



EU CLEAN AIR FORUM

23-24 NOVEMBER 2023

ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

PROGRAMME

SPEAKERS

PROGRAMME



DAY 1 • 23 NOVEMBER 23

09:00 Registration

10:00 Opening and keynote speeches

- Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Executive Vice-President, European Commission
- Vivianne HEIJNEN, Minister of Environment, the Netherlands

10:30 Linking clean air, climate and social inequality

This session will focus on the inequalities in the exposure to and health impacts of air pollution and climate change. Panellists will offer their perspective on the uneven distribution of the health impacts of air pollution and climate change and discuss how these can be addressed.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Leena YLÄ-MONONEN, Executive Director, European Environmental Agency
- Chantal ZEEGERS, Alderman for Climate, Building and Housing Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Bent MADSEN, President, Housing Europe
- Mark LAWRENCE, Scientific Director, Research Institute for Sustainability Helmholtz Potsdam

12:00 Lunch Break

13:45 Maritime transport and air pollution

This session will explore the impacts of maritime transport emissions on air quality in coastal areas, and the challenges for port and ship operators towards cleaner and decarbonised transport. Panellists will reflect on the implementation and enforceability of clean air policies and on possible further measures to better control and reduce emissions from maritime transport and port operations.

INTRO

Video by the European Maritime Safety Agency on detecting air pollution from vessels.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Petros KOKKALIS, Member of Parliament, European Parliament
- Maja MARKOVČIĆ KOSTELAC, Executive Director, European Maritime Safety Agency
- Anita MÄKINEN, Alternate Permanent Representative of Finland to the International Maritime Organization
- Philippos PHILIS, President, European Community Shipowners' Associations
- Eric VAN DER SCHANS, Director Environmental Management, Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

15:15 Healthy lifestyles

Promoting active mobility continues to be challenging. This interview will offer a perspective on the specific challenges land use planners face and what solutions promise to be most successful.

ON-STAGE REMARKS

- Carlos MORENO, Scientific Director, Sorbonne University

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ON-STAGE REMARKS

Carlos MORENO, Scientific Director, Sorbonne University

15:30 Coffee-Break

16:00 Multimodal transport and spatial planning for clean air

This session will focus on the different transport modes, the connectivity, and user-friendliness challenges to encourage a more sustainable commuting system. Panellists will offer their perspective on successful solutions while also looking at the effects of spatial planning on mobility.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Winfried HERMANN, Minister of Transport Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Annika DEGEN, Deputy Director, International Association of Public Transport
- Meredith GLASER, Executive Director of the Urban Cycling Institute, the Netherlands

17:00 Skills and jobs for clean air

Attaining clean air requires that action is taken in different and across sectors, but is our work force prepared for the challenge? In this session we will look at the skills and jobs needed for achieving cleaner air.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Stefan OLSSON, Deputy Director General DG Employment, European Commission
- Kęstutis KUPŠYS, European Economic and Social Committee
- Jürgen SIEBEL, Executive Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
- Julie KJESTRUP, President, European Alliance of Companies for Energy Efficiency in Buildings

17:45 AiR qualiTy

New research has shown that impressionist painters of the 19th century might have been more accurate in depicting their environment than we previously thought. In this session, one of the researchers on this topic, will tell us how air pollution provided new creative impulses to painters like Claude Monet and J. M. W. Turner.

ON-STAGE INTERVIEW

Anna Lea ALBRIGHT, Environmental fellow at the Harvard University Center for the Environment

18:00 End of Day 1 & Reception

DAY 2 • 24 NOVEMBER 23

09:00 Registration

09:30 Keynote speeches

- Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner for Environment, Ocean and Fisheries
- Ahmed ABOUTALEB, Mayor of Rotterdam, the Netherlands

10:00 Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives

This session will focus on the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives (recast) proposed by the Commission in October 2022 which is currently being discussed by the co-legislators in the European Parliament and in the Council of the European Union.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Patrick CHILD, Deputy Director General DG ENV, European Commission
- Javi LÓPEZ, Member of Parliament, European Parliament
- Marta GÓMEZ PALANQUE, General Director of Environmental Quality, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
- Una POWER, Committee of the Regions & County Councillor, Ireland
- Faustine BAS-DEFOSSEZ, Director for Nature, Health and Environment, European Environmental Bureau
- Bruno HERVET, CEO SUEZ Consulting & Vice Executive President Smart Cities

11:15 Coffee Break

11:45 Spreading knowledge for cleaner air

Remote sensing is used to detect and monitor air pollution by measuring its reflected and emitted radiation via a satellite or an aircraft. Citizen science allows for further monitoring of air pollution while raising awareness. This session will explore the different monitoring tools available at all scales, from remote sensing to citizen science projects, what is done with this data by the health community and how to engage citizens in taking clean air actions.

INTRO

- Cyril FOURNERIS, EURONEWS - Spreading knowledge for cleaner air

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Alain MARON, Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium
- Marieke SCHOUTEN, Member of the Committee of the Regions & Alderman of Nieuwegein, the Netherlands
- Ole Johan BAKKE, Vice President, Standing Committee of European Doctors
- Alexander SIMIDCHIEV, Co-Founder and Chairman, Air for Health, Bulgaria

12:50 Closing

- Afke VAN RIJN, Directorate-General for the Environment and International Affairs, the Netherlands

13:00 End of Day 2

Venue: ss ROTTERDAM at 3e Katendrechtsehoofd 25, Rotterdam (The Netherlands)
Moderated by Chris Burns



SPEAKERS



Maroš Šefčovič



Maroš Šefčovič (born in 1966) is a Slovak politician and a career diplomat, who since 22 August 2023 serves as Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight. Before that, since 1 December 2019 he served as Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight. In this capacity, he leads the Commission's work on the European Green Deal, interinstitutional relations, better policymaking, strategic foresight and the European Battery Alliance. He is also responsible for the European Union's relations with Western non-EU countries, notably Andorra, Iceland, Monaco, Norway, Lichtenstein, San Marino and Switzerland. He also co-chairs the EU-UK Partnership Council under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the EU-UK Joint Committee for the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.

European Affairs have been at the centre of Mr Šefčovič's career for almost two decades. In 2014, he was elected as a Member of the European Parliament. From 2010-2019, he was Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of initially Interinstitutional Relations and Administration, and then the Energy Union. In 2009-2010, he was European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth. From 2004-2009, he was the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the European Union, steering the country's integration in the European Union, such as its entry to the Eurozone and the Schengen area. As a diplomat by profession, he served between 1992 and 2004 in Zimbabwe and Canada and as Ambassador of Slovakia to Israel.

He graduated from the University of Economy in Bratislava, Slovakia, and the Moscow State Institute for Foreign Relations. He holds a degree as Doctor of Law and a PhD of European Law from Faculty of Law at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. He also undertook training in diplomacy at Stanford University, USA.

A book «Driving the EU forward – talks with Maroš Šefčovič» focuses on his first mandate as the Commission Vice-President. In 2018, he was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa at the Pan-European University in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Mr Šefčovič is married and father of 3 children, Helena, Martina and Maroš. Two dogs and a cat are also part of the family.

Vivianne Heijnen



Vivianne Heijnen (Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA)) was appointed Minister for the Environment on 10 January 2022. Between 2009 and 2018 she was head of the Maastricht University Campus in Brussels. In 2018 she became a member of the Maastricht municipal executive with responsibility for the economy, housing, regional policy, and social innovation. Ms Heijnen was born on 8 October 1982 in Spaubeek. When asked about what motivates her as a minister, her response is as follows: 'I want the Netherlands to be a country that is liveable and accessible for everyone and where we reuse more. I'm committed to reducing travel time in a sustainable way, with a particular focus on border regions, cities and our neighbouring countries.'

Leena YLÄ-MONONEN



Leena Ylä-Mononen is the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since 1 June 2023. She was born in Pohjaslahti, Finland in 1963. Ms Ylä-Mononen has a master's degree in environmental sciences from Helsinki University, specialising in ecotoxicology and chemicals risk assessment and management.

Before joining the European Environment Agency, she was Director General at the Ministry of Environment of Finland. She managed the Climate and Environmental Protection Department, dealing with environmental policy issues and EU files related to climate change, air pollution, industrial pollution, circular economy, sustainable consumption and production, waste management and the prevention of environmental risks from chemicals.

Before joining the Ministry in 2019, Ms Ylä-Mononen worked for over 11 years in management positions in the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki. Before joining ECHA in 2007, she worked in the European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, on policy files related to chemicals and pesticides.

Earlier in her career she worked in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) on environmental risk assessment and management of industrial chemicals, biocides and pesticides.

Throughout her career, Ms Ylä-Mononen has been involved in international cooperation at the Nordic, European, OECD and global levels, and in the negotiations and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals, waste and climate change.

Ms Ylä-Mononen speaks fluent English, in addition to her native Finnish, and has working level skills in French and Swedish. She enjoys nature, visual arts, literature and history.

Chantal ZEEGERS



Chantal Zeegers has been working as vice mayor in the Municipality of Rotterdam since 16 June 2022. She is responsible for the Climate, Building and Housing portfolios.

Previously, Ms Zeegers has held a variety of different positions within the Ministry of Education and the Municipality of Rotterdam. She has been active in politics for the D66 party since 2011. She started out as an Executive Director of the Hillegersberg-Schiebroek submunicipality, specifically focussed on outdoor spaces, sustainability and traffic and transport. She was the D66 Party Chairperson in Rotterdam's municipal council between 2018 and 2022.

Other positions include vice presidency of the regional environmental protection agency DCMR, and member of the regional steering committee JTF Rijnmond and member of the national monitoring committee of the Just Transition Fund.

Bent MADSEN



Since 2010 Bent Madsen has filled the chair as CEO of BL – Danish Social Housing, the national federation of social housing organizations in Denmark.

Bent holds the Presidency of Housing Europe (the European Federation of Public, Cooperative and Social housing), and is Chairman of NBO – Housing Nordic (the Nordic association of co-operative social housing).

He serves as member of the boards of the Danish Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Council of the Labour Movement, The Social Network, the Danish Disability Council, and the association «Hjem-til-Alle» (A Home for Everybody). Among his prior positions is membership of the Danish Competition Council. Bent holds a Master of Economics from the University of Copenhagen.

Mark LAWRENCE



Prof. Dr. Mark Lawrence is scientific director at the RIFS (formerly IASS) in Potsdam and an integrative scientist who addresses key challenges of the Anthropocene by bringing together and applying a wide range of academic expertise in his team, including his own background in atmospheric science, as well as going beyond this interdisciplinary foundation to also involve societal actors in a transdisciplinary approach.

His main research topics include air pollution, climate change, climate geoengineering, environment-related governance of vulnerable regions like the Himalayas and the Arctic, and the interface between sustainability and spirituality.

Prof. Lawrence received his Ph.D. in 1996 from the Georgia Institute of Technology. From 2000 until 2011 he was a research group leader at the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz. He served as interim professor for meteorology at the University of Mainz during 2009-2010 and moved to the IASS in 2011. In 2014, he was appointed to be an Honorary Professor at the University of Potsdam.

Prof. Lawrence is the author or co-author of over 180 peer-reviewed publications, with an h-index of 75 on Google Scholar. He has led various international projects and has been serving on the editorial and advisory boards of various journals and on various international committees, including having been co-chair of the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry program (IGAC) from 2015-2018, and currently being co-chair of the German Science Platform Sustainability 2030, a member of the German Council for Sustainable Development, and in the Board of Directors of the German Climate Consortium.

Petros KOKKALIS



Petros Kokkalis has been actively involved in public service for the past 25 years, developing social innovation focused on human and sustainable development.

He studied Modern History at the University of Hampshire, and earned his master's degree in public administration at Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

He is co-founder of the non-governmental environmental organization Earth whose work on environmental awareness and education for sustainable development has been awarded by the International Union for the Protection of the Environment (IUCN).

He was elected and served as the Vice-Mayor responsible for economic development and climate change in the municipality of Piraeus (2014 - 2019), where he promoted sustainable entrepreneurship and support of start-ups in the maritime economy.

The European Commission has acknowledged his work, awarding the Blue Growth Piraeus initiative at the European Entrepreneurship Promotion Competition 2018.

During his term of office he led the humanitarian support during the Refugee Crisis in the period 2015-2016 and served as the President of the Municipal Council for Refugees.

In 2019 he was elected MEP, representing Kosmos, a political movement seeking to deliver the UN SDG's, with the Progressive Alliance - Syriza ticket.

Maja MARKOVČIĆ KOSTELAC



Maja Markovčić Kostelac took up the position of Executive Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) on 1 January 2019. She is responsible for the running and development of the Agency under the oversight of its Administrative Board.

Starting out as a maritime lawyer, she has subsequently gained long-standing experience in the maritime field in both the public and private sector.

Prior to joining EMSA, Ms Markovčić Kostelac was State Secretary for Croatia's Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure. Her duties entailed developing strategies, policies and legislation in the area of maritime transport, maritime safety, security and environmental protection. In this role, she also led the Croatian delegation in a range of international forums at the United Nations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

During her time at Croatia's Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure she held a number of positions, including Director of the Maritime Policy Directorate. She also served as Director of the Croatian Shipowners' Association (Mare Nostrum).

Since joining EMSA, Ms Markovčić Kostelac has established the Agency's five-year strategy (2020-2024) and organises its implementation. She has led EMSA's work on a range of strategic and operational issues, including the maritime dimension of the European Green Deal, the development of enhanced digital solutions for national level administrations and relevant authorities, and the provision of support at international level to the European Commission and Member States at the IMO.

Anita MÄKINEN



Dr Anita Mäkinen is the Alternate Permanent Representative of Finland to the IMO. She works also as Chief advisor to the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency. She covers all shipping related environmental issues and the international and regional organizations wherein these are discussed, in addition to the IMO, EU, HELCOM and the Arctic Council.

Dr Mäkinen has been serving as the Vice-Chair of the IMO PPR subcommittee since 2020 and serves as the Vice-Chair of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF) sub-group on Sustainable Alternative Power for Shipping. In HELCOM she co-chairs the HELCOM Green Team meetings.

In her position she has been also member of the Finnish delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) e.g. in Paris in 2015 and the Ocean Conference in New York and Lisbon in 2017 and 2022, respectively.

Before her present position, Dr Mäkinen worked as the Head of Marine Environment Protection Unit of the Finnish Transport Safety Agency and in different positions at the University of Turku. At the University she supervised Finnish and foreign students' Master and PhD studies.

Dr Anita Mäkinen graduated from the University of Turku. She wrote her doctoral thesis on marine biology at the Åbo Akademi University and holds an Adjunct Professor degree (Docent) at the University of Helsinki in the same discipline.

She has published several peer-reviewed scientific articles and articles in journals and newspapers.

Philippos PHILIS



Philippos Philis is the founder of Lemissoler and has been Managing Director since its establishment in 1996.

He has been appointed as Chairman and CEO of Lemissoler Group since 2009. The Group is active in ship-owning, ship management, ship commercial operations, and chartering, as well as in R&D with a focus on enhancing the ship's efficiency and decreasing the carbon footprint.

Philippos is elected President of the Board of Directors of the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA), past President of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber (CSC) and has been Chairing the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Shipowners' Employers Association (CySEA) from 2016-2021. He is an elected member of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), a member of the DNV GL Cyprus Committee, and a member of the Advisory Committee of the West of England P&I Club. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the Board of Directors of USB Bank.

Philippos graduated from RWTH Aachen in Mechanical Engineering, and he is also a Harvard Business School (HBS) graduate. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the School of Management and Economics of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT).

Eric VAN DER SCHANS



Eric van der Schans is Director Environmental Management at the Port of Rotterdam Authority since 1 September 2015

Born in Enschede, the Netherlands in 1971, Eric holds a master degree in chemical engineering from the University of Twente.

He started his career at Stork in 1996 as environmental & safety consultant for the Oil & Gas industry and worked on various projects in Europe and the Middle East. In 2000 he joined Royal Haskoning DHV and continued to work as consultant, project manager and team leader. In 2005 he joined Antea Group to lead their safety consultancy practice. In later years he has been responsible for international acquisition strategy of Antea Group as well as international business development. As director Environmental Management he is responsible for spatial planning, environment and CSR within the Port of Rotterdam Authority.

In addition to his role with the Port of Rotterdam Authority, Eric van der Schans is Chairman of Environmental Shipping Index (ESI) Working Group

Carlos MORENO



Internationally renowned researcher, Carlos Moreno is Scientific director of the Chair “Entrepreneurship – Territory – Innovation”, IAE Paris - Sorbonne University (France).

Carlos Moreno earned recognition as a scientist with an innovative mind, pioneer works and his unique approach on urban issues.

He is also a scientific advisor of national and international figures of the highest level.

He works at the heart of issues of international significance as a result of his research, bringing an innovative perspective on urban issues and offering solutions to the issues faced by the cities, metropolises and territories during the 21st century.

Some of his concepts traveled the world: the ‘Human Smart City’, the ‘15-Minute City’, the ‘30-Minute Territory’.

In 2022, he is leading the launch of the Global Observatory of proximities at the World Urban Forum #WUF11 with UN-Habitat, C40 Cities, UCLG and other partners.

Winfried HERMANN



Winfried Hermann is the minister of the Ministry of Transport Baden-Württemberg in the cabinet of Prime Minister Winfried Kretschmann since Mai 2011.

Minister Hermann is in charge of topics concerning road engineering, public transport, bicycle traffic, foot traffic, rail traffic, car traffic, air traffic, barge traffic and infrastructure. This also includes air pollution control and the protection of nature and against noise.

A sustainable new mobility is the guiding principle of the policy of the Ministry of Transport. Human beings, their health and mobility needs and the environment are always the central focus of all the activities.

Minister Hermann is also a member of The Green Party and of the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg.

Born on 19. July 1952 and raised in Rottenburg am Neckar. Lives in Stuttgart, is married and has one child.

Annika DEGEN



Annika Degen is Deputy Director at UITP's Europe Department and responsible for mobility strategy, data policy, digitalization and ticketing.

She originally joined UITP in 2013 as policy expert for road transport, buses, energy and fuels, after having worked as project manager in a Brussels-based NGO. Mrs. Degen is seconded to UITP by Verband Deutscher Verkehrsunternehmen (VDV, the German Transport association).

She holds a Bachelor degree from the University of Osnabrück (German) and a Master degree from the College of Europe (Belgium).

Meredith GLASER



Meredith Glaser serves as the Executive Director of the Amsterdam-based research and education non-profit, the Urban Cycling Institute, and tenured lecturer of urban planning at the University of Amsterdam.

Meredith's academic and professional career is underpinned by her passion for fostering community, dialogue, and collaboration through learning and co-creation for advancing sustainability.

With nearly 20 years of teaching experience and a multi-disciplinary background in public health, urban planning and environmental design, Dr. Glaser brings a holistic understanding and honest broker approach to social inquiry and change.

Her academic research on and experience with cycling policy and city-to-city learning has advanced Dr. Glaser as a leading subject-matter expert and one of the most sought-after educators for professional development about Dutch cycling systems.

She directs the summer program Planning the Cycling City and co-developed the Coursera on-line course Unraveling the Cycling City, with over 20k enrollments.

She also serves on several boards, including CROW, a Dutch knowledge platform for bicycle policy, Bloomberg's Bici Program, and the Cycling Research Board. She received her PhD in urban planning from the University of Amsterdam, supervised by her colleague and long-term collaborator, Prof. Dr. Marco te Brömmelstroet.

Stefan OLSSON



Stefan Olsson is a Swedish lawyer with degrees in international and tax law. Having joined the European Commission in 1996, he dealt with fundamental rights issues as well as social dialogue.

He was assistant to the Director General for Employment and Social Affairs (2000-2005) before leading units dealing with social and employment law and policy as well as administrative affairs.

As from 1 November 2015, he took up the position of Director in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He was responsible for the management of the European Social Fund in Romania, Bulgaria, Malta and Spain, for the implementation of the Employment Strategy through tools such as the Youth Guarantee, the Long-term Unemployment Recommendation and the network of Public Employment Services, as well as legislative and policy issues relating to working conditions including health and safety at work.

From 1 September 2022, he serves as Deputy Director-General responsible for policy issues in DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Kęstutis KUPŠYS



Kęstutis Kupšys is the Vice-President of the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance, which (as of October 2023) unites 10 consumer associations. The Alliance has been a member of the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) since 2013.

After a two-decade-long career in finance, political consulting and public relations, Kęstutis Kupšys joined the consumer rights movement in 2011 when he was chosen to supervise the establishment of 'For Honesty in Banking', a consumer advocacy organisation destined to steer diverse civic and legal campaigns of vulnerable consumers hit by the financial crisis of 2008–2009. Kęstutis Kupšys currently serves as the Executive Director of this organisation, which, along with the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance, has been actively participating in national and European debates on various essential issues, including overindebtedness, the affordability and accessibility of financial services, financial literacy, sustainable ('green') finance, and socially responsible savings and investment. In 2014–2015, as Lithuania was preparing to enter the Eurozone, he led a national campaign monitoring consumer rights during the litas-to-euro transition period.

In April 2018, Kęstutis Kupšys was assigned the role of an alternate member of the European Economic and Social Committee in the Civil Society Organisations' Group. He was appointed as a full member in October 2020.

He also currently represents consumer interests in the Financial Services User Group at DG FISMA as well as in the Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group at EIOPA. He is also a Liaison Officer for ANEC – organisation representing the European consumer voice in standardisation – in the ISO international standardisation committee 'ISO/TC 322' on Sustainable Finance. In addition, he takes part in the work of various BEUC working groups (on Financial Services, Sustainability, Trade, and Energy).

Kęstutis Kupšys graduated from Vilnius University with a degree in Economic Cybernetics/Systemic Analysis of the Economy (in 1995), while his supplementary study interests encompassed Financial Markets and Business Administration (via Catholic University Eichstätt, Germany, 'Gaststudium' program in 1992–1993) and Philosophy (Vilnius University, 1995–1997).

Jürgen SIEBEL



Jürgen Siebel joined Cedefop from the private sector in September 2019. As Executive Director, he is responsible for managing the Agency's operations in accordance with the strategic direction of its tripartite Management Board.

Jürgen has a background in human-resources management with particular emphasis on learning and education. In this context he has also collaborated with institutional actors in the vocational education and training space at national, European and global levels.

Jürgen Siebel earned his MSc in economics at the University of Hamburg, and a PhD in business administration from the University of Vienna.



Julie KJESTRUP

Julie Kjestrup has been the President of EuroACE since January 2023 and the Vice-Chair of the Renovate Europe Campaign since January 2022. She is also Head of Policy and Thought Leadership for VELUX, having joined in January 2022.

Prior to that, she was Head of EU Affairs and interim Global Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability at Danfoss, and before that a short stint at the European Copper Institute. Julie also headed the Brussels Energy and Environment practice at APCO Worldwide, a global public affairs and strategic communication agency.

She has extensive experience working on all aspects of advocacy and stakeholder engagement and has witnessed first-hand, and contributed to, the rise of climate and energy topics on the European policy agenda over the past few years.



Anna Lea ALBRIGHT

Anna Lea Albright is a climate scientist whose research focuses on the role of clouds and air pollution in climate. She has also done research on the interactions between 19th century industrialization, environmental change, and painting, as well as the impacts of rising sea levels for mortgages and coastal communities in France.

Anna Lea is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Center for the Environment. She received her PhD from the Laboratory of Dynamic Meteorology at Sorbonne University in 2022 and her bachelor's and master's from Harvard University in 2017.

Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS



Virginijus Sinkevičius is the present Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, at the European Commission. Mr Sinkevičius was from 2017 to 2019 Minister of Economy, and before he was leading the Committee of Economy at the Parliament of Lithuania.

Mr Sinkevičius was elected to the Parliament in October 2016. Prior, he was a Team Lead for Regulatory Affairs at Invest Lithuania.

Mr Sinkevičius holds BA in International Relations and Affairs from Aberystwyth University and Master 's degree in European International Affairs from Maastricht University.

Ahmed ABOUTALEB



Ahmed Aboutaleb (born 1961 in Beni Sidel, Morocco) has been Mayor of Rotterdam since 2009.

Previously, he represented the PvdA (Labor Party) as State Secretary for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment in the fourth Balkenende cabinet (2007-2008) and as an alderman in Amsterdam (2004-2007).

In the mid-1980s, Aboutaleb started his career in journalism. He was a discussion leader for RVU Television, made programs for Radio Stad Amsterdam and Radio Noord-Holland, and reported for Veronica Radio, NOS Radio and RTL News. In 1991, he moved to public services, holding positions with the Ministry of Welfare, Health and Culture, the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) and Statistics Netherlands (CBS). In 1998 he became an administrator for the Forum institute for multicultural development, and in 2002 he became director of the City of Amsterdam's sector of Social, Economic and Cultural Development (MEC).

Mayor Aboutaleb strongly advocates the values enshrined in the Dutch Constitution: freedom of religion, freedom of speech and the principle of non-discrimination. In his view, obtaining Dutch citizenship entails a responsibility to respect and uphold those values and to take part in building the We Society. The more people take part in which, the stronger and more resilient that society will be, both in good and bad times. He'll regularly take neighbourhood strolls throughout Rotterdam to have talks with residents about what concerns them.

In 2015, Aboutaleb published two books: an HJ Schoo Reading (published by Elsevier magazine) titled *De roep van de stad* ('The City's Call'), covering the leading role cities and urban regions can play at the national and international level, and *Droom & Daad* ('Dream & Deed'), which was published for the History Week of the Collective Promotion of the Dutch Book foundation (CPNB). In *Droom & Daad*, he tells a Rotterdam war story to present how to ensure a stable, peaceful society.

Patrick CHILD



Patrick CHILD is currently Deputy Director-General in DG Environment at the European Commission with particular responsibility for the EU's zero pollution strategy, chemicals legislation, urban agenda, research and innovation for environment and communication.

He is also the Mission manager for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, which aims to reach 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030. From 2016-2021, he was Deputy Director-General in DG Research and Innovation (R&I) at the European Commission.

As member of the Board of DG R&I, he followed in particular research and innovation in clean energy and climate technologies as well as the R&I dimension of the post-COVID recovery and resilience strategy and Horizon Europe mission on Cancer. His international roles included Commission representative and chair of the steering committee of Mission Innovation (a coalition of 24 countries and the EC working to accelerate global clean energy innovation) and lead co-chair of the Group of Earth Observations (GEO).

Until April 2016, Patrick Child was Managing Director of the European External Service with responsibility for administration and finance, covering human resources policy, security and the budget. Before he took up this post in 2011, he was director in the EC External Relations Directorate-General in the responsible for managing the network of Commission delegations.

He has previously served as head of cabinet for External Relations Commissioners Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Chris Patten. With a background in the UK Finance Ministry, he joined the European Commission in 1994, where he started in the Economic and Monetary affairs Directorate General before becoming Commission press spokesman for economic and monetary union from 1995-1999.

Mr Child studied mathematics at Cambridge University. He is married with two children.

Javi LÓPEZ



Javi López is an MEP from PSC-PSOE and a member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament since 2014. He serves as the Co-Chair of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), and is a member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) as well as the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE). In addition, he is a member of the Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (D-MX) and of the Conference of Delegation Chairs (CPDE). He also acts as substitute in the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET).

At the European Level, his political involvement includes being a member of the Presidency of the Party of European Socialists (PES) and serving as the President of the PES Environment, Climate Change and Energy Network. Furthermore, he takes part as an ex-officio member in the Executive Committee of the Socialists' Party of Catalonia (PSC).

During the current term, he served as the Rapporteur for the European Parliament's report on the implementation of the Ambient Air Quality Directives. Presently, he is leading the negotiation of the revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive as the European Parliament Rapporteur.

Marta GÓMEZ



Marta Gómez is the General Director of Environmental Quality of the Spanish government since July 2022.

Previously she has carried out her work in the Spanish Climate Change Office of the Spanish government, and as General Director of Circular Economy in the Government of Castilla de la Mancha.

In addition, she has worked in the private sector for more than 15 years in the design and implementation of projects related to civil engineering, water and climate change.

She is currently in charge of the design and implementation of the national environmental policy in Spain, specially, waste management, circular economy and air quality policies.

Faustine BAS-DEFOSSEZ



Faustine Bas-Defossez is EEB's Director for Nature, Health and Environment. With more than fifteen years of professional experience in EU environmental policy, she leads a large policy portfolio of the organisation: namely biodiversity, water, soil; agriculture and food; chemicals; mercury and air quality and noise and she is part of the senior management team.

Between 2009 and 2018 she was leading the agriculture work of the EEB. Before re-joining the civil society movement, she spent 5 years in leading roles within the sustainability think tanks' community, as Head of the agriculture and land management program first and then External Impact Director.

At the beginning of her career, she also worked for the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Faustine has a master's degree in International and European Law and holds a MSc in European politics from Science Po Strasbourg.

Bruno HERVET



Bruno Hervet is CEO of SUEZ Consulting & Executive Vice President Smart Cities SUEZ Group since January 2020, a company of 1,200 passionate changemakers delivering consulting & engineering expertise services in more than 70 countries to local authorities and public entities aiming to develop their territories sustainably. The company also supports industrial clients desiring to adapt their production tools in line with the energy transition.

Additionally, he is Executive Vice President in charge of the Smart Cities of SUEZ Group, convinced that tomorrow's cities will be more efficient and improve the quality of life of all citizens while meeting their expectations. In 2016, he joined the French association of sustainable city stakeholders, France Ville Durable, as Vice President.

From 2015 to 2020, Bruno Hervet was Executive Vice President in charge of the Smart & Resourceful Cities for SUEZ Group. From 2010 to 2014, he was the Executive Vice President of the International Division of the Group and previously, the Deputy Managing Director in charge of finance for Degrémont (from 2003 to 2010). As part of his duties, he leads the strategy as well as the development and urban innovation activities on behalf of SUEZ, in France and abroad. Furthermore, he represents the Group with the national authorities for the export strategy of the French expertise in Resourceful Cities.

He graduated from HEC in 1994 with a MS in Business Administration and Management.

Cyril FOURNERIS



Cyril Fournieris is a senior reporter for Euronews television network and the face of The Road to Green, a monthly programme launched in 2023 in partnership with the European Commission's DG ENV.

In each episode, he travels across Europe to meet the people who are finding solutions to some of the greatest environmental challenges of our times. In this month's episode on clean air, he reported from Warsaw, Brussels and Copenhagen.

After years working for radio and print media, Cyril joined Euronews in 2015 as news journalist and editor. He has produced a number of EU-sponsored programmes with a focus on science, tech and economy, such as Futuris, Smart Regions and Real Economy.

He lives in Paris but misses his native French Alps. He hopes his home valley will one day be air-pollution free.

Alain MARON



Alain Maron is Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of the Climate Transition, Environment, Energy, Social Affairs and Health.

Graduated in economic and social policy, he is strongly dedicated to improving the quality of life in his city, which led him to become a member of the Belgian Green Party and to be elected as a member of the Brussels regional Parliament from 2009 to 2019.

As Minister for the Environment and Health, he is particularly aware of the strong interlinkages between the environmental and health issues, which is a dimension that he tries to integrate in the ambitious policies that the Brussels Government is implementing.

By placing Brussels at the forefront of the fight against air pollution, but also by ensuring that this ambitious transition is just, Mr. Maron aims to make Brussels more sustainable, while protecting the environment and the health of its inhabitants, and especially the most vulnerable among them.

Una POWER



Una Power is a Councillor for Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in Dublin, Ireland since 2019.

Una graduated with a BA in German Language and Politics and International Relations, and a Master in Public Policy with a focus on Environmental Law from University College Dublin. She has worked in the NGO and Political sectors since leaving university.

Since 2000 she has been a member of the European Committee of the regions, becoming the Co-President of the Greens Political Group. In this role she has focused on environmental legislation and social justice issues.

In 2023 she worked as the Rapporteur for the Committee of the Regions on the Revision of the EU Ambient Air Quality Legislation. Her Opinion on this was adopted by a majority of the Committee of the Regions in July 2023.

Ole Johan BAKKE



Dr Ole Johan Bakke is a general practitioner and a public health officer working in Holmestrand in Norway. He graduated from the University of Oslo's faculty of medicine in 1988. He holds two specialties; one in Public Health and one in General Medicine.

Dr Bakke was elected as a member of the board of the Norwegian Medical Association in 2015. He also chairs the committee for the Norwegian Medical Association's fund for specialist education and is member of the board of the Norwegian Association of Public Health Officers.

Furthermore, he has extensive experiences as a board member of various hospitals and other health organisations.

Dr Bakke has been Vice President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) since 2019.

Alexander SIMIDCHIEV



A clinician working within the respiratory arena, with extensive clinical and industry experience in academic, hospital, outpatient and medical affairs roles. Member of the international editorial board of the Journal of Climate Change and Health.

The last 6 years (since his grandchildren were born) with a dominant interest in social entrepreneurship, as co-founder and Chairman of the Board of the Air for Health Association, as well as the Bulgarian think-tank on environmental health.

Author of the first digital medicine course in Bulgaria, as well as author and lead tutor of the «Public Health for Non-Medics» course at New Bulgarian University in Sofia.

Member of the Bulgarian Parliament in the 45th, 46th and 47th, 48th and 49th National Assemblies.

Chairman of the Health Commission in the 45th National Assembly and deputy chairman of the commission in the 46th, 47th and 48th and 49th national assemblies.

Afke VAN RIJN



On 1 February 2023 Afke van Rijn was appointed Director-General for the Environment and International Affairs at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

The areas she is responsible for include the circular economy, waste management, environmental protection, air quality and climate adaptation policy, as well as bilateral, multilateral and EU affairs relating to the Ministry's policies.

Afke van Rijn was previously Deputy Director-General for COVID-19 at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport from April 2021.

Prior to this she was Director of the Media and Creative Industries Department, and Deputy Director-General and coordinating director for Equal Opportunities in Education at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Other positions she has held include Director of the Integration and Society Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, Director of the Directorate for Local Safety at the Ministry of Security and Justice, and various roles at the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Ms Van Rijn studied computer engineering at Delft University of Technology. She is married and has two children.

Marieke SCHOUTEN



Marieke Schouten is working as an alderman in the city of Nieuwegein, Utrecht Region in The Netherlands. Her responsibilities include spatial planning; environment, water management & climate adaptation; the transition towards green / clean energy systems, and health. Nieuwegein City is surrounded by three major highways, and two busy rivers, has a population of 67.000 people and provides employment to 46.000 people. As member of the EU Committee of the Regions, she is co-chair of the Zero Pollution Stakeholders Platform. The European Commission, in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions, set up this Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform to achieve the zero pollution ambition. She was rapporteur of the "EU Action Plan: Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil".

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