

## Charting the Path to Sustainable Economic Development

European Parliament, March 25, 2025

### Speakers:



**Tim Jackson** is an ecological economist and writer. Since 2016 he has been Director of the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP) at the University of Surrey in the UK. Tim has been at the forefront of international debates on sustainability for more than three decades and has worked closely with governments, the United Nations, the European Commission, numerous NGOs, private companies and foundations to bring economic and social science research into sustainability. From 2004 to 2011 he was Economics Commissioner for the UK Sustainable Development Commission where his work culminated in the publication of *Prosperity without Growth* (2009/2017) which was subsequently translated into 18 foreign languages worldwide. It was named as a *Financial Times* 'book of the year' in 2010 and was *UnHerd's* economics book of the decade in 2019. In 2016, Tim was awarded the Hillary Laureate for exceptional international leadership in sustainability. His book *Post Growth—life after capitalism* won the Eric Zencey Prize for Economics in 2022. His latest book *The Care Economy* was published in February 2025. In addition to his academic work, Tim is an award-winning dramatist with numerous radio-writing credits for the BBC.



**Dirk Dembski's** expertise is in General Management, Commercial Functions, M&A, Change Management and Turnarounds, both in biopharmaceuticals and medical de-vices. Before joining curasan in January 2021, he used to serve TOPCON Healthcare as Managing Director. Prior to this he was appointed as Executive Managing Director at Naton Medical, one of China's largest medtech companies, where he completed sev-eral acquisitions and built the international business. He also served as board member of Bone Therapeutics SA and worked as Vice President of Sales, Marketing and Busi-ness Development at Olympus Biotech for EMEA, Asia Pacific and Latin America, where he successfully marked a portfolio of bone growth factors, cell technologies and

innovative biomaterials. Dirk has studied economics and management in the UK, Germany, Switzerland and South Africa.



**Xiaoting** leads Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL)'s work with national governments, policymakers and change makers who seek to make politics, policies, and governance more conducive for regenerative and distributive economies. Xiaoting has worked and travelled to 58 countries and has a deep appreciation of diverse cultures and ecosystems and their complex interconnectedness. A curious and keen learner, Xiaoting is especially interested in the practical application of systems thinking and complexity science in reshaping politics and policy decisions. She has applied her strong evidence synthesis, facilitation and project management skills over a diversity of sustainable development issues ranging from sustainable financing, sustainable forest management, agrobiodiversity, ecosystem-based adaptation, industry ecology and supply chain management to political economy and managing trade-offs in land-use decisions.



**Rutger Hoekstra** is an associate professor at the Institute of Environmental Sciences of Leiden University. He leads the WISE Horizons project which is a 4-year European project to develop metrics, accounting and models for Wellbeing, Inclusion and Sustainability (WISE). He is also involved in the MERGE project and many other international initiatives such as the UN' Expert Group on Measuring Wellbeing (EGMW). He is also the author of *Replacing GDP by 2030* which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2019. He has worked with/for the United Nations, World Bank, European Commission, OECD, European Central Bank, KPMG, Statistics Netherlands and many other organizations.



**Victor Cannilla** is a PhD candidate at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He was trained in physics and in financial mathematics, after which he worked for five years in top-tier algorithmic trading and management consulting firms. He then decided that this type of career was unsustainable and incompatible with his ethical and political views. He achieved a master's in political economy and joined the REAL - A Post-Growth Deal EU ERC-funded research project, led by Julia Steinberger, Giorgos Kallis and Jason Hickel. His research interests include the

intersection of post-growth and international relations, thinking how geopolitical competition fuels growthist policies, and anticipating what sort of international backlash would a post-growth-friendly government likely face.



outlets and maintaining his own blog.

**Hans Stegeman** is the Chief Economist at Triodos Bank, where he oversees economic and sustainability research, as well as Triodos' impact strategy. His work centres on the fundamental belief that our economic system requires significant changes, with the financial sector playing a pivotal role in this transformation. Prior to joining Triodos, he held various positions at Rabobank, the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), and started his career at a labour union. In addition to his role as Chief Economist, Hans is an avid writer, contributing columns and essays to various media



Environmental Science and Engineering from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia and her M.Sc. degree in Applied Chemistry from University of Zagreb, Croatia. Sara is an advocate for women advancements and empowerment; being active in Dow's internal employee resource groups focusing on importance of networking and a Committee Member for LEWAS (Leadership Excellence for Women Awards Symposium).

**Sara Livazovic** is an EMEAI External Technology Leader located at Dow's Terneuzen site in the Netherlands. In her role, Sara oversees and facilitates Dow's external engagement with non-profit organizations and maps relevant government funding opportunities at EU and national level to match with Dow' internal needs and strategies. Sara joined Dow in 2017 in Saudi Arabia where she held few roles, most recent one being a R&D/TS&D support for Dow's Construction Chemical business supporting customers across Middle East and Africa. Sara obtained her PhD degree in



**Frank Vanaerschot** is the director of Counter Balance, a European network of 9 NGOs fighting to make European public investment the spearhead of the transition towards socially and environmentally sustainable, caring and equitable societies. Monitoring the operations of the EIB and leading campaigns to make it a more sustainable, democratic and transparent institution is the major focus of the network. Frank previously worked for 12 years as a researcher and activist with FairFin, a Belgian NGO that works for a new financial system that is transparent, fair and democratic..



**Benoît Lallemand** has been Secretary General of Finance Watch since January 2017. He was previously a senior policy analyst (mainly MiFID 2), senior advisor to Better Markets on EU affairs and head of strategic development and operations at Finance Watch. He also initiated the Citizens' Dashboard of Finance, a platform allowing a broad range of stakeholders, including pioneers in sustainable businesses and financial services, academics and civil society organizations to engage on a global campaign to change finance. Before joining Finance Watch upon its creation in 2011, Benoît spent more than ten years in the financial sector, in clearing and settlement (market infrastructure). He was initially a team leader before holding senior positions in asset-servicing departments, focusing on fixed income and structured products' primary markets and regulatory reporting. He was then in charge of several business steering committees and strategic projects..



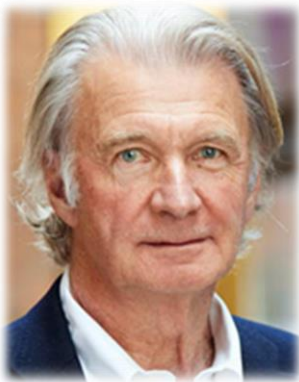
**Stientje van Veldhoven** is the Vice President and Regional Director for Europe and is based in the Europe Regional Office in The Hague. Stientje has been a prominent politician in the Netherlands, most recently serving as a Member of Cabinet responsible for Public Transport and Environment and as Minister for the Environment and Housing. She has also been a Member of Parliament, an international diplomat, representing the Dutch government in the European Union in Brussels and has been working with the European Commission DG research and development. Stientje has had longstanding involvement in environmental issues, especially related to climate change, energy and the circular economy.





**Sandrine Dixson-Declève** is an environmental scientist and an international climate change, sustainable development, sustainable finance, and complex system thought leader. She is Honorary President of the Club of Rome and Executive Chair of Earth4All, dividing her time between the Club of Rome, advising on non-Executive corporate and academic Boards, lecturing, and facilitating difficult conversations. She is a TED global speaker and was recognised by Reuters in 2023 as one of 25 global female trailblazers and by GreenBiz as one of the 30 most influential women across the globe driving change in the low carbon economy

and promoting green business.



**Anders Wijkman** is an opinionmaker and author. He is Honorary President of the Club of Rome and Chair of the Governing Board of Climate-KIC – the largest public-private partnership on innovation for low-carbon solutions in the EU. He is a member of the International Resource Panel. From 1999 to 2009, he was a Member of the European Parliament and served as President of GLOBE EU during his second term. During 2015-2016 he chaired the Swedish Cross-party Committee on Environmental Objectives, responsible for developing Sweden’s long-term strategy on Climate Change. Anders has also served as Assistant Secretary-General of

the United Nations and Policy Director of UNDP, as Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, as Secretary General of the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and as Director General of SAREC (the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries). He is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences as well as the Swedish Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the World Future Council and the World Academy of Arts and Science. Anders is honorary doctor at Linköping University (2011).



**Lars De Nul** is the deputy head of the “Industry 5.0 and AI in Science” unit in the Directorate-General for Research & Innovation of the European Commission. The unit contributes to the directorate-general’s forward-looking R&I agenda. It is primarily focused on the development of sustainable, resilient, and human-centric industry (Industry 5.0), and of artificial intelligence and other digital technologies, notably within the scientific domain. Lars holds master’s degrees in Artificial Intelligence and Applied Computer Science, as well as a PhD in Philosophy. Before joining the European

Commission, he worked as a project manager, business analysis and IT manager for the European Parliament, as a software researcher for the Flemish media industry, and as an academic researcher at the University of Antwerp.



**David Wagner** is Professor for International Business and Digital Business, Academic Director for the Doctor in Business Administration (DBA) and Vice Dean for Research at Munich Business School. He teaches, does research, and consults in the fields of digital strategy, digital innovation, and digital transformation. He is the winner of the MBS Teaching Award 2022 and the MBS Research Award 2023. David Wagner studied management and economics at Otto von Guericke University in Magdeburg, Germany, and management psychology at University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. He earned his doctoral degree from the joint graduate program of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder and the German Graduate School of Management and Law in Heilbronn, Germany. He was a visiting scholar at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, among others. Besides his experience in academia, David Wagner has worked in the field of international economic development, at various technology companies, and as a consultant for digital business. In parallel to his commitments at Munich Business School, he has continued to work with high-profile organizations in both the private and the public sector. In his research, David Wagner investigates how digital technologies create value and foster innovations. In this context, he studies which strategies and/or capabilities organizations need to develop to address technological changes. David Wagner has an extensive track record in the field of social media and online communities. He has published multiple journal papers, book chapters, and reports, and frequently speaks at conferences, workshops, and media outlets.