



WEBINAR

15/09/2021 | 10:00 – 12:00

ONLINE EVENT



Speakers' Biographies

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 Solidaris, 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.

Kęstutis Kupšys, president of study group "Updating the new Industrial Strategy for Europe", EESC



After a decade of engagement in the consumer activist movement, Mr Kęstutis Kupšys became a member of the EESC in 2020. In addition to consumer rights, his work in the EESC primarily relates to climate change and sustainability at large, financial services, and especially sustainable finance dossiers. Mr Kupšys has been serving as a Vice-President of the Lithuanian Consumers Alliance – an umbrella organization of Lithuanian consumer NGOs – since July 2019. Before joining the consumer movement, he pursued his professional career interests in finance, political consulting and public relations sectors. Kęstutis Kupšys graduated from Vilnius University with a degree in Economic Cybernetics/Systemic Analysis of Economy. At the same time, his supplementary study interests encompassed Financial Markets and Business Administration (via Catholic University Eichstätt, Germany, 'Gaststudium' program) and Philosophy.

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.



European Economic
and Social Committee

Jarkko Havas, Lead, Insights and Analysis, Ellen MacArthur Foundation



Jarkko Havas leads the Foundation's Insights & Analysis work. I&A consists of the Data & Metrics Initiative with a focus on measuring company level circular economy performance (Circulytics), and teams working on upcoming focus topics for the Foundation, as well as the case study programme. Prior to joining the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, he was an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company, based first in Tokyo and then in Brussels. His consulting work focused on agriculture and chemicals industries in both private and public sectors. Jarkko Havas's academic background is in environmental engineering and sustainability science.



The Ellen MacArthur Foundation develops and promotes the idea of a circular economy. We work with, and inspire, business, academia, policymakers, and institutions to mobilise systems solutions at scale, globally. Our mission is to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. Our vision is a new economic system that delivers better outcomes for people and the environment. Business models, products, and materials are designed to increase use and reuse, replicating the balance of the natural world, where nothing becomes waste and everything has value. A circular economy, increasingly built on renewable energy and materials, is distributed, diverse, and inclusive.

Paolo Casini, Economist, Chief Economist Team, DG GROW, European Commission



Paolo Casini works as an Economic Analyst at the European Commission, DG GROW. He joined the Commission in 2013, after working at KU Leuven as an assistant professor. His research interests are in the fields of Industrial Organisation, Environmental Economics, Financial Economics, Development Economics, Law and Economics, Microfinance. His work has been published in scientific journals such as Oxford Economic Papers and the World Bank Economic Review. He also contributed to several policy documents for the European Commission, the UNDP and different NGOs.



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.

Frank Heemskerk, Secretary General, European Round Table for Industry (ERT)



Frank Heemskerk was appointed ERT's Secretary General of the in January 2019. He graduated in economics in 1994 from the University of Amsterdam. He began his career at ABN AMRO Bank where he held various positions until 2003, when he pursued a career in politics. Between 2003 and 2006, he was a Member of Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA) and, between 2007 and 2010, was Minister for Foreign Trade. After retiring from national politics, Frank Heemskerk held various professional positions. Between 2013 and 2018, he was an Executive Director of the World Bank. He sat on the Executive Board of Royal HaskoningDHV (2011-2013), a global engineering and project management consultancy. Since November 2018 Frank Heemskerk has been a visiting lecturer in Geo-Economics at Leiden University, faculty of Governance & Global Affairs.



ERT has a long history of promoting competitiveness and prosperity in Europe. In April 1983, 17 leading European business leaders came together to launch it. They were then united by a belief that European co-operation between industry, policymakers and all stakeholders is essential to strengthen Europe's place in the world. Today, ERT Members include CEOs and Chairs from around 60 of Europe's largest companies in the industrial and technological sector. They are committed to creating a strong, open and competitive Europe through which we promote sustainable growth, jobs and prosperity for all.

Isabelle Schömann, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation (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 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.

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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Sandra Parthie, Member, European Economic and Social Committee



Sandra Parthie is a member of EESC and, among other things, active in the section on the single market (INT). She heads the Brussels Office of the German Economic Institute. Previous to her current role, she was Director for EU Regulatory Affairs at French multinational company Alstom S.A. and prior to that she was the political advisor and head of office of a German Member of the European Parliament, working on environmental and climate policy.

Sandra Parthie holds an MA in Political Sciences, with a minor in economics from the Freie Universität Berlin. She also conducted parts of her studies at the Université de Montréal in Canada.



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