



DAY OF THE LIBERAL PROFESSIONS 2023

Fostering Skills and Delivering the Green Deal

02.05.2023 | 10:30 - 17:00 | EESC | Van Maerlant Building, room VMA 3

Biographies of the speakers:



Rudolf Kolbe

Vice-president of the Civil Society Organisations' Group and Spokesperson of the Liberal Professions category. He is President of Honour of the European Council of Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), former President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants, and President of BUKO (Bundeskonzferenz der Freien Berufe Österreichs).



Marina Elvira Calderone

Marina Elvira Calderone was born in 1965, in Bonorva (Sassari) in Sardinia Island. She is graduated in Business Management. In 1994 she became a Labour Consultant. Prior to her appointment as Minister, she held various institutional positions: President of the National Council of the Order of Labour Consultant (2005 -2022), Chair of the Standing Unitary Committee of Orders and Colleges (2009 -2022), Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (2015 -2022), Member in the Management Board of Finmeccanica Inc. (now Leonardo Inc) (2014 -2020) and Vice President of Italian profession Association (from 2021 to her appointment as Minister). Since October 2022 Ms Calderone leads the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies within the Italian Government chaired by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.



Othmar Karas

Othmar Karas (born 24 December 1957) is an Austrian politician (ÖVP) who has been serving as the First Vice-President of the European Parliament since January 2022, having been Member of the European Parliament since 1999. He held the position of Vice-President of the European Parliament already from 2019 to 2021 and from 2012 to 2014. Karas is also Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Tax Matters and Member of the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs, on Industry, Research and Energy and on Constitutional Affairs. In 2017, Karas received his doctorate degree in political science from the University of Vienna. In addition to his activities as president of the Austrian "Hilfswerk", Karas founded the non-party association "Citizens' Forum Europe" in 2010 of which he is still the spokesman today. In the European Parliament he is part of the European People's Party Group, where he held the Vice-Presidency from 2004 to 2011.



Ralf Niebergall

Ralf Niebergall studied architecture at the Bauhaus-University Weimar. After his studies he worked in major architecture and urban planning offices in Berlin and Halle as well as for the episcopal administration in Magdeburg. Since 1990 he heads his own offices in Halle and Magdeburg. He was appointed as professor in 1995 for design and building studies in Magdeburg where he was dean between 2002 and 2005. Since 2006 he is professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Dessau and is Director of Dessau International Architecture Graduate School (DIA), since 2019. He was president of the chamber of architects of Saxony-Anhalt for 25 years between 1991 and 2016. In 2013, he was elected Vice-President of the Federal Chamber of German Architects for international affairs. He was re-elected on 28 May.



Milena Angelova

Dr Milena Angelova has been serving as Secretary-General of the Bulgarian Industrial Capital Association since 2002 and as SGI Europe Vice-President since 2011. She's been a Member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2007, EESC Vice-President in charge of Budget 2018-2020 and Employers' Group Vice-President 2010-2018. Member of the Bulgarian Economic and Social Committee since 2006 and is well known as an active participant in the policy-making processes in Bulgaria. In June 2022, Dr Angelova was appointed Bulgarian SME Envoy. Second mandate member of the Board of trustees of the Academy of Economics D.A.Tsenov. She has twenty-five years of successful track record in representing the interests of the business community at EU and national level regarding important topics such as SME promotion, boosting innovations and facilitating knowledge transfer, improving the business climate, combating the grey economy, the future of work, etc.





Ber Oomen

In his current position he is responsible for the overall management of the association, being proactive in expanding the network specialist nurses, advocating their role and position of in the perused of recognition under the EU directive of professional qualification. He is active in a variety of health programs and projects lead. He explicitly is active in a lot of European alliances and networks, series editor of Springer series of books on specialist Nursing, a familiar face in the European commission and a promoter of the recognition of specialist nurse in the Brussels European health. This all, to meet the challenges of health in Europe by bridging east and west, keen on strengthening the public health sector and promoting the overlooked value of nurses in all health domains.



Daniel Fügenschuh

Daniel Fügenschuh is the President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants / Coordinating Partner of the ARCH-E project. Daniel Fügenschuh is the owner of an architect's office in Innsbruck, that was founded in London in 2000. His professional focus is the development of high-quality architectural solutions for existing, to be re-used housing. He is the President of the Austrian Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants (BKZT) and a Member of the Executive Board of the Architects Council of Europe (ACE). Enhancing the quality of the (built) environment in Europe is also a strong focus of his political work. He is the initiator of a Europe wide Creative Europe project Arch-E promoting Architectural Design Competitions as a tool to reach the New European Bauhaus aims by enhancing environmental, social and cultural sustainability in Europe. The project is coordinated by the BKZT and currently implemented with formal and informal partners all Europe as well as the International Union of Architects.





Ruth Schagemann

Ruth Schagemann is an architect who studied architecture at the University of Braunschweig and at the University of Stuttgart in Germany. In 2006, she founded the architect's office VICEVERSA Architektur + Medien together with her husband. She was elected member of the Executive Board of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) from 2016 until 2021, Coordinator of the European Network of Architects Competent Authorities (ENACA), member of the Coordination Group Europe of the Federal Chamber of German Architects and was the Head of department of national and international professional policy at the Chamber of Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In 2021, Ruth Schagemann was elected President of the Architects' Council of Europe for a two-year term (22/23). Since January 2023, she is also serving as the Managing Director of the Brussels Office of the Federal Chamber of German Architects (BAK). She represents ACE in the 2023 Davos Baukultur Alliance Steering Committee



Susanne Rudenstam

Susanne Rudenstam is responsible for the operations within the Swedish Wood Construction Office and is also responsible for the international work within Wood Construction.



Friedemann Schmidt

Friedemann Schmidt was born in 1964 in Leipzig. In 1990 he received his license to practice as a pharmacist, followed by which he became the owner of the Seume Pharmacy in Leipzig. From 2013 to 2020, he was the president of ABDA, Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Apothekerverbände e. V. (Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists). Since 2021, he is the President of BFB, Bundesverband der Freien Berufe e. V. (German Federal Association of Liberal Professions).





Gaetano Stella

President of Confprofessioni (Confederazione italiana libere professioni – Italian Confederation of Liberal Professions) which is recognized as social partner and represents at national level over 2 million liberal professionals and over 1.5 million employees and collaborators who generate 12.5% of Italian GDP. Gaetano Stella is President of CA.DI.PROF (national supplementary health insurance scheme for the employees of the professional practices), that counts 112.500 professionals and 330.000 workers registered. He is President of Fondazione Confprofessioni (foundation linked to the Confederation) and of the Osservatorio Libere Professioni Foundation. Gaetano Stella is Member of the National Council for Economy and Labour (CNEL). Engaged actively for the promotion of the goals of liberal professional sector at European and international level, Gaetano Stella is President of CEPLIS (Conseil Européen des Professions Libérales) and Vice president of the World Union of Professions (WUP/UMPL). He is CCMI delegate in the EESC since 2021.



Sarah Sherlock

Sarah Sherlock is Vice President of the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors - Comité de Liaison des Géomètres Européens (CLGE). She served as a member of the Irish Defence Forces from 1996 to 2014, where she graduated in Geomatics. She has post-graduate qualifications in Urban & Building Conservation & in Planning and Environmental Law. She is an experienced geomatics (land) surveyor who is passionate about all things spatial and especially around historic, built and natural environments. Since from 2014, she is Geospatial Consultant with Murphy Geospatial.





Marcel Haag

Marcel Haag studied law at the universities of Freiburg, Bonn, Strasbourg and at the EUI in Florence and qualified as a judge in Düsseldorf. After a short stint in business, he joined the European Commission and worked in different Commission services. Until the summer of 2020 Mr Haag served as Director for policy coordination in the Secretariat-General of the Commission. He is currently Director for Horizontal policies at the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union.



Ilkka Penttinen Fouto

Ilkka Penttinen Fouto is an EU policy professional focused on anti-corruption, protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law for the past years. He joined Eurocadres as a Project and Policy Officer in 2022. Currently advocating for worker's rights in the EU and beyond, he specialises in policy analysis, advocacy planning and execution, project management and fundraising, and communication. Penttinen Fouto holds an M. Soc. Sci. and is an active member of civil society organisations focusing on political integrity and the protection of human rights.

