



#FocusOnTheEssentials | @employers_EESC

A competitive EU industry for a successful green transition

20/06/2023 | 8h30-11h45 | Luleå, Sweden

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Speakers' biographies

(in alphabetical order)



Mats ÅKERLIND

DEO/Head of negotiations/Collective bargaining, Swedish Construction Federation

Mats Åkerlind is the CEO and Head of negotiations for collective bargaining at the Swedish Construction Federation. Before his work at the Swedish Construction Federation, he was CEO at JM Construction Stockholm from 1998 to 2008.

Mr Åkerlind completed an Executive Master in HR Management FEI at the London South Bank University. Furthermore, he has a MSc in Civil Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology – KTH in Stockholm.



Christian ARDHE

Member, EESC Employers' Group

Christian Ardhe is a lawyer by training and has a long experience in the field of labour law and labour market and social affairs. He did his initial legal practice at the Gothenburg District Court, and continued to practice labour law and collective bargaining at the employers' association Metallgruppen in Stockholm. Between 1998 and 2001 he was seconded as a national expert to the European Commission. Between 2001 and 2010 he served as director at the EU office of the Confederation of Swedish Enterprise in Brussels, responsible for policies related to labour market and social affairs. Since 2010 he has continued to work in the same area of competence as an independent. He is currently head of the EU office of the Swedish Construction Federation, and works closely with other Swedish sectoral employers' organisations, such as the Swedish Association of Industrial Employers. Mr Ardhe has been a member of the EESC since 2018. He was also a member between 2006 and 2015.



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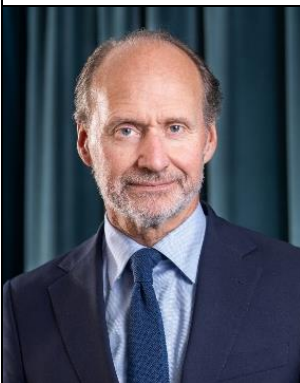
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Anne GRAF

Head of Regional Affairs, H2 Green Steel

Anne Graf is Head of Regional Affairs at H2 Green Steel in Boden, responsible for how the steel plants interacts in the local society. She previously worked with large scale data centers at Facebook/Meta in Luleå, as CEO at colocation company Hydro66 in Boden and was part of the start-up of inward investment promotion for energy intensive industries to the north of Sweden. Ms Graf is a native to the North with very international outlook, past experience also includes marketing and communications in the UK and public affairs in Brussels.



Per HIDESTEN

CEO, Swedish Association of Industrial Employers

Per Hidesten is the CEO of The Swedish Association of Industrial Employers since 2013. In addition, he is Board Member at several foundation and is member of The International Organisation of Employers.

Mr Hidesten is a graduate of the Master of Law programme at Stockholm University. Before his work as CEO at The Swedish Association of Industrial Employers, he has worked as a legal counsel. Furthermore, he was COO and Director of Negotiations/Head of Social Affairs at the Swedish Forest Industries Federation from 2006 to 2013.



Niklas JOHANSSON

Senior Vice President of Communication, LKAB

Niklas Johansson joined LKAB as Senior Vice President, Communication and Climate in 2020. He has spent half his professional life in Politics and half in Industry. Before joining LKAB he was State Secretary for Foreign Trade and before that State Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Innovation responsible for Industry Policy, Competition, and Innovation.

He has a Master of Science in Business and Economics from the Stockholm School of Economics. Born in 1970.



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Ramin KARIM

Professor, Luleå Technical University

Prof. Ramin Karim is a PhD in Operation and Maintenance Engineering specialising in Industrial AI, digitalisation, and eMaintenance. Currently, he is a Professor of Industrial AI and eMaintenance at the Division of Operation and Maintenance Engineering at Luleå University and Director of the Centre of Intelligent Asset Management. He has worked for more than 18 years in the ICT industry after obtaining his degree in computer science. He is responsible for the eMaintenance LAB, an applied laboratory for research and innovation in Industrial AI and eMaintenance. His research interest includes data analytics and predictive technology closely connected to asset management and operation and maintenance of industrial assets. Prof. Karim has initiated and developed the concept and platform called 'AI Factory', a universal concept for cross-industrial data and model sharing based on digital and AI technologies. Prof. Karim is also Director of Centre of Intelligent Asset Management. Prof. Karim founded a spin-off company from LTU, which provides advanced analytics based on cloud/edge-technologies and artificial intelligence.



Stefano MALLIA

President, EESC Employers' Group

Stefano Mallia has been elected President of the EESC Employers' Group in 2020 and has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2010. He served in different roles at the EESC before, e.g. as Vice-President of the Employers' Group and President of the Brexit follow-up Committee within the EESC.

Mr. Mallia is an expert in EU affairs where he has specialized in EU Structural Funds and SME financing. Over the years he has carried out assignments for the European Commission, the Government of Malta as well as private enterprises. He is also a former President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry.

Furthermore, Mr. Mallia is active in the private sector. Since 1998, he is a partner at EMCS Ltd., an economic analysis and business consultancy.



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Martina ŠIRHALOVÁ
Member, EESC Employers' Group

Martina Širhalová as a manager for international relations in the Slovak Federation of employers' associations, where she is responsible for communication with international partners and managing of projects where Federation of employers' associations is involved in. Furthermore, she is Secretary General in national Economic and social committee of Slovakia.

She finished the BSBA studies at City University in Bratislava, MBA studies at Slovak university of agriculture in Nitra and master degree in social sciences.



Lars STEHN
Professor, Luleå Technical University

Lars Stehn is a professor in Construction management and building technology at Luleå University of Technology. He has more than 20 years of experience in R&D in methods and techniques for industrialised construction and has a specialization in timber based sustainable construction. Mr Stehn has extensive experience in leading industry-academia joint R&D programmes.



Isabel YGLESIAS
Member, EESC Employers' Group

A graduate in Law, Isabel Yglesias holds a Master's degree in European Union Law, a postgraduate degree in CSR, and an Executive Master's degree in International Association Management. She is a specialist in antitrust and state aid, an area in which she has worked at the European Commission and as a lawyer in the private sector. Her latest responsibility has been the CEO of EFCI (European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry), the European business organization for cleaning services, a position she held from 2018 until the end of June 2022. Since July 2022 Isabel Yglesias is Head of European Affairs and Permanent Delegate to the EU of CEOE (Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain). She is also currently chairing BusinessEurope's State Aid Working Group and, since December 2022, she is a member of the Employers' Group in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).