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The annual ESG Conference 2025

A stronger and more inclusive European Semester that works for all: Strengthening Europe's Economic Resilience, Sustainable growth and Competitiveness

24 June 2025 | 9:30 - 13:00 | EESC | Hybrid Event

SPEAKERS VADEMECUM

1st panel



Reinhard Falke – Director for Policy coordination, economic forecasts and communication, in charge also for the European Semester, DG ECFIN

Mr **Felke** is Director for Policy Coordination, economic forecasts and Communication at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), a role he has held since July 2020. He oversees the Commission's economic forecasts, euro area surveillance, and the European Semester, as well as implementation aspects of the Recovery and Resilience Facility and communication activities of DG ECFIN. Mr Felke has held several senior roles within the European Commission,

including Director for Economies of EU Member States (2019–2020), Deputy Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Pierre Moscovici (2014–2019), and Head of Unit for economic coordination (2008–2012). From 2012 to 2014, he was seconded to the German Federal Ministry of Finance as Director for European economic affairs, contributing to key EU policy debates from a national perspective. Before, Mr Felke worked as an economist at the German Federal Ministry of Economics in Bonn and Berlin and at the OECD in Paris. With over two decades of experience in both national and EU institutions, he is recognised for his expertise in economic coordination, fiscal policy, and European governance.

Michał Steć – Head of EU Economic Governance in the Department of Sustainable Economy, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Poland

Mr **Steć** serves as a Head of Unit at Poland's Ministry of Development and Technology since January 2021. His team coordinates major strategic policy documents, including the National Reform Programme and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. His responsibilities include overseeing Poland's participation in the European Semester, facilitating structured dialogue with socio-economic partners, and managing national engagement with the EU's Technical

Support Instrument. Mr Steć joined the Ministry in 2019 as a senior specialist, contributing to the preparation of strategic reforms and representing Poland in the Financial Counsellors Working Group at the Council of the EU. From 2012 to 2019, he held a similar role at the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, where he coordinated the development and legislative adoption of the Human Capital Development Strategy 2020 (SRKL). With over a decade of experience in public administration, Mr Steć has played a key role in shaping Poland's economic and employment policy within the broader framework of EU coordination.



Claire Fita – MEP, Member of the ECON Committee and shadow rapporteur of the report "European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination 2025", European Parliament

Ms **Fita** is a French politician and Member of the European Parliament, elected in 2024 on the Socialist Party - Place Publique list (S&D). She serves as a full member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and a substitute on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI). Prior to her election to the European Parliament, she held the role of Vice-President of the Regional Council of Occitanie (2021–2024), where she was responsible for culture,

heritage, and regional languages. A graduate of Sciences Po Toulouse and the Regional Institute of Administration in Nantes, Ms Fita began her career as a senior official in the French public sector before entering politics. Deeply committed to social justice, regional development, and ecological transition, she has played a leading role in promoting cultural policy, innovation, and sustainable mobility in southern France.

SPEAKERS VADEMECUM

2nd panel



Enrico Giovannini – Full Professor of Economic Statistics, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”

Mr **Giovannini** is a leading Italian economist and statistician, currently Full Professor of Economic Statistics at the University of Rome “Tor Vergata”. He served as Minister of Infrastructure and Sustainable Mobility in the Draghi Government (2021–2022) and as Minister of Labour and Social Policies in the Letta Government (2013–2014). From 2009 to 2013, he was President of the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat), following his role as Director of Statistics and Chief Statistician at the OECD (2001–2009). He has chaired the Board of the International Comparison Programme and the Conference of European Statisticians at the UN Economic Commission for Europe. Since 2016, he has co-led the Italian

Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS). Professor Giovannini is also Senior Fellow at the LUISS School of European Political Economy, Visiting Fellow at the European Political Strategies Centre, and Vice-President of the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth at the European Council. He is author of over 100 publications and several books, and was awarded Italy’s highest honour, the “Cavaliere di Gran Croce al Merito della Repubblica”, in 2014.

Peter Schmidt – President of the NAT Section, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Mr **Schmidt** is President of the NAT Section (Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), a role he has held since October 2020. He has been a member of the EESC’s Group II (Workers) since 2014 and previously served as President of the EESC’s Sustainable Development Observatory (2018–2020) and the Permanent Study Group on Sustainable Food Systems (2015–2018). Mr Schmidt is also a member of the European Semester Group and has acted as rapporteur for several key EESC opinions on sustainable food systems, including food speculation and the sustainable economy. Before joining the EESC, he was a regional officer of the NGG trade union (Food and Catering Union, affiliated to the DGB) for 27 years, responsible for the dairy industry and bakeries. He is a committed trade unionist and advocate for sustainable agriculture and food systems, with a long-standing dedication to representing workers and promoting sustainability at the European level.





Guillaume Lafortune – Vice President & Head of the Paris Office, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Mr **Lafortune** is Vice President and Head of the Paris Office at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), where he has led work on SDG data, policy, and financing since 2017, including the annual Sustainable Development Report (SDG Index and Dashboards). He was a lead adviser for the OECD’s Government at a Glance report (2015, 2017), contributing to research on public sector efficiency, open government data, and citizen satisfaction. From 2020 to 2022, he served on The Lancet Commission on

COVID-19, coordinating taskforces on fiscal policy, financial markets, and green recovery, and co-authoring the final report. Mr Lafortune is a member of the Grenoble Centre for Economic Research (CREG) at Grenoble Alpes University. Earlier, he worked as an economist at the OECD in Paris, focusing on public governance reform and statistics, and at Quebec’s Ministry of Economic Development. He has authored over 50 scientific publications, book chapters, policy briefs, and reports on sustainable development, economic policy, and governance. Guillaume holds an MSc in Public Administration from ENAP, Montreal, and a BSc in International Economics from the University of Montreal.



Céline Charvériat – Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Pro(to)topia

Ms **Charvériat** is Founder and CEO of Pro(to)topia, a position she has held since November 2023. From 2016 to 2022, she was Executive Director of the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), a leading sustainability think tank. Prior to that, she served as Advocacy and Campaigns Director at Oxfam International (2011–2016) and led the Make Trade Fair Campaign and Geneva Advocacy Office at Oxfam International (2002–2007), focusing on agricultural export subsidies and WTO negotiations. She started her career as a Policy Researcher on Trade and Commodities at Oxfam

Great Britain (2000–2001) and worked as an independent consultant in sustainability and governance from 2022 to 2023. Since 2020, she has been an Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po (Paris School of International Affairs). Céline is a recognised expert in environmental sustainability, sustainable well-being, SDGs, international trade, and governance, with extensive experience in advocacy, research, and executive leadership.

Assia Oulkadi – Senior Policy Officer, Sustainability and Global Cooperation, European Youth Forum

Ms **Oulkadi** is Senior Policy Officer for Sustainability and Global Cooperation at the European Youth Forum, a position she has held since January 2022. She previously served as Policy Officer at the Forum from 2018 to early 2022, where she contributed to advancing youth engagement and sustainable development at the European level. From 2017 to 2022, she was an AU-EU Youth Fellow at the European External Action Service, focusing on strengthening youth participation and cooperation between Africa and Europe. Earlier in her career, she worked as Policy Officer Assistant at the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), supporting advocacy efforts to combat discrimination and promote inclusion. Assia holds a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations, with a specialisation in Peace, Security, and Conflicts. She is an experienced policy officer dedicated to youth empowerment, sustainability, and international cooperation, with a strong background in advocacy and policy development within both European and global contexts.

