

Presenters' Background

- 1. Mr Ioannis Andredakis** studied Physics, then obtained a PhD in Astronomy. He worked in the Defence and Aerospace Industry as a software engineer, then in the Commission (JRC/DG ECHO) as a researcher and scientific consultant in Environmental Remote Sensing and Natural Hazards. In the past 2 years he has been overseeing Horizon research projects in Astronomy.
- 2. Mr Stephanos Ampatzis** studied law in Greece and France, with specialisation in EU law. Working for more than 20 years for the European Commission at the Directorate-General for the Environmental Protection, he developed his expertise on the legal and policy aspects of various areas, such as water and waste management, nature protection, air quality.
- 3. Mr Han Asard** is a professor of biology and biochemistry at the University of Antwerp. He finished his PhD in 1991 and has worked in an academic environment for many years, mostly in Antwerp, but also in the United States. His job as a professor includes scientific research as well as teaching university students. In research he is studying how climate change will affect plant biology and impact our earth.
- 4. Mr Silvester Balog** currently works as a media monitoring administrator in the Council of the EU. He has studied finance in Agriculture and Political Sciences. He has worked as Redactor of Sports (News Agency of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava), Correspondent for EU and NATO Affairs and Translator in the Slovak Language Unit (Council of the EU, Brussels).
- 5. Mr Laurent Benhamou** is a seasoned EU official gone from EU Council 1998-2010 (notably 5 years at the Press office) to European External Action Service. From postings in EGYPT (2020-2024), Missions in Mali (2017-2020), Saudi Arabia (2025) after EU Intelligence Centre.
- 6. Mr Felipe Castro** is a telecommunications engineer and a Commission official.
- 7. Mr Sébastien Chatelus** is a diplomat working at the European External Action Service.
- 8. Ms Evgenia Chatzioakeimidou** is a doctor in Law, Head of Diversity and Inclusion at the Council of the EU.
- 9. Ms Barbara Chauchaix** est consultante en management spécialisée dans le domaine bancaire.

10. Ms Edith Creplet is a psychiatrist. She has practiced general medicine for 6 years before turning to psychiatry and psychotherapy.

11. Ms Kristýna Deiberová studied economics and business management at HEC School of Management in France (with exchange semester at University of Cologne), after preparatory classes to Grandes Écoles de Commerce. She worked in marketing as International Brand Manager at Yves Rocher. She joined the European Commission to work in the competition field (antitrust and State aid policy) and currently in the consumer protection area in product safety field as a Team Leader for the General Product Safety Regulation.

12. Mr Cedric Deiber is an Investment Banker. He graduated 2003 from the HEC School of Management (with exchange semester at Saint Gallen). He has worked in BNP Paribas, Rothschild & Cie and HSBC in M&A, Lehman Brothers, Paul Capital and Arganto, an entrepreneurial M&A boutique (from 2010 onwards), managing in parallel a privately-held investment platform, financed by high net worth individuals.

13. Ms Liesbet De Letter is a Team Leader Events at the European Commission, working at the DG Regional and Urban Policy.

14. Mr Edward Dheere is an industrial engineer currently working in the Council of the European Union as a member of the Safety Unit. He has worked in a variety of positions in the field of electricity and construction in the private sector for nearly 20 years. Having gone from third party inspection body engineer to project manager and more recently as a risk prevention officer (Health & Safety advisor).

15. Ms Di Rubbo is an Event Manager.

16. Mr Jérôme Fabry est Producteur/Réalisateur/Monteur chez Zoom Production et Commanding Officer & Public Relations chez 501st Fanwars Garrison.

17. Mr Luis Farina Bustos has been working in Science administration for 18 years, in the area of Physics, in the European Commission and the European Research Council Executive Agency. He has a bachelor's degree in physics and a PhD in Theoretical Physics and Cosmology. He has worked as researcher and lecturer at university for 15 years (electromagnetism, physical oceanography, ocean dynamics, meteorology and climatology).

18. Mr Spyridon Flevaris is an agronomist, working at the European Commission for the last 15 years.

19. Mr Yves Gillet is a Bioengineer, agro-economist and diplomat. He has been working with FAO (UN Agency for Food and Agriculture) as an expert in soil fertility and agricultural intensification in several countries in Africa and then with EC as European civil servant in DG DEVCO (Development and Cooperation) mainly in EU Delegations in Africa and at headquarter in Brussels.

20. Mr Jean Christophe Goldberg is an ICT engineer, who works as a Senior Technical consultant

21. Mr Florian Gonzalez is an ex-Lobbyist in the energy industry and currently a Christian pastor.

22. Mr Kevin Grant is an Operations expert at EUROCONTROL. He has worked as an air traffic controller in Europe and Middle East for 15 years before returning to Europe and working on strategic functions and specialising in performance.

23. Ms Egle Havrdova is a director of an Educational NGO.

24. Mr Nick Hirst is a former BBC producer and journalist specialising in music and entertainment programming. Prior to this, he had been the first professional TV and radio presenter on Saudi Arabia's English language TV and radio services. Trained as an actor, he appeared in a number of UK TV series in the '80's and performed in multiple theatre tours covering England, Wales and Scotland. As a writer, he worked on the script for the 2015 documentary film 'Sugar Blues' by acclaimed Czech director – Andrea Culkova. He has published his first book – the thriller 'The Shape of Rain' – and his second – 'Second Spider from the Right' will be out later this year. Finally, he spent the last ten years in Czechia teaching English as a second language in schools around Prague, specialising in using Drama as an education tool.

25. Ms Lene Hove Rietveld is a Senior Expert on Artificial Intelligence and weapons, working at the European External Action Service

26. Mrs Veronika Hulka is a career counsellor and HR officer.

27. Ms Magda Kindlová and Ms Linda Messias, officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, now posted in Brussels, will share with you their working experiences from Headquarters and missions in Armenia and Brazil. Both studied in Charles University in Prague Portuguese philology and met after many years in Brussels. Magda works in the Consular and Visa section in the Embassy of

Czech Republic in Brussels. Linda after 5,5 years at the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU is now seconded to the European Commission.

28. Mr Jan Kraus is an IT analyst.

29. Ms Carole Melen est avocate depuis 23 ans et travaille dans son cabinet qui compte actuellement 14 avocats. Elle a effectué ses études de droit à l'ULB et a obtenu ensuite un certificat en droit international privé à l'University de Napier à Edimbourg (Ecosse). Elle a également suivi une formation en gestion de conflits et négociation à la Solvay Brussels school. Alors que ce sont les droits l'Homme qui l'avaient poussée vers la carrière d'avocat, c'est le droit social qu'elle a finalement choisi (droit du travail et de la sécurité sociale). Elle s'est spécialisée dans cette matière qui regroupe l'humain, les aspects juridiques très techniques et les implications économiques et sociales. Elle est également médiatrice agréé en matière sociale et intervention en entreprise depuis 2019. Depuis 17 ans, elle est formatrice à l'ICBB (Institut de Communication partenaire de l'Ordre francophone de Bruxelles). Dans ce cadre, elle donne des formations en prise de parole, en négociation raisonnée mais aussi sur le rôle de l'avocat en médiation (séminaire de 2 jours à 3 jours) aux stagiaires avocats.

30. Ms Stavroula Niarchakou is an Air Traffic Controller.

31. Ms Olivia Nunez is an aeronautical engineer, with an MSc degree in Aeronautical engineering. She has worked as an air traffic controller for 20 years.

32. Ms Obermaier-Muresan is a political administrator working at the Council.

33. Ms Athina Oikonomidou is a chemical engineer with a master's degree in business administration (MBA). She has worked in Technology Transfer for the last 20 years specializing in the field of Life Sciences. She has worked with many research institutions and companies and has been a member of the Board of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute. She is the co-founder of the drug discovery company ResQ Biotech and is the Vice Chair of the Greek sectoral scientific council on Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property.

34. Ms Karolina Paleckova is a Human Resources Business Partner.

35. Mr Argyrios Pisiotis is a professor of History and Political sciences

36. Ms Maria da Saudade Pontes has a degree in Geography and Regional Planning and a Master degree in Territorial Management with Belgium equivalence of MSc in Geography. She is a member of the KU Leuven working group SADL (Spatial Applications Division Leuven). With more than 20 years of experience as a GIS expert and consultant, she worked for several Portuguese public institutions, European Commission and private companies, such as the Geographical Army Institute (IGeoE), Water Institute (INAG) in Lisbon, Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy and DG Move in Brussels, and as researcher for the Geography department, New University of Lisbon (UNL) where she participated in several national and international projects. She works as a GIS (Geographical Information systems) consultant at DG MOVE.

37. Dr Kees Rietveld is a humanitarian physician specialised in war zones.

38. Mr Gregory Rogival is a project manager or Chief Facilitator Officer, working in the banking sector. In today's world there are many dreams and ambitions, so it is good to have project managers to go from ideas to concrete. Active in the financial sector since 2001 he would be more than happy to tell you what project management is, what do you need as background if you want to start your journey And cherry on the cake, as an improviser he will explore with you the most important soft skill in life (yes, personal opinion): communication.

39. Mr Jose Romero Morgaz works as a team leader of firearms in in the counter terrorism unit in DG HOME. He joined the Spanish Guardia Civil in 1993, becoming a lieutenant after 5 years of Academy training. He was the head of a criminal investigation unit in the south of Spain for 5 years. He later worked abroad for 10 years, first in EUROPOL and then in the Spanish Embassy in Beirut. In 2019 he applied for a competition for security officers in the European Commission which he successfully passed in 2020. He became an administrator in DG HOME in October 2020.

40. Mr Jörg Roos studied biology in Germany and Spain, before working for think tanks and NGOs in the field of environment. He joined the European Commission in 2008 where he had been working inter alia on biodiversity, water, civil protection, agriculture and humanitarian aid.

41. Ms Olga Rovira has an academic background in Industrial Chemistry Engineering and in Structural Molecular Biology. She is currently working at KONTIVAX, her own Regulatory Affairs (RA) consultancy company. Prior to setting up KONTIVAX, Olga had been working for 20 years in multinational pharmaceutical companies.

42. Dr. Genevieve Tam (she/her) is a Canadian obstetrician gynaecologist and has spent the last 15 years working in global women's health with various NGOs around the world in East Africa and also worked with Doctors Without Borders for several years in Lebanon. She also has her Masters in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In 2020, her global health experiences culminated in her co-founding Vitala Global with her friend and colleague. She is the Director of Projects for Vitala and is grateful for the opportunity to lead Aya Contigo's implementation globally with an amazing, passionate, multidisciplinary, and global team. Together, they work to advance Vitala's mission to revolutionize sexual and reproductive self-care through co-designed, holistic, and localized digital solutions that meet women and girls where they are, empowering them to be agents of change.

43. Mr Eckhard Twistel is a graphic designer-illustrator. He has been working for the last 25 years as a self-employed freelancer for advertising agencies and companies in the science, education, politics, health and energy sectors. After his "Abitur" and 2 years in a vocational school, he began working in small agencies, before going to the university of arts in Bremen/Germany. He has worked as a university lecturer for fashion illustration and later as a teacher for Comics in and Child Art School for over 10 years.

44. Mr Nikos Stoghios is a primary teacher and a graduate of the European schools.

45. Mr Stavros Stamatoukos is an energy engineer working at the DG Energy of the EC.

46. Mr Hugo van Tilborg is a French/Dutch National and has attended classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles in France, then continued civil engineering studies at Imperial College in London and an Erasmus year at the Escuela de Caminos Canales y Puertos in Madrid. He has also obtained a master's degree in advanced European studies from the College of Europe (Natolin Campus). Worked for the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Dutch Embassy in Washington and Dutch Ministry of Foreign affairs as part of a young graduate programme. Worked for the German Technical Cooperation and the EU on infrastructure projects in developing countries (urban development, water, sanitation, transport, environment, energy...) in Benin, Morocco, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and now in Brussels.

47. Mr Guillaume Vanhemelryck is a physiotherapist in Brussels, specialised in sports.

48. Mr David Verrier is an astrophysicist. He worked at the European Space Agency and took part in the operations of many missions around Earth and to other planets. Now he is working in the Research Group on Digital Mathematics on an AI project to read and understand text in a document in a similar way that a human does.

49. Mr Paolo Vicini is Chief Development Officer at Confo Therapeutics in Ghent. He was previously with Kymab and MedImmune in Cambridge (UK), with Pfizer in San Diego, and a faculty member at the University of Washington, Seattle (USA). He has experience in translational and clinical sciences through drug discovery and development and co-authored more than 150 scholarly publications. He is a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and holds a PhD in Bioengineering from the Polytechnic of Milan and an MBA from the University of Southern California.

50. Ms Kinga Wynands-Szentmary is a lawyer linguist working for the European Parliament. Hungarian by nationality, and trained as a lawyer, she had the opportunity to learn several languages (ES, EN, DE, FR) during her early childhood and her studies. Her work as a lawyer-linguist at the European Parliament (since 2004, the year of the accession of Hungary to the EU) has allowed her to contribute to a better quality of the laws adopted by the EU institutions.

51. Mr Klaudiusz Zwolinski has studied commercial engineering in Lodz, Poland and completed his education with an MBA from Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School in Leuven, Belgium. For the last 15 years he has been working in KBC Group, of which last 12 years in KBC Asset Management NV (largest asset management company in Belgium).