



Dana Reizniece-Ozola

Minister of Economics, Republic of Latvia

Dana Reizniece-Ozola is the Minister of Economics of the Republic of Latvia. She has been elected as a Member of the 10th, 11th and 12th Saeima of the Republic of Latvia and worked as the Chairperson of the Commission on Education, Culture and Science, Member of the Legal Affairs Commission and Member of the European Affairs Commission. There she came forth with the initiatives for the improvement of professional education quality in Latvia and protection of vulnerable consumers in the process of electricity market liberalization.

From 2006 to 2014, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola was Advisor to the Board, Board Member and Head of Ventspils High Technology Park. Before that, she was the Board Member of a research centre and industrial investment company. She has also worked at the Ventspils City Council as the Head of the Investment Division.

Dana Reizniece-Ozola has studied International Business at Häme Polytechnic University of Applied Sciences (HAMK), Finland; law at the College of Law and linguistics at the Ventspils University College in Latvia. She has got Professional Master's degree in Translation and Terminology acquired at the Ventspils University College in Latvia and Executive Master's degree of Business Administration acquired at the International Space University in France.

Dana Reizniece-Ozola has managed several projects related to the satellite and space technologies, Project for the first Latvian Satellite "Venta-1" development at Ventspils High Technology Park being one of them. She is twofold European Junior Chess Champion and World Junior Chess Champion and holds the title of Woman Grandmaster.

Besides her mother tongue, Mrs. Dana Reizniece-Ozola also speaks English and Russian.



Jurijs Spiridonovs

Deputy Secretary of State, Ministry of Economics of Latvia

Jurijs Spiridonovs is the Deputy Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economics of Latvia. His areas of responsibility include governmental policies in energy sector (natural gas, electricity, heating), construction and housing. Dr. Spiridonovs is in charge of Latvian electricity and gas market liberalization. Other fields of responsibilities include energy efficiency, green procurement, energy saving measures and renewable energy sources.

J. Spiridonovs has also been the Deputy Secretary of State in for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development with responsibility for overall environmental policy in Latvia (environmental protection, nature conservation and climate change issues).

J. Spiridonov holds a Doctor's degree in Economics, also two Master's degrees (International Economy and Business) obtained at the Riga Technical University and Latvian University.



Dominique Ristori

Director-General for Energy, European Commission

Dominique Ristori has been working in the European Commission since 1978 where he has held several positions. Prior to his current position, he was Director- General of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) (2010-2013).

Between 2006 and 2010 Dominique Ristori was Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Energy.

Whilst Director in charge of General Affairs and Resources at Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, he was responsible for interinstitutional relations; enlargement and international relations; coordination of energy and transport research; internal market, state aids, infringements and public service obligations; passengers' and users' rights; central management of human and budgetary resources (2000 - 2006). Between 1996 and 1999, he was Director in charge of European Energy Policy at Directorate-General for Energy.

Dominique Ristori played an important role in the preparation and adoption process of the 2 first Directives on the Internal Market for gas and electricity. He launched also successfully the Firenze and Madrid Forum for electricity and gas at the origin of the Regulation process in the Energy Sector.

In the period of 1990 – 1996 Dominique Ristori was in charge of transnational cooperation between SMEs at the Directorate-General for Enterprise policy.

Dominique Ristori graduated from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (1975).



Maroš Šefčovič

Vice-President of the European Commission for Energy Union

Maroš Šefčovič (born in 1966) is a Slovak career diplomat and since 1 November 2014 Vice President of the European Commission in charge of the Energy Union. In this capacity, he leads the "Energy Union" Project Team within the Commission which comprises of 14 commissioners.

In 2014 he was elected as the Member of the European Parliament. From 2010 to 2014 he was Vice President of the European Commission in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration. In 2009-2010, he was European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth. From 2004 -2009, he was the Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the European Union. As diplomat by profession he served between 1992 and 2004 in Zimbabwe and Canada and as Ambassador to Israel.

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



Jerzy Buzek

Chairman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Member of the European Parliament

Jerzy Buzek is a Member of the European Parliament since 2004 and he represents the group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats).

From 2009 to 2012, Mr. Buzek was the President of the European Parliament, being first to come from Central and Eastern Europe following the EU's enlargement in 2004.

He has been a Member of Temporary Committee on Climate Change, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Conference of Delegation Chairs, Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. Currently he is chairing the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Conference of Committee Chairs. He also participates as a Member in Delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.



Miguel Arias Cañete

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy,
European Commission

Miguel Arias Cañete is the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy. He has served in the role since 1st November 2014.

Born on 24th February 1950 in Madrid, Mr. Arias Cañete studied law at the Complutense University of Madrid. After graduating in 1974, he joined the Spanish Civil Service working as a State Attorney. In 1978, he became a professor of Law at the University of Cadiz. In 1982 he left his teaching post as he was elected a member of the Parliament of Andalusia until 1986. After serving in the Andalusian parliament, he became a Member of the European Parliament upon Spain's accession in 1986. He stayed until 1999, heading the Committees on Agriculture and on Regional Development during his time as MEP.

Mr. Arias Cañete served as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Spain from 2000 until 2004. He also served as Minister for Agriculture, Food and Environment in the Spanish Government from 2011 until 2014, before being selected to head his Party List in the European Parliamentary elections.

Mr. Arias Cañete is married and has three children.



Maria van der Hoeven

Executive Director
International Energy Agency (IEA)

Maria van der Hoeven has served as Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) since September 2011. She has steered the IEA during a period of exceptional change in the global energy landscape, and is taking the initiative to address the challenges of global energy governance. Her priorities include building and formalising cooperation with the major emerging energy players of the 21st century, and also expanding energy access.

Ms. Van der Hoeven was formerly Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands.

Tord Lien

Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy



Tord Lien is Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy. He has worked as the Director of Communications at Trønder Energi, Financial Adviser at Norsk Privatøkonomi, Operative Manager at Whale Tours and County Secretary of Sør-Trøndelag Progress Party.

From 2009 to 2013, Tord Lien has been Representative no. 6 for Sør-Trøndelag county of Progress Party in Norwegian Parliament and worked as the Second Vice Chair for Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs, as a Substitute Member for Election Committee and Delegation to the Nordic Council. From 2005 to 2009, he was elected Representative no. 8 for Sør-Trøndelag county of Progress Party in Norwegian Parliament and worked as a Member of the Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment.

He has studied political science, as well as International Politics and History at Norwegian School of Technology and Science (NTNU) and acquired Cand.philol. degree and Master's degree in history at Norwegian School of Technology and Science (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway.



Robin Dunnigan

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy,
Bureau of Energy Resources,
U.S. Department of State

Robin Dunnigan is a career member of the U.S. Foreign Service, currently serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Diplomacy in the Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources. Ms. Dunnigan oversees the bureau's Office of Middle East and Asia and the Office of Europe, the Western Hemisphere and Africa.

During her 22-year career in the Foreign Service, Ms. Dunnigan has served overseas in Vietnam, Chile, Turkey, Cuba and El Salvador. In Washington, she worked in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and on the staff of the Secretary of State in the 24-hour Operations Center.

Ms. Dunnigan is a distinguished graduate of the National War College, where she earned a Master of Science in National Security Strategy. She also received a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Dunnigan speaks Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese.



Jean-Arnold Vinois

Honorary Director,
Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission
Jacques Delors Institute/Notre Europe

Jean-Arnold Vinois, 62, Belgian, practiced as lawyer before joining the European Commission in 1987, where, during 15 years, he occupied several management posts in the field of transport and trans-European networks. From April 2006, he dealt with Energy as Head of the Unit responsible for Energy policy, security of supply and networks and since July 2011 he acted as Director of the internal electricity and gas markets within the Directorate General for Energy. He retired on January 1st 2013 and is now Honorary Director.

Since May 2014, he is Adviser on European Energy Policy to the Institut Jacques Delors Notre Europe. He is co-author of the report published on 27 January 2015 “From the European energy Community to the Energy Union: a policy proposal for the short and the long term”, prefaced by Jacques Delors.



Bernadette Segol

Secretary General, European Trade Union Confederation

Bernadette Segol is the Secretary General of the European Trade Union Confederation since the Athens Congress in May 2011. The ETUC represents 83 trade union organisations in 36 European countries as well as sectoral federations. Over a period of 10 years, from 2000 to 2010, she was the head of UNI Europa, the European trade union federation for services and communication which represents 7 million workers and 330 affiliated trade unions.

Bernadette Segol was born in Luzech in France, she has a Master's degree in philosophy and has four children.



Sanjoy Rajan

Head of the Networks and Conventional Power Division, the Projects Directorate of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Sanjoy Rajan is the Head of the Networks and Conventional Power Division within the Projects Directorate of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and is based in Luxembourg.

Sanjoy joined the EIB after working for the World Bank at its headquarters covering the Africa, MENA, East Asia and South Asia regions, focusing on petroleum, mining and energy policy and related projects. He began his career in the international petroleum sector in the UK, and worked mainly on exploration and production in the Middle East and Far East, having been posted to Vietnam, Egypt, Hong Kong and Kuwait.



Christopher Jones

Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission

Christopher JONES is Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Energy, with responsibility for the "Coordination of Directorates A, B and C".

Christopher Jones joined the Commission in 1985. He started his career in Directorate-General Competition, where he dealt with antitrust issues, and was subsequently a Member of Cabinet of Sir Leon Brittan, the Competition Commissioner, and Personal Assistant to Directors General Claus-Dieter Ehlermann and Alexander Schaub. He joined Directorate-General for Energy in 1997, as Head of Unit for Electricity and Gas, and subsequently became Deputy Head of Cabinet of Energy Commissioner Piebalgs, responsible for co-ordination and strategic development of energy policy; notably the conception, design and negotiation of the EU's "20-20-20" Energy programme, as well as the design, conception and negotiation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive.

In 2008 he was appointed as Director in DG Energy for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, in particular for the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and the design, conception and negotiation of the labelling and energy efficiency standards. From January 2009 till end October 2014 Mr Jones was Head of Cabinet for Mr Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development, responsible for general co-ordination of development policy, the conception and implementation of the Agenda for Change, and preparation of the Post-2015 Instrument that will replace the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr Jones holds a Master's Degree in Law from the University of Reading and a Diploma of Higher European Studies (Law) from the College of Europe, Bruges.



Krišjānis Kariņš

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy,
Member of the European Parliament

Dr. Krišjānis Kariņš is a Latvian politician with a background in both business and academia.

Since 2009, Dr. Kariņš has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP). He is a member of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) and the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON). He is also Head of the Latvian delegation to the European Peoples Party Group (EPP) in Parliament. Dr. Kariņš' work on energy issues in the European Parliament is dedicated to decreasing European dependence on imported energy sources.

Dr. Kariņš served as Minister of Economy of Latvia from 2004 to 2006, and as a Member of Parliament in Latvia from 2002. Before entering politics, Dr. Kariņš was a successful entrepreneur. He founded and ran a frozen foods logistics company Bear Ice in Latvia, as well as ran an automotive and office supply wholesale and retail company.

Dr. Kariņš' formal training is academic, having received his PhD in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania.



Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Director, The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group

Executive Director, The Green Growth Platform
The University of Cambridge Institute for
Sustainability Leadership, EU Office

Sandrine Dixson-Declève is the Director of CISL's EU office in Brussels and The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group and is a faculty member of CISL's Executive Programmes.

She also leads the Green Growth Platform initiated by 15 EU Climate and Energy Ministers. Sandrine is an international expert with over 25 years' experience in environmental, sustainability, climate, and energy policy and implementation. She ran the EMEA office of a leading energy consultancy and has been the personal advisor to major chemical and energy companies, Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission, Governments in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, and international organisations including OPEC, ADB, OECD, UNEP, and USAID.

She sits on the advisory board of a large African oil company, is the Vice Chair of the European Biofuels Technology Platform, a member of the Guardian's Sustainable Business Advisory Board, and a member of CISL's Right Value for Externalities Advisory Committee.

She was recently appointed to the Board of We Mean Business (the largest coalition of business organisations promoting climate action) and is a full member of the Club of Rome.



Gertjan Lankhorst
President of EUROGAS

Gertjan Lankhorst was born in Amsterdam on 22 December 1957. He worked at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam from 1982 to 1986. In 1986, he took up a position at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs as a member of the General Economic Policy Department. He then held various other positions at the Ministry including Director for Oil & Gas (1996 –1999), Director of Competition (1999 – 2003) and Director-General for Energy (2004 – 2005).

Gertjan Lankhorst was appointed as GasTerra's Chief Executive Officer on September 1, 2006. He is President of the Royal Dutch Gas Association and President of Eurogas, which comprises companies, national associations and international organisations all engaged in the wholesale, retail and distribution of gas in Europe.

Gertjan Lankhorst has studied General Economics at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in The Netherlands.



Urban Rusnák

Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat

Ambassador Urban Rusnák became Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat in January 2012. Amb. Rusnák is Slovak by nationality. He graduated from the Moscow Institute of Oil and Gas in 1990 with an M.Sc. and received his Ph.D. from the Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences in 1998. Amb. Rusnák also holds an Honoris Causa doctorate from the Kiev Slavonic University since 2009.

Amb. Rusnák has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic as the Leader of the Project for Slovakia's External Energy Security. Before that, he was Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ukraine (2005-2009), Head of the MFA Political Analysis Division (2003-2005), Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Turkey (1994-1998) and MFA Desk Officer for South Caucasus, Central Asia, CIS and South East Europe. He also held the position of Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund in Bratislava (2000-2003) and Director of the Slovak Institute for International Studies (1999-2000).

Additionally, Amb. Rusnák was a Lecturer at the Kiev Slavonic University (2005-2009) and at the International Relations Faculty of the Economic University in Bratislava (2000-2003). He was also Chairman of the Editorial Board of the Slovak Institute for International Studies (2000-2003), Editor in Chief for the MFA International Issues Journal (1998-1999) and is the author of several articles on international relations, energy security, development assistance and Caspian oil and gas issues.

Besides his mother tongue, Amb. Rusnák speaks English, Russian, Turkish, Ukrainian, French and Hungarian. Amb. Rusnák is married and has two children.



Bente Hagem

Vice chairperson of the Board ENTSO-E
Executive Vice President Statnett SF, Norway

Bente Hagem is Executive Vice President in Statnett SF responsible for European Affairs, and Vice Chairperson of the Board of ENTSO-E.

Until 2014 she was head of Commercial Division in Statnett, responsible for market design, customer satisfaction, settlement of grid services and wholesale market, and development of cable projects.

She has been active in Nordic and European TSO cooperations since 2001, and was Co-Chair of the North West and South West European Market Coupling Project, when the coupling was realized.

Before joining Statnett she was Vice President of Statoil ASA for ten years, working with natural gas and electricity. She has been a board member of several Norwegian companies and Chairman of Nord Pool Spot AS.

Bente Hagem holds a Master Degree in Industrial Economy from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.



Oluf Ulseth

Chief Executive of Energy Norway
Chairman of the Energy Policy and Generation
Committee at Eurelectric

Mr Oluf Ulseth is Chief Executive in the Norwegian electricity industry association Energy Norway. He is a Board Member of the European electricity industry association Eurelectric as well as Chairman of the Energy Policy and Generation Committee.

Mr Ulseth has served as Deputy Minister and State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, as well as in the Ministry for Trade and Industry. Prior to joining Energy Norway Mr Ulseth was Senior Vice President European Affairs of Europe's largest generator of renewables, Statkraft.

Mr Ulseth holds a MSc in Economics and Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). Mr Ulseth is the Deputy Chairman of the Board in Oslo Pension Insurance.



Alberto Pototschnig
Director, ACER

Alberto Pototschnig, an economist and econometrician by training, is the first Director of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, established pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 713/2009.

Before joining the Agency, he was a Partner in Mercados EMI, an international consultancy specialising in the energy sector, where he served as CEO and Deputy Chairman. He previously served as Director of Electricity Regulation in the Italian Energy Regulatory Authority (AEEG), as the first CEO of the Italian Electricity Market Operator and as adviser to the Italian Government.

Since 2004, Alberto Pototschnig has been an adviser at the Florence School of Regulation, where he regularly teaches on energy regulation.



Elmar Thyen

Chair of the CEEP Energy Task Force

The CEEP Energy Task Force, headed by Mr Elmar Thyen, brings together public service providers from the energy sector coming from all over Europe, representing both small and large as well as private and public companies. In the CEEP Energy Task Force, Mr Elmar Thyen focused on the issue of the completion of the internal market and market design, particularly in view of the question of security of supply. In this context, he represents CEEP members towards the European institutions in Brussels and brings in the voice of European public service providers in the current debates.

Besides his position as Chair of the CEEP Energy Task Force, Mr Elmar Thyen is Head of Energy Policy at Trianel, a local utilities network with over 10 million customers in Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Mr Elmar Thyen has been dealing with energy related topics for more than 30 years. Before joining Trianel, he worked as a broadcast journalist with a special focus on energy issues, in particular the question of TSOs and the construction of new gas pipelines. In the first years of his career, Mr Elmar Thyen covered executive positions in NGOs involved in the discussion of the future of nuclear energy as well as the challenges of open-pit mining.



Monique Goyens
Director General of BEUC

As Director General of BEUC, Monique represents 40 independent national consumer associations in 31 European countries, acting as a strong consumer voice in Brussels, ensuring that consumers' interests are given weight in the development of policies and raising the visibility and effectiveness of the consumer movement through lobbying EU institutions and media contacts.

As a consumer expert and advocate, she was member of the EU High-level Expert Group on reforming the structure of the EU banking sector (Liikanen group - 2012), the EU High-level Group on the sustainability of the food supply chain (2011-2014) and the EU Resource Efficiency Platform (2012-2014). She is a delegate in the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change of the European Economic and Social Committee as well as an effective member of the Euro Retail Payments Board. Recently, she has been appointed in the Advisory Group of the European Commission on the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP).

In her capacity as BEUC Director General, Monique is currently EU co-chair of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) a network of EU and US consumer organisations, and she also represents BEUC at Consumers International, the international consumer organisation.

Apart from championing consumer' rights, Monique's passions/challenges are her family, cooking for friends and long walks with her golden retriever.



Gerassimos Thomas

Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission

G. Thomas was appointed Deputy Director General in the Directorate-General for Energy in September 2014. Prior to his current assignment G. Thomas had professional assignments as: Director for Finance and cooperation with EIB Group, EBRD and IFIs in the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), member of the EIB and EIF Board of Directors and observer at the EFSF Board (2009-14); Head of cabinet of Joaquin Almunia, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs (2006-2009); Head of unit - free movement of capital and financial integration in the Directorate-General of Internal Market and Services (DG MARKT) (2004-2006); Deputy Spokesman for Commission President Romano Prodi (2003-2004) and Spokesman for economic and monetary affairs under Commissioner Pedro Solbes (1999-2004); Head of Guarantee Operations in the European Investment Fund (1997-1999); Economist in DG ECFIN dealing with pension system reform policy (1995-1997), international financial issues (1993-1995), regional policy (1992-1993) and financial integration issues (1990-1992); Deputy Manager international fixed-income department Yamaichi Intl, London (1987-1990).

He has studied economics, business administration and international relations in Athens, London and Brussels.



Monica Frassoni

President, EU Alliance to save energy (EU-ASE)
Member of the European Parliament

Monica Frassoni is an Italian politician and Member of the European Parliament from 1999 until 2009, when she was also co-chair of the European Greens–European Free Alliance group in the European Parliament.

Previously she served for 10 years as an officer of the Greens group in the European Parliament and was Secretary General of the Young European Federalists. In late 2010, Frassoni took up the role of President of the European Alliance to Save Energy, a business organization dedicated to promoting energy efficiency across Europe. Furthermore, she currently serves as Co-President of the European Green Party.



Paul Voss

Managing Director, Euroheat & Power

Paul Voss has been Managing Director of Euroheat & Power since late 2013. Previously, he was Head of Public Affairs at Danfoss District Energy, a global leader in District Heating and Cooling (DHC) technology, where he led the company's efforts to engage with policy-makers at global, EU, national and local level. Prior to that, held a number of Brussels-based roles in the field of energy and environment policy

He studied in Canada, France and Belgium and holds a Masters degree in European Public Policy. Paul is passionate about the climate and energy agenda and a vocal advocate of the need to address heating and cooling within this context.



Wendel Trio

Director of Climate Action Network Europe

Wendel Trio is the Director of Climate Action Network Europe. He has 30 years of experience in working for NGOs, including as political director for Oxfam in Belgium, as campaign director for Greenpeace Belgium and as Director of the Policy and Business Unit of Greenpeace International. In that capacity he managed the Greenpeace International climate policy work.

He started working as CAN Europe Director in September 2011. His main tasks include giving strategic guidance, providing high-level political representation, and overall coordination of the 130 NGO members in the CAN Europe network.

Wendel is Belgian and holds an MA in Social Sciences.



Kristian Ruby

Principal Political Adviser, The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA)

Kristian Ruby is the Principal Political Adviser At the European Wind Energy Association, advising the senior management as well as top level industry executives on matters relating to European energy policy and public affairs. In 2014, he worked as Chief Advisor and Manager at Operate A/S, managing a team of consultants working with climate, environment, food and bio resources.

From 2010 to 2013 he was the Assistant to EU Commissioner for Climate Action in European Commission.

From 2007 to 2010 he worked at Danish Ministry of the Environment as Editor and Head of Section and at Danish Ministry of Climate and Energy as the Head of Press, Speechwriter, Special Adviser and Communications Adviser.

From 2002 to 2006, Kristian Ruby worked as a freelance Journalist and Producer at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) and was involved in the research, planning and producing of more than 100 shows for the First Danish Radio (P1).



Oliver Schaefer

President, European Photovoltaic Industry Association

After studying political science and modern history, Oliver Schaefer started working for a member of the European Parliament in Brussels, most active on renewables policy.

Building on this experience, Oliver now counts a total of more than 15 years of experience in the renewable energy policy area, 5 years in the Parliament, 5 years as policy director at EREC and since about five years at SunPower as director for market development, strategy and policy EMEA/APAC, based in Brussels and Berlin.

In March 2014 Oliver Schaefer was elected as the President of the European Photovoltaic Industry Association, EPIA.



Jean-Pol Poncelet
Director-General, FORATOM

Jean-Pol Poncelet is Director General of Foratom, the Trade Association of European Nuclear Industry, and Secretary General of the European Nuclear Society.

He was AREVA's Senior Vice President Sustainable Development and Continuous Improvement from 2008 to 2011, having joined AREVA in February 2006 as an Advisor to the CEO, Anne Lauvergeon. From 2001 to 2005, he was Director of Strategy and External Relations of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Jean-Pol Poncelet was Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Energy in the Belgian Government from 1995 to 1999 and an elected Member of Parliament from 1991 to 2001. Previously, he was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ONDRAF, the Belgian Nuclear Waste Agency. His professional career started with BelgoNucleaire, a nuclear engineering company. He later served as a researcher and a lecturer in renewable energy and environment.

Jean-Pol Poncelet, a Member of the Belgian Royal Society, earned a Master Degree in Nuclear Engineering from the École Polytechnique de Louvain (Belgium) in 1973.



Stephan Brandligt

Deputy-Mayor of Delft, The Netherlands
Board Member of Energy Cities
Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors

Since 2012 Stephan Brandligt is Deputy Mayor of the city of Delft, the Netherlands. As Deputy Mayor he is responsible for the fields of Participation, Sustainable Development and Urban Management. Stephan Brandligt is the Board Member of Energy Cities and Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors.

Stephan Brandligt started his career as a consultant for Coopers and Lybrand (now PWC). After that he co-founded a business in the IT sector. In 2006 he began his political career as a committee member for the GreenLeft party in the city of Delft. In 2008 Stephan Brandligt was elected for the Municipal Council.

Stephan Brandligt has studied Aerospace Engineering at Delft University of Technology. He graduated in 1993.



Marianne Haug

Professor of Energy Policy and Sustainable Development,
University of Hohenheim, Germany

Marianne Haug teaches “Energy Economics, Innovation and Sustainable Development” at the University of Hohenheim, Germany, and is Senior Research Advisor at the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies (OIES), Oxford University, UK. During 2006-2012 she chaired the European Commission’s Advisory Group on Energy. She serves on a number of clean energy related Advisory Boards and Steering Committees across Europe.

She has been involved in the energy sector for more than two decades. First, during her career at the World Bank, inter alia as Director and Senior Advisor to the World Bank President and, then from 2001-2005 as Director at the International Energy Agency (IEA) responsible for Energy Efficiency, Technology Policy, and international Technology Collaboration.

Marianne Haug is an economist and econometrician educated at the Universities of Bonn and Tübingen in Germany, and the Carnegie-Mellon University and Harvard Business School in the US.



Graeme Sweeney

Chairman, Advisory Council of the European Technology Platform of Zero Emission Fossil Fuels Power Plants (ZEP)

Dr Graeme Sweeney is a leading authority on energy, fuels and climate change, drawing on extensive international experience across all aspects of the oil, gas and renewable industries.

Dr Sweeney is currently Chairman of the Advisory Council of the European Technology Platform of Zero Emission Fossil Fuels Power Plants (ZEP). ZEP's unique coalition of stakeholders (utilities, petroleum companies, equipment suppliers, scientists, academics and environmental NGOs) have been instrumental in the development of the EU Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Demonstration programme, providing expert advice to the European Commission on all technical, technology, policy, commercial and other related issues.

Dr Sweeney is also Chair of the energy efficiency start up The Chopping Company Ltd, a Trustee and member of the Climate Change Advisory Board of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Chair of The Scottish CCS Advisory Board, Chair of The UK Energy Research Centre Advisory Board, co-chair of the European Union's CCS Project Network Advisory Forum, a Member of the European Industrial Initiative on CCS under The EU Strategic Energy Technology Plan, and a founding member of the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute. Dr Sweeney currently acts as advisor to the Scottish Government in his position as Chair of the Industrial Leadership Group on Thermal Power and CCS and Member of Scottish First Minister's Energy Advisory Board.

Until 2012, Dr Sweeney was the Executive Vice President CO₂ at Royal Dutch Shell and served on the University of California Davis Institute of Transportation Studies Advisory Board.