Etele Baráth, President of the Europe 2020 Steering Committee

Etele Baráth holds a doctorate in regional sciences and is Honorary Professor at the Budapest University of Economics (Corvinus). He is a former Minister for European Affairs of the Hungarian Government (2004-2006) and has been a Member of the Parliament since 1996. From1994-1998, he was president of the Committee on Environment and Regional Development. He retired from party and parliamentary politics in April 2010. He also held the post of Secretary of State responsible for public construction and infrastructure development in three different governments between 1988 and 2004. Between 1996 and 1998, he was president of the Budapest Suburban Development Council.

He is the author of numerous publications on regional development and urban sciences, and on social and territorial stratification. The most important tasks carried out under his management include the first and second National Development Plans. From 1986 to 1998, he held various positions as managing director and chairman of the board. As an active participant in various social fields, he was president of the National Association of Employers and vice-president of the Hungarian Economic Chamber between 1992 and 1995, following the political change in 1990. Over the past two decades, he became increasingly involved in issues related to participatory democracy. As a Member of Parliament, he submitted an independent draft bill for regulating the operations of the Hungarian Economic and Social Council and strengthening its legal status.

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