Keynote speakers (chair: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP)

General (retired) Tom Middendorp — International Military Council on Climate and Security
Sandrine Dixson-Declève — The Club of Rome
Joss Blériot — Ellen MacArthur Foundation

First panel: Our use of Natural Resources (chair: Peter Liese MEP)

Peder Jensen, International Resource Panel
Fulvia Raffaelli, EU Commission, DG GROW
Bela Galcoci, International Trade Union Institute, ETUI
Jihane Ball, Dow

Second panel: Protection of our Natural Capital (chair: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP)

Matthew Billot, UN Environment
Hans Bruyninckx, European Environment Agency
Luc Bas, IUCN
Jérôme Charton, Ecolab

Third panel: Our Urban Infrastructure & Mobility (chair: Seb Dance MEP)

Claire Roumet, Energy Cities
Herald Ruijters, EU Commission, DG MOVE
Sophie Perroud, HEAL
Egbert Lox, Umicore

Conclusions

Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP, GLOBE EU
Tom Middendorp

Tom was The Netherlands’ Chief of Defense for five and a half years and spent 38 years serving his country. He commanded soldiers on all levels, led a large multinational taskforce in the south of Afghanistan and was involved in over twenty different military missions as Director of Operations.

Tom led the Defense organization through an intense period of transition and has extensive operational and strategic experience in building unity of effort with different nations, governmental- and non-governmental organizations, international institutions, and civil stakeholders in order to deal with a wide range of security risks. He joined the Clingendael Institute as a Senior Associate Fellow and is Chairman of the International Military Council on Climate and Security. He is also the Netherlands’ Special Envoy on European Defense Cooperation and a Senior Advisor in the areas of security, defense and strategic leadership.
Sandrine Dixson-Declève

Sandrine Dixson-Declève has 30 years of European and international policy, business leadership and strategy experience with a focus on EU and international climate change, sustainable development, green growth, conventional and sustainable energy solutions and sustainable finance.

She is currently the Co-President of the Club of Rome and a respected senior advisor, facilitator and lecturer. Sandrine divides her time between the following positions: Senior Associate and faculty member of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL); Senior Associate, E3G; Special Advisor, Xynteo & Energy Transition Commission (ETC); Senior Advisor, Interel; Chair of the INKEMIA Scientific Advisory Board; Member of the European Aluminium’s Sustainability Advisory Board; Member of the IEEP Advisory Board; Member of the Climate KIC Advisory Board and the European Commission’s Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance; co-founder of the Women Enablers Change Agent Network (WECAN).

Sandrine was recognized by GreenBiz as one of the 30 most influential women across the globe driving change in the low carbon economy and promoting green business. She has built from scratch, fundraised and run EU offices and platforms bringing together business leaders, policy makers, academia and NGO’s. Until recently, Sandrine was Chief Partnership Officer for UN Agency Sustainable Energy for All and prior to that the Director of the Prince of Wales’s Corporate Leaders Group and the EU office of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (2009-2016). During that period, she was also appointed Executive Director of the Green Growth Platform bringing together EU Ministers and CEO’s.

Previous advisory and professional positions include: advising for HRH The Prince of Wales, Members of the European Parliament, European Commission Presidents, Commissioners and officials, Governments in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, international organizations (OPEC, ADB, OECD, UNEP, USAID, UNFCCC, IEA) and business leaders of large international, European and African companies. Sandrine was Vice Chair, European Biofuels Technology Platform 2008-2016; Board member, We Mean Business 2014-2016 and the Advisory Board of the Oil and Gas major Sasol from 2007-2010. Member of The Guardian’s Sustainable Business Advisory Board.
Joss Blériot

Jocelyn Blériot joined Ellen MacArthur in 2007, after 12 years spent in the media and publishing industry. Initially in charge of editorial matters at the Foundation (overseeing content development and messaging), he now fully focuses on leading the organization’s institutional engagement. He notably represents the Foundation at the European Commission and manages the relationship with governments and supra-national bodies such as the United Nations, the G7 Resource Alliance, the OECD or the World Economic Forum.
Peder Jensen

Dr. Peder Jensen is heading the Secretariat of the International Resource Panel (IRP) which is in the offices of UN Environment in Paris, France. The Panel’s mission is to provide independent, coherent and authoritative scientific assessments of policy relevance on the sustainable use of natural resources and, in particular, their environmental impacts over the full life cycle; and contribute to a better understanding of how to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

The Panel consists of eminent scientists, highly skilled in resource management issues. Their reports distil the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic findings around global resource use. They provide advice and connections between policymakers, industry and the community on ways to improve global and local resource management. The Panel includes scientists and governments from both developed and developing regions, civil society, industrial and international organizations.

Before taking up the post in the Panel Secretariat, Peder worked for European Environment Agency and the European Commission for 17 years, in areas of partnership development as well as in the thematic areas of transport, energy and climate change.

He is a former Associate Professor in transport telematics at the Technical University of Denmark, from where he also received his Ph.D. and master’s degree in transport economics and planning.
Fulvia Raffaelli

Fulvia Raffaelli, is the Head of GROW Unit ‘Clean Products and Technologies’. She joined the Commission in 2002 as responsible for Waste management and Recycling related issues in DGENTR. From March 2005, she worked on REACH first as policy advisor on the legislative process, then as responsible for the implementation of the Authorisation and Restriction processes and for the first REACH review. In 2012, she became Deputy Head of GROW Strategic Policy Unit in particular in charge of Relations with the Council and implementation of COSME (SMEs supporting programme). Since 2015, she is leading the Commission’s unit in charge of the competitiveness aspects of Circular Economy, Energy efficiency and Climate related policies. The implementation of the Ecodesign Directive, the Construction Products Regulation and the Construction 2020 strategy are also part of her portfolio.

Born in 1969 in Italy, Fulvia Raffaelli has studied in Italy, Belgium and France and is graduated in Contemporary History, European Political Affairs and Political Science.
Bela Galgoczi

Bela Galgoczi has been working as senior research officer at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI), Brussels since April 2003. His main research fields over the years have been capital and labor mobility in the EU, third country migration and income convergence. His current research focus is a just transition towards a carbon neutral economy with focus on fair labor market transitions in carbon intensive sectors and regions.

He has a degree in electronical engineering (Budapest Technical University), in sociology (University of Sciences Budapest) with post-graduate studies in political science University of Amsterdam). He also holds a Ph.D. in economics (Hungarian Academy of Sciences).
Jihane Ball

Jihane currently serves as Dow’s Director of Global Product Safety and Compliance, with oversight for Dow’s global product stewardship program and product regulatory services in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India (EMEAI) including REACH compliance. In this role, she also leads and enables the advancement of Dow’s 2025 Sustainability Goals with a special focus on Leading the Blueprint and Safe Materials for a Sustainable Planet.

Jihane recently completed a secondment at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) during which she supported the development of WBCSD’s partnership and engagement strategy.

Jihane joined Dow in 2006 and has since served in several roles in product safety and compliance in both upstream and market-facing Dow businesses. Jihane also spent some time working in Dow’s U.S. Government Affairs Group where she managed a policy portfolio that included Federal and State policies relating to chemicals and health, the environment, education in “Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics” (STEM), and workforce development.

Prior to joining Dow, Jihane worked as an environmental toxicologist and regulatory specialist at The Estée Lauder Companies in the United Kingdom.

Jihane completed her studies in the UK, earning both her master’s degree in Toxicology and her Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Surrey. She also received her bachelor’s degree (First Class Honors) in Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University of Westminster in London.
Matthew Billot

Matt Billot has over twenty years’ experience in undertaking environmental assessments as well as environmental management and policy. Matt worked for WSP Environment and Energy in the UK as an Associate Director of the Environmental Planning team. He was responsible for undertaking environmental impact assessments of development proposals across a wide range of sectors, particularly property, industry and transport.

Matt joined UN Environment in 2010 as the Head of the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) Unit within UN Environment’s Science Division (Scientific Assessment Branch) and was responsible for the Integrated Environmental Assessment Section and, in particular, delivering UN Environment’s flagship Global Environment Outlook-5 assessment in 2012.

He is currently responsible for delivering the activities of UN Environment’s sub-programme 7 ‘keeping the environment under review’ in the pan-European region. In particular, focusing on establishing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) for the region by 2021. This involves building the capacity of countries to generate, share and use environmental data/ statistics and information for multiple purposes ranging from national state of environment reporting and MEA reporting to Agenda 2030/SDG follow-up and review. Matt manages the delivery of other key UN Environment products and services, which include producing the regular GEO Assessment for the pan-European region and providing web-based tools and technologies to support sharing of environmental data and information from national to global levels.
Hans Bruyninckx

Hans Bruyninckx is the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since 1 June 2013.

In 1996, Dr Bruyninckx completed a PhD in international environmental politics at Colorado State University.

From 2010 to 2013, he was head of the policy-oriented research institute, HIVA, in Leuven, Belgium. He was head of the Political Science department at Leuven University from 2007 to 2010.

Over the last 20 years, he has conducted research in areas including environmental politics, climate change, and sustainable development. He has taught on global environmental politics and global environmental governance in relation to the European Union (EU), publishing extensively on EU environmental policies and its role as an actor in global environmental governance.

Throughout his career, Dr Bruyninckx has worked with and advised governmental agencies, civil society and businesses.
Luc Bas

Luc Bas is the Director of the IUCN European Regional Office in Brussels, representing IUCN towards the EU Institutions and providing leadership and guidance for all activities undertaken by IUCN Government and NGO members within the European context. This includes informing decision-making through IUCN’s knowledge on topics such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Red Lists, Protected Area management, Natural Capital and promoting the use of nature-based solutions across different sectors.

Prior to this, Luc was European Director of The Climate Group in Brussels, working with business and government to reach more ambitious EU climate policies and prepare for a true energy transition. As International Director of The Climate Group’s States and Regions Alliance, he established one of the most significant networks of sub-national governments leading on tackling climate change.

Luc worked as adviser on international sustainable development policies for both the Belgian Federal and Flemish Governments, representing them at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (SD), the OECD national SD expert panel, the Belgium Federal Council on SD, as well as at various networks of subnational governments.
Jérôme Charton

As Executive Vice President of Ecolab Inc. and President of Ecolab Europe region, Jérôme is responsible for the entire scope of Ecolab’s business in the Europe region.

Following a 15-year career with global Healthcare company Baxter in multiple marketing and general manager roles, Jérôme joined Ecolab as Vice President and General Manager of the Healthcare business in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Following four years in that role Jérôme moved to run the Food and Beverage business in Europe, followed by a stint at the helm of Ecolab’s global Paper business.

Jérôme’s undergraduate studies were in mathematics and financial controlling, followed by further studies in business. He graduated with an MBA from Cranfield University in the United Kingdom. He also completed an executive management program at the Emlyon Business School in Lyon, France, where he continues to play an active role in mentoring students.

Ecolab Inc. is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that provide and protect people and vital resources—clean water, safe food, abundant energy and healthy environments. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to the foodservice, food and beverage processing, hospitality, healthcare, light and heavy industry, oil and gas, mining and mineral processing markets, aiming to make the world cleaner, safer, healthier and more sustainable.
Claire Roumet

Claire Roumet is Director of Energy Cities, the European association of local authorities in energy transition.

Energy Cities opens dialogue between Mayors and EU institutions to accelerate the energy transition of European cities, with the example of its pioneer 1000 members located in 30 countries. Democratize, Devolve, and Divest the energy system is our agenda to support cities in transforming their communities.

She joined the team of Energy cities in 2014 after 10 years as Secretary General of Housing Europe, the Federation of social housing providers. She is French and graduated in economics. She completed a post-graduate in European policies in Strasbourg after a year of econometrics in Mainz, Germany. Living in Brussels, she speaks English, Spanish and French with some German.
Herald Ruijters

On 1 February 2017, Mr Ruijters was appointed Director of Directorate B - Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport in DG Mobility and Transport, while at the same time continuing as Head of Unit responsible for the Trans European Network (TEN-T) until 1 April. He assumed the role of Head of Unit in 2009 and was directly involved in developing the TEN-T Guidelines.

He previously worked in the same DG from 2005 to 2009, in order to promote the implementation of TEN-T projects in cooperation with the European Coordinators, and for the development of road safety policy, from 1997 to 2005. Before coming to the Commission, he held various positions in The Netherlands related to transport.

Mr Ruijters holds degrees from Nijmegen and Amsterdam Universities in both French literature and European Studies and was post-graduated at the Centre Européen Universitaire in Nancy, in European Law, and in Business Studies at the University in Leuven.
Sophie Perroud

Sophie Perroud has been HEAL’s policy coordinator since March 2018, coordinating HEAL’s overall policy input into decision-making processes, representing the views of HEAL to the EU institutions, and building capacity among HEAL’s membership. Before joining HEAL, Sophie worked as adviser and campaigner at the European Parliament for over 5 years. Her areas of expertise include environmental health, access to health care, food safety and social affairs. Sophie has also previously worked at Zero Waste France – called CNIID at that time – on biowaste and with a consultancy on local health and social policies in Paris.
Egbert Lox

Egbert Lox earned his MSc (1982) and PhD (1987) in Chemical Engineering at the University of Ghent (Belgium). He joined the central research laboratories of Degussa AG (Germany) in 1987, where he built up the R&D group for automotive emission control catalysts and assumed consecutive management levels in that area till 2006.

From 2006 to 2012 he took care of the management of the corporate R&D team of Umicore, which deploys its activities in Belgium and in Germany. Since 2013 he assumes the position of Senior Vice President Government Affairs, based in Umicore’s headquarters in Brussels (Belgium).

He is chairman of the Board of Directors of Innotek and represents Umicore in the Board or Executive Committee of several industry associations in Belgium, France, Germany and the EU. He lectures on automotive emission control catalysts amongst others at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany. In 2015 he was granted the honorary professorship at this university. He is member of several university advisory councils and served as jury of PhD-Thesis’s and scientific awards at universities across the EU. Furthermore, he interacts with various Research and Technology organizations (RTO’s) by being member of the advisory board and/or strategic evaluation & audit teams.

He is author or co-author of about 130 technical papers; he is also co-inventor of more than 90 patents in the field of heterogeneous catalysis and is the co-recipient of the 1998 A.T. Colwell Merit Award of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). He is a permanent member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts (KVAB) and elected member of the Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea (EASA, Salzburg, Austria).