



**S'unir pour des démocraties résilientes et des sociétés civiles dynamiques en Europe**

**Uniting for resilient democracies and vibrant civil societies in Europe**

## Speaker's Biographies

**Aisha Camara**, moderator, strategist and creative producer



Credit: Katharina Dubno

With a background in political education, communication and community-based cultural work, she collaborates with foundations, ministries, NGOs, universities, festivals and cultural institutions on projects related to anti-discrimination, racism, migration, memory culture, participation and digital culture.

She works in German, English and French and moves between different cultural and international contexts, particularly within Europe and West Africa. Her perspective is deeply shaped by diaspora experiences, transnational exchange and community-oriented work.

Alongside her moderation and consulting work, Aisha develops and produces cultural and digital formats, including festival projects, political education content and social media initiatives focused on younger audiences and contemporary public discourse.

**Marc Berthold**, director of the Paris office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation



Marc Berthold has been director of the Paris office of the Heinrich Böll Foundation since July 2022.

Among the positions he has held at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, he headed the Europe/North America department from 2019 to 2022 and the Israel office in Tel Aviv from 2011 to the end of 2013, having previously worked as head of foreign and security policy. Between 2001 and 2007, he coordinated the Transatlantic Climate Dialogue programme at the Washington office.

A graduate in political science, Marc Berthold headed from 2014 to the end of 2017 the office of Cem Özdemir, then federal co-chair of Bündnis 90/Die Grünen.

**Jan Philipp Albrecht**, co-president of the Heinrich Böll Foundation



Since June 2022, Jan Philipp Albrecht has served as Co-President of the Berlin-based Heinrich Böll Foundation. Before, he was Minister for Energy Transition, Agriculture, Environment, Nature and Digitalisation of the State of Schleswig-Holstein in the Günther cabinet, since 1 September 2018.

As a Member of the European Parliament, Jan Philipp Albrecht represented the citizens of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein from 2009 to 2018. Jan Philipp Albrecht's topics were home affairs and justice policy, including the reform of European data protection law, the right to legal assistance, the European Investigation Order, police policy and the fight against right-wing extremism. Particularly close to his heart are "civil rights in the digital age".

As MEP, Jan Philipp Albrecht was a Member and Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs and Justice and a Substitute Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. During his first legislative term from 2009-2014, he was a member of the Committee on Home Affairs and a substitute member of the Committee on Legal Affairs. From December 2012 to October 2013, Jan Philipp Albrecht was also coordinator for the Special Committee against Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. As the European Parliament's negotiator for the planned Data Protection Regulation, he negotiated with the European Council Presidency and the European Commission on a uniform data protection law for the EU. In addition, Jan Philipp Albrecht was a member of the delegations for relations with Israel as well as Australia and New Zealand.

From 2003 to 2008, Jan studied law in Bremen, Brussels and Berlin, specialising in European and international law. Supported by a scholarship from the Heinrich Böll Foundation, he completed his studies with the first state law examination. Until his election to the 7th European Parliament in 2009, Jan specialised in IT law at the Universities of Hanover and Oslo within the framework of a DAAD-funded postgraduate master (LL.M.).

**Dr. Franziska Brantner**, co-president of Bündnis 90/die Grünen



Credit: Florian Reichelt

In 2009, Franziska Brantner was elected to the European Parliament and in 2013 to the German Bundestag in the Heidelberg Neckar-Bergstraße constituency.

Until 2017, she was the spokesperson for the parliamentary group for children and family policy. During the 19th electoral term, (Until 2021), Franziska Brantner was also Spokesperson for European Policy and was Parliamentary Manager, member of the Committee on the Affairs of the European Union and substitute member of the Foreign Affairs Committee as well as member of the Board of the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly.

During the 20th electoral term, she served as Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection.

Since November 2024, Franziska Brantner has been the co-chair of the Greens and in February 2025, was re-elected to the German Bundestag for the 21st electoral term.

**Magali Lafourcade**, secretary-general of the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights



Magali Lafourcade, a magistrate, is Secretary-General of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights.

She teaches at Sciences Po and is the author of *Les droits de l'Homme* (PUF, 2018, 2ed, 2025), *Démasculiniser la Justice* (Les petits matins, 2025), *La Justice en procès*, as well as *Les populistes à l'assaut de l'État de droit* (Les petits matins, 2026).

She chairs the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee of the *Le Monde* Group.

**Madeleine Henfling**, campaigner for the German campaign organization Campact



Madeleine Henfling, born in 1983, was a member of the Thuringian State Parliament from 2014 to 2024 and most recently served as its Vice President. Her political work has focused primarily on domestic and digital policy, as well as antifascism and combating the far right.

Since 2025, she has been working as a campaigner for the German campaign organization Campact, with a particular focus on eastern Germany.

**Márta Pardavi**, co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee



She focuses on the threats to the rule of law and civil society in Hungary and in the EU. She co-leads the Recharging Advocacy for Rights in Europe (RARE) programme, supporting human rights defenders to build stronger organisations and alliances for action on civic space and rule of law in the EU.

Márta holds a law degree from ELTE Law School and an Executive Master's of Public Administration from the Hertie School. She is a recipient of several international human rights awards, is a member of the Council of Europe's Expert Council on NGO Law, and serves on several international NGO boards.

**Sotiris Tsoukarelis**, founding member and head of social innovation at the social cooperative enterprise "The High Mountains."



He studied political science at the University of Crete, focusing on political philosophy and local development. He then attended the Metsovion Interdisciplinary Research Center of the National Technical University of Athens, specializing in the environment and development of mountain areas.

Since then, he has considered himself an activist for mountain regions, decentralization, and the agri-food sector. He actively participates in environmental movements defending his homeland and promotes alternative models of production and living, based on cooperation, community development, and global connectivity. Sotiris is also a practicing farmer, cultivating vegetables at an altitude of 1,000 meters on his model farm in Demati, Zagori. In addition, he has been trained at the American Farm School in the fields of experience tourism development, marketing, alternative tourism, and agritourism. He is a dairyman and cheesemaker and a graduate of the Dairy School of Ioannina.

He currently serves as President of the Union of Social and Solidarity Economy Entities of Epirus "Koino K.A.L.O." and as Vice President for Ecosystem Development of the Panhellenic Confederation of Social and Solidarity Economy Unions "P.A.S.E. K.A.L.O." Since January 2024, he has also been an advisor to the mayor of Ioannina on social economy issues and chief executive officer of the municipal real estate company of Ioannina (D.I.A.N.E.T.A.I.).

**Natalia Broniarczyk**, polish abortion access provider



in 2019, Natalia Broniarczyk co-founded Abortion Without Borders, a transnational network that helps Polish people access abortion services in other European countries. She is also the co-founder of Abotak, Poland's first abortion center, that opened in 2025 in front of the Parliament and the Chancery of the President.

**Serpil Temiz Unvar**, founder of Bildungsinitiative Ferhat Unvar



Born in southern Turkey, Serpil Temiz Unvar resettled in France with her parents as a child. Later, she and her husband moved to Hanau, where they raised four children together. One of these, her son Ferhat, was murdered by a right-wing extremist in the terrorist attack in Hanau in 2020, along with eight other people.

To counter the murderous racism to which her son fell victim, Serpil Temiz Unvar founded a political education initiative - Ferhat Unvar Education Initiative. Children, teenagers, young adults and parents who are affected by racial discrimination thus find a contact point where they can seek advice and access assistance in processing traumatic experiences.

The initiative also supports teachers in integrating and addressing the issue of racism within the curriculum.

Credits: Fotograf Thomas Lohne

**Vojtěch Pecka**, analyst with AMO climate



Vojtěch Pecka is an analyst with AMO climate, focusing on the sociology of climate change denial, and leads the evidence.ninja project. Evidence.ninja is an innovative platform for detecting, classifying and countering climate misinformation. He also works as a researcher at the Institute of Computer Science of the Czech Academy of Sciences on a project researching the discrediting of climate science.

His work examines how economic, ideological, and power interests shape climate science denial, with a focus on Eastern Europe and Russian influence. He is the author of *Factory of Lies: The Production of Climate Disinformation*, which received the Climate Change Communication Prize and was shortlisted for the Magnesia Litera Award.

Credit: Apolónia Pecka Sejková

Pecka studied theoretical sociology at Charles University and is completing his doctoral studies at the Faculty of Social Studies in Brno. He is a member of the Climate Social Science Network at Brown University and teaches the history of climate science and climate denial as a guest lecturer at Charles University. He also writes on climate issues for Czech media and works as a graphic designer, editor, and curator.

**Rémy Bonny**, executive director of Forbidden Colours



Rémy Bonny is a human rights defender and expert in international relations. He serves as the executive director of Forbidden Colours – a Europe-wide non-profit delivering human rights and democracy for LGBTIQ+ people in Europe.

Bonny is an expert in how ultraconservative and anti-democratic regimes use their fight against human rights for the LGBTIQ+ communities in their international relations. He exposed several anti-LGBTIQ+ initiatives by the Russian Federation, Hungary and other anti-democratic governments. In this capacity, he has given briefings on subversive activities, such as disinformation campaigns, and advised several national and supranational governments regarding Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) and human rights sanction regimes.

In 2019, Bonny revealed an international disinformation campaign by the Russian Federation, in cooperation with the Hungarian government, targeting the LGBTIQ+ communities in Europe.

In 2023, Bonny led a campaign for Forbidden Colours to convince Member States of the European Union to join the court proceedings against Hungary's anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda law. The lawsuit became the largest in the history of the European Union. Earlier, in 2021, Bonny was the first international activist to reveal the news about this horrendous law – which is a copy-paste of Russia's 2013 anti-LGBTIQ+ propaganda law.

**Olçay Özer**, co-director of Hafiza Merkezi



Olçay Özer graduated from the Philosophy Department of Galatasaray University. She received her master's degree from the Cultural Studies Program at Sabancı University.

Between 2010 and 2016, she worked at Sabancı University's Gender and Women's Studies Center as a program assistant and coordinator for the Purple Certificate Program, carried out within the scope of the United Nations Joint Programme on "Protecting and Promoting the Human Rights of Women and Girls." From 2016 to 2019, she served as a program manager in the Education Programs Department at TEGV. Since April 2019, she has been working at Hafiza Merkezi as the Capacity Development Coordinator for the Support to Rights Program, and since 2020, she has also held the position of Project and Resource Development Coordinator at the same organization. Since July 2025, she has also been serving as the Co-Director of Hafiza Merkezi.

**Demian Kogan**, senior director of Organizing for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)



Demian Kogan has been Senior Director of Organizing for the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) since 2016 and has over 20 years of community organizing experience.

For three consecutive generations, Demian and the members of his family were forced to move from their respective home countries due to political oppression and authoritarianism. Demian has organized ICIRR members to eliminate immigration detention in Illinois, ban collaboration between local police enforcement and federal immigration enforcement across the state, expand eligibility to direct cash assistance to low-income Illinois residents and more. Demian and his team at ICIRR oversaw the grassroots resistance and successful advancement of immigration protections during the Trump Administration's "Midway Blitz" operation in Chicago and throughout Illinois. ICIRR anchored a network of close to 40 rapid response teams statewide, and passed a legislative package of new protections for Illinois residents against the U.S. federal government's detention and deportation pipeline.

Demian has worked alongside ordinary people to build extraordinary power to impact working families and low-income communities of color across Illinois.

**Imane Saïtoui**, training Coordinator / project officer



At 32, Imane Saïtoui is a training and partnership coordinator, as well as organizer for Banlieues Climat. After graduating with a degree in Applied Foreign Languages (LEA), she spent a year in the United States before training as a special needs educator and working as a teaching assistant with young people from diverse backgrounds.

Driven by a profound attachment to justice and human dignity, she places listening to people's life stories at the center of her work. She is convinced that individual stories provide a better understanding of collective realities and regards the recognition of each person's journey as an essential instrument for emancipation, agency and social transformation.

Her approach is fueled by a certified training program from Harvard University on leadership, empowerment and organizing, inspired by the work of Marshall Ganz. At Banlieues Climat, she works with young people and residents of working-class neighborhoods in developing their capacity for action through training, collective organizing and civic engagement.

She is also a basketball player, and views sport as a space for learning, solidarity, and community building, in line with the values that guide her professional and civic engagement.

**Coumba Sarr**, mother, entrepreneur, climate trainer



At 46, Coumba Sarr is a mother of four and has several complementary professional careers

With an MBA in Global Fashion Management from the Institut Français de la Mode (IFM) in Paris, she first started working in major fashion houses.

Those years taught her to be rigorous, creative while keeping an eye for details; solid foundations for the future.

Coumba Sarr founded Maison YaaY in Senegal, her first business, a project that combines her roots with her passion for fashion. Since then, she has managed several activities, all driven by the desire to build and share. Beyond business, Coumba Sarr is committed to helping others.

**Luca Boccoli**, founder and co-spokesperson for Giovani Europeisti Verdi



Born in 1997, he holds a master's degree with honors in political science, specializing in the environment, energy, and international security.

The founder and a national co-spokesperson for Giovani Europeisti Verdi, he also holds a national leadership position within the Alleanza Verdi e Sinistra (Alliance of Greens and the Left). He actively collaborates with movements and associations addressing migration and detention centers for repatriation (CPR).

In the 2024 European elections, with nearly 15,000 votes, he was the most-voted-for candidate under 35 in the central constituency. In 2020, he was ranked by Repubblica among the 10 activists under 35 who are changing the country. Subsequently, in 2023 and 2024, L'Espresso ranked him among the 60 people under 30 who are transforming Italy. He is a frequent guest on television programs on Rai, La7, and Mediaset.

**Sarah Durocher**, president of Planning familial



Sarah Durocher has been president of Planning familial since 2022.

A dedicated feminist activist, she takes a resolutely intersectional approach to the fight for equality. She played a key role in enshrining abortion rights in the Constitution. She also serves on the High Council for Gender Equality.

**Luisa Chiodi**, director of Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa



Luisa Chiodi holds a PhD in Social and Political Science from the European University Institute of Fiesole (Florence) and a degree in Political Science from the University of Milan.

From 2003 to 2008 she was lecturer for the chair of 'Eastern European studies' at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Bologna. She coordinated several research projects and is the author of publications on civil society and transnational social dynamics.

**Katja Meier**, member of the Saxon state parliament



Katja Meier was born on 10 September 1979 in Zwickau. After leaving school, she studied political science, modern and contemporary history and sociology at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, the University of Tartu (Estonia) and the Westphalian Wilhelms University Münster from 1998 to 2004. She completed her studies with a MagisterArtium. She has been a member of Alliance 90/The Greens since 2005.

After her studies she worked as a board officer for Alliance 90/The Greens in Hesse. In 2010, she returned to Saxony and worked as a policy officer for the state parliamentary group of Alliance 90/The Greens. In 2015, she became a member of the Saxon state parliament and was spokesperson for justice, democracy, legal and equality policy and transport policy.

Katja Meier became minister of Justice and Democracy, European Affairs, and Gender Equality after the 2019 state elections. Her Green party was part of a coalition government with the Conservative Party and the Social Democrats. Born and raised in the German Democratic Republic (DDR) and during the years following the fall of the Berlin Wall, Katja Meier was confronted early on with massive political polarization in Eastern Germany. The fight against Neo-Nazis and extremist right-wing parties such as the „Alternative for Germany“ (AfD) was the focus of her 2019 campaign, establishing the first Ministry for Justice and Democracy in Germany. One of her main focuses was to create places for democratic discourse and to establish citizen participation formats.

She has been a member of the Saxon state parliament again since the 2024 state elections and is spokesperson for democracy, legal and equality policy, European affairs and transport policy.

**Jens Althoff**, director of the Heinrich Böll Foundation's Regional Office in Warsaw



Jens Althoff joined the Heinrich Böll Foundation in 2015, where he established a new office in Paris and led it from 2015 to 2021. Under his leadership, the Paris office became a key actor in the fields of ecological transformation, the strengthening of democracies in Europe, foreign and security policy, and European policy in France. Beginning in 2019, the office expanded its work on these thematic areas to Italy as well. During this period, he advanced numerous projects within the foundation under the "Weimar Triangle" framework and collaborated closely with the Heinrich Böll Foundation's office in Warsaw.

From early 2022 until the summer of 2025, Jens Althoff served as Head of Communications and Spokesperson for the Minister of State for Culture and Media, Claudia Roth, in the Federal Chancellery, in Germany. In this role, he worked on all matters related to cultural and media policy, including remembrance policy, both in a European framework and, in particular, within the Polish-German context. An important part of his work for the German government was supporting Ukrainian culture in both Germany and Ukraine.

Before joining the Heinrich Böll Foundation, he worked in the European Parliament, concentrating primarily on issues of European foreign and security policy. He also served for eight years as Head of the Press Office and Spokesperson for the Federal Executive Committee of the German Green Party.

While studying political science, rhetoric, and public law at the University of Tübingen, as well as political and social science at the Sciences Po in Paris, he worked as a journalist for various local and regional media outlets. During this period, he also served as a research assistant at the Center for Journalism at the Free University of Berlin, where he organized advanced training programs for professional journalists. Among other initiatives, he established a journalist exchange program for participants from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia in 2000.

Over the same period, he completed his doctorate in political science, focusing on the role of credibility and trust in political communication and voter behaviour.

**Marine Tondelier**, national secretary of Les Écologistes



Marine Tondelier is a French politician committed to environmentalism, social justice and democracy and has been the National Secretary of Les Écologistes since December 2022.

She studied at Sciences Po Lille, graduating in 2009, before completing her studies with a specialised master's degree in healthcare facilities management.

Marine Tondelier joined the Greens in 2009. In 2014, she became a municipal opposition councillor in Hénin-Beaumont, a town run by the National Rally. For over ten years, she has carried out demanding work as a local opposition figure, exposing abuses, defending democratic transparency and supporting residents.

Alongside her municipal role, she sits on the Hénin-Carvin Community Council and, since 2021, on the Hauts-de-France Regional Council. At the regional level, she is particularly active on issues relating to transport, climate, spatial planning and social justice.