

“The Single Market: Taking it seriously”

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Biographies



Mr Markus J. Beyrer
Director General of BusinessEurope

Markus J. Beyrer has been Director General of BusinessEurope since late 2012.

Prior to this he held the positions of CEO of the Austrian Industry Holding ÖIAG, Director General of the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV) and Director for Economic Affairs of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. Before this Mr Beyrer served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. In the 1990s he worked on Austria's accession to the European Union and the integration of Austria into the European Single Market (at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union and the European Commission).

In addition to his executive positions, Mr Beyrer held a number of non-executive board functions in various Austrian industrial companies and was a member of the non-executive board of the Austrian Central Bank.

Mr Beyrer read law and Commercial Sciences in Vienna, graduating in Law at the University of Vienna. Later he completed postgraduate studies in European law at the Danube University in Krems (Austria) and the Stanford Executive Program at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Mr Beyrer is married with two children.



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Mr Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President of the European Commission
Commissioner Jobs, Growth, Investment and
Competitiveness

Jyrki Katainen is currently Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. He joined the college in July 2014 as Vice-President for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the euro.

Before that he served as Prime Minister of Finland, 2011 - 2014 and Minister of Finance, 2007 - 2011. He was Member of Finnish Parliament 1999 - 2014 for the National Coalition Party (Kokoomus).

He was Member of the Finnish Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly 2003 - 2007, Member of the Administrative Council of the Finnish Broadcasting Company 2003 - 2005, Member of the Finish Delegation to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly 2004 - 2005 and the Deputy Member of the Finnish Delegation to the Nordic Council 2001 -2003.

Jyrki Katainen has MSc in Political Science from the University of Tampere, Finland (1998) and he did an Erasmus exchange year at the University of Leicester, UK.

His hobbies are running, cycling and tennis.

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Mr Matteo Borsani
Confindustria, Italy
Moderator Panel I

Matteo Borsani is the Managing Director of Confindustria to the EU. Matteo Borsani's overall responsibility is setting and implementing the strategies of the office and managing Confindustria's budget. He thereby coordinates a team of 20 people, reports to Confindustria's Director General and Vice president of European Affairs and he is representative of Confindustria to European Institutions and key stakeholders.

Matteo Borsani held already the Senior Manager and adviser functions at Confindustria prior to becoming Managing Director. In addition, he is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee and the founder and member of the board of the Italian Business Network. Upon request, he lectures at the Catholic University of Milan on lobbying at European level.

Matteo Borsani studied Political Sciences at the University of Pavia and holds a Master degree in European Studies. He speaks three languages including Italian, French and English.

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Mr Joe Hackett
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union

Born and raised in Dublin, Joe joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1995 and has since served in a variety of positions at HQ and abroad.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union, he served as Permanent Representative to the EU's Political & Security Committee from 2013-2017.

He also has extensive experience of managing Ireland's bilateral relationship with the United States and engaging with our global Diaspora and international business community.



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Ms Esther Lynch
Confederal Secretary with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Esther Lynch is currently serving as Confederal Secretary with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) where her responsibilities include the Health and Safety dossier.

Esther has extensive trade union and legal experience at Irish, European and international level and has played a key role developing trade union Health and Safety policy and practices.

Ms Lynch is currently a Board Member of the European Chemicals Agency (2015- to date). Previously she served as a Board Member of the Health & Safety Authority of Ireland (2006-2012) and the Irish government's advisory body on *Better Regulation & Company Law Reform*.

Ms Lynch is the author of the ICTU guide on negotiating polices to assist workers with breast cancer to return to work. She has spearheaded a number of trade union health and safety campaigns, on issues such as effective risk assessments for MSDs, ending occupational cancer and in 2016, she concluded the 'Covenant on raising awareness and exchanging good practices to deal with risks arising from occupational exposure to carcinogens' with Business Europe, the EU Commission and EUOSHA.

A key focus of Esther's work during the second half of 2017 will be the revision of the EU Health and Safety Directives and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

She holds a BSc in Management and Law. Is certified in Corporate Governance and remains a Senior Adjunct Lecturer in Law at the National University of Ireland (Maynooth).

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Mr Janne Känkänen
Under Secretary for State for EU and International Affairs
Corporate Steering Unit at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment of Finland
Chairman of the EU Council Competitiveness & Growth High-Level Group

Janne Känkänen has worked in demanding expert and management positions over a period of 20 years, both internationally and in a national (Finnish) context, at the European Commission and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Finland). More specifically, he has more than 10 years of management experience, including in challenging change management situations.

Currently, Mr Känkänen serves as the head of EU and international affairs at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (Under Secretary for State for EU and International Affairs). Mr Känkänen has led and managed several high-profile public policy projects.

Mr Känkänen has unparalleled knowledge of the interface between the private and public sectors, and has strategic level understanding of regulatory and industrial policy issues affecting businesses operating in Finland, in Europe and globally. He has deep knowledge of public affairs, both at national and European level. Having worked both in Europe and in Asia, Mr Känkänen also possesses a long experience as well as an aptitude to operate in multi-cultural environments.

Mr Känkänen comes with an extensive knowhow of BoD work from a variety of fields (maritime and mining industries in particular), and currently serves i.e. as the chairman of the Board of Terrafame Group Oy and as a member of the Advisory Board of Meyer Turku Oy.

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***Mr Paul Coebergh van den Braak
Chair of BusinessEurope’s Free Movement of
Goods Working Group (Philips)***

Paul Coebergh van den Braak is with Philips Intellectual Property and Standards where he is globally responsible for a companywide strategic standardization program including regulatory legal frameworks and standards. In this role he advises the businesses on legal compliance matters, and chairs the BusinessEurope working group for Free Movement of Goods on the EU Single Market. His in-company position and external engagements gave him many insights in the practical application of EU regulations and their enforcement.

Paul holds masters in Mathematics and Business Administration and has 35 years of experience in various companies including products, projects and service businesses, small, mid-size and large companies, and professional as well as consumer markets.

The early part of his career he was in various managerial positions in product and technology development. He moved into standardization and regulatory affairs in 2006.

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Ms Milena Jabůrková
Vice President of the Board of the Confederation of Industry
Czech Republic

Milena Jabůrková is Vice President of the Board of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic and the first woman to be elected to this office. In the Board she is responsible for the digital economy and education. Milena Jabůrková specializes in human resources, investment, international trade and technological development.

Milena is a member of leadership team IBM Central Region. In her capacity as Government and Regulatory Affairs Executive she is responsible for IBM's relations with the public administration in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and for supporting the company business strategies in the region.

Milena has extensive experience in government, NGO and in the private sector. She started her career in social services.

Milena studied social policy at Charles University in Prague and undertook her post-graduate studies in economy and international development at Victoria University of Manchester.

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Mr Malcolm Harbour CBE
Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre

Malcolm Harbour CBE is a Senior Adviser to the European Policy Centre and to the CEO Advisors Teneo. He is a Member of the Governing Council of the University of Birmingham. He was Conservative MEP for the UK West Midlands from 1999 to 2014. From 2009 to 2014 he served as Chairman of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, and as EPP-ED Internal Market Co-Ordinator 2004-2009. He was Vice President of the European Parliament's Science and Technology Foresight Panel, an active member of the Delegation to the Japanese Parliament and the Transatlantic Policy Network. He was appointed a CBE for services to the UK economy in 2013. Before EU politics, Malcolm spent 32 years in the motor industry, as an engineer, a senior commercial executive, a consultant and a researcher.



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Mr Olivier Joris
FEB-VBO, Belgium
Moderator Panel II

Olivier Joris is executive Manager of the European and International Affairs Department at Federation of Enterprises Belgium (FEB). He is coordinating FEB activities on EU and international dossiers by mainly overseeing position papers and events and maintaining lobby contacts with EU Institutions or Belgian Authorities.

In addition, Olivier Joris is FEB's permanent representative to the umbrella organisation BusinessEurope and he is a member (alternate) of the European Economic and Social Committee.

Olivier Joris' previous functions at FEB have been Executive Manager to the EU and International Affairs Department and Head of Communications.

Olivier also briefly worked at the European Parliament in 1997, before working from 1998 until 2001 for Bankcard Company (processing of the VISA and MasterCard transactions in BE) where he was responsible for the communication on the introduction of the EURO.

Olivier Joris is post-graduate in EU & International Law and holds a degree in Political Sciences. He speaks French, Dutch, English and Italian.

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***Mr William Sleath
Director Citizens, Migration and Security Union,
Secretariat-General, European Commission***

William Sleath was appointed a Director for policy coordination in the Commission’s Secretariat-General in March 2017. He was previously Head of Unit responsible for coordination of home, justice, health and consumer policies, as well as the Cooperation and Verification Mechanisms with Bulgaria and Romania. He previously worked in the team of the Secretary-General Catherine Day, after responsibilities in the Secretariat-General for programming, the 2005-06 Financial Perspectives negotiations, and as a member of the Commission’s task force on the future of the Union. He also served as Head of the Political Affairs Unit in the European Commission Representation in London. He joined the Commission in 1993, working in Brussels on EU political and trade relations with China and Hong Kong, having previously been a Clerk in the House of Lords in London. In 2011, he also spent half a year as the European Union Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Massachusetts.

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Mr Johannes Kleis
Director, BEUC

Johannes Kleis has joined The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) in 2010. BEUC represents 43 national consumer organisations from more than 32 European countries.

As Director of Communications Johannes oversees BEUC's communications outreach, media relations and internal communications activities. Johannes has been team leader on energy and is a member of the trade and digital policy teams. Johannes was the alternate of BEUC's Director General in the European Commission's Advisory Group on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Before joining BEUC, Johannes worked as a communications consultant for Ketchum Pleon, one of the world's leading public relations agencies. While at the Eberhard von Kuenheim Foundation of the BMW Group, Johannes worked on entrepreneurship and education projects. Prior to that, he briefly worked for the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Budapest. He studied political sciences, sociology and communications at the Catholic University of Brussels and Leuven as well as international economic affairs at the Andrassy Gyula University of Budapest.



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Mr Ignacio Mezquita
Economic and Financial Counsellor
Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU

Ignacio Mezquita is the Economic and Financial Counsellor of the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU.

Ignacio Mezquita did a 5-year degree in Economics and Business Administration at the Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. Shortly after his studies, he became a member of the Corps of Public Economists and Trade Experts to the Spanish Ministry of Economy.

From that point on, Ignacio Mezquita held various positions such as Advisor to the Spanish Minister for Industry and Energy, Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Spanish Embassies of Dakar and Beijing and he was Director General for Economic Policy at the Spanish Secretary of State for Economy.

Ignacio Mezquita's other activities involve being a member of different boards including the Steering Board of the Spanish Resolution Fund (FROB) and the General Board of the Spanish National Promotional Bank (ICO).



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Mr Taneli Lahti
Director, EU and Trade Policy
Confederation of Finnish Industries EK

Taneli Lahti is a Professor of Practice at Turku School of Economics and Director for EU affairs and Trade Policy at the Confederation of Finnish Industries EK. He is a graduate of the Turku School of Economics and a Doctor of Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Nürnberg and Erlangen.

Mr Lahti worked on EU-Russia economic relations from 1998 to 2008, first for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland and then, since 2004 for the European Commission. He was twice posted in diplomatic missions in Moscow, in the Embassy of Finland from 1998 to 2001 and in the Delegation of the European Commission from 2006 to 2008.

Thereafter, from 2009 to 2016, Mr Lahti worked on EU's economic and financial policies, as an adviser to Commission vice-President Olli Rehn, and as Head of Cabinet to vice-Presidents Jyrki Katainen and Valdis Dombrovskis.

From October 2016 onwards he is heading EK advocacy on EU and trade policies, sharing his working time between Brussels and Helsinki.

In 2018 he was appointed professor of practice at the Turku School of Economics, lecturing on EU economy and EU-Russia economic relations.

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Mr Torsten Albig
Vice-President & Head of Brussels Corporate Representation
Deutsche Post DHL Group

Albig is 55 years old. He studied tax, labour and commercial law. He passed his exams in 1992 and worked in various German ministries and in the financial sector in Frankfurt/M.

From 1 February 2006 to the end of May 2009, Albig was spokesman for SPD Federal Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück and head of communications at the Federal Ministry of Finance. In 2008 he additionally took over the management of the legal department and service in the BMF.

From 2009 to 2012 Albig was the Lord Mayor of Kiel, the state capital of Schleswig-Holstein. From 2012 to 2017 Albig was Minister-President of Schleswig-Holstein.

In the negotiations to form a Grand Coalition of Christian Democrats and the SPD following the 2013 federal elections, Albig was part of the SPD delegation in the working group on transport, building and infrastructure.

In 2015, Albig – alongside First Mayor of Hamburg Olaf Scholz – negotiated a restructuring deal with the European Commission that allowed the German regional lender HSH Nordbank to offload 6.2 billion euros in troubled assets – mainly non-performing ship loans – onto its government majority owners and avoid being shut down, saving around 2,500 jobs. Since 2018, Albig has been serving as Vice President and Head of Corporate Representation of Deutsche Post DHL Group in Brussels.



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Mr Hajo Friedrich
EU correspondent *Deutsche Handwerks Zeitung*

Hajo Friedrich entered the Brussels bubble in 1989. Coming from Berlin, where he studied Political Science and Economy at the Free University of Berlin (academic grade: Diplom-Politologe) and worked in a peace and conflict-research institute.

In Brussels he worked at the beginning for a consulting company specialized in the policy-fields human resources and vocational training. Advice for applicants of EU-programs was one important field of activity.

Since more than 25 years Hajo is working as freelance journalist for different German media. Meanwhile he is offering many other services: moderation in Brussels and Germany on EU-topics and media-training and – advise for companies, associations and individuals.

Another specialty are Hajo’s “walk & talk”- tours through the Brussels EU-quarter - between Rond-Point Schuman and Place Luxembourg.

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Dr Andreas Schwab
Member of the European Parliament (EPP)

Andreas Schwab has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2004. Born in 1973, he studied law at the University of Freiburg and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, and obtained an L.L.M. from the University of Wales in 2000.

He worked as a consultant for the European Convention in the Department of European Affairs of the Baden-Württemberg State Ministry while obtaining a doctorate in law in 2002 and absolving his second state law exam in 2003.

He is the EPP Group Coordinator in the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, a substitute Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, a member of the Bureau of the EPP Group as well as Chairman of the CDU Südbaden.



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Ms Cosmina MIU

Minister Plenipotentiary, Head of section Competitiveness, Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union, EU Council Presidency

Ms. Cosmina MIU, mechanical engineer, graduated the University „POLITEHNICA” Bucharest, faculty of Machines Building technology in 1984. Ms. Miu is married and has two children.

Currently is head of section Competitiveness at the Permanent Representation of Romania to EU, acting as industry attaché, responsible for industrial policy, SME, Technical harmonisation and Standardization.

Previously Ms. Miu worked in a company for production of oilfield equipment and valves, UPET SA, in Târgoviste, in a research and design organisation for automation, IPA S.A, Bucharest and in the Ministry of Industry and Economy of Romania.

She followed training in the field of Design and improvement of production systems, Innovation, Technology Foresight and Sustainable Development.