

From Roadblocks to Roadmaps: Enabling Sustainable Investments in Europe

**Brussels, European Parliament, room ASP 6D128, 24 September 2024,
14:00 - 17:00**

Keynote Address:



Maive Rute is the Deputy Director-General and the first-ever Chief Standardisation Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs (GROW). In her role as Deputy Director-General, Maive focuses on the green transition of industries, the resilience of supply chains, the availability of critical raw materials, and the promotion of investments.

In June 2022, the European Commission appointed her to the newly created position of Chief Standardisation Officer. Additionally, she is a member of the steering committee for the Horizon Europe research framework programme and oversees both the Enterprise Europe Network and the European Clusters initiative.

From 2005 to 2019, Maive Rute held various senior positions at the European Commission, including Director for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and Director and Deputy Director-General in the research and innovation sector. Prior to her tenure at the European Commission, she served as Deputy Governor of the central bank of Estonia and as CEO of KredEx, Estonia's business and export financing body.

Panel 1: Financing Innovation and Industry Growth:



Laurent Braun is responsible for structuring mandates and products at the European Investment Fund (EIF). Before assuming this role, he held various positions in investment, risk management, and project finance within both the European Investment Bank (EIB) and EIF.

Prior to joining the EIB Group, Laurent worked in business development at Bertelsmann, a major media conglomerate, and engaged in strategy consulting at the Boston Consulting Group.



Rafael Cayuela serves as Senior Strategy Development Director, Corporate Chief Economist, and Chair of the EU Sustainability Leadership Team at Dow EMEAI. In this capacity, he spearheads the formulation and acceleration of the Dow's Sustainable, Digital, and Growth Transformation Strategy.

Beyond his role at Dow, Rafael is a prominent figure in various influential industry organizations. He chairs the CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Association) Mid Century Vision - Molecules Manager and is an active member of the International Advisory Board of the World Energy Council and the Financial Times Manufacturing Advisory Board. Additionally, he chairs the Industry Advisory Panel of the Energy Charter Treaty.

With over 20 years of experience in the chemical industry, Rafael is a seasoned economist. He holds a master's degree in Economics from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, and an MBA from Northwood University in Michigan. His executive education credentials include an Executive MBA from the University

of Chicago, a specialized blockchain program from the University of Oxford, and coursework on Exponential & Disruptive Technologies from Singularity University.

Rafael is also an accomplished author, having penned "The Chemical Industry by 2050." He is currently working on his upcoming book, "The Chemical Industry under the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Molecules vs. Qubits."



Sandra Lagumina, a Franco-Italian leader with a distinguished career in sustainable company transformation, joined Argos Wityu on 1 October 2022. With nearly 20 years of experience, Sandra has driven strategic, operational, and managerial change, financing these transformations and spearheading major developments within the energy sector.

Prior to Argos Wityu, Sandra was a Partner at Meridiam, where she joined at the end of 2017 as Director of Operations in Asset Management. She quickly advanced to become Deputy CEO. At Meridiam, Sandra orchestrated a global strategy for managing a diverse portfolio of over 100 assets and companies. She was pivotal in transforming Meridiam into a mission-driven organization, contributing significantly to the group's overall development.

Sandra's previous 11 years were spent at the Engie group, where she was a key player in the energy sector's transition. She initially supported and later managed the sector's restructuring and environmental transformation. In 2016, she was appointed Deputy CEO of Engie, overseeing gas infrastructure in China and GTT. As CEO of GRDF, Europe's largest gas distribution network, starting in 2013, she initiated and directed its shift towards renewable gas. From 2008, she structured and managed GDF-Suez's legal department across 40 countries. Her tenure at Gaz de France began in 2005, where she held roles as Deputy Director of Strategy and Public Affairs Delegate, and later as Director of Legal Matters.

Sandra's career commenced in public service, holding key legal positions. From 1995, she served at the Conseil d'Etat as an auditor and later a maître des

requêtes (counsel). In 1998, she worked with Laurent Fabius, then President of the National Assembly. By 2000, she was at the Ministry of the Economy, Finance, and Industry, focusing on legal issues, public procurement contracts, and competition law.

Educated at the prestigious École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), Sandra Lagumina holds two advanced degrees (DESS) from Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne in Common Market and Public Law, and from Sciences Po Paris. Her extensive experience and education make her a formidable force in the arena of corporate transformation and development.

Panel 2: Bridging Education and Industry Needs:



Michael Teutsch serves as the Head of Unit for Erasmus+ Coordination and the Acting Director for Youth Education and Erasmus+ within the European Commission's Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture.

Since 2004, he has held various roles focused on the EU's education strategy and funding programs. He commenced his career with the European Commission in 2001, joining the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion.

Prior to his tenure at the European Commission, Michael accumulated extensive experience in both governmental and research sectors. He worked at the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and contributed to research projects in Germany and Italy. His research centered on European structural funds, transport, and environmental policies.

Michael Teutsch's career reflects a robust dedication to advancing educational initiatives and fostering youth development across Europe, underpinned by a deep understanding of EU policies and funding mechanisms.



Katrien Maes is an expert in European Union research, innovation, and higher education policies. Since 2004, she has been a pivotal figure at the League of European Research Universities (LERU), a prestigious consortium of 24 research-intensive universities across Europe. In her role, Katrien has been instrumental in advocating for the critical role of research universities and shaping policy both in Europe and internationally.

Currently, she leads LERU's initiatives on sustainability and sustainable development. Katrien's expertise extends across a wide array of policy areas, including research management, funding and assessment, doctoral education, research careers and professional development, gender equality and diversity, and research integrity.

A native of Belgium, Katrien Maes earned her PhD in linguistics from the University of Delaware in the United States, where she also served as a tenure-track assistant professor from 1986 to 2002. Her academic background and extensive experience make her a key contributor to the discourse on higher education and research policies globally.



Veerle Vandeweerd has over 40 years of experience in global, national, and local sustainable development policy, program development, and implementation. Her extensive career includes more than two decades of service within the United Nations system.

Veerle is a co-founder of the Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Conference Series (G-STIC) and served as its Policy Director from 2017 to 2019. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she established the COVID Education Alliance (COVIDEA) in 2020, as well as the Platform for Transformative Technologies (P4TT), both of which foster

collaborative platforms to bring innovative, integrated industrial solutions to market to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Veerle served as the Principal Sustainability Advisor for the Global Entrepreneurship Centre, an organization that invests in transformative companies with the potential to significantly impact the achievement of the SDGs. She also co-founded the Kenyan Entrepreneurship Centre and continues to serve on the boards of several sustainable development organizations.

During her tenure at the United Nations, Veerle held several senior positions at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and directed the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Environment and Energy Group for eight years. She also served as Special Advisor to the UN Global Compact, facilitating responsible corporate policies and practices worldwide.

Before joining the United Nations, Veerle taught at the University of Zambia, conducted research on African sleeping sickness, and led the environmental reporting department within the Flemish Government in Belgium.

Veerle holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Antwerp (cum laude), a master's degree in chemistry, and bachelor's degrees in both biology and chemistry from the University of Gent, Belgium.

Panel 3: Governance and Regulatory Frameworks



Yvon Slingenberg has been serving as the Director in the Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIM) for 'Strategy, Analysis & Planning' since June 2023, and previously for January 2022. Prior to these roles, she was the Director responsible for Climate Strategy, Governance, and Emissions from Non-Trading Sectors. In this capacity, she oversaw various components of the "Fit for 55" package of proposals and contributed significantly to DG CLIM's input for the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Between late 2016 and the end of 2020, Yvon led international climate negotiations and fostered cooperation with third countries for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. She also managed EU action on adaptation, resilience, and the integration of climate issues across EU policies.

During the first two years of the Juncker Commission (2015-2016), she acted as a Senior Adviser in the Cabinet of Commissioner Arias Cañete for Climate Action and Energy, where she played a vital role in shaping the legislative framework aimed at achieving the 2030 climate and energy targets.

From 2007 to 2014, Yvon was the Head of Unit for the implementation of the EU Emissions Trading System within DG CLIM. Prior to that, from 2003 to 2007, she directed the chemicals policy unit in DG Environment, negotiating the new chemicals legislation (REACH). She has also worked with Commissioner Wallström's cabinet on environment and climate issues (2002-2003), contributed to the European Commission's Task-force for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 (Johannesburg), and participated in international climate negotiations from 1998 to 2002. Additionally, she has experience working in the 'Waste Management Policy' Unit.

Yvon is a Dutch lawyer with a specialization in international environmental law from the University of Amsterdam. She is fluent in Dutch, English, French, German, and Spanish.



Marlies van Driel serves as the Director of Government Affairs for the Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) region at The Sherwin-Williams Company, one of the leading global manufacturers of paint and coatings. With over 12 years at Sherwin-Williams, Marlies has held several pivotal roles, continually contributing to the company's growth and regulatory alignment. Her extensive career, spanning more than three decades in the chemicals industry, equips her with unparalleled expertise and a distinct industry perspective.

Prior to her current position, Marlies dedicated three years to Sherwin-Williams' Sustainability division, where she spearheaded numerous impactful initiatives that underscored the company's commitment to sustainable practices. Beginning her career in 1993 as an Industrial Hygienist, she has developed profound knowledge in operations, health and safety, product compliance, and internal audits, with a particular emphasis on chemical compliance.

Marlies is widely recognized for her insights on regulatory affairs and industry standards. She is a staunch advocate for harmonizing the European Union's green policies with the practicalities of manufacturing operations. Marlies holds a master's degree in chemistry and engineering from the University of Amsterdam, fortifying her technical expertise and leadership in the field.



Eline Boon is a Senior Policy Manager at the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, specializing in EU policy. With a wealth of experience in sustainable development, she previously served at the European Commission and advised on circular economy initiatives in the cabinet of the Belgian Federal Minister for Climate, Sustainable Development, Environment, and the EU Green Deal.