

Annual Conference on European Politics

Sustainably recovering from the pandemic
The European Green Deal – Think Locally

Online Conference

Monday, 10 May 2021, 14.00 – 19.00 CEST

Short biographies



Rasmus Andresen, MEP, EFA/Greens, Brussels

Rasmus Andresen was born in the Ruhr Area of Germany in 1986 and grew up in Flensburg as part of the Danish minority community. He has been a member of Alliance 90/The Greens since 2001. In 2006, he became Party Chairman of the Young Greens in Schleswig-Holstein. He studied Communication and Administration Sciences in Roskilde (Denmark). 2009 saw him elected to Schleswig-Holstein's state parliament. There, he was initially a member of the Green opposition party, and later of the governing Green parliamentary group, before also becoming Vice-President of the State Parliament between 2017 and 2019. Between 2012 and 2015, Rasmus Andresen served on the Green Federal Council. Since 2019, he has been a Member of the European Parliament within the Group of The Greens/EFA. There he serves as their Spokesperson in the Committee of Budgets and also as a Substitute Member in the Committee for Industry and the Committee on the Internal Market. As such, he addresses the issues of artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, the open internet, and start-ups. As a member of the LGBTI* Intergroup, he actively advocates the rights of queer people. A native of Flensburg, Rasmus Andresen is responsible for regional support in Schleswig-Holstein and is dedicated to acquiring more funding for Schleswig-Holstein's digital infrastructure, environmentally friendly mobility and social projects.



Jennifer Baker, print media, radio, TV journalist, EU Policy, Brussels

Jennifer Baker, better known as Brusselsgeek, has been a print, radio and television journalist for 20 years, the last 10+ years of which she has specialised in EU policy.

She has worked across a broad spectrum of media, ranging from editing a national daily paper in Malta to reporting on European affairs for Middle Eastern television, and has a wealth of experience navigating the political quagmire of the EU. Aside from owning an address book packed with insider sources and contacts in Brussels, Jennifer is highly adept at translating EU policy-speak into understandable English.

Regularly listed as one of the top influencers in the EU bubble, Jennifer was awarded the #1 2019 Tech Influencer accolade by ZN, was listed by Politico as one of the Top 20 Women Shaping Brussels in 2017, and was named by Onalytica one of the world's Top 100 Influencers on Data Security in 2016. She also serves as a GLG Council Member where she provides advice on EU Policy, and was a founding member of the Expert Council of the Good Technology Collective.



Dr. Franziska Brantner, German MP, Alliance90/The Greens, Berlin

Dr. Franziska Brantner is the Spokesperson for European Policy and parliamentary whip of the parliamentary group Alliance 90/The Greens as well as a member of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union. She also serves as Deputy Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. During the last legislative period, she was Spokesperson on Child and Family Policy. Prior to that, Franziska Brantner spent four years as a Member of the European Parliament, Spokesperson for the Greens/EFA parliamentary group, and Standing Rapporteur for the EU's Instrument for Stability for Conflict Resolution and Rapid Crisis Response. She also conducted negotiations on behalf of the Greens/EFA on the establishment and reform of the European External Action Service.



Annika Hedberg, Head of “Sustainable Prosperity for Europe” Programme at the European Policy Centre, Brussels

Annika Hedberg is the Head of the “Sustainable Prosperity for Europe Programme” at the European Policy Centre (EPC), an independent think tank based in Brussels. She joined the EPC in 2010 and, over the years, has worked on a wide range of policy areas, including climate, energy, environment, health, and industrial transformation. In her capacity as the Head of Programme, she strives to promote discussion on the foundations and drivers for a more sustainable and competitive European economy. Through her work, she aims to explore the linkages across sectors and policy areas that are needed for the green transition. She is a regular writer, event moderator, and speaker on all these topics.

Prior to joining the EPC, she worked at the Finnish Business and Policy Forum EVA, a policy think tank based in Helsinki, and at the Finnish Foreign Ministry. She holds an LL.M. in Public International Law from the University of Helsinki and a BSc in International Relations and History from the London School of Economics.



Dirk Holemans, Director Oikos, Think Tank, Brussels

Dirk Holemans is the Director of Oikos, a think tank that strives to achieve socio-ecological change. A researcher and author, his work focuses on commons, the green economy, and political ecology. He is Co-Chair of the Green European Foundation and former member of the Flemish-speaking Green Party. He is the author of “Freedom & Security in a Complex World”.



Benedek Jávor, Representative of the City of Budapest, Brussels/Budapest

Benedek Jávor is a Hungarian biologist, environmentalist and politician, and former leading member of the Politics Can Be Different party (LMP) and current leading member of the Dialogue for Hungarian Dialogue party (PM). Jávor served as a Member of the Hungarian Parliament (2010-2014) and Member of the European Parliament within the Greens/EFA parliamentary group between 2014-2019. As an MEP, he was actively engaged in environmental and energy policies and one of the lead negotiators behind the Clean Energy package. He is currently Head of the Representation of Budapest in Brussels and actively advocates the vital role of cities in climate policy and their improved access to EU funding.



Ares Kalandides, Professor of Place Management, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester

Ares Kalandides is a Professor of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University and Director of the Institute of Place Management. His current research focus lies in “the politics of citizen participation in spatial development”. In Berlin, he is presently working on “a conceptual framework for citizen participation” for the borough of Spandau (Berlin) and teaches Urban Economics at the Technical University of Berlin. Kalandides attained his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning at the National Technical University of Athens and implemented projects in various regions across the globe (among them South America, Africa, and Australia).

His latest publications include the Routledge Handbook of Place (2020) compendium as well as the scientific paper “The Ambiguities of Sustainable Berlin”, published in the “Sustainability” journal (2021).



Phoebe Koundouri, Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business

Phoebe Koundouri is a world-renowned environmental economics professor and global leader in sustainable development. She is also widely recognised as a pioneer in innovative, human-centric, interdisciplinary systems for the sustainable interaction between nature, society, and the business sector. With 15 published books and more than 465 published peer-reviewed scientific articles, book chapters and reports, she is listed in the most-cited women economists in the world. She is an elected fellow of the World Academy of Art & Science, President of the European Association of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists, and has been bestowed with numerous international awards for scientific excellence. With 100 European and global research projects / initiatives, and a team of 150 researchers, her work shapes global politics and promotes human well-being. She obtained her PhD at the University of Cambridge and has also taught at Cambridge, UCL, LSE, and Reading University. She is a professor at Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), founder/director of the ReSEES Research Laboratory (AUEB), the Sustainable Development Unit at the ATHENA Research and Innovation Center, and the European Institute of Technology (EIT) Climate-KIC Greece. She serves as Chair of SDSN Europe of the United Nations, the International Centre for Research on the Environment and the Economy (ICRE8), and the European Forest Institute. She is Commissioner of the global Lancet Commission on COVID-19, a member of the Pissaridis Committee (Greek Recovery Plan), and the National Climate Change Committee of Greece as well as an adviser to the EU, the World Bank, the UN, NATO, the WHO, and other international organisations and governments across the globe. In 2020, she was awarded the ERC Synergy Grant, the most important research grant scheme / award in Europe, and the first of its kind in Greece / Cyprus.



Neil Makaroff, European Policy Officer, Réseau Action Climat, Paris

Neil Makaroff is the EU Policy Officer at Réseau Action Climat France, a French network of 25 national NGOs committed to working together on climate protection. He is responsible for the European Green Deal and dedicated to promoting ambitious climate reforms as well as a green and socially just recovery in Europe. Prior to this activity, having gained experience in representing a French regional authority in Brussels, he was engaged in promoting a modal shift in air and road traffic to the railway network and pushed through improved conditions for Europe's railway system by lobbying EU decision-makers. He attained his Master's degree in European Governance at Sciences Po Grenoble whilst simultaneously working for a national member of parliament.



Audrey Mathieu, Senior Adviser EU Climate Policy, Germanwatch, Berlin

Audrey Mathieu has been engaged in development and environmental organisation at Germanwatch since 2018 and has been especially devoted to the EU climate policy as well as Franco-German cooperation on climate policy. At Germanwatch, she is responsible for coordinating the EU LIFE Project “UNIFY: Bringing the EU together on Climate Action”. In autumn 2019, she additionally took on the role of German and European climate policies team leader for one year at their Berlin-based office.

Audrey Mathieu is a member of the European Movement Germany (EBD) board and the Advisory Board of the Franco-German Citizens’ Fund (DFBF).

Audrey Mathieu studied German and French History in Paris as well as German Philology and Modern History in Berlin. She holds a Master’s degree in Franco-German Business Administration & Management from the New Sorbonne University in Paris. For several years, she has been following Franco-German cooperation on climate and energy policy. Her career has spanned various positions, including as Deputy Head of the France-German Office for Energy Transformation (*Büro für die Energiewende*), and membership of EnergieForum-Berlin as well as the German Solar Association (BSW Solar e.V.). A native of France, she has lived in Berlin since 2003.



Dr. Christine Pütz, Senior Programme Officer EU/North America, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Dr. Christine Pütz is the Senior Programme Officer for EU/North America at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin. Until 2007, she had worked at research and education institutes, such as the Centre Marc Bloch (Berlin), the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research, and CEVIPOF in Paris. Her scientific and political education activities centre on Franco-European research as well as research into political parties. Christine Pütz additionally offers training and coaching courses in communications and how to conduct interviews. The focal points of her work at the Foundation are: the future of the European Union; European democracy; Franco-German relations.



Eva van de Rakt, Director Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels

Eva van de Rakt has been working at the Heinrich Böll Foundation since 2001 and is currently the Director of its European Union Office in Brussels. As Director of the Prague office, she was responsible for the Foundation's activities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary from 2004 until 2018. Her expertise and areas of focus include the future of the European Union and European policy, the prospects of the socio-ecological transformation as well as the protection and promotion of democracy, human rights, and gender equality. Since 2019, she has represented the Heinrich Böll Foundation at the General Assembly of the Green European Foundation. Since 2018, she has been a member of the Administrative Board at the Czech-German Fund for the Future. Eva van de Rakt is a graduate student of University of Music and Theatre in Rotterdam.



Bożena Ryszawska, Professor, Wrocław University of Economics and Business, Wrocław

Bożena Ryszawska is a Professor at Wrocław University of Economics and Business. Her most recent scientific work focuses on the green economy, transition to sustainability, corporate sustainability, sustainable development, and climate finance. She founded the Green Team, which is charged with the green transformation of Wrocław University of Economics. Bożena Ryszawska is a certified Head of the Climate Reality Project and Senior Climate Officer at the Climate Network in Poland. She is a member of the Polish Association of Environmental and Natural Resources Economists and the Sustainable Finance and Accounting Association. At the present time, she is Project Manager of two EU programmes: Horizon 2020, Scaling up Co-creation: Avenues and Limits for Integrating Society in Science and Innovation (2018-21), and Energy Communities and Energy Citizenship (EC2) 2021-24. A member of the Air Quality and Energy Efficiency Advisory Team, Prof. B. Ryszawska is actively engaged in local, community initiatives.



Claude Turmes, Minister for Energy and Spatial Planning of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Claude Turmes was a Member of the European Parliament from June 1999 to June 2018. He served as Vice-President of the Green Group in the European Parliament and was a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety as well as a Member of the Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy. He was rapporteur for numerous European directives concerning renewable energy, energy efficiency, the electricity market, as well as climate plans and the European Transparency Register. Between 2004 and 2018, he served as Chair of EUFORES (European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources), a cross-party network of Members of the European Parliament. Prior to being elected to the European Parliament, Claude Turmes was an activist and subsequently volunteered to head various environmental associations. His political involvement extends to activities both at European (Friends of the Earth Europe, European Environmental Bureau) and at Luxembourgian level.



Dr. Ellen Ueberschär President Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

Ellen Ueberschär has been Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, together with Barbara Unmüßig, since July 2017. As Co-President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, she is responsible for the Foundation's domestic activities as well as for foreign and security policy, Europe and North America. She is also the head of "Green Campus", the Foundation's scholarship program, the "Grüne Akademie" – a think tank of researchers and policymakers – and also the "Grünes Gedächtnis" archive. From 2006 until 2017, she held the position of Secretary-General of the German Protestant Church Congress. In this capacity, she oversaw six Protestant church congresses and one ecumenical church congress. An ordained minister, she was Head of Studies for Theology, Ethics, and Law at Evangelische Akademie Loccum before that.



Sanna Vesikansa, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki

Sanna Vesikansa (born in Bonn/Germany on 29 June 1972) is the Deputy Mayor of Helsinki and responsible for Social Services and Health Care. She represents the Greens.

Prior to assuming her current post, Ms Vesikansa worked at Save the Children Finland from 2011 to 2014, where she was engaged in various international programmes as an advocacy and policy adviser. Before joining that organisation, she worked in various capacities within the International Affairs Unit of the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Sanna Vesikansa has also held numerous positions of trust at the City of Helsinki, including on the City Council and the City Executive Office.

Between 2005 and 2007, she worked as a communications officer at the Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Ethiopia.

Sanna Vesikansa holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences (Sociology) from the University of Helsinki (1999).

Information

Conference languages:

English/German with simultaneous translation

Project Leadership:

Dr. Christine Pütz, Senior Programme Officer, Heinrich Böll Foundation,

E-mail, puetz@boell.de, Telephone +49 (0)30 285 34 -391

Information:

Miriam Hanke, Independent Project Manager, Berlin,

E-mail, euquovadis@boell.de, Telephone +49 (0)30 48829612

Claudia Rothe, Project Manager, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin,

E-mail, rothe@boell.de, Telephone +49 (0)30 285 34 -385