



## NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU INDUSTRY DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

30 October 2020 | 10:00 – 13:00 | Online event



### Speakers' Bios

#### **Alain Coheur, President of the INT section, European Economic and Social Committee**



Alain Coheur is the President of the Section for the Single Market, Production and Consumption of the EESC since October 2020 and was appointed as EESC Group III member by Belgium in 2015. During the previous mandate, he was President of the EESC Temporary Study Group on Social Economy Enterprises and co-spokesperson for the Social Economy Category. During the main part of his career, Alain Coheur was in charge of various positions in the development of social economy organizations. He is currently the Director for European and International Affairs at the Belgian National Union of Socialist Mutual Health Funds (since 2002). In 2013, he was appointed by the European Commission as a member of the consultative multi-stakeholder group on social business (GECES). He was elected President of the Belgian Non-Governmental Organisation “Solsoc” in 2007 and President of the European platform “Social Economy Europe” in 2008.



The European Economic and Social Committee is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union. It represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process.

### **Hubert Gambs, Deputy Director-General, DG GROW, European Commission**



Hubert Gambs has been Deputy Director-General at the Directorate for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) since July 2020. He was previously Director for Modernisation of the Single Market in DG GROW (2016-2020), Director for Mediterranean and Black Sea in DG MARE (2014-2016), Head of Cabinet of Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy (2010-2014), Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner (2004-2010) and Commissioner Fischler (2004). From 1998 to 2004 he worked as a case handler in DG COMP and administrator in the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU (1996-1998). Before joining the EU institutions, he worked as a case handler in the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs in Vienna. He studied Law at the University of Innsbruck.



The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, it implements legislative decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU and monitors the application of EU law in the Member States.

### **Dirk Bergrath, Member, European Economic and Social Committee**



Dirk Bergrath is member of the EESC and, among other things, active in the section on the single market (INT). He heads the EU Liaison Office of IG Metall, which with more than 2.2 million members is the largest trade union in Europe. Earlier in his career, engagements with the German Permanent Representation to the EU, the international department of IG Metall and the European Metalworkers' Federation followed his work in research.

Dirk Bergrath holds an MA in International Economics from the University of Sussex (Brighton, UK) and a PhD from RWTH University of Aachen (Germany).



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### **Carlo Calenda, Member of the European Parliament**



Carlo Calenda has a Degree in Law with a focus on international law. He has been responsible for product marketing and programming for Sky Italia, responsible for relations with financial institutions and Head of Customer Relationship Management at Ferrari, Director of the International Affairs strategic area in Confindustria. In 2013 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Economic Development and in 2014 given the responsibility for attracting foreign investments. He was a member of the Council of Foreign Trade Ministers, appointed in May 2016 as Minister of Economic Development in the Renzi Government and reappointed in the Gentiloni Government until May 2018. From March to May 2016 he was Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU. He is currently a Member of the European Parliament, active in the ITRE committee, rapporteur on the file on Industrial Strategy. He was also the founder of his political party – Azione.



The European Parliament (EP) is the only directly elected EU body and one of the largest democratic assemblies in the world. Its 705 members represent the EU's 450 million citizens. They are elected once every 5 years by voters from across the 27 EU countries. Its representatives are called Members of the European Parliament – MEPs.

## **Judith Kirton-Darling, Deputy General Secretary, IndustriAll**



Judith Kirton-Darling is Deputy General Secretary of industriAll Europe, representing manufacturing, mining and energy workers from 38 European countries. She was formerly a Labour Member of the European Parliament for the North East of England (2014-20). Before entering parliament, she was active for 15 years within the Labour and trade union movement, notably she was elected Confederal Secretary at the European Trade Union Confederation in 2011.



IndustriAll European Trade Union is a federation of independent and democratic trade unions representing manual and non-manual workers in the metal, chemical, energy, mining, textile, clothing and footwear sectors and related industries and activities. We speak for 7 million working men and women united within 180 national trade union affiliates in 38 European countries. Furthermore, we are a member of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and partner of IndustriALL Global Union.

## **Alexandre Affre, Deputy Director General, BusinessEurope**



Alexandre Affre is Deputy Director General, responsible for the Industrial Affairs, Entrepreneurship & SMEs Department at BusinessEurope. In this role since 2020, Alexandre is responsible for coordinating the organisation's positions on industrial strategy, energy, climate, environment, research and innovation, as well as entrepreneurship and SMEs. He also manages the Corporate Advisory and Support Group of BusinessEurope, which brings together a selection of companies from all sectors of activity. Alexandre joined BusinessEurope in 2007. Prior to that, he worked at the wildlife trade monitoring network of the WWF and IUCN. Alexandre is a trained scientist and holds a Master's in ecology from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie.



BusinessEurope is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level, standing up for companies across the continent and campaigning on the issues that most influence their performance. A recognised social partner, we speak for enterprises of all sizes in 35 European countries whose national business federations are our direct members.

## **Andrea Renda, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation & Digital Economy, Centre for European Policy Studies**



Andrea Renda is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the CEPS Unit on Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID). He is a part-time Professor of Digital Policy at the School of Transnational Governance of the European University Institute in Florence (Italy). Andrea provides regular advice to several institutions, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and many more. He is currently a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence and the advisory group on Economic and Societal Impacts of Research (ESIR), for the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation.

Founded in Brussels in 1983, CEPS is a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs. With an exceptionally strong in-house research capacity and an extensive network of partner institutes throughout the world, CEPS has amply demonstrated its ability to anticipate trends and to analyse policy questions well before they become topics of general discussion. At CEPS, researchers perform policy research on a wide range of policy areas: from the economy and finance to better regulation, the digital economy and trade, as well as energy and climate, education and innovation, foreign policy and the European integration process, and justice and home affairs.



### **Mihai Ivaşcu, Adviser to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania**



Born and raised in Bucharest, Mihai Ivaşcu is adviser to the President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania. He has graduated from the International Relations section of the National Academy for Economic Studies in Bucharest, has an Executive MBA from the Conservatoire National des Arts and Metiers and a PhD in economics. He was a member of the European Economic and Social Committee from 2015 to 2020 and was the EESC rapporteur for several opinions and speaker at several national and international conferences.



The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (CCIR) is a non-governmental, public-interest organisation meant to promote Romanian trade and industries, both at home and abroad, and to represent the interests of Romanian traders before the domestic authorities and in their relations with specialised foreign organisations. CCIR is the strongest business environment organisation in Romania, bringing together the whole network of 42 county chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other bilateral chambers of commerce, some branch professional associations and companies.

### **Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament**



Maria da Graça Carvalho is currently a Member of the European Parliament. She is actively engaged in the ITRE, IMCO, FEMM and AIDA committees and is co-chairing the parliamentary intergroup on Long-term, Sustainable Investments and Competitive European Industry. She was a senior advisor of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas (2014-2015). As a Member of the European Parliament from 2009 to 2014 she was one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. From 2006 to 2009 she was also Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of science, higher education, innovation, research policy, energy, environment and climate change. She served as Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV Constitutional Government of Portugal and Minister of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of the XVI Constitutional Government. She is a Full Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon).



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### **Isabelle Schömann, Confederal Secretary, ETUC**



Isabelle Schömann was elected as Confederal Secretary in May 2019. Previously, she was a principal adviser to the Regulatory Scrutiny Board of the European Commission providing quality control of all impact assessments and major evaluations by Commission services. From 2005 to 2016, she was a senior researcher with the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) in Brussels. Isabelle was legal advisor to the European Economic and Social Committee Workers' Group on the European Pillar of Social Rights. She has a postgraduate degree in social and labour law from the Sorbonne in Paris and has authored and co-authored a wide range of studies on trade union issues.



The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) speaks with a single voice on behalf of European workers to have a stronger say in EU decision-making. The ETUC aims to ensure that the EU is not just a single market for goods and services, but is also a Social Europe, where improving the wellbeing of workers and their families is an equally important priority. The European social model – until the onset of the crisis – helped Europe to become a prosperous, competitive region with high living standards. The ETUC defends fundamental social values such as solidarity, equality, democracy, social justice and cohesion.



## **Ben Butters, CEO, EUROCHAMBRES**



Ben Butters has been with EUROCHAMBRES, the European association of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, since 2008 and was appointed CEO in 2020. Prior to this, he acquired experience in both the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as working for a network of innovation centres. Directly before joining EUROCHAMBRES, he created and for several years ran his own business providing EU advocacy support to small business associations.



Established in 1958 as a direct response to the creation of the European Economic Community, EUROCHAMBRES acts as the eyes, ears and voice of the chambers and business community. EUROCHAMBRES represents over 20 million businesses in Europe through 45 members (43 national associations of chambers of commerce and industry and two transnational chamber organisations) and a European network of 1700 regional and local chambers. More than 93% of these businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Eurochambers' member businesses employ over 120 million people.

## **Arthur ten Wolde, Executive Director, Ecopreneur**



Arthur ten Wolde is the executive director and circular economy expert of Ecopreneur.eu. Based in the Netherlands, he is also the EU policy expert for MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands, a member of Ecopreneur.eu) and a part-time trainer for CIRCO, the Dutch government-funded training programme on circular design for SMEs. Arthur is internationally recognised as a circular economy expert, motivational speaker and (co-)author of several reports and numerous articles in magazines such as Euractive. He previously worked as circular economy policy expert for De Groene Zaak, on sustainability and innovation for a Dutch think tank, where he became coordinator for circular economy and advised AkzoNobel, and on innovation policy for the Confederation of Netherlands Industries and Employers VNO-NCW.



The mission of Ecopreneur.eu is to pursue advocacy activities with an influence on sustainable development and the green economy, advance the interests of green SMEs and green economy projects across Europe, and work towards improving environmental standards. The organisation currently holds six associations from different EU member states: UnternehmensGrün (Germany), Grüne Wirtschaft (Austria), Entreprendre Vert (France), MVO Nederland (Netherlands), Ecopreneur Belgium and CirEko (Sweden). Through Ecopreneur.eu these associations strengthen the voice of sustainable business in Brussels. Under the roof of Ecopreneur.eu, more than 3000 sustainable businesses are represented – mostly SMEs.