



CBE JU
Stakeholder
Forum 2023
6-7 December Brussels

Speakers

Baker Jennifer

Moderator



Better known as Brusselsgeek, Jennifer has been a journalist in print, radio and television for 20 years, the last 10+ specialising in EU policy. She has worked across a wide range of media, from editing a national daily paper in Malta, to reporting on European affairs for Middle Eastern television, and has a wealth of experience in navigating the political quagmire of the EU. As well as an address book packed with insider sources and contacts in Brussels, Jennifer is skilled at translating EU policy-speak into understandable English. Regularly listed as one of the top influencers in the EU bubble, Jennifer was awarded #1 Tech Influencer 2019 by ZN, was listed by Politico as one of the Top 20 Women Shaping Brussels in 2017, and was named by Onalytica as one of the world's Top 100 Influencers on Data Security 2016. She is also a GLG expert Council Member providing advice on EU Policy, and was an original member of the Expert Council of the Good Technology Collective. Jennifer regularly features as an EU expert on BBC radio, Euronews, SkyNews and others, and hosts Brussels' must-watch weekly roundup show TOTW for Euractiv. She has written for some of the biggest names in media, including Ars Technica, Computerweekly, TheNextWeb, and TheRegister.

Bastioli Catia

CEO, Novamont



Catia Bastioli is a chemist, a researcher and an entrepreneur. She is CEO of the Novamont Group, an industrial reality born from the results of her research activity on the development of bioplastics and biochemicals from renewable origin, according to a model of Circular Bioeconomy that she developed, intended as territorial regeneration with the quality of soil and water at its centre.

She is President of the Kyoto Club Association (since 2009) and of the Italian Cluster of Circular Bioeconomy SPRING (Since 2014). She has been a member of important EU working groups on climate change and the environment, such as the Mission Board on Soil Health and Food. First inventor of about 80 patent families in the sector of biopolymers and transformation processes of renewable raw materials, she was awarded “European Inventor of the Year 2007” by the European Patent Office and the European Commission.

In 2017 she was given the honorary title of Knighthood “Cavaliere del Lavoro” by the President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella.

Moreover, she holds an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering by “Alma Mater Studiorum” University of Bologna (2019), a Honoris Causa Degree in Business Economics by University of Foggia (2018), a Honoris Causa Degree in Materials Engineering by University of Palermo (2016) and a Honoris Causa Degree in Industrial Chemistry by University of Genoa (2008).

Beekers Rob

Chair, Bio-Based Industries Consortium & Vice-Chair, CBE JU Governing Board



After graduating as MSc in Business Economics at University of Maastricht, Netherlands, Rob started with Cargill as a Commercial Management trainee in 1996 and since then held various positions in Sales, Supply chain, Business Development and General Management within the company. Since February 2019 Rob holds the position of Business Development Director for a subset of Cargill's Bio Industrial Group markets and technologies focusing on driving growth initiatives through internal development projects and external partnerships. He is based out of the Netherlands. In 2019 Rob became a Governance Board member of the European Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) representing Cargill and since June 2022 he is the Chairman of the BIC Governance Board.

Bobanović Joško

Partner, Sofinnova Partners



Joško Bobanović joined Sofinnova Partners in 2010 as Partner dedicated to activities in industrial biotech. He focuses on early-stage deals in Europe and North America with applications in food, agriculture, chemicals and materials. Joško sits on the boards of Metgen, Comet Bio, DNA Script, Biosyntia, DMC Biotechnologies, Pyrowave, Protera and Prometheus Materials. Joško holds a BSc. in physics from University of Zagreb, a PhD in physical oceanography from Dalhousie University and an MBA in finance and marketing from McGill University.

Bonaccorso Mario

Director, Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster Spring, Founder And Journalist, Il Bioeconomista



Mario Bonaccorso is the Director of Spring, the Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster. He is also the founder of Il Bioeconomista, The First Bioeconomy Blog, and author of three books on the Bioeconomy <https://shop.edizioniambiente.it/autore/mario-bonaccorso>

Graduated in Political Science at the University of Milan (Italy), he specialized in History of the European Integration at RWTH Aachen (Germany).

He is a journalist and regular contributor to Renewable Matter, the International Magazine on Circular economy and Bioeconomy.

Bravo Ana Maria

Director Of Public Affairs, International Flavors And Fragrances



Dr. Ana María Bravo currently works at IFF as Director Public Affairs Europe. Among her responsibilities, she promotes the sustainable benefits of IFF's innovative solutions across markets such as food ingredients, fragrances, pharma solutions and as well as health & biobased sectors. She is Board member at RCI (Renewable Carbon Initiative) and EuropaBio (Bioindustries Association), is currently Chairwoman of the Industrial Biotechnology Council at EuropaBio, as well as member of EUBCE's ISAC (EU Biomass Conference – International Scientific Advisory Committee).

Prior to this, Ana María founded 'Bravo Strategies' in Brussels, a professional and transdisciplinary advocacy consultancy driven by advancing responsible science and sustainable innovation, where she worked with multiple clients and consultancies as a dedicated lobbyist and policy advisor. In her previous 20+-year career as an advocate for Industrial Biosciences, Biofuels, Food Innovation and the Bioeconomy, Ana María held various advocacy and communications roles at DuPont's Industrial Biosciences, Danisco and Genencor. She holds a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Basel, CH (Cum Laude) and is of Colombian and Dutch nationality.

Ana María has a particular interest in advancing stakeholder dialogue for supportive policies for innovative sectors such as biofuels, biorefineries and food sector. She has been active on behalf of the companies she worked for in several related stakeholder networks and industry platforms: European Commission's Expert Group on Lead Markets Initiative for Biobased Products, EuropaBio, Cefic, Amfep, ePURE, BIC, EU Bioplastics, RCI, Biofrontiers (Industry-NGO dialogue platform).

Carrez Dirk

Executive Director, Bio-Based Industries Consortium



Dirk Carrez is the Executive Director of BIC. He is Bioengineer and holds a PhD in Agricultural Sciences. He has worked at SOLVAY in the research department, at the Belgian Federation for the Life Sciences and Chemical Industry as Director Innovation & Product Policy and as Secretary-general of the Belgian Biotechnology Industry Association, and has been Director Industrial Biotechnology at EuropaBio.

Dirk Carrez is also Vice-Chair of BIAC's (Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD) Biotechnology Committee, a member of several European and national advisory bodies in the area of the biobased economy, and Doctor Honoris Causa of the University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne.

Carvalho Maria da Graça

Member Of The European Parliament



Maria da Graça Carvalho is currently a member of the European Parliament. She is vice-chair of the Fisheries Committee (PECH), a full Member of Industry, Research and Energy committee (ITRE) and a substitute member of Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) and Women's Rights (FEMM) committees. She was a senior advisor to Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, from November 2014 to December 2015. Previously, she was a member of the European Parliament between July 2009 and May 2014. In that capacity, she was one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. She was also Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change from 2006 to 2009. She served as a Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV Constitutional Government of Portugal and Minister of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of the XVI Constitutional Government. She is a Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon).

Czymoch Conny

Moderator



Conny Czymoch is an experienced international moderator, presenter, facilitator and media coach, who is passionate about gathering solutions for the future of humanity and life on this planet and talking about them in any kind of forum.

Her core topics comprise sustainability, climate action, biodiversity preservation, bio-economy, reaching the global goals, resource efficiency, food and agriculture, transport and mobility, development cooperation, the labor market, international supply chains, corporate responsibility, human rights and human trafficking.

With her longstanding journalistic career in print, radio and TV, Ms. Czymoch today moderates international conferences, live on stage or virtually, in English and in German.

Regular customers include almost all German Federal Ministries, ILO, OECD, UN, World Bank, EU Commission and DGs, foundations and think tanks, NGOs, as well as business organisations.

Conny has also been a media and presentation coach for the last 25 years.

De Grande Muriel

Head Of Sector, Enterprise Europe Network



Muriel De Grande is Head of Sector at the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) under the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, responsible for the sector managing the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and its partnerships. Over the past 22 years, she has worked for the EU institutions as Financial and Budget Officer and as Manager in operational sectors supporting EU Innovative SMEs. She holds a Master's Degree in Finance and Trade from ICHEC. Muriel is Belgian and speaks four languages: English, French, Spanish and Dutch.

De Jong Ed

Vice President Development, Avantium



Ed graduated at Agricultural University Wageningen, the Netherlands and also defended his

PhD thesis at the Agricultural University Wageningen, the Netherlands on the degradation of lignocellulose by white-rot fungi (1993). Ed joined Avantium in 2007.

He is currently VP Development – responsible for Public-Private partnerships of Avantium. In addition he is involved in feedstock selection and pretreatment (Avantium's Dawn Technology and Ray Technology) and Catalytic Biomass Conversion of carbohydrates into building blocks for polyesters such as PEF, an improved replacement of PET. He is also involved in the valorization of side products of the YXY & Dawn Processes, e.g. lignins, humins and levulinates. He is co-chair of the IEA-Bioenergy Task 42 on Biorefineries. He is part of the writing team of the Growth Fund proposal BBC (BioBased Circular).

De Maere Arnold

Managing Director, MINAGRO



Arnold De Maere is a bioengineer with a strong focus on driving innovation in sustainable agriculture.

With expertise in specialty fertilizers and agrochemical co-formulants, he has a deep understanding of market constraints and building strategic partnerships.

As the founder of Minagro, Arnold is at the forefront of pioneering green co-formulants to maximize impact of agrochemical applications.

Committed to pushing boundaries and revolutionizing the industry, he is dedicated to shaping a sustainable future for agriculture through new biobased technologies.

Dröll Peter

Director For Prosperity, Directorate-General Research And Innovation



Peter has been working in the European Commission for more than 20 years with positions in environment, enlargement negotiations, industry policy, innovation and research. He was a Cabinet member of Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Head of Cabinet of the Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik. Since 2010 he is at Directorate-General Research and Innovation where he was first responsible for Innovation then for Industrial Technologies. Following the re-orientation of DG Research and Innovation towards sustainability, his competences have been enlarged to include industrial R&I agendas and business intelligence as well as knowledge valorisation policies. Before joining the European Commission in 1991, Peter worked as a lawyer in a German law firm. Peter is a lawyer by training with a doctorate degree in German constitutional law and European law.

Fava Fabio

Vice-Chair Of CBE JU States' Representatives Group And Professor, University Of Bologna



Fabio Fava, Full Professor of Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology at the School of Engineering of the University of Bologna since 2005, has over than 210 international peer-reviewed publications in the fields of Bioeconomy, in which he coordinated 2 european FP7 collaborative projects and other national projects. He is the Italian Representative in various panels of the European Commission (Brussels), among others, the *European Bioeconomy Policy Forum*, the *States Representatives Group* of the Public Private Partnership "Circular BioBased Europe" (CBE JU), the BLUEMED and WESTMED initiatives and the Horizon EU *Cluster VI* programming Committee. He is also member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environmental Agency (EEA) and the Italian Representative in the Working Party on *Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies* of the OECD (Paris).

Frizon Somogyi Orsolya

Deputy Head Of Unit For Research And Innovation, Directorate-General For Agriculture And Rural Development, European Commission



Orsolya Frizon Somogyi works in the European Commission DG AGRI, in F2 unit responsible for agricultural and rural research as deputy head of unit. Previously in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, she joined DG AGRI in 2005. The last 18 years she was responsible successively for rice market management, for rural development in Hungary and in Malta, she dealt with social inclusion issues in the agricultural sector and in rural areas. She recently worked as deputy head of unit until January 2022 on agricultural statistics. In F2 Orsolya is involved in Horizon Europe agricultural, forestry and rural R&I, she contributes to the unit activities related to CBE JU and the Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil deal for Europe'.

Geerdink Charlotte

Founder Of Charly Speaks



I am Charlotte Van Velthoven (1987) and the founder of Charly Speaks (2016). I am an experienced and all-round moderator with a specialisation in topics related but not limited to science, research, education and innovation due to the fact that as a lobbyist, I advocated for (Dutch and Swiss) research and innovation communities in Brussels. Moreover, I built up experience in the maritime sector and the online pharmacy sector. I am a Dutch national and I am fluent in English and German. I moderate in English, German and Dutch. My moderating style is best described as informal, relaxed and witty. My goal is to convey complex material in an understandable way. I always strive to put speakers, panelists and audience at ease. In this sense, good event preparation is already 70% of making an event successful, the other 30% is pure entertainment and show time. My life motto 'sharing is caring' applies well to both my character and my moderation style: I make sure the event runs smoothly.

Giacomuzzi-Moore Nicolás

Acting Executive Director Of The Circular Bio-Based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU)



Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore has been working in European affairs for more than 20 years, with a focus on research and innovation policy, programme implementation and support to enterprises. Before joining BBI JU (now CBE JU) as Head of the Administration and Finance Unit in 2016, he worked for the European Commission's Research Executive Agency where he was responsible of financial and legal support in the implementation of European research projects. Nicoló also worked for an Italian business association dealing with industrial policy and stakeholder management at EU level. He holds a degree in economics and international trade.

Follow Nicolás Giacomuzzi-Moore on [LinkedIn](#).

Gregori Giulia

**Head Of Corporate Strategy Implementation & Engagement, Novamont, And CBE JU
Governing Board Member**



Giulia Gregori is Head of Corporate Strategy Implementation & Engagement at Novamont, world's leader in the bioplastics sector and in the development of biochemicals and bioproducts. She entered in Novamont in 2000, after graduating in Pure Chemistry with a specialization in Bioinorganic (University of Milan, Leiden University).

In her role she is responsible for the overall implementation of the Corporate Strategy, including Novamont's social impact strategy as a benefit company, with the aim of creating shared value inside and outside the organisation.

She also manages Strategic Research&Innovation Projects as well as external relationships with public and private funding institutions and other relevant stakeholders in the circular bioeconomy sector.

She is member of the Governing Board of Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), the public-private partnership between the European Commission and the Bio-Based Industries Consortium, Secretary General of the Italian Cluster of Circular Bioeconomy SPRING and member of the National Coordination Group for the Bioeconomy at the Presidency of Council of Ministers, in charge of the development and implementation of the Italian Bioeconomy strategy. She is member of the board of directors of the University of Eastern Piedmont and member of the board of directors of Re Soil Foundation, promoted by University of Bologna, Coldiretti, Novamont and Turin Polytechnic to enable a step change in soil health and local regeneration.

Gustafsson Maria

Project Manager, Swedish Standards Institute



Maria Gustafsson works as project manager at the Swedish Institute for Standards, SIS, since 15 years. In short, her job is helping expert groups (national and international) to find consensus-based solutions that will facilitate international trade and benefit the society as a whole. Her focus is on different aspects of sustainability related to the bioeconomy, and she leads several European and global working groups developing standards on this topic. She also works on several other issues, among them chain of custody and women's entrepreneurship.

She has successfully coordinated a project within the Swedish strategic innovation program BioInnovation, where European standards for bio-based products were used as the basis for more detailed tools and data for the Swedish forest industry. She has also participated in several other initiatives bringing standardization and R&I closer together and received one of the first European "Standards + Innovation" awards for this work in 2019.

Hannes Astrid

Policy And Project Manager, European Regions Research And Innovation Network



Astrid Hannes is Policy and Project manager at ERRIN, the European Regions Research and Innovation Network, with Bioeconomy and Circular Economy as main areas of work. ERRIN is a well-known Brussels-based network that gathers around 120 regional organisations from over 20 European countries. Established in 2001, ERRIN supports members to enhance their regional and local research and innovation capacities and further develop their R&I ecosystems. Astrid is strongly committed to stakeholder engagement in Research & Innovation. She operates as the Community Manager of the European Commissions' Circular Cities and Regions Initiative (CCRI). Furthermore, Astrid has over 20 years of experience in regional development, European cross-border cooperation and in R&I policy making at university level.

Hosking Sarah

Biosourcing Platform Leader, Unilever



Based in the UK, Sarah has worked for the global fast-moving consumer goods company Unilever in their R&D team for over 25 years. She has a BSc in biological sciences and a PhD in plant biochemistry. Her current role is Biosourcing Manager. In this role she is both scouting for and developing new sustainable bio-based ingredients for Unilever's fast moving consumer goods brands. She understands the challenges involved in taking an early TRL technology through to market and leads technology development projects with academics, SMEs and large corporates, as well as large public-funded collaborative projects.

Sarah is a member of the Biobased Industries Consortium (BIC) Programming Working Group, the UK Biotech & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) Manufacturing & Clean Growth Strategic Advisory Panel and the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC) Scientific Advisory Board.

Jacques Juliette

Deputy Managing Director, Starch Europe



Juliette JACQUES is the Deputy Managing Director of [Starch Europe](#), the trade association that represents the interests of the European starch industry both at European and International level.

Juliette has been with [Starch Europe](#) since 2004, successively managing Starch Europe's Committees covering Economic Affairs, Environment, Trade, Statistics and Specific Sector Groups (e.g. plant-based proteins, potato starch, sugars and green chemistry) and representing the sector's policy and regulatory interests to the EU institutions and stakeholders.

In 2014, she co-founded the [European Bioeconomy Alliance](#), this unique cross-sector alliance dedicated to mainstreaming and realising the potential of the bioeconomy in Europe which today gathers 15 EU trade associations, representing 5.000 companies and 29 million jobs. She is also involved in the food-value chain, through her co-chairing of [FoodDrinkEurope's](#) working group on agriculture since 2019.

Previously, Juliette has worked in the City of London, where she held positions with the [London Stock Exchange](#) and the [Nasdaq](#) stock market. She holds degrees in Economics and EU Public Affairs (UCL, Belgium), Trading in financial markets & Investment Management portfolios (London Institutes, UK), and most recently a MasterClass in Sustainable Finance (Solvay/ICHEC, Belgium).

Johnston Craig

Co-Founder, Director Strategic Partnerships, ENOUGH



Craig founded ENOUGH with Jim Laird in 2015. He is now Director of Strategic Partnerships and IP. The business's purpose is to tackle the combined issues of feeding a growing global population and the unsustainable impact of traditional protein farming. He developed the original patent (2014) and has led the spin out process from the University of Strathclyde and helped grow all aspects of the business since establishment.

It now has 60 staff across UK and Netherlands and has secured c€100m funding including a CBE-JU €17m EU flagship grant (PLENITUDE). The Enough journey has exploited his wide range of industry and academic experiences. His initial industrial career spanned 22 years, working for ICI, Zeneca, Avecia and Fujifilm. He then helped create a world leading pharmaceutical industry academic partnership. He is Fellow of the Institute of Chemical Engineers and has an MBA.

Jones Monika

Independent Journalist & TV News Anchor



Monika Jones is one of the leading bilingual journalists and presenters in Germany. As an English speaking news anchor at Germany's global TV broadcaster, *Deutsche Welle*, she is familiar to a wide international audience, especially in North America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Monika is also one of Germany's leading bilingual presenters of international conferences and business events. Her regular clients include top multinational companies, government ministries, European institutions and NGOs. Monika's specialist areas are economics, life science, climate change, health, mobility and emerging economies.

Monika presented one of the largest Livestream events ever as the official presenter of the European Space Agency's historic *Rosetta* mission, which successfully landed the Philae space probe on a comet!

Kantola Jukka

Founder And CEO Of The World Bioeconomy Forum



Jukka Kantola has broad experience of the bioeconomy related industries. He has held various executive positions in Europe and in Asia. Hence, he has a profound understanding of the challenges and opportunities of these economies. Jukka is well-known in the bioeconomy space and he is a passionate advocator of the circular bioeconomy. Through his companies he has advanced on the versatile valorisation of biomass for innovative applications. He has played an active role in advocating the bioeconomy in practice. In the past years he has been involved in facilitating new biorefinery ventures, a relatively new phenomenon in the industry. He has also founded the World BioEconomy Forum in 2018, which has become one of the major platforms for the circular bioeconomy. Forums are always having topical theme for each season – like 2021 World BioEconomy Forum goes to Brazil – live from Belém! As result of it, Para state of Brazil announced the first biostrategies in Latin America. Last year 2023 World BioEconomy Forum talks on Climate and as a result Jukka Kantola was invited to a historical bioeconomy panel at the Climate COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh. This year World BioEconomy Forum goes to the USA – live from Washington D.C. under theme creating a global hub for the bioeconomy. Among other things the Forum will unfold results of the survey a global hub for the bioeconomy. Jukka holds a Master of Science degree from Aalto University, Finland. He also holds an eMBA from Rutgers University.

Kemppainen Katariina

SVP, Group R&D, Metsä Group



Katariina Kemppainen is the Senior Vice President of Group R&D at Metsä Spring, the innovation company of Metsä Group. She is leading the corporate level R&D function, facilitating internal and external R&D cooperation and pursuing new ideas that may lead to future biobased innovations. Prior to joining Metsä Spring, Katariina worked for Metsä Fibre R&D and before that, as a research scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. Katariina also supports Metsä Spring's new business development projects and continuing venturing activities, which searches for startups and growth companies that find new purposes and higher value for Nordic wood. Katariina is also the Programme Manager for the €50M R&D programme called ExpandFibre in the field of new bioproducts.*

Metsä Group is leading the way in advancing the bioeconomy. We invest in growth, bioproduct development and a fossil free future. The raw material for our products is renewable wood from sustainably managed northern forests. We focus on the growth sectors of the forest industry: wood supply and forest services, wood products, pulp, fresh fibre paperboards, as well as tissue and greaseproof papers.

Köse Belgin

Managing Director, Global Meat And Dairy Alternative Solutions, Cargill



Belgin is Cargill Food Solutions – Meat & Dairy Alternatives Managing Director.

Her 26-year career spans across several senior roles in Strategy, Mergers & Acquisitions, Finance, Commercial leadership and General Management. She served diverse industries in B2B and B2C spaces while accumulating experiences by living in Europe, USA and Asia-Pacific.

Dedicated to making a positive impact to our world and society through business with a purpose, she is passionate about Women & Leadership and creating a Sustainable food system for happier, healthier future generations.

A global citizen with multi-cultural heritage, she is currently based in Belgium and enjoys the pleasures of cooking for a vegetarian teenager and flexitarian husband."

Lemaître Marc

Director-General, Directorate-General Of Research And Innovation, European Commission



Mr Marc Lemaître is Director-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) since February 2023. He has extensive management experience at the European Commission as Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) from 2016 to January 2023, Director of the Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements (PMO) between 2013 and 2016, and previously Head of the Cabinets of the Commissioners responsible for Budget (2010 – 2013), and Regional Policy (2007 – 2010).

Before joining the Commission, he worked in the Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the European Union, dealing with budgetary, trade and general affairs issues (1996 -2006).

Marc Lemaître studied at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), College of Europe in Bruges, and holds a Master in European Economics.

Luguel Christophe

Head Of Industrialisation & Financing – Bioeconomy For Change (B4C)



Christophe Luguel is Head of Industrialisation & Financing at Bioeconomy For Change (B4C), one of the leading Bioeconomy Clusters in Europe.

He joined B4C (formerly known as IAR) in 2007, after a 17 years' experience in research, sales, marketing and business development in chemical and biotech companies (large and small).

One of his current missions is to help B4C's companies and, in particular, industrial "bio-circular" start-ups, to de-risk and accelerate their industrialisation.

Christophe has also been member of the Board of BIC (Bio-Based Industries Consortium) since 2013 and member (or alternate) of the CBE JU Governing Board since 2014.

Mack Robert

EMEA Government Relations Senior Director, Kimberly-Clark



Robert Mack joined Kimberly-Clark as EMEA Government Relations Senior Director in January 2021 based in Brussels. He leads the development of the government relations strategy across Europe, the Middle East & Africa as well as implementation of advocacy campaigns and stakeholder partnerships across the region. His advocacy is focused significantly on enabling company efforts to make our personal care products fully circular by using innovative bio-based materials and on supporting projects to replace natural gas as an energy source for our energy-intensive manufacturing with green hydrogen or other alternatives.

He has 32 years of experience in public affairs, government relations and communications in developed, emerging and developing markets, including the European Union, wider Europe, Middle East and Africa. Before joining Kimberly-Clark, Robert Mack worked for Tetra Pak as Public Affairs Director for Europe, Middle East & Africa based in Dubai, as the Eurasia & Africa Group Government Relations Director for The Coca-Cola Company based in Istanbul and in a variety of leadership roles in Brussels-based consultancy for 22 years, notably for 14 years at Burson-Marsteller (now BCW), where he served as Chairman of the EMEA Public Affairs Practice and CEO of the Brussels office.

Maenhout Greet

Head Of The Forests And Bioeconomy Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission



Greet Maenhout has a background in energy engineering and PhD in thermal-hydraulic modelling. As researcher she started 25 years ago by establishing a Solutions Monitoring laboratory, then focused on climate change, bringing the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research to the level of an internationally recognised reference and engaged in Earth Observation for CO2 Monitoring and verification. Since July 2021, she is leading the Forests and Bioeconomy Unit, that promotes with 7 research teams the sustainable management of forest resources and bioeconomy through anticipation, conception, monitoring and impact assessment of relevant EU and global policies, whilst providing scientific and technological contributions to policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Maes Dries

Senior Policy Advisor On The Bioeconomy, Flemish Department Of Economy, Science And Innovation



Dries Maes is a policy advisor for bioeconomy at the Department of Economy, Science and Innovation, Flemish Government. The Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI Department) prepares, monitors and evaluates policy in the Economy, Science and Innovation policy area. As a policy advisor he guided the creation of the Flemish bioeconomy vision and the Working agenda for the Research community.

Prior to joining the Flemish Administration, Dries Maes has worked as a researcher in environmental economics, an independent sustainability advisor, and as a humanitarian worker in several countries.

He holds a PhD in applied economics on the impact of bioeconomic evolution on agriculture.

Maesmans Geert

Vice President For Research And Development, Cargill Food And Bio



Geert Maesmans is a VP Research & Development at Cargill Food and Bio. A business leader with true passion for research and science, he represents Cargill at industry associations, research consortia and start-ups.

Geert is an ambassador of food industry innovation. He is acting president of the European Specialty Food Ingredients association, an (advisory) board member of several institutes and start-ups.

Geert describes himself as a continuous learner. He holds a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences, and an engineering degree in Chemical and Biological Industries. His studies also included business administration and innovation leadership.

Prior to joining Cargill, Geert had worked at academia, at an SME, and at stock-quoted multinationals.

Geert is happily married with three children and enjoys reading and DIY projects in his free time.

Mangin Philippe

Vice-President Grand-Est Region, France



Philippe Mangin, 66 years old, has worked as a farmer on a farm in the Meuse region in the Grand Est region in France.

Vice-president of the Grand Est Region in charge of Bioeconomy, Bioenergies and Sustainable Food, Philippe Mangin has held many responsibilities in professional agricultural organisations. First in the « Jeunes Agriculteurs » (Young Farmers) union, where he was national president. Then in farming cooperations, where he chaired the national federation of cooperatives for more than 15 years.

He was also Chairman of the Invivo group until 2022.

Philippe Mangin has received several French distinctions : he is a Knight of the Honor Legion and has received the National Order of Merit. He is also « Commandeur du Mérite Agricole ».

Martinelli Filippo Giancarlo

European Ambassador At Irish Bioeconomy Foundation And Coordinator Of BioeconomyVentures



Filippo Giancarlo Martinelli (MBA, EngD, MSc) is European Ambassador at Irish Bioeconomy Foundation and Coordinator of BioeconomyVentures, Europe's largest initiative for matchmaking bioeconomy startups and investors. He has over 10-year experience working at the interface between management consulting, fundraising, and sales within a number of deeptech sectors including biotech, foodtech and cleantech. He is also owner of the boutique advisory firm Magfi Ltd

Merziger Joachim

CCO, AFYREN



Joachim Merziger joined AFYREN in 2019 as Chief Commercial Officer and is a member of AFYREN's Comex. He is overseeing sales, marketing, business intelligence and regulatory affairs. Before having joined AFYREN, Joachim spent 25 years in the Chemical industry. At Arkema he occupied several management positions with international exposure in Oilfield Production Chemicals, Coating Resins, and High-performance Polyamides. Prior, he occupied global roles in refrigerants product management and high-performance polyamides marketing at Atofina. Joachim started his career in research and innovation at Elf Atochem and Alphacac. He holds an engineering degree from RWTH Aachen University in Germany.

Misiga Pavel

Head Of Unit For Circular Economy And Bio-Based Systems, Directorate-General For Research And Innovation, European Commission



Pavel Misiga is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Princeton University. He worked as an environmental consultant and later as a senior official at the Ministry of Environment in his home country Slovakia. He represented his country in the EU accession negotiations in the field of environment. He joined the European Commission in 2003. During last 17 years he led teams working on Sustainable Production and Consumption, Resource Efficiency, Eco-innovation, and Circular and Bio-based Economy policies in different services of the European Commission. He is currently the head of the Green Transitions unit in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation.

Morone Piergiuseppe

Vice-Chair, CBE JU Scientific Committee, Full Professor Of Economic Policy,
UnitelmaSapienza University Of Rome



Piergiuseppe Morone is Full Professor of Economic Policy at Unitelma Sapienza. His research seats at the interface between innovation economics and sustainability transitions. His work regularly appears in prestigious innovation and environmental economics journals. In 2023 published with Cambridge University Press a textbook on *The Circular Bioeconomy – Theories and Tools for Economists and Sustainability Scientists*.

He is the coordinator of the Bioeconomy in Transition Research Group (BIT-RG) and the director of the School of Sustainability Studies and Circular Economy (SUSTAIN). Moreover, he is/was involved in several European projects (including: H2020, BBI-JU, Life, Erasmus+, COST, Horizon Europe and CBE-JU) acting as scientific coordinator, vice-chair and WP Leader. He was Economic advisor to the Italian Minister of the Environment, Land and Sea Protection, till February 2021.

Piergiuseppe is Editor in Chief of *Societal Impacts* (ELSEVIER) and Associate Editor of *Cleaner and Circular Bioeconomy* (ELSEVIER), member of the Editorial Boards of *Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry* (ELSEVIER) and *Open Agriculture* (De Gruyter Open) and acts as Guest Editor for various journal including the *Journal of Cleaner Production* (ELSEVIER).

Since April 2022 Piergiuseppe is the vice-chair of the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) Scientific Committee.

O'Connor Kevin

Director, BiOrbic And CBE JU Scientific Committee Member



Professor Kevin O Connor is director of BiOrbic SFI bioeconomy research centre, headquartered at University College Dublin, Ireland. He is a member of the scientific committee for the public private partnership Circular Biobased Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), a former member of the European Commission Mission board for Adaptation to climate change including societal transformation.

His research interests are sustainable production and consumption, integrated biorefining, and biobased products, Professor O Connor has published over 120 international peer review articles and made of over 200 contributions at national and International conferences. Professor O Connor has filed 8 patents and successfully licensed 3 technologies resulting from his research work.

Professor O' Connor is the founder of two spin out companies – Bioplastech a technology development company for biodegradable polymers and Nova Mentis which produces a novel antioxidant with health promoting properties. Professor O Connor is chairperson of the Irish Bioeconomy foundation driving development of the €6M rural Bioeconomy campus at Lisheen, Co Tipperary and the development of a climate neutral dairy farm in West Cork in collaboration with Carbery a dairy processing Group.

Oinonen Petri

CEO & Founder, Ecohelix



I am the inventor of the Ecohelix technology that creates sustainable polymers (Woodmers[®]) from forestry side streams by using an enzymatic biomimetic approach. We help pulp mills with their emission and bottleneaking problems and at the same time create sustainable products that replaces oil based products on the market within packaging, construction, cosmetics and home care. The process is currently in demo scale (TRL7) at Domsjö Fabriker biorefinery.

In my research work, I have been studying the lignin-carbohydrate networks and the influence of their structure in biomass processing. This work enabled me to discover the Ecohelix technology and start developing understanding on its mechanisms and its industrial applicability.

My background expertise ranges from wood chemistry and biorefineries to microbiology and biotechnology. My earlier work in Finland and Brazil has dealt with the molecular biology, phylogeny and the use of wood-rot fungi and their enzymes in biotechnological applications. Understanding how circular processes work in the nature especially related to fungi, inspired me to discover Ecohelix which is now starting to create real environmental impact to the society.

Pant Deepak

Senior Scientist, Flemish Institute For Technological Research



Deepak Pant holds a Ph.D. in environmental biotechnology and works as a Senior researcher and Project manager at the Flemish Institute for Technological Research, VITO.

He has published 200 papers, 7 books, 7 patents, and 40 book chapters. In addition, he is the Editor of Bioresource Technology Reports and Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering as well as Editorial board member of Bioresource Technology, ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, iScience, & World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Deepak is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) and the Biotech Research Society (FBRS) and has participated in more than 25 projects, of which 14 are European (FP7/H2020/Horizon Europe) dealing with CO₂ conversion, electrode development, and resource recovery. Currently, his team is focusing on electrosynthesis and resource recovery, specifically designing and optimizing electrochemical systems for CO₂ conversion and microbial electrosynthesis. Together with his team, he has developed and upscaled the production of gas diffusion electrodes (GDEs) for applications in microbial fuel cells as well as CO₂ electroreduction.

Person Julie

Project Coordinator & Communication Corporate, Microphyt



Julie is graduated from an engineer degree in green chemistry (ENSCM – Montpellier). Microalgae were present in her first professional experiences, Internships in Canada studying microalgae cultivation at lab scale, Microalgae production manager on different types of technology, actively involved in the French microalgae and seaweeds sectors as coordinator and author of the Livre Turquoise “Algues: Filières du future”, a 2011 global state of art of these french sectors in an international context. Then during 9 years, she worked for the innovation and business cluster “Pôle Mer Méditerranée” first as a chief of project for the environment and coastal management then as Occitania region Delegate. Julie was involved in Project engineering notably in the innovation funding part, the operational coordination of collaborative projects, and related public relations. Julie has arrived at Microphyt in 2020 to participate the further development of MICROPHYT by bringing her wide experience in the microalgae sector, in project coordination and in branch development. As soon as she arrived, Julie was in charge of building the SCALE project, then of its implementation with the European Commission, the partners and the different departments of the company. She was also in charge of building and implementation of three other projects selected and financed by the French government. In the meantime, she is in charge of the company’s communication and reputation.

Pitk Peep

Chief Development Officer, Fibenol



Peep Pitk holds a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry and bioprocess engineering from TalTech, with a focus on optimizing protein-rich side streams and anaerobic digestion processes.

In 2016, he joined the Fibenol team and has been at the helm of the company's development journey. Starting from the idea of wood valorization on paper, leading the SWEETWOODS project, he has led the Fibenol team to the completion of a globally unique wood fractionation industrial demonstration plant by 2023. Now, he is taking the lead in driving innovation in the material and chemical industry powered by bioproducts.

Ringman Jori

Director General, CEPI



Since June 2019, Jori Ringman is Director General of the Confederation of European Paper Industries (Cepi). Previously he was Deputy Director General and responsible for issues relating to sustainability, environment and consumer protection, with particular concern for packaging and food contact. Since joining Cepi in 2005 he has been advancing and exploring circular low carbon bioeconomy in the sector.

Prior to 2005, he was a civil servant at the European Commission and a political advisor in the European Parliament.

Mr Ringman has a background in Economics, Econometrics and Business Management and broad experience in communications, public administration and politics. He also holds an MSc in Environmental Decision-making.

Schreiber Kristin

Director For Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail, Directorate-General For Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship And SMEs, European Commission



Kristin Schreiber leads the Directorate Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail, and Health in DG GROW, the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. From 2015 until 2021 she was Director for SME policy and the COSME Programme.

Kristin Schreiber held positions in various Commission services, including Head of Cabinet of Employment Commissioner Vladimir Špidla and Deputy Head of Cabinet of Internal Market Commissioner Michel Barnier. Kristin studied Economics, International Relations and European Law. She graduated with honours from L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and holds a Master's degree from the University of Kent at Canterbury and the College of Europe in Bruges.

Skentelbery Claire

Director General Of EuropaBio



Claire holds a degree in agriculture and a PhD in biochemistry and has worked in the leadership of scientific associations for 20 years. She started her career within the UK Cambridge biotech cluster and was a co-founder and Manager of the Council of European BioRegions, a network of biotechnology clusters across Europe in Brussels, she also took on the role of SG for the European Biotechnology Network (EBN) in 2012, working across sectors, organisations and countries as part of the EBN mission to facilitate collaboration.

In 2017, Claire became Director General of the globally-focussed Nanotechnology Industries Association (NIA) which she successfully led until November 2020 when she joined EuropaBio as Director General. In addition to her current role at EuropaBio, she is also the Vice Chair of the International Council of Biotechnology Associations (ICBA) and Governing Board Member for the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI).

She has a driving interest in collaboration across the value chain to develop the business of science, and the role of internationally networked policies, programmes, skills, finance and infrastructures to create a strong landscape.

Tasa Sari

Chair Of The CBE JU States' Representatives Group, Senior Adviser, Finnish Ministry Of Economic Affairs And Industry



Sari Tasa is Senior Specialist at the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment. She is in charge of the implementation and management of the government's strategic action plan for bioeconomy and clean solutions. Ms Tasa is the Chair of the sustainable finance ecosystem strategy project and Chair of the secretariat for ministerial bioeconomy strategy working group. She leads collaboration with EU institutions on circular bioeconomy strategy and related sustainability themes.

Since 2023, Sari Tasa is the Chair of CBE JU's state's representatives group.

Van Gansberghe Frederic

CEO & Founder, Futerro



Frederic Van Gansberghe is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Futerro and has served as CEO since 1992. With more than 30 years of experience in the world of lactic acid and PLA, he was one of the first to develop a business linked to PLA. As well as being CEO of Futerro, he is also currently CEO of Galactic, Futerro's parent company. Between 2011 and 2017, he was Chairman of the Board of Compagnie du Bois Sauvage SA an investment holding company, involved in the real estate, finance, chemical and food industries. He received a master's degree in Biotechnology from Louvain University and a master's degree from ECAM in electromechanical engineering.

van Sint Fiet Stephan

CEO, Vivici



Stephan joined Vivici as CEO in March 2023, bringing 20 years of experience in the biotech industry to the role. Prior to that he led the Dairy Cultures & Food Enzymes business unit at IFF, building on the experience gained in the food enzymes business at Novozymes. Stephan has worked in and helped scale two start-ups: Evolva, a company producing high-value natural products through fermentation, and Biognosys, an advanced protein analytics company.

Stephan is a senior strategic leader passionate about working in organizations that innovate with purpose, whether they are start-ups or large market leaders. In his tenure in the biotechnology and food industry Stephan has gained experience across sales, marketing, business development, R&D and business unit leadership.

Vieira Helena

**Chair Of CBE JU Scientific Committee, Coordinator Researcher And ERA Chair Holder,
University Of Aveiro**



Helena Vieira is currently a Senior Coordinator Researcher in Environmental Economics and Sustainable Natural Resources Management at University of Aveiro/CESAM, Portugal. She is responsible for launching the ERA CHAIR BESIDE project and coordinating a new research team, joining natural and socio-economics sciences, to develop further knowledge on environment and ecosystems valorisation and sustainable future solutions and business models.

Helena also acts as Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Circular BioBased Europe Joint Union (CBE-JU), a public private partnership between European Commission and the Biobased Industry Consortium (BIC) to promote bioeconomy and circularity models and is as Board Member of EU Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters for the mandate 2022-2025 where she bridges the mission implementation between the EU and Portugal. Previously she acted as Director General of Maritime Policy under the Minister of the Sea of the XXII Government of Portugal.

Having over 23 years of professional experience in academia, industry and policy backgrounds, she has been a lecturer (U. Lisbon and U. Angola), consultant expert (United Nations, EU – BioBased Industry (BBI-JU), Circular BioBased Economy (CBE-JU), BlueBio Co-Fund, European Innovation Council, CINEA, EASME, etc...), hold political & administrative roles in national government and European Commission and has also acted as manager and coordinator of several companies and teams in the fields of life and ocean sciences and bioeconomy. An entrepreneur at heart she has founded a few start-ups and was co-founder and CEO (2005-13) of BIOALVO SA, a Portuguese marine biotech company. She was also Executive Director of BLUEBIO ALLIANCE (2014-19), the Portuguese network for marine bioresources sector.

With a PhD in Biomedicine (Imperial College of London) and an Executive Post Graduation in Leadership and Strategy in Biotech & Pharma from Harvard Business School, she has worked mostly in the borderlines of science, industry & policy, helping everyone to speak common languages and design solutions for common goals. She speaks 5 languages and loves to travel & dive in any of the oceans of our planet!

Wehrheim Peter

Head Of Unit For Bioeconomy And Food Systems, Directorate-General For Research And Innovation, European Commission



Peter Wehrheim is Head of Unit for Bioeconomy & Food Systems in DG Research and Innovation, at the European Commission. Peter joined the Cabinet of Commissioner Hogan in February 2018. Between 2010 and 2018 he worked as Head of Unit in DG CLIMA. His portfolio included climate finance, deforestation and agriculture. Peter started to work for the European Commission in 2004 and was first affiliated with DG AGRI. Prior to that, he was a Heisenberg-Fellow of the German Research Foundation. In 2001/2002 he was temporary Professor at the Institute for Economic and Agricultural Policy/University of Bonn. In 2001 he received a Doctor degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Bonn.