

Commission européenne

bioeconomy

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#bioeconomy

Sustainable & circular bioeconomy, the European way

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY

Axelos Monique



Ms Axelos holds a doctoral degree in Physics and has received advanced training in interfacial problems given by Professor De Gennes at the Collège de France, Paris. Since 1985, she has conducted at INRA research at the interface between physics and biology on fractal aggregation, biopolymer gelation and phase separation, and more recently on foams and emulsions stability using X-ray and neutron scattering. Her research results led to 110 publications, h index 33. From 2008 to 2016, she was the head of the Science and Engineering of Agricultural Products division. During this period, she was also the coordinator of a European project, which aims in developing food models to facilitate a common approach to risk assessment and nutritional quality for food research and industry. At the European level, she coordinates the strategic working group of the Standard committee for Agriculture Research (SCAR) on “Food systems”. She currently works as scientific director for Food and Bioeconomy at INRA.

Catia Bastioli



Ms Bastioli is a chemist, a researcher and an entrepreneur. She is the CEO of Novamont, Matrìca and Mater Biotech, as well as the President of Mater-Biopolymer, of Terna S.p.A. (leading independent grid operator for energy transmission), of the Kyoto Club Association and of the Italian Technological Cluster of Green Chemistry SPRING. Ms Bastioli has been developing and field-studying the model of biorefineries integrated in the local areas where the primary objective is an efficient use of resources with a focus on high value-added products (biochemicals), short value chains and a system-based economy. This represents a cultural development model based on territorial regeneration that starts from decommissioned chemical sites and uses local biodiversity and scraps in order to give origin to renewable raw materials,

capitalising research and innovation and involving different stakeholders (institutions, research bodies, actors of the agricultural and industrial world). Ms Bastioli has been a member of important EU working groups on climate change, environment and renewable raw materials – such as the European Commission High Level Panel on Decarbonisation Pathways Initiative and the Bioeconomy Panel. As a prime inventor of around 80 patent families in the sector of biopolymers and transformation processes of renewable raw materials, Ms Bastioli received the award “European Inventor of the Year 2007” by the European Patent Office and the European Commission, for her inventions related to starch-based bioplastics between 1991 and 2011.

Orla Feely



Ms Feely is Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact and a Professor of Electronic Engineering at University College Dublin. She holds a BE degree from University College Dublin and MS and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, where her PhD thesis won the DJ Sakrison Memorial Prize for outstanding and innovative research. While at UC Berkeley, she also won the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. Having received research grants and prizes from a number of national, international and industry sources, she leads a research group in nonlinear circuits. Professor Feely is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a Fellow of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers), Engineers Ireland and the Irish Academy of Engineering. She has served as Chair of the Irish Research Council and of the IEEE Technical Committee on Nonlinear Circuits and Systems, and as a member of a number of Editorial Boards. She is a director of the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and a member of the Higher Education Authority.

Mathiew Flamini



Mr Flamini is a partner of GFBiochemicals, the leading global producer of levulinic acid and derivatives. He co-founded the business seven years ago with the ambition of finding sustainable alternatives to oil-based products.

Mr Flamini is also the President of Wega, the first acoustic payment and identity smartcard FIDO certified. He has always been interested in new technology and has played an active role in developing his businesses alongside his career at

AC Milan, Arsenal and Crystal Palace as a professional football player. At the World Bio Markets Awards in 2016, he was nominated as Bio-based Business Person of the Year. He is also a member of the Paris 2024 Olympic Environmental Excellence Committee. Mr Flamini was part of the team that created BIOCIRCE, Europe's first Masters' degree dedicated to bioeconomy, through GFBiochemical's collaboration with several leading Italian universities.

In addition, Mr Flamini co-founded the BioJournal, the world's first e-magazine devoted entirely to the bio-world and eco-sustainability.

Ikka Hämälä,



Mr Hämälä has been the President & Chief Executive Officer of Metsä Group since April 2018. He has previously served as the CEO of Metsä Fibre (formerly Oy Metsä-Botnia Ab), a part of Metsä Group since 2008. He is also the chairperson of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation as well as a member of CEPI Board (Confederation of European

Paper Industries). He is a member of the Board of Directors of The Finnish Quality Association and a member of the Supervisory Board of Ilmarinen Mutual Pension Insurance Company.

Mr. Hämälä obtained his M.Sc. degree in Engineering from the Helsinki University of Technology in 1986.

Lucrezia Lamastra



Ms Lamastra is a researcher at the Department of Sustainable Food Production of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore since 2013. Alongside the analytical activities in the laboratory she demonstrates a growing interest in the theme of Sustainability, which leads her to coordinate and participate in various projects of national and international interest. She is coordinator of VIVA, a project of the Italian Ministry of the Environment for the sustainability of Italian Viticulture, of two PEI-AGRI projects related to circular economy (SCOOTER and FLAMBE), and participate in a LIFE project related to the sustainability of the dairy sector (TTGG). **Ms Lamastra is a graduate from the University of Turin** in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies. She obtained her PhD by attending Agrisystem, a PhD school for the agro-food system, at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Piacenza in 2010.

Christine Lang



Ms Lang is an entrepreneur in biotechnology and a consultant to the German government on bioeconomy co-chairing the German Bioeconomy Council. She is an Associate Professor for Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at Technical University Berlin and vice-president of the German Association of General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM). In 2001, Ms Lang founded and established the company Organobalance GmbH as an R&D facility to develop novel microbial active ingredients and strains for food, feed, personal care and pharma applications. Since September 2016, Organobalance is a part of Novozymes S.A. whereas Ms Lang served as the company's CEO until June 2018. Christine Lang is also a co-founder and partner of BELANO medical AG focused on production and sales of microbiotic products for human health.

Sveinn Margeirsson



Mr Margeirsson was born and raised on a farm in Skagafjordur, Iceland. He obtained a BSc in Food Science, a PhD in Industrial Engineering and graduated from the Harvard Business School General Management Program in 2015. Since 2010, he is the CEO of Matis. **Mr Margeirsson**'s research experience includes working with several seafood companies, IT companies and universities, in Iceland and internationally. He has supervised MSc and PhD students and played an active role in science and innovation policy making in Iceland and Bioeconomy policy making in Europe.

Erik Mathijs



Mr Mathijs is the Director of SFERE (Sustainable Food Economies Research Group) and Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven. He holds a Master's degree in Bioscience Engineering (1991) and a PhD in Agricultural Economics (1998), both from KU Leuven. His research focuses on the practices, metrics and policies fostering the transformation of the European agricultural and food system towards sustainability and resilience. Prof. Mathijs is involved in several EU projects that relate to risk management, new entrants and market management. He is coordinator of the FP7 project TRANSMANGO (Assessment of the impact of drivers of change on Europe's food and nutrition security) and the H2020 project SUFISA (Sustainable finance for sustainable agriculture and fisheries). He is also WP leader in the H2020 projects SURE-FARM (Towards SUsustainable and REsilient EU FARMing systems) and NEWBIE (New Entrant netWork: Business models for Innovation, entrepreneurship and resilience). He acted respectively as rapporteur and chair of the expert group of the 3rd (2011) and 4th (2015) Foresight Exercise for the EU's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR).

Andrew McDowell



Mr McDowell joined the European Investment Bank as Vice-President on 1st of September, 2016. He is the first Irish member of the bank's Management Committee for 12 years. Prior to joining the European Investment Bank, Mr McDowell was Economic Advisor to the Taoiseach, Ireland's Prime Minister from 2011 to 2016. He has 20 years of experience in economic policy and public service management. Prior to working for the Taoiseach, Andrew was Chief Economist at the Irish Business Development Agency, Forfás, and European Deputy Editor at the Economist Intelligence Unit. He holds an MBA from the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business and studied at John Hopkins University and University College Dublin.

Jos B. Peeters



Mr Peeters is the Founder and Chairman of the Executive Committee of Capricorn Venture Partners, an independent European manager of venture capital and equity funds investing in innovative European companies with technology as competitive advantage. Capricorn Venture Partners is based in Leuven, Belgium, and licensed by the FSMA (the Financial Services and Markets Authority in Belgium). He is currently managing the Capricorn Sustainable Chemistry Fund, the Capricorn ICT Arkiv Fund, the Capricorn Health-tech Fund and the Capricorn Cleantech Fund. Capricorn Venture Partners is the management company of Quest for Growth and the investment manager to the Quest Cleantech and Quest+ Funds. Mr Peeters is regarded as one of the pioneers of the European venture capital industry, being active in this area since 1985. He is a founder and director of EASDAQ, which is relaunched as Equiduct, a regulated market for secondary trading in Europe. He has also served as a chairperson of Invest Europe, the European association for private equity, venture capital and infrastructure (previously EVCA). Ms Peeters holds a PhD in Solid State Physics from the University of Leuven and has worked at Bell Telephone

Manufacturing Cy, PA Technology and BeneVent Management, before starting Capricorn Venture Partners.

Tiago Pitta e Cunha



Mr Pitta e Cunha has been working on ocean policies for two decades, as a policymaker in the United Nations, the Government of Portugal, the European Commission and as an independent consultant. He has been an advocate of the strategic importance of the oceans and seas both for Portugal and for Europe, in Lisbon and in Brussels. He is currently working as Chief Executive Director for the Oceano Azul Foundation. He was former counselor for Environment, Science and Maritime Affairs to the President of Portugal.

Josef Plank



Mr Plank has been Secretary-General at the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism since January 2018. The new large ministry is responsible for agriculture, forestry, environment, water management, energy, mining, tourism, regional policy and structural funds. Before the ministry Mr Plank worked for the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture as Secretary-General from August 2016, as Deputy Secretary-General earlier the year 2016 and Head of Department in 2015. During the years 2009 - 2015 he was the Managing Director of RENERGIE, a renewal energy company [and he was the President at Austrian Biomass Association (2015 – 2017) and at Renewable Energy Association (2011 – 2015)]. During 2000 – 2009 Mr Plank was the regional Minister for Agriculture, Environment, Nature Conservation, Disaster Control and Energy in Lower Austria. [Before that he worked in the paying agency (Agrarmarkt Austria) as the Chairman (1996 – 2000) and as Head of Livestock Department 1993 – 1996.]

Katrina Sichel



Ms Sichel is a London-born, Brussels-based moderator with a degree in Modern Languages from Oxford University. A former TV producer, she put together news packages for the BBC, Sky News, Channel 4, AP and Reuters, interviewing well-known figures from the arts, fashion and political arenas. Since 2007, Katrina has been moderating events large and small covering diverse topics and policy areas, from R&I, social affairs, finance and digitisation, to agriculture, environment, energy, fisheries and health. Alongside, until 2017, she managed the development and roll-out across Europe of multimedia, multi-lingual communications campaigns targeting the public, and EU and national stakeholders from diverse sectors. Katrina speaks fluent French, rusty Russian and a dash of German.

Michał Skwierczyński



Mr Skwierczyński is a specialist in state aid law and financing of innovative projects. Throughout his career, he has provided consulting service to the biggest Polish and international companies. For over 5 years he was a Manager of Grants and Incentives Department in Big4 advisory companies. He has also provided number of trainings on the EU Funds for companies and authorities. His professional experience includes project management, board membership in a few companies, their representation and shareholder. Mr **Skwierczyński** joined Selena Labs in 2018 and he is the coordinator of Biomotive project (financed from Horizon 2020 Programme).

Anna Trettenero



Ms Trettenero is a graduate from the University of Padua, Italy, in agricultural science. She has served as a vice President of Young Farmers Association (2004-2007) and as a coordinator of the Bioenergy Group. Ms Trettenero has attended the Fuel Ethanol Workshop, USA 2004 Edition, with the presentation of “Building a strategy for Ethanol production in Italy”. She was the president of Confagricoltura Venezia Farmers Union from 2007 to 2013 and member of the European Conservation Agriculture Federation Board of Directors from 2011 to 2015.. Ms Trettenero has participated in EIP-AGRI Focus Group “Enhancing renewable energy production on farm” (2017). She is the co-founder and managing partner of 1MWe biogas in the Province of Pavia, Italy, where thermal energy is re-used for Alfalfa dehydration and a co-founder and managing partner of an innovative start-up based in Bozen, Italy, for vegetable isolate protein production.. Ms Trettenero runs a 100 Ha row crop farm on Conservation Agriculture in North Eastern Italy.

Jochen Weiss



Mr Weiss holds a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Karlsruhe in Germany and a Ph.D. degree in Food Science from the University of Massachusetts. He currently works as full Professor at the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany, where he leads the Food Physics and Meat Science Department at the Institute of Food Science and Biotechnology. His research work focuses on fundamental and applied physical phenomena and material behavior of foods with an emphasis on using novel raw materials to engineer food structure. Over the past years, he has authored and coauthored more than 280 research articles on food science and engineering in refereed journals, 15 book chapters, 2 books and 7 patents. He was named twice a highly cited researcher in the field of Food & Agriculture by Thomson-Reuter. Prof. Weiss served as Vice President of the University

of Hohenheim from 2011-2017, but relinquished the post to work for a year until January 218 as Interim Director of Education in EIT Food, the European Unions' latest Knowledge and Innovation Community. He also serve as the academic co-chair of the European Technology Platform Food4Life since 2015.