of Powered by Meaning). He accomplished his MSc Business Administration at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in 2001. His life motto is: 'we are the people we have been waiting for.' He wants to use his set of talents to speed up meaningful initiatives to create a better world for the generation to come. Currently, Guido is back at Powered by Meaning, and is leading the Netherlands Circular Hotspot for Circle Economy.

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Reinhard SCHNEIDER

Chairman Board of directors, Owner of Werner & Mertz GmbH.



Reinhard Schneider (born 1968) studied business management with a major in sales and commerce at the University of St. Gallen. After six years of marketing experience, most notably as product manager at Nestlé/Switzerland, he took over the chairmanship of the Werner & Mertz board of directors in 2000 and a year later the management of the consumer division in the company. Previously Schneider had monitored the development of the Mainz family company from the supervisory board since 1992. Reinhard Schneider is the chairman of the board of directors and majority shareholder of the family company Werner & Mertz, known for its brands Erdal, emsal, tana and FROSCH - Germany's most sustainable brand in 2009.

According to Reinhard Schneider, "Sustainability must be present in all corporate decisions! Only then can a company's commitment become convincing instead of showing just a marketing promise. Consumer trust derives from integral sustainability!"

The manager acts according to this philosophy within his company and in his cooperation with the federal executive board of the German Cosmetic, Toiletry, Perfumery, and Detergent Association (IKW) and as a member of the Economic Senate of the German Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (BVMW). Reinhard Schneider is also a board member of the Small and Medium-Sized Committee of the IKW and is active in the Energy Commission of the BVMW.

Ladeja GODINA KOSIR

Executive Director, Circular Change Platform



Ladeja Godina Košir, (Giacomelli Media Ltd), is a connector and marketing-communications professional with more than 20 years' experience in the Adriatic region. She promotes new understanding, development and management of changes in the field of innovation, communication and branding.

Focusing on economic and societal transformation, she co-works and co-creates with different stakeholders, connecting businesses, cities, government and non-profit organisations with their audiences through effective engagement. She is strongly motivated to empower a new narrative that supports the social shift towards a balanced society, based on the principles of the Circular Economy.

Backed by experience earned in executive positions in creative industries, Ladeja challenges old business models, patterns and paradigms in an innovative way. Great empathy, a design thinking approach and years of cross-industry insights allow her to act as a facilitator, moderator, mentor and integrator. She is also a lecturer, speaker and publisher. She has been a member of different juries and program boards in the field of innovation and marketing and won several national and international awards for her creative work and for the development of innovative business models.

Ladeja is a vice president of Slovenian Dutch Business Forum, co-chair of AmCham Circular and Sharing Economy Committee and member of management board of Managers Association of Slovenia – Woman Managers. Her greatest inspiration are her three kids.

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Ursula PACHL

Deputy Director-General, BEUC



Ms. Pachl has worked at BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation, since October 1997, first as Legal Advisor, then as Senior Policy Advisor and presently as Deputy Director General.

Ms. Pachl leads BEUC's work on the Digital Single Market and on consumer rights and enforcement. She is also responsible for horizontal and strategic policy issues, represents BEUC in the European Commission's REFIT platform and co-ordinates BEUC's law enforcement project 'COJEF'.

Prior to working for BEUC, Ms. Pachl worked at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection in Vienna and at the Austrian Consumer Information Association as a member of the Consumer Advisory Board.

Ms. Pachl is the author of several articles in consumer policy and law journals and regularly comments on consumer issues in the media.

BEUC represents 43 independent national consumer associations from 31 European countries. The primary task of BEUC is to act as a strong consumer voice in Brussels and to try to ensure that consumer interests are given their proper weight in the development of all Community policies.

Peter SCHMIDT

Trade Union NGG Germany



National officer for international and European affairs

Born in 1962, his first profession was cheesemaker. After, he has been regional officer Trade Union NGG for 27 years, in charge of dairy industrie and bakeries.

Since 2014 He has been a member of EESC group II workers. Since 2015 he is the president of permanent study group of the EESC on sustainable foodsystems

Alexandre AFFRE

Industrial affairs Director, BUSINESSEUROPE



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 40 employers and industrial federations across 34 European countries on all business issues dealt with by the European Union.

In this role since 2013, Alexandre is responsible for developing and communicating the organization's positions on energy, climate and environmental policy as well as industrial policy and research & innovation. 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. Alexandre is a trained scientist and holds a Master in Ecology from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie. A French national, he now lives in Brussels.

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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 Collège in July 2014 as Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the euro.

Before that he served as Prime Minister of Finland, 2011 - 2014 and Minister of Finance, 2007 - 2011. He was Member of Finnish Parliament 1999 - 2014 for the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus).

He was Member of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2003 - 2007, Member of the Administrative Council of the Finnish Broadcasting Company 2003 - 2005, Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly 2004 - 2005 and the Deputy Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council 2001 -2003.

Jyrki Katainen has MSc in Political Science from the University of Tampere, Finland (1998) and he did an Erasmus exchange year at the University of Leicester, UK.

Markku MARKKULA

President of the Committee of the Regions



Markku Markkula was elected President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in February 2015 for a two and a half year term of office. Since joining the CoR in 2010 he has held several influential positions such as the first Vice-Chair of the CoR's EPP Group and Chair of the CoR's EPP Task Force on Europe 2020.

He is a member of the National Coalition Party in Finland having held numerous political chairmanships throughout his career starting with the local and national Student Unions in Espoo City and the Uusimaa region and is a long standing member of the Board of the Party. A member of Espoo City Council since 1980, he held its presidency in 1990-92 and 2010. He is currently a member of the Board of Helsinki Regional Council and Chairman of Espoo City Planning Board.

President Markkula is a former member of the Finnish Parliament (1995-2003). During this time he served as a member of two permanent parliamentary committees: the Committee for Science, Education and Culture, and the Committee for the Future. As an MP his international role included the Presidency of EPTA Council, European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Network.

Markku Markkula works at Aalto University as the Advisor to Aalto Presidents, where his focus is on European Union research, innovation and education policy affairs. He has previously worked as the Director of the Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli and the Secretary-General of the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE).

As a tribute to his achievements he was elected to the International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame in 2008.

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Simona BONAFÉ

MEP, Group of Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

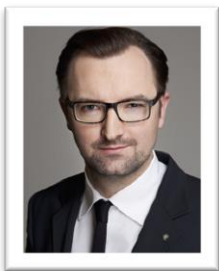


Ms. Bonafé (Italy) is MEP since July 2014. She is a Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health & Food Safety and a Substitute Member of the Committee on Industry, Research & Energy.

She has been appointed as rapporteur on the review of the Waste Legislative Proposals included in the Circular Economy Package (December 2015). She is a Former Member of the Italian Parliament (2013-2014) and a former journalist for the Corriere di Firenze. Between 2004 and 2013 she was Councillor for the Environment in the city of Scandicci.

Sławomir MAZUREK

Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Environment of Poland



A graduate of the Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw. He graduated in political science, majoring in political systems and local authorities as well as Intercollegiate Study of Evaluation and assessment of natural Resources at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences and Warsaw School of Economics.

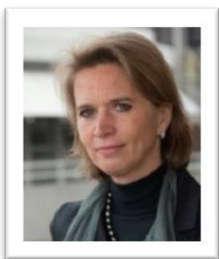
He has gained his professional experience in government and local administration, i.a. Marshall Office of Mazowieckie Voivodship, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and National Water Management Authority. He also held the position of the President of the Supervisory Board of the Regional Fund for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn.

Since November 2015 he has been the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Environment.

He is a member of the Association for Sustainable Development of Poland and Respublica Academic Corporation.

Constance KANN

Director for Institutional Relations and Public Affairs, European Investment Bank (Brussels office)



In January 2010, Constance Kann joined the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU Bank, as Director of Corporate Responsibility and Communication at its headquarters in Luxembourg. End 2014, she moved to Brussels as the EIB's Director for Institutional Relations and Public Affairs. In this role, she is responsible for further developing the Bank's relations with the EU Institutions as well as its broader stakeholder management with Brussels based organisations (business associations, NGOs, policy think-tanks).

Prior to joining the EIB, she was the Managing Director for Group Communications for Swiss Re, the global re-insurance company based in Zurich. Before taking up this role in the financial services sector, she worked for Unilever, as Senior Vice President Global Communications covering media, internal communications, corporate communications (including corporate brand) and government relations.

Constance has more than 20 years of experience in public affairs and communication and started her career in consultancy. She was Managing Director of the Brussels office for Edelman Public Relations Worldwide. She is a lawyer by background (Dutch and European law, Leiden University, the Netherlands). She completed the advanced management programme at Harvard Business School and the Prince of Wales sustainability programme at Cambridge.

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Michael STEURER



Senior Policy Advisor, EUROCHAMBRES

Michael Steurer is Senior Policy Advisor at EUROCHAMBRES (the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and as such leading on the association's energy and environmental policy. Holding Master degrees in political science, European studies and regional planning, he started his professional career in the energy and environment department of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, before joining EUROCHAMBRES in 2012. His key working areas include energy and resource efficiency, climate action and the Circular Economy.

Rik PLOMP



Senior Investment manager, PGGM

PGGM is a cooperative Dutch pension fund service provider. Institutional clients are offered asset management, pension fund management, policy advice and management support. On December 31, 2016 PGGM had EUR 205 billion in assets under management. Rik has served at PGGM since 2009 focusing on investments in agribusinesses and forestry. He is also active in the PGGM-led Co.project Finance of the CE100. The goals of this project are to understand the implications of the circular economy on the business- and financing models of companies; to determine how the transition to the circular economy can be supported and accelerated by the financial system (banks and investors) and to co-develop and share communication strategies and tools to make the transition clear and tangible for our colleagues, clients and academics.

Rik gained his BA in Economics from Fontys Hogescholen. He has completed post-graduate programmes at Erasmus University, INSEAD and Free University of Amsterdam. He holds various non-executive roles.

Brendan BURNS



President of the Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, European Economic and Social Committee

He has represented SMEs on a variety of UK Government and EU committees. His special interests are in Regional Policy specifically rural development: The circular economy; Tourism; the Environment; Vocational Education and Training (CVET); and the development of micro and small businesses. Along with his son, he run a large forestry harvesting and extraction business in the North of Scotland. In 2006 he was appointed by the UK Government to the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). In 2013 he was elected as the Vice President of the employers group and in 2015 he was elected as President of the NAT Section (Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment).

Relevant elected positions previously held: Past Chairman of the UK Forestry Contractors Association
Past UK Policy Chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Past Vice Chairman of the FSB
Past Scottish Chairman of the FSB (Scotland)
Past President of the Aberdeenshire Kincardineshire & Banffshire Licensed Trade Association.

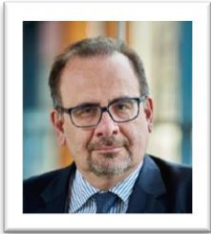
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Luca JAHIER

President of Various Interests' Group, European Economic and Social Committee



Luca Jahier has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2002. Since October 2011, Mr Jahier is the president of the EESC's Various Interests' Group. Luca Jahier served as President of FOCSIV (a federation of development cooperation NGOs) from 1994 to 2000, was among the founders of the Italian Third Sector Forum, and is a former President of the national council of ACLI (2008-2012), the Christian Associations of Italian Workers which promote employment and active participation in social life through their network of local branches, services, enterprises and ad-hoc projects. Holding a degree in political science, Mr Jahier is a former international relations journalist and has several years of professional experience in development programmes, mainly in Africa.

Cillian LOHAN

Member of the European Economic and Social Committee, rapporteur on the Circular Economy Package



Cillian Lohan is CEO of an internationally active Irish NGO. This organisation was focused primarily on Forestry issues when Cillian was appointed as CEO in 2010 but is currently being rebranded to reflect the expansion of areas of work under Cillian's direction. It is now called Green Economy Foundation. Cillian is an Environmental Scientist but with a background in business, specifically working as a Business Development Director in the retail sector. He has operated at board level and served as both chairman and company secretary for a number of companies. He is currently the chairman of the Irish Environmental Network. He is a member of the EESC since March of 2014, appointed through the Irish Environmental Pillar. He was recently selected as rapporteur for the Circular Economy Package.

Máté KRIZA

Chairman, Foundation for the Circular Economy, Hungary



He graduated at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (currently Budapest Corvinus University) and earned his MA degree in European politics and administration at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He worked in the financial and consultancy sector in Hungary and elsewhere in Europe for more than ten years. In the past thirteen years he has devoted his career to raising business awareness on sustainability issues and to help the transition to green economy. He initiated the creation of the Hungarian chapter of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a CEO-led business coalition of major international and Hungarian companies. As an executive director he was in charge of the organisation's overall management and professional activity for seven years. In 2013 he founded the Foundation for Circular Economy and became its chairman of trustees. The Foundation is an independent professional and business platform for promoting circular economy in Hungary. He is also the Hungary representative of EPEA Switzerland, specialized in Cradle to Cradle Design innovation.

Arthur TEN WOLDE

Expert, De Groene Zaak/Ecopreneur.eu



Dr. Arthur ten Wolde was born in 1963 in The Hague, The Netherlands. He graduated in experimental physics in Leiden (1986) and obtained his PhD at the University of Amsterdam. In 1990 he started working for Shell Research, where he became a certified polymer technologist, in 1994 for the STT Study Centre for Technology Trends, and in 1998 as Advisor Technology Policy for the Confederation of Netherlands Industries and Employers VNO-NCW. He has led projects on the circular economy, chemistry, energy, mining. He is now an expert for De Groene Zaak / Dutch Sustainable Business and Copreneur.eu

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Adrian DEBOUTIÈRE

Institute for the Circular Economy



MSc. in Sciences and Politics of Environment, Adrian Deboutière is working as a project manager at the Institut de l'économie circulaire, the French multi-stakeholder organization dedicated to the transition towards circular economy which gathers more than 200 public and private actors.

Specialized on European Affairs, he leads qualitative and quantitative studies as well as transversal and sectoral workshops aiming to tackle economic and regulatory barriers to circular economy. He is also coordinating the French national platform on circular economy and the national program on industrial symbiosis (PNSI).

Brenda KING

President of Sustainable Development Observatory, European Economic and Social Committee



Brenda King is a UK representative on the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). She is currently President of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO). As a member of the SDO, she is rapporteur of an EESC report putting forward recommendations for civil society involvement in the implementation, monitoring and review of the sustainable development agenda in the EU. She was also part of the core team of three members who undertook an impact study in six member states on the EU Renewable Energy Directive. From 2010 to 2013, Brenda chaired the EU-African Caribbean Pacific subcommittee where she successfully campaigned for 2015 to be the European Year for Development and Cooperation. Between 2006 and 2008, she was President of the EESC's specialized section in employment focusing on job growth and quality employment. For over 10 years, Brenda has overseen the successful delivery of a youth development programme that has been recognised and awarded in the UK.

Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO

Director-General of DG 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 TREN, 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.