

The European Climate Stocktake

EU and global progress towards
the goals of the Paris Agreement

Charlemagne building, Boulevard Charlemagne 52, 1000 Brussels

Meet the speakers

9.30 - 10.45 High-level opening session



Wopke Hoekstra

Commissioner for Climate Action, European Commission

Hoekstra is European Commissioner for Climate Action since 9 October 2023. He leads the European Commission's work on climate change and will represent the European Union at COP28, ensuring continued strong commitment to long-term climate neutrality and the Fit for 55 objectives. Previously, Mr Hoekstra served as the Deputy Prime Minister of the Netherlands and Minister of Foreign Affairs since 2022, and Minister of Finance from 2017 to 2022. Prior to his ministerial experience, he was a Member of the Senate from 2011 to 2017. He worked at McKinsey &

Company until 2017 and in commercial positions at Shell between 2002 and 2004.



Teresa Ribera

Spanish Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge

Teresa Ribera is Deputy Prime Minister of the Spanish Government and Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. Prior to that, Ms Ribera was Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) from 2014 to 2018, and enabled the Institute to play a key role in the negotiation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the transition towards sustainable development. She served as the Spanish Secretary of State for Climate Change and Biodiversity from 2008 to 2011, responsible for environmental and climate policies,

as well as the National Meteorological Agency. A public official from the Senior Corps of State Civil Administrators, she has also taught as professor in public law at the Autonomous University of Madrid.



Cecilia Kinuthia-Njeng

Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Ms. Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga, Director for Intergovernmental Support and Collective Progress, United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC), is an Economist/Urban and Regional Planner with over twenty-seven years of progressive work experience in international sustainable development, climate change and conservation. Her current role involves supporting the Presidency and incoming Presidency of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and facilitating the interaction between governing and subsidiary bodies and the constituted bodies under the climate change Convention.

During the last 30 years, building on her leadership, managerial capacity, establishing strategic partnership and inter-agency cooperation, Cecilia has delivered high-impact projects and programmes that have transformed institutional and governance structures to deliver results and improve the lives of many people around the world. Previously for 10 years (2011-2021), Cecilia served as Head of the UNEP office in Pretoria where she rolled out over 40 programmes on climate change, biodiversity conservation, green economy, circular economy and environmental governance.



Johan Rockström

Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

Johan Rockström is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam. He is an internationally recognized scientist on global sustainability issues and led the development of the Planetary Boundaries framework for human development in the current era of rapid global change. Professor Rockström is a leading scientist on global water resources, with more than 25 years experience in applied water research in tropical regions, and more than 150 research publications in fields ranging from applied

land and water management to global sustainability. He is i.a. member of European Commission expert group: Mission Board for adaptation to climate change including societal transformation, chair of the Earth Commission, Chief Scientist of Conservation International, and elected member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina.

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Ambroise Fayolle

Vice-President, European Investment Bank

Ambroise Fayolle was appointed Vice-President of the European Investment Bank in February 2015. He is currently responsible for climate action and environment, development policy, the European Guarantee Fund, and is Board member of the European Investment Fund. He also oversees the activities of the Bank in France, Germany and many countries in Africa and of the Pacific Ocean. A graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA),

he spent most of his career in various positions at the French Treasury Department and in the IMF and the World Bank, including as a Board member of the two institutions for 8 years.



Valvanera María Ulargui Aparicio

Director General, Spanish Office for Climate Change

Valvanera Ulargui is Director General of the Spanish Climate Change Office of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge. Prior to that, Ms Ulargui was an advisor at the Infrastructure, Environment, Energy and ITCs Division of the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness – ICEX España Exportación e Inversiones – in charge of the climate change department with a focus in promoting the internationalization

of the Spanish companies in the area of climate change. She worked, from 2001 to 2013, at the Spanish Climate Change Office as advisor in charge of the coordination of the Spanish position at the international negotiations on climate change and direct advisor to the General Director on climate change policies.

11.10 - 11.20 Views from European Climate Pact Ambassadors



Nicoleta Talpes

Sustainability Communicator, Founder & Director, Guerrilla Verde

Nicoleta Talpes is a Ph.D. Candidate in Communication Sciences at the Faculty of Journalism, University of Bucharest, Romania, with her research focussing on assessing the influence of documentaries in driving social change. She serves as an Assistant Researcher on the GEMINI project, which promotes Gender Equality through Media Investigation and New Training Insights. As an ambassador for change, she forges alliances with inter-

national bodies for amplified impact. She is also the driving force behind the Green Tech & Film Festival, where films and conferences ignite conversations on green technology and environmental consciousness, and hosts and produces the Sustainable Living Podcast, empowering a worldwide audience with actionable insights and inspiring narratives. She holds a master's degree in European Social Policy and is the Founder and Project Director of Guerrilla Verde, an initiative dedicated to environmental education through innovative platforms.



Udo Engelhardt

Chief Scientist, The Climate Task Force

Udo Engelhardt is Chief Scientist of The Climate Task Force, where he provides science-based facts and analyses for targeted climate mitigation projects aimed at achieving true climate neutrality in cities, regions and businesses alike. In recent years, he focussed on the analyses and communication of global climate trends to a wider audience and became an EU Climate Pact Ambassador in 2021. Prior to that, he led a ten-year research

program into ecological threats to coral communities for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Australia and, in 1998, led a World Bank-funded research program in the Seychelles, studying the long-term effects of climate impacts on both coral and fish communities.

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11.20 - 12.30 Where are we?



Laura Cozzi

Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks, International Energy Agency

Laura Cozzi is Director of Sustainability, Technology and Outlooks at the IEA, where she plans and co-ordinates the IEA's work on energy sustainability, and the Chief Energy Modeller, co-leading the World Energy Outlook. She joined the IEA in 1999 as a junior analyst in the World Energy Outlook team and has been co-leading several editions of the Outlook, as well as multiple reports. Prior to joining the IEA, she worked for the Italian energy company ENI S.p.A.. She holds a Master Degree in Environmental Engineering from Polytechnic Milan, and a Master Degree in Energy and Environmental Economics, from Eni Corporate University.



Leena Ylä-Mononen

Executive Director, European Environment Agency

Leena Ylä-Mononen is Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since June 2023. Before joining the EEA, she was Director General at the Ministry of Environment of Finland, managing the Climate and Environmental Protection Department, and prior to that worked in various management positions in the European Chemicals Agency in Helsinki, as well as in the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) on environmental risk assessment and management of industrial chemicals, biocides and pesticides. She has been involved in international cooperation at the Nordic, European, OECD and global levels, and in negotiations and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals, waste and climate change. She holds a master's degree in environmental sciences, specialising in ecotoxicology and chemicals risk assessment and management.



Audrey Cerdan

Editor-in-chief Weather & Climate, France Télévisions

Audrey Cerdan is Weather and Climate editor at public service broadcaster France Télévisions. She joined the team in 2023 to design and launch the new daily "Journal Météo-Climat", a program that puts the weather coverage in the context of a changing climate. Prior to that, she worked with the non-profit Expertises Climat, a network of climate scientists for a stronger media coverage of the climate crisis. She also worked at the public service news website Franceinfo as an editor-in-chief, with a focus on visual and interactive stories. Cerdan started her career as a visual journalist for Rue89, an independent French news website launched in 2007. In 2014, she spent a year studying at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard.



Yasser Ibrahim

Sector Manager for Environmental, Social and Integrity, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), World Bank

Yasser Mohamed Ibrahim is Sector Manager for Environment, Social, and Integrity at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), leading the teams responsible for work in these areas to ensure projects MIGA supports adhere to its policies and promote development impact. He has worked in the World Bank Group since 2007—first at IFC, joining MIGA in 2012. Prior to the World Bank Group, Ibrahim worked in Egypt as a Project Manager for Barclays Bank, Head of Environment, Health, and Safety for TIPOCO oil and gas services company, and Technical Director for Global Environment Ltd. He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the American University in Cairo.

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Ursula Woodburn

Director, Corporate Leaders Group Europe, CISL Europe

Ursula Woodburn is Director of CISL's Europe office and the Corporate Leaders Group Europe, supporting CISL's work on systems change and leading the work across CISL's Europe office, in particular driving corporate support for a climate neutral, nature positive and sustainable economy. She also leads CISL engagement with the We Mean Business Coalition, in particular around EU policy on climate and its links to international policy and engagement, and directs CLG Europe work with the Green Growth Partnership, which creates a common space

for governments, businesses and parliamentarians to collaborate in support of a greener EU economy. Before that, she led the sustainability practice of Weber Shandwick Brussels, worked in the European Parliament and for an environmental NGO. She holds a Master's degree in Development and Governance from the University of Antwerp and studied Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge.



Elina Bardram

Director, DG CLIMA, Directorate E - Adaptation & Resilience, Communication, and Civil Society

Elina Bardram was appointed Director for "Adaptation & Resilience, Communication, and Civil Society Relations" at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action in October 2022. She joined DG CLIMA in 2010 and has held different senior and middle management functions in the area of international relations, including as Head of the EU Delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations between 2014-2018. Between 2003-2010, she worked in the Strategy Directorate of the External Relations Directorate-General. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Her academic work has focused on the impacts of globalisation.

including as Head of the EU Delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations between 2014-2018. Between 2003-2010, she worked in the Strategy Directorate of the External Relations Directorate-General. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the Vienna University of Economics and Business. Her academic work has focused on the impacts of globalisation.

14.00 – 15.30 Where do we want to go?



HE Simone Rudder

Ambassador of Barbados to the EU

Simone Rudder has had a long career in the Public Service of Barbados, which she joined in 1987. Most of her career - over 30 years - has been with the Foreign Service of Barbados. She has served at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various positions, and her overseas postings include Ottawa, Geneva, Washington D.C., and now Brussels where she is serving as Ambassador of Barbados to the European Union and the

Kingdom of Belgium. Ms. Rudder studied international relations at the University of Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and International Cooperation for Development at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva. Ms. Rudder subsequently undertook a Master in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.



HE Fu Cong

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the EU

Since 2022, Ambassador Fu Cong is Ambassador, Head of Mission of China to the European Union. Previously, he was Director-General of the Department of Arms Control, MFA and from 2014 to 2018, he worked as Deputy Permanent Representative, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary for Disarmament Affairs of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland.

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HE Mark Gitenstein

Ambassador of the United States of America to the EU

Mark Gitenstein is the United States Ambassador to the European Union since 2022. Gitenstein is a lawyer who recently retired from Mayer Brown LLP, where he had served over the last 30 years as partner and counsel. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Romania and began his career with 17 years of service in the U.S. Senate on the Judiciary and Intelligence committees, working i.a. for then-Senator Biden, co-chairing his transition to the vice presidency in 2008 and helping set up his transition to the presidency in 2020. Since 2009 he has focused on preserving and fortifying democracy by ensuring transparency in equity markets, fighting corruption, and strengthening the rule of law. He earned a BA from Duke University and JD from Georgetown Law School, was awarded the Star of Romania, the nation's highest civilian honour, by the president of Romania in 2012, and the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel award for his book Matters of Principle.



Adélaïde Charlier

Co-founder, Youth for Climate

Adélaïde Charlier is the co-founder of Youth For Climate Belgium, and defines herself as an activist for social and climate justice. Over the past years, she contributed to various mobilizations, crossed the Atlantic Ocean by sailboat, participated in conferences such as COP28 and the Amazonia Centro del Mundo summit in Brazil, raised awareness among young people and schools about engagement, and advised the Vice-President of the European Commission Timmermans to support strong measures addressing the challenges of our generation. She has worked with activists from all over the world, such as Greta Thunberg and Anuna de Wever, to deliver her message of the urgency to act in the climate crisis, to various politicians, i.a. Ursula Von Der Leyen, Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron. Besides her activism, she studies Political Science at the College of Europe.



Alexandre Affre

Deputy Director General, BusinessEurope

Alexandre Affre is Deputy Director General at BusinessEurope since 2020, the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level, which speaks for national employers and industrial federations across Europe on all business issues dealt with by the European Union. He is responsible for coordinating the organisation's positions on industrial strategy, energy, climate, environment, research and innovation, as well as entrepreneurship and SMEs, and manages the corporate Advisory and Support Group of BusinessEurope. Prior to that, he worked at the wildlife trade monitoring network of WWF and IUCN. Alexandre is a trained scientist and holds a Master in ecology from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.



Zitouni Ould-Dada

Deputy Director, FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment

Dr Ould-Dada has 26 years' international experience working with the United Nations and the governments of United Kingdom and France in high profile areas including climate change, food security, energy security, technology and innovation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He led negotiations on climate change and technology in the United Nations, and on environmental policy in the European Union. He successfully delivered agreements which contributed to the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. He led many teams from diverse backgrounds and nationalities and delivering results and solutions. Dr Ould-Dada is renowned internationally for his effective leadership, facilitation and diplomatic skills which make him a reliable collaborator for building successful partnerships and initiatives and delivering results.

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Chiara Martinelli

Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Since October 2021, Chiara Martinelli has been the Director of Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, a leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change and promoting sustainable climate, energy and development policies across Europe. She has 16+ years of experience in the development cooperation sector and was a Senior Advisor at CIDSE, the International Family of Catholic Social Justice Organisations prior to joining CAN Europe.

Chiara led CIDSE's work on climate justice, food and agriculture, energy and sustainable lifestyles. Chiara's work in international development began as a volunteer in Benin, West Africa, working on a project for the socio-economic promotion and empowerment of women.



Jacob Werksman

Principal Adviser to DG CLIMA Director-General

Jacob Werksman has, since 2012, served as Principal Adviser to Directorate General for Climate Action in the European Commission, where his work focuses on the international aspects of European climate policy. His responsibilities include leading aspects of the European Union negotiations under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC and advising the Commission with regard to international partnerships to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He supports the Commission Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal and the European External Action Service in strengthening bilateral

relationships between the EU and major economies. Prior to joining the Commission, he held posts at the World Resources Institute, the Rockefeller Foundation, United Nations Development Programme, and the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) in London. He holds degrees from Columbia University (A.B.), the University of Michigan (J.D.) and the University of London (LL.M.).

16.00 - 17.30 How do we get there?



Justyna Mazurkiewicz

LIFE project – Regional Action Plan for Climate and Energy for the Malopolska Region

Justyna Mazurkiewicz is Head of the Climate Team at the Department of the Environment, Marshal's Office of the Malopolska Region, where she implements projects related to climate policy, energy transition and adaptation to climate change. Since 2021, she is Project Manager of the LIFE Integrated Project «LIFE-IP EKO-MALOPOLSKA», which focuses on activities in the field of climate change mitigation. Her work relates to the EU

Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the ERRIN network and the Platform for Coal Regions in Transition. She also works as Coordinator of the START TA and exchange EU projects.



Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera

Global Director of Climate Change & Alliances, Iberdrola

Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera is Global Director of Climate Change and Alliances at the Chairman's Area of Iberdrola. He is also President of the Spanish Green Growth Group, Vice-Chair of the Corporate Leaders Group, Vice-president of the Spanish Association of Energy Economics, member of Birdlife International Advisory Board, member of the board of Energy Economics, Director of the MBA in Energy Business at Enerclub, and founder of

the initiative Dialogues on Energy and Sustainability. He has published several articles in national and international media on energy and climate change, mitigation and adaptation strategies, energy prospective and climate and energy policies. He holds a Ph.D in Applied Environmental Economics by the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and a master's degree in International Political Economy at the University of Warwick (UK).

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Johan Börje

BECCS - Bio energy with carbon capture & storage

Johan Börje has more than 30 years experience in international relations, technology, sustainability, circular economy and energy. At Stockholm Exergi he played a key role in the company's successful application to the first round of grants from the EU Innovation Fund, responsible for the sections on market potential, sales approach, and funding of the project. Today, he leads the work to secure the additional funding for the company's BECCS project, with particular focus on the Voluntary Carbon Market and its demand for carbon removal with permanent storage. In addition to engaging with corporations looking to acquire permanent negative emissions to become net-zero, he is directly involved in policy work related to climate accounting and methodologies for certification of carbon removals. He is also Stockholm Exergi's representative at the Negative Emissions Platform.



Camilla Jain Holtse

Vice President, Head of Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs, A.P. Moller-Maersk

Camilla Jain Holtse is Vice President, Head of Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs at A.P. Moller-Maersk. Before that, she served as Associate General Counsel – Head of Competition Law & Policy in Maersk. Prior to joining Maersk in 2013, she served as a competition lawyer with leading Danish law firms for more than a decade, latest with Gorrissen Federspiel. As global competition counsel for the Maersk Group, Camilla has gained extensive and unique international experience on a wide variety of competition law and other regulatory matters including merger control, antitrust investigations and enforcement actions, joint venture cases, compliance and policy issues. She holds a master's degree from University of Aarhus and did an LL.M in European Law at King's College, University of London



Kristian Ruby

Secretary General, Eurelectric

Kristian Ruby is Secretary General at Eurelectric. Prior to this, he served as Chief Policy Officer at Wind Europe, being in charge of development and implementation of the political strategy, worked as a journalist, and served seven years as a public servant in the Danish Ministries of Environment, and Climate and Energy and in the European Commission in the cabinet of the former Climate Action chief, Connie Hedegaard. He holds a master's degree in history and international development.



Esther Lynch

Secretary General, European Trade Union Confederation

Esther Lynch is the General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation. Previously, Ms Lynch was Deputy General Secretary at the ETUC from 2019 to 2022, following four years as Confederal Secretary. Esther led on social dialogue, collective bargaining and wage policy, trade union rights, gender equality. She has extensive trade union experience at Irish, European and international levels, starting with her election as a shop steward in the 1980s. Before coming to the ETUC, she was the Legislation and Social Affairs Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), where she took part in negotiations on Ireland's National Social Partner Agreements. As Deputy General Secretary and as Confederal Secretary she led successful actions aimed at improving workers and trade union rights in legislative initiatives. A lifelong feminist, Esther is pushing for measures to end the undervaluing of work predominantly done by women.

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Elena López Gunn

Founder and Director of ICATALIST, Climate Pact Ambassador

Elena is Founder and CEO of ICATALIST, where she focuses on driving strategic projects related to climate change adaptation and sustainability for different stakeholders. Further, she is a member of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, lead author of IPCC Working Group II on adaptation, vulnerability and impacts, a Climate Pact ambassador, and part of the Scientific Council of the Royal Elcano Institute. She collaborated as an Expert in the Spanish Citizens' Climate Assembly. She was a Fellow at the London School of

Economics, an Associate Professor at IE Business School, and a Senior research fellow at the Botin Foundation Water Observatory. She has collaborated with several organizations, including UNESCO, FAO, UNDP, universities, public authorities including river basin agencies, as well as with the European Commission.



Marta Messa

Secretary General, Slow Food

Marta Messa is Secretary General of the global grassroots Slow Food movement, dedicating herself intensively to the coordination of the movement worldwide. She joined Slow Food in 2010, where she initially coordinated the development of agroecological projects in Africa, with field work in 9 African countries. Since 2014 she has been liaising with EU institutions on policies relating to food, giving a

platform to the international Slow Food network and developing strategic partnerships with other organizations active at the European level. United World College Alumni, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Politics and International studies from University of Warwick, UK, and a Master's degree in Economics and Politics from University of Freiburg, Germany.



Yvon Slingenberg

Director, DG CLIMA, Directorate A - Strategy, Analysis & Planning

Yvon Slingenberg is Director for Strategy, Analysis & Planning and Acting Deputy Director-General in DG Climate Action of the European Commission. Since end 2020, she is responsible for Climate strategy, Governance and Emissions from Non-trading Sectors. Before that, she was Director responsible for International Affairs and between 2015 and 2016 she was Senior Adviser in the Cabinet of Commis-

sioner Arias Cañete for Climate Action and Energy. Prior to that, she was Head of Unit in charge of the "Implementation of the EU Emissions Trading System» and of chemicals policy (REACH) in DG Environment. She is a lawyer of Dutch nationality with a degree in international law (specialisation in environmental law) from the University of Amsterdam.

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17.30 - 17.45 Conclusion



Kurt Vandenberghe

Director-General, DG CLIMA

Kurt was appointed Director General of DG CLIMA on 16 January 2023. Until then, he was the Green Deal and Health advisor to President Ursula von der Leyen since 1 December 2019. He had joined the cabinet of the President coming from DG Research and Innovation where he was Director for Policy & Programming since 1 February 2016 and Acting Director for Research & Innovation Outreach since 1 June 2019. Before that, he was Director for 'Climate action and resource efficiency' at DG Research and Innovation since July 2013. He served in the Cabinet of Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin (1999-2004) and as Head of the Cabinet of Janez Potočnik, who was Commissioner for Research and Innovation (2004-2009) and subsequently for Environment (from 2010). Kurt joined the European Commission in 1996 as co-ordinator of the Commission's Intermodal Transport Task Force and of the Transport Research Programme. Before entering the Commission, Kurt worked for 4 years as a manager at Ernst & Young Association Management, where he set up, managed and represented international trade associations. After reading French and Italian literature at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL) and obtaining a degree in Public and International Affairs at the University Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), Kurt gained a Master of Arts degree in International Relations at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (S.A.I.S.) in Bologna, Italy and Washington D.C., US.

Master of Ceremony



Katarzyna Balucka-Debska

DG CLIMA

Kasia is knowledgeable in policies related to: climate transition and sustainability, SMEs, startups and scaleups in the single market and across regions; innovation; technological and social innovations for societal challenges and transformations. She is a practitioner in civic participation, outreach to stakeholders and citizens, new forms of collaboration, co-creation and leadership. Kasia is interested in how entrepreneurs, change-makers and public services can work together in solving societal challenges. How 'triple bottom line' i.e. companies and organisations who care for profit as well as people and planet can strive, delivering environmental sustainability and socio-economic wellbeing. She work in DG CLIMA, at the European Commission, since 2005. Previously, she worked in business development, journalism and communication.