



## **Biographies of the speakers:**



**Séamus Boland** has been President of the EESC's Civil Society Organisations' Group since October 2020 and an EESC Member since 2011. He is the Group's designated candidate for the EESC Presidency 2025-2028. Mr Boland has held different roles at the Committee, including the Vice Presidency of the Civil Society Organisations' Group (2018-2020). His policy and political interests include the eradication of poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Mr Boland currently sits on the SOC, REX and ECO Sections of the Committee as well as on the CCMI. In addition to the Group Presidency, he holds several other roles outside the EESC.

Mr Boland has been CEO of Irish Rural Link since 2001, a Board Member of Inland Fisheries Ireland since 2018 and Chair of Peatlands Council since 2012. He is a farmer and has worked in civil society for over 40 years, including with young people, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people living in rural isolation. Séamus Boland is a trained Speech and Drama Educator.



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**Sophie Hæstorp Andersen** is the Danish Minister for Social Affairs and Housing. She has been holding the position since August 2024. She has previously been the Member of the Folketing for the Social Democratic Party in Greater Copenhagen greater constituency from 2007 to 2013, and Member of the Folketing for The Social Democratic Party in Western Copenhagen constituency in 2007 and from 2001 to 2005. During her parliamentary career, she has held the positions of Chairwoman of the Health and Prevention Committee, from 2012 to 2013, Spokeswoman on housing, from 2007 to 2009, Spokeswoman on immigration and integration and Spokeswoman on IT in 2007. She holds a MSc in political science from the University of Copenhagen. She was previously employed as Head of section in the Social Services Department at the Copenhagen Municipality from 2006 to 2007.



**Henrik Møller** has been Member of the Folketing for the Social Democratic Party in the North Zealand greater constituency since June 2019. He has been the Vice-Chairman of the Danish delegation to the Nordic Council since 2024, the Chairman on the Housing Committee and the Vice-Chairman of the European Affairs Committee since 2023, and Spokesman on Europe since 2022. He has previously been the Spokesman on labour market from 2020 to 2022, Vice Chairman of the European Affairs Committee from 2020 to 2023, the Spokesman on housing from 2019 to 2020, the Vice-chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee from 2019-2020 and the Spokesman on tourism from 2019 to 2021. He is a teacher, and was previously employed in Nordvestskolen (school) in Helsingør from 2004 to 2005 and in Roskilde Højskole (residential school) from 1992 to 1999.



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**Nicholas Ransome** is the Managing Director at Lendager, a Nordic company committed to moving the construction industry towards sustainability through rethinking existing buildings and maximising material reuse and recycling. Trained as an architect and urban planner, he has worked at Lendager for 10 years in different positions and is currently responsible for the company's management, business development and operations. He works with a holistic perspective on leadership and has continually worked on professionalising Lendager's internal processes to ensure that the company delivers top-notch consulting and architectural services. He has been involved in many of Lendager's most ground-breaking projects as an architect and sustainability consultant and has built a solid understanding of what enables the green transition in the built environment, for example by using circular processes, business models and materials.



**Marianne Lundberg** lives in the Danish housing association AB Hørsholm Kokkedal, a non-profit housing organisation with 1,023 rental homes located across two municipalities. For several decades, she has been actively involved in the important work concerning social housing and its residents. She has also served as chair of the housing association for the past 18 years.

Passionate about making a difference, strengthening tenant democracy, ensuring healthy and safe homes for all, and contributing to the environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.

As a spokesperson for the residents, she finds it crucial that civil society organisations are included from the very beginning of virtually all development projects to promote inclusion and active community engagement. It is her responsibility to make sure their voice is represented, and that local knowledge and insights are effectively applied.



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**Kai-Uwe Bergmann** is a Partner at BIG who brings his architectural expertise to proposals around the globe, including work in North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Kai-Uwe heads up BIG's business development, which currently has offices in over 40 different countries. He also oversees BIG's Urban Scales projects and supports BIG's Landscape projects. He is registered as an architect in the USA (15 states) and Canada. Kai-Uwe most recently contributed to the resiliency plan BIG U to protect 10 miles of Manhattan's coastline. First envisioned through the Rebuild by Design competition to develop proactive responses to Superstorm Sandy, it is now being constructed with a completion date in 2026. Further projects include Reimagining Brooklyn Bridge, Brooklyn Queens Park, Smithsonian Master Plan, Pittsburgh Master Plan and Miami Beach Square. He complements his professional work through previous teaching assignments at Georgia Tech, University of Pennsylvania, IE University in Madrid, and his alma mater the University of Virginia. Kai-Uwe formerly was on the Board of the Van Alen Institute, participates on numerous international juries and lectures globally on the works of BIG.



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**Mette Skjold** is Senior Partner and CEO at SLA with over 20 years of experience in sustainable urban planning and architecture in Denmark and worldwide. Mette leads SLA's strategic urban planning with emphasis on sustainability in environmental, economic, and social terms. She has extensive experience in the connections between urban spaces and buildings and the meeting between architecture and landscape architecture. Mette is also responsible for the studio's complex stakeholder engagement processes, where she succeeds in getting residents, builders, and authorities to enter a joint, trusting collaboration for the benefit of every project.

In addition to her involvement with SLA, Mette is also taking an active role in the development of the industry and profession. She does so through her many honorary positions, such as her appointment to the European Union's expert group for the New European Bauhaus, her membership of the Board of Directors of the Danish Architecture Centre, and long-time commitment as an external lecturer and juror at the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy.



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**Kika Krista Kjærside** is Head of Program at the Danish Architecture Centre (DAC), where she leads the development of formats, talks, and networks that foster public and professional engagement, as well as critical dialogue about the built environment and the future of our societies. With a strong focus on connecting architecture to everyday life, she works to involve young people, professionals, and decision-makers in conversations about how architecture shapes our world—socially, politically, and environmentally.

Kika is a trained architect from the Aarhus School of Architecture and her career has been deeply rooted in the cultural and societal dimensions of architecture. She has extensive experience communicating architectural ideas to diverse audiences—nationally and internationally—across cultural institutions, media platforms, and professional forums.

Her international journey began at EXPO2010 in Shanghai, where she promoted Danish architecture globally in collaboration with the design agency 2+1 Idébureau and BIG – Bjarke Ingels Group. She later held strategic business roles at AART Architects and BIG, where she was responsible for the Nordic markets. These positions provided her with valuable insight into the dynamics of architectural practice, client relations, and market forces.

At DAC, Kika brings this breadth of experience into her role, shaping the centre's programming for the building and urban sector and its curatorial direction. Her work is driven by a strong commitment to making architecture accessible, engaging, and relevant to all stakeholders involved in shaping the built environment.



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**Monica Magnussen** is Head of International Affairs, Department of Climate and Urban Development at the City of Copenhagen.

She has been working to advance global climate and urban development agendas for more than 15 years.

She is an expert in international relations, public-private partnerships, and sustainability. She has been with the City of Copenhagen for ten years, and has held other roles at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen Utility, and the University of Copenhagen.

She is a key contributor to global events including COP15, the EU Presidency, and C40 Mayors Summits.

She has an academic background in International Business Communication and European Studies from the Copenhagen Business School. She is a frequent speaker in international delegations, media, and urban innovation forums.

She is deeply engaged in fostering resilient, inclusive, and climate-smart cities. She is based in Copenhagen and committed to shaping a sustainable urban future. She brings diplomacy, strategy, and collaboration to urban transformation.



**Søren Hermansen** is a local islander – born and raised on Samsø in Denmark. He has been the driving force in the transition towards 100% renewable energy for the entire island. Samsø was elected to be the Danish renewable energy island back in 1997. Søren was the first employed staff member, and he has been involved in all stages of the booming energy transformation.

Søren is a farmer of education, but most importantly, he is a local that coordinates with other farmers and citizens of the island to get involved and engaged in the transition through joint ownership and responsible participation. Yimby – “yes, in my back yard” is short



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for the acceptance of windmills and other installations in your neighbourhood.

Today, Søren is leading the Samsø Energy Academy – a place for learning, meeting, and networking for the future energy transition. Søren works locally and globally as a writer, speaker, and organiser.



**Nils Thor Rosted** is Head of Communications at the waste company ARC. He's been with the company since August 2020 and has a background within communications and business development. At ARC, his core tasks are strategic communication, public relations, stakeholder management and public affairs.

He holds a MSc in Political Science from the University of Southern Denmark (2008) and completed the [Stifinder Programme](#) in 2023.

Nils is driven by contributing the most to the green transition and has a strong interest in climate, energy, utilities, and societal issues. He is 43 years old, married and the father of Hannah and Aksel.



**Signe Helledi** is Head of the Cycle Superhighways of the Capital Region, Denmark. The office coordinates the collaboration of 27 municipalities, the Capital Region, and more than a dozen external key partners. The Cycle Superhighway Collaboration aims to connect the municipalities within the region in a network of high-quality cycle paths and to increase the number of commuters, who bike 5-30 kilometres daily.



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## **Biographies of the moderators:**



**Juliane Marie Neiiendam** is a Danish civil engineer and a prominent voice in promoting inclusive, sustainable innovation. As Chair of IDA Copenhagen and Chair of IDA's Self-Employed Members, she plays a central role in shaping how engineers contribute to the green transition and resilient community development. With over 20 years of leadership experience in the tech and energy sectors, Juliane bridges technical insight with social responsibility.

She serves on the boards of the Danish Women's Council and Women Entrepreneurs in Denmark, where she advocates for equity, participation, and community well-being. A passionate campaigner for transparency and inclusion, she launched IDA's #DelDinLøn initiative to combat the gender pay gap in STEM. Her deep commitment to innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development has made her a respected voice across engineering, industry, and civil society in Denmark. Her work aligns closely with the EESC's mission to ensure that Europe's green transformation is both socially just and economically empowering.



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**Sif Holst** is Vice Chair of Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (DH), an umbrella organisation representing 36 member organisations and over 400,000 persons with disabilities. She is a leading advocate for accessibility, equality, and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of society. In the EESC, she serves as President of the Equality Group and works to advance intersectional equality across the EU. Holst is particularly engaged in promoting Universal Design as a key tool for creating sustainable, inclusive communities, ensuring that environments, services, and solutions are accessible to everyone, regardless of ability. She also serves on the board of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.