Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP

Sirpa Pietikäinen is a member of the European People’s Party (EPP) in the European Parliament. She is a former Minister of the Environment in Finland (1991-1995), and a Member of the parliament from 1983 to 2003. She first came to the European parliament in 2008, and was re-elected in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

At the European Parliament, Sirpa is a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and of the Women’s Right and Gender Equality Committee as well as a substitute member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Within her work, she seeks to combine her two specialties; that of environment and economics. Sirpa is a strong advocate of a transition to a circular economy and sustainable finance, and served as a Shadow Rapporteur on the New Circular Economy Action Plan. She is active in several organizations, her positions of trust including chairmanship of GLOBE EU.

A graduate from the Helsinki School of Economics, Sirpa holds MSc in Business.
Paul Tang MEP

Paul Tang is a senior Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA), as part of the Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). In 2014, Paul led the list of the PvdA for the European elections. In 2019 he was re-elected. Paul’s main priorities involve the fight against tax evasion, digital taxation, sustainable finance and platform regulation.

Since September 2020, Paul is chair of the subcommittee on taxation (FISC). Next to that, he is one of the co-founders of the Tracking-free Ads Coalition within the European Parliament.

Previously, Paul was a Member of the Dutch Parliament. Here, he was spokesperson for financial and fiscal affairs from 2007 until 2010, right through the financial crisis. Prior to that, he worked for the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.

Paul received a PhD degree in Economics from the University of Amsterdam.

Emily Sinnott, EIB

Emily Sinnott is the Head of the Policy and Strategy Division in the Economics Department of the European Investment Bank (EIB). Her work focuses on informing the EIB’s policy discussions and strategic and operational orientations using economic research, and country and financial sector analysis. She also is responsible for results and impact assessments of EIB activities, including the results measurement framework outside the EU, macroeconomic modelling of EIB impact and in-depth microeconomic studies to assess EIB financial instruments and projects. Prior to joining the EIB in 2021, Emily was Lead Economist at the World Bank, in charge of lending and analysis for macroeconomics, finance, private sector development and public sector reform for Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Additionally, she has worked as an economist at the OECD, European Central Bank and as an Overseas Development Institute Fellow in the Government of Guyana. Emily has a B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University, a M.Sc.
in Economics from Warwick University and a Ph.D. in Economics from the European University Institute.

Andreea Calbeaza, Microsoft

Andreea Calbeaza is part of Microsoft’s Corporate, External and Legal Affairs (CELA) department, working at the intersection of topics driving the digital and green transformation of Microsoft’s customers and with a decade of broader public and government affairs experience. Prior to Microsoft, she worked as a fellow with the Open Society Foundations, as an advisor at the Romanian Ministry for Social Affairs and within the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, acquiring a unique 360° perspective on digital transformation, from public sector to civil society and business. Andreea holds a BA in International Relations, an MA in European Affairs from the Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and an MBA specialized in digital & sustainability transformation from the Berlin School of Economics and Law.

Gülçin Berkel Erem, Dow

Gülçin, HR Director for Dow EMEAI, sits on the EMEAI Leadership Team and partners with regional leadership to implement business and functional strategies to attract, retain and develop Dow talent as well as cultivating the desired culture of Dow in the region. She leads the HR Partner organization in delivering value-added support and consultancy and integrated solution that reflects the business objectives of the organization.

In April 1998, Gülçin joined Dow in Istanbul as HR Specialist for Turkey and shortly after was named HR Representative for the Middle East region. In the following years, Gülçin was involved in M&A activities with Union Carbide, and she worked on various Talent Management and Compensation & Benefits projects across regions. She also led Taleo,
the external hiring tool, globally. In 2005, Gulcina was appointed Talent Acquisition Leader for EMEA.

In 2009, Gülçin relocated to Horgen, Switzerland to assume the additional role of the HR Geo Leader for Switzerland and Austria. During this assignment at the headquarters of Dow EMEA, Gülçin coordinated hROH EMEA HQ integration into Dow, she led the EMEA Talent Acquisition programs, such as University Relations, and she introduced MBA programs, Inclusion and Diversity workshops within Dow.

In 2012, Gülçin moved back to Turkey and took on the HR Geo Leader role for Eastern Europe and later Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT) region. During this period, Gülçin was coordinating the Sadara PMLA Resource Plan implementation and supporting the EMEA CSR Centralization.

In 2014, Gulcin was a pointed Talent Management Director for EMEA. As a member of the EMEA HR Leadership she introduced regional Leadership Development programs such as Female Sponsorship Program, IESE Leadership Program, Dow Leadership Institute, Promising Talent Programs and EMEAI Safety Dialogue Program together with her regional Talent Management Team Members. She has led also I&D EMEAI and Change Management efforts until late 2017. She has taken active role in digitilization efforts of the HR Function globally as part of the HR Next Generation Project. She is still a member of Employee Resource Groups in the region and actively engaged in CYDD (NGO) as a Mentor for the University Students, board member of Dow Aksa & Impact2030 Turkey.

Gülçin holds a Masters of Science Degree in Organizational Behaviour Studies from Birkbeck, University of London and Computer Programming Degree from Trakya University. She also holds a certificate of coaching from Coaching Training Institute (CTI) and Accredited ICF Coach and attended Executive Education at IESE Business School, University of Navarra, Spain.
Bart Vandewaetere, Nestlé

Bart Vandewaetere is member of Nestlé’s Zone Europe Executive Team. He directly reports to the regional CEO Mr. Settembri.

Bart has been in charge of Corporate Communications and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Engagement for Nestlé Zone Europe since 2017. As part of his role, he heads Nestlé’s European Affairs office in Brussels.

He leads and coordinates Nestlé’s contributions and communications on policies and societal debates with stakeholders and citizens across the region. He is also actively contributing to identify and engage with partners to progress Nestlé’s nutrition and sustainability strategy that aims to achieve regenerative food systems at scale. Bart continues to be part of the Steering Group that launched the successful “Nestlé needs YOUth” program in Europe in 2013.

Bart is active in key European trade associations such as FoodDrinkEurope (chairing the Board Sherpa Meeting) and the European Brands Association AIM.

Bart joined Nestlé in June 2005 as European Affairs Manager after having worked for several years in the Belgian and international dairy trade association environment.

Born in Roeselare, in Belgium, Bart Vandewaetere graduated from the University of Ghent as Master in food science and food Technology.

Married with three children, he speaks Dutch, English and French.
Rasmus Borch, Lenovo

Originally a teacher, Rasmus has spent the past 18 years in the intersection between technology and learning in a variety of roles:

During this time he built the first large scale 1:1 iPad project outside the US, founded a Professional Development company and spent 9 years as Strategic Education Advisor at Apple. He transitioned to Lenovo last year to manage and develop the Services and Solutions business for education in EMEA.

Katrien Maes, LERU

Katrien Maes is an expert in EU research, innovation and higher education policies. A former academic in the US, she has worked since 2004 for the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a network of 23 European research-intensive universities, advocating the role of research universities and influencing policy in Europe and beyond. Katrien has worked in many policy areas, including research funding, management and assessment, doctoral education, research careers, professional development, gender equality and diversity, research integrity, and sustainability. Katrien has a PhD in linguistics and was tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Delaware (1986-2002), with teaching and research roles focused on second language acquisition, pedagogy, syntax and Italian language.
Dr Cliona Murphy has been lecturing in the area of science education at tertiary level for over 20 years. She has developed and implemented a range of pre-service, post-graduate and continuing professional learning programs in science education. She has conducted and published research and developed educational resources in the areas of Nature of Science, Inquiry-Based Science Education, Education for Sustainability and Climate Change Education. Cliona has collaborated in a number of National and International research projects in STEM Education, Education for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Education.

Cliona’s Current Roles Include:

- Chair of ALLEA’s Science Education Working Group https://allea.org/science-education/)
- Director of the Centre for the Advancement of STEM Teaching and Learning (CASTeL). www.castel.ie.
- Co-chair of the scientific and pedagogical committee of the international Office for Climate Educationhttps://www.oce.global/en/home

Since September 2022, Vito Borrelli leads the team in charge of the Erasmus+ program, higher education, in DG Education and Culture at the European Commission. From 2017 to 2022, he has been Acting Director of the Representation in Italy of the European Commission and Head of the political sector. Previously, he has been – among others - responsible for the coordination of the “EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue”.

Vito Borrelli, European Commission