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European Economic and Social Committee

EESC Delegation to the High-level Political Forum

16-18 July 2018, United Nations, New York



Brenda King, United Kingdom

Brenda King Chief Executive of 'African & Caribbean Diversity' and has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since September 2002. She served as President of the Sustainable Development Observatory from October 2015 to April 2018. Brenda has received national recognition for her pioneering work with the Afro-Caribbean communities with a MBE awarded by the Queen in 2004 and an honorary degree from Warwick University. She has a BSc degree from University College London and an MSc from Warwick University.



Lutz Ribbe, Germany

Lutz is Director of the Environmental Policy Section of Euronatur and of its office in Bonn, where he started over 25 years ago. His sustained and knowledgeable environmental activism led to his appointment in 2010 as Chair of the Commission for Agriculture and environment at the German Federal Environmental Agency. Lutz has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 1998 and Vice-President of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) since 2015. He is one of the main drivers of the EESC's work on environmental issues and sustainable development areas, contributing as a rapporteur of opinions on the EU action programmes in the field of the environment, biodiversity, renewable energy and citizenship involvement in the transformation towards a low-carbon economy.



Peter Schmidt, Germany

Peter Schmidt's first occupation was cheesemaker. Later on he was a regional officer of the NGG trade union (Food and Catering Union, affiliated to the DGB) for 27 years, in charge of dairy industries and bakeries. Since 2014 he has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)'s Group II (Workers). From 2015 to March 2018, he was the president of the EESC's Permanent Study Group on Sustainable Food Systems. Since April 2018, he has been the president of the EESC's Sustainable Development Observatory. He is also one of the three EESC members steering the work of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, a joint initiative by the EESC and the European Commission.



Jean-François Bence

Jean-François has been working in the EU public administration for over 20 years and he is now serving as Director of legislative works in the EESC.