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## WCLN

### Magali ANDERSON (France)

Until September 2023, Magali was Chief Sustainability and Innovation Officer and a member of the executive committee of Holcim Group, the Switzerland-based global building materials company. She joined Holcim as Group Head of Health & Safety in 2016, before becoming Chief Sustainability Officer in 2019 and adding Innovation to her remit in 2021.



During her Holcim tenure, Magali was a member of the advisory boards of industry organisations: Business for Nature, the MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium, the World Green Building Council, and the 50L Home Coalition on water efficiency; and Co-chair of the 2050 net-zero work for the Global Cement and Concrete Association.

Prior to joining Holcim, Magali spent the majority of her career with Schlumberger, holding operational line management positions including CEO, Angola and Region Head, Europe. She has also held several functional roles, including Vice President, Marketing, Vice President, Shared Services for Europe and Africa, and Vice President, Maintenance. Magali started her career as a field engineer on offshore oil rigs in Nigeria, beginning a 27-year career in oil and gas.

Magali writes about women in the industry in her blog here: [Diversity En - Magali Anderson](#).

### Santa AUGUSTE-ŠOLE (Latvia)



Head of Sustainability and Environmental Management for Riga Airport in Latvia, Santa Auguste-Šole leads a team working across the organisation to bring to life the strategic goal of “Developing a safe and sustainable airport infrastructure that meets future demands” by: further integrating sustainability into business strategies, processes and policies; engaging and educating employees; and collaborating with local community, value chain partners and other external stakeholders.

Santa Auguste-Šole has been working as Head of Sustainability and Environmental Management of Riga for three years. In her current position, her main duties include:

- Developing the Airport Sustainability Policy and Sustainability Strategy in accordance with SDGs
- Coordinating sustainability activities and initiatives across the organisation and amongst different stakeholders
- Non-financial reporting in accordance with GRI and CSRD, including double materiality assessment
- Organising the work of the Sustainability Committee of Riga Airport
- Promoting the improvement of the direction of research and development as well as innovations at the Airport, especially for technologies related to climate change

Prior to joining Riga Airport, Santa Auguste-Šole worked as a public radio journalist, however, the last ten years her professional career have been devoted to sustainability matters.

Santa Auguste-Šole holds a Bachelor’s degree of Political Sciences from the University of Latvia, and has received certificates for taking specialised courses in sustainability, project management and leadership programmes.



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### Andrea BASILOVA (Slovakia)

Andrea is Co-Founder of Sensoneo - a technology company that provides cities and businesses with data-driven waste management solutions leading to efficiency, transparency, and a lower environmental footprint.

Since 2017, when the company was founded, Sensoneo has received many awards recognizing the positive aspect of their solutions on the environment. Sensoneo managed to quickly grow and its solutions are now installed in over 85 countries worldwide. Thanks to the innovations the company developed and the experience with deployment of different projects in various countries, Andrea has managed to build a unique know-how in areas such as digitization, sustainability, and circular economy.



### Catia BASTIOLI (Italy)

Catia Bastioli is a chemist, a researcher, and an entrepreneur. She is CEO of the Novamont Group, an industrial reality born from the results of her research activity on the development of bioplastics and biochemicals from renewable origin, according to a model of Circular Bioeconomy that she developed, intended as territorial regeneration with the quality of soil and water at its centre.



She is President of the Kyoto Club Association (since 2009) and of the Italian Cluster of Circular Bioeconomy SPRING (Since 2014). She has been a member of important EU working groups on climate change and the environment, such as the Mission Board on Soil Health and Food. First inventor of about 80 patent families in the sector of biopolymers and transformation processes of renewable raw materials, she was awarded "European Inventor of the Year 2007" by the European Patent Office and the European Commission. She holds an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials Engineering by "Alma Mater Studiorum" University of Bologna (2019), a Honoris Causa Degree in Business Economics by University of Foggia (2018), a Honoris Causa Degree in Materials Engineering by University of Palermo (2016) and a Honoris Causa Degree in Industrial Chemistry by University of Genoa (2008).

### Julie BECKER (Luxembourg)

Julie Becker has been at the helm of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) since April 2021. She joined LuxSE in 2013 and was appointed to its Executive Committee in 2015, before being named Deputy CEO in 2019, and CEO two years later.

Her career in the financial sector in Luxembourg spans over two decades and includes positions at the Central Bank of Luxembourg and Dexia. In 2016, Julie Becker founded the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX), the world's leading platform for sustainable securities. A recognised expert in the field of sustainable finance, Julie Becker has represented LuxSE and LGX at numerous, international expert forums and conferences over the past years, including at the EU High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance from 2017 to 2019.



Julie Becker was awarded "The inventor" by Global Landscape as part of their campaign "16 Women Restoring the Earth" in 2019. She is also the Chair of LuxCMA, a capital markets industry association established in 2019 and a board member of the IMS, Luxembourg's leading network for Sustainable Development since 2021. Julie Becker is a founding member of the Luxembourg Women in Finance Charter as well as a member of the Luxembourg Gender





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Finance Task Force, both launched in 2023. She was appointed as a member of the University of Luxembourg's Board of Governors in 2023.

Julie Becker specialises in regulatory and legal matters linked to capital markets. She holds a Master Degree in European & Corporate Law and a Master Degree (DEA) in Private Law from the University of Nancy II, France. She is also an alumna of the Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, USA.

## **Camilla BENEDETTI (Italy)**

Camilla Benedetti graduated in Economics and Management from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. After an experience at Ernest & Young as an auditor, she began her career at Danieli in 2008 as a Management Controller for the European and American subsidiaries. Later, she was promoted to Operational Coordinator for the Compliance Project responsible for analyzing, monitoring, and defining the company's flows and processes. In 2012, she became Head of the Accounts Payable Department and Cash Office.



In 2015, she took on responsibility for the Organizational Development of the Human Resources of the Danieli Group. In the same year, she became member of the Company's Board of Directors. In 2016, she was appointed Head of Human Resources of the Danieli Group and became Group's Deputy Chairwoman in 2017. Since 2016, she has been a member of the Board of MIP Politecnico di Milano - Graduate School of Business as well as member of the Scientific Committee of MIB in Trieste - Graduate School of Business, and then Board Member of the School.

In 2022, Camilla Benedetti was appointed Chairwoman of ABS - Acciaierie Bertoli Safau S.p.A., the Steelmaking division of the Danieli Group, with responsibility for Information Technologies, Human Resources, and Industrial Accounting.

## **Sasha BEZUHANOVA (Bulgaria)**

Sasha Bezuhanova is a senior executive, angel investor and philanthropist with a 20-year executive business career in HP and a multi-dimensional track record of service to society.



She is the founder of [MOVE.BG](#) - non-partisan platform for collaboration in finding sustainable solutions for the state, economy, and society via innovation, participation and co-creation. Sasha is the and initiator of [Green Restart Coalition](#) – collaborative network for green innovation and policy agenda, [EDIT.BG](#) – open network initiative for digital innovation, as also [The ChangeMakers](#) – multidisciplinary community engagement initiative bridging digital, green and art innovators.

Sasha is Chair of the Boards of [Bulgarian Center of Women in Technologies](#) and [WWF CEE](#), Member of the Investment committee of [European Innovation Council](#) and Advisor in [Greentech Alliance](#). She is also a mentor and angel investor in a number of technological and sustainability startups.

Sasha was named [Digital woman of Europe for 2013](#) and one of the Top 100 Challengers in [New Europe 100](#) for 2015, and holds many other national and European awards for her contribution to social development.

She is an Honorary Consul of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Bulgaria.

Sasha Bezuhanova holds an Executive master's degree in International Negotiations and Policy Making from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, master's degree in Electronics from the Technical University of Sofia, and Executive qualifications from INSEAD, Stanford, and others.



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## **Valentina BOSETTI (Italy)**

Valentina Bosetti is professor of environmental and climate change economics at Bocconi University. Prof Bosetti is also a senior scientist at the RFF-CMCC European Institute on Economics and the Environment, and she has been collaborating with the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change since 2010.



Prof. Bosetti wrote numerous papers on integrated assessment modeling of climate change, on green innovation, and on climate change perception. Valentina Bosetti was one of the lead authors of the 5th and 6th Assessment Report of the [IPCC \(2014, 2022\)](#).

She was the Principal Investigator of two ERC Starting Grants, one on Innovation and clean technologies ([ICARUS](#)), and a second on Uncertainty and Climate Change (RISICO). Prof. Bosetti served as the president of the Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics ([IAERE](#)), and as council member of the European one ([EAERE](#)).

Between 2020 and 2023 she served as Chairwoman of the Italian TSO, Terna S.p.A.

## **Bernice BUTTIGIEG (Malta)**

After obtaining a Bachelors and Masters degree in law from the University of Malta, Dr Bernice Buttigieg has dedicated her career to driving innovation and growth in the financial sector. Her passion for finance and her leadership abilities quickly propelled her into positions of increasing responsibility. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a keen interest in market trends and a knack for identifying investment growth opportunities.



In her current role as Chief Strategy Officer at FinanceMalta, Bernice plays a pivotal role in shaping the organization's strategic direction. As a key member of the executive team, she spearheads initiatives to promote Malta as a leading international financial center and facilitates collaboration among industry stakeholders.

Through her leadership, Bernice continues to inspire change and catalyze innovation in the field of sustainable finance, asset management, insurance, banking, crypto assets and other related sectors.

Bernice held the role of Secretary General at the Malta Institute of Financial Services Practitioners (IFSP) and the Malta Branch of the International Fiscal Association before being entrusted with supporting the setting up of STEP (Malta) and later FinanceMalta. She was also a director of the Accountancy Board and is a visiting lecturer with the University of Malta, teaching Masters students on financial services-related topics within the Faculty of Laws.

## **Michelle CAPIOD (Sweden)**

Michelle is co-founding partner of Blume Equity, a climate tech growth equity firm. She has spent the last 20+ years as a VC and private equity investor.



She was previously a partner at Mid Europa Partners, and investment banker at Merrill Lynch. Blume invests thematically in European climate tech scale-ups with an impact-lens. Michelle is passionate about supporting purpose-driven entrepreneurs who are tackling the climate emergency and leveraging technology to create a more sustainable world.



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## Beatriz CORREDOR SIERRA (Spain)

Ms. Beatriz Corredor, is currently Chairwoman of Redeia, a global essential services operator in the electricity and telecommunications industries. Graduate in Law, she is Property Registrar on leave of absence. She holds an executive advanced Business Management Programme and another executive Programme focused on “Women on Boards of Directors” from IESE-Business School.



Frequent lecturer and international speaker, she has held top management positions in various areas of the public administration, promoting regulatory measures and legislative processes, in parliament, ministerial departments and in state-owned companies. Her professional experience ranges from Minister for Housing at the Spanish Government, and Member of Parliament and Chair of the House Committee on Justice, to councillor at Madrid’s City Council. She has also chaired the Board of Directors of the State-owned Land Management Company,

SEPES.

She is proactive in gender issues, collaborating with a number of organisations on this field. She is a member of the Advisory Board of WAS-Women Action Sustainability, of WLW-Women in a Legal World and of WomenCEO, and she takes part at the Board of Closingap.

Her experience also extends to the management of institutional relations at the highest national and international levels, with financial entities, real estate companies and other industrial sectors, with professional associations, and NGOs.

## Maria DA CONCEIÇÃO LUCAS (Portugal)

Maria da Conceição Lucas is driven by incorporating ESG factors into financial and corporate decision making, by applying science-based objectives and criteria, and aiming at a positive impact. She believes a proactive role to net zero creates long term resilience and growth for all economic players. She is committed to action, advising, and engaging, aiming at mainstreaming sustainable finance.



Professional experience includes: SFgo (Portugal) - sustainable finance expert and advisor; OMIP - Operador do Mercado Ibérico (Portugal) SGPS - non-executive board member; Maingreen (Portugal) - Founding Partner; Banco Atlântico Europa (Portugal) - Chairwoman; EDP Renováveis - non-executive board member; Banco Millennium BCP (Portugal) - Corporate and Investment banking, executive board member; Affiliated banks of Millennium BCP in Africa and Switzerland - non-executive board member; Bank Millennium (Poland) - supervisory board; Millennium BCP (Macau) - directorship; Ocidental-Ageas insurance group Portugal) - several board-membership positions.

Conceição holds an MSc degree in Operations Research from London School of Economics, a post-graduate degree in Economics from the College of Europe (Bruges, Belgium) in addition to her Management degree from Universidade Católica Portuguesa. She has a vast academic experience including a teaching position of Sustainable Finance at Católica-Lisbon.





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## **Almudena DE LA MATA (Spain)**

Passionate about the economic and social change derived from technology, Dr. Almudena de la Mata is the CEO and founding partner of BlockchaAI Intelligence, leading Center of Excellence in Blockchain and AI, and University Professor. Appointed fellow of the Blockchain Observatory and Forum of the European Commission, she is also Board Member of Alastria Blockchain Ecosystem, Advisory Board of the Foundation for Financial Innovation and the Digital Economy, INATBA and the British Blockchain Association and has been named Blockchain Expert of “The 100 of Cotec Foundation”.



Almudena has led various European projects of technology transfer to SMEs and development of blockchain solutions in the field of sustainability, air quality, and citizens’ participation. She has also participated in the acceleration and internationalization of more than 500 startups, being also co-founder of Impact Hub Madrid.

In the private sector, Almudena has held various European and global management positions in international companies such as General Electric or Fortis Bank (BNP Parisbas) in Brussels.

In the public sector, she is member of the legal staff at Bank of Spain (currently on leave) where she was Head of the European Affairs Unit. She has advised the Bundesbank and the European Commission.

Almudena is a corresponding academician of the Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation. She was a scientific researcher at the Max Planck Institute of the University of Hamburg (1999-2003), director of the European Credit Research Institute (Brussels), researcher at the Centre for European Policy Studies, and has been a professor since 2000 at various European universities (Humboldt University Berlin, University of Hamburg, Pontificia Comillas University-ICADE, IE University).

She holds a PhD in law from the University of Hamburg (Max-Planck-Institut), a master’s degree in European law from the Europa Institut of the University of Saarland (Germany), obtained the Business Development Programme HEC Université de Liège certification and the Certificate Capital Markets, Regulation and Compliance, University of Reading. She has a degree in law -business advisor- from the Pontifical University Comillas ICADE, professional coach by RSC London and diploma in neurolinguistic programming by IPH, Madrid. She speaks 5 languages and enjoys international environments.

## **Maria Teresa GOULÃO (Portugal)**

Maria Teresa Goulão is a distinguished manager and leader on ESG & Sustainability as well as sustainable development. She is a senior expert on circular economy and environmental policies (water, waste, ocean conservation, sustainable soil, carbon, energy and climate, inclusion), with a strong working experience in regulations and European affairs in the area of sustainability.



Maria Teresa is a founder and member of the board of The European Blue Flag Association dedicated to Education for Sustainable Development and the management and recognition of good environmental practices. She is part of the Foundation for Environmental Education, founder and board member of Portuguese focal point of Transparency International, the world's largest organisation of civil society organisations dedicated to fighting corruption. Maria Teresa is a recipient of a national environmental award, and has authored several articles in leading newspapers and magazines.





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### Walburga HEMETSBERGER (Austria)

Walburga Hemetsberger has been the CEO of SolarPower Europe since 2019. She has been working in Brussels for more than 20 years in different positions, most of the time in the energy sector.

Before joining SolarPower Europe, Walburga headed the VERBUND Representation Office in Brussels, and was a Board Member of Hydrogen Europe. Walburga holds a degree in Law and Business Administration from Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck. She speaks German, English, Dutch and French.



### Sabine HERLITSCHKA (Austria)

Sabine Herlitschka is Chief Executive Officer of Infineon Technologies Austria AG. Infineon Technologies AG is a leading European Microelectronics high-tech company with special focus on decarbonization and digitalization, thus unlocking the potential of energy efficiency in various applications, sustainable mobility and Internet of things. Technologies from Infineon demonstrate the huge contribution to achieving the climate goals. In addition to her enthusiasm for technology and its positive impact, Herlitschka is actively engaged in various educational activities promoting technology & engineering amongst young people, particularly women.



Her professional background includes industrial biotech research, international research & innovation management and financing, internships at renowned U.S. institutions including National Science Foundation, Fulbright scholar at George Washington University and Johns Hopkins University, as well as founding Vice-Rector at the Medical University of Graz/Austria.

For more than 25 years she has been involved in strategic European Research & Innovation Programs as project coordinator, evaluator, and member in pioneering European & international expert groups. Amongst various functions nationally and internationally, Herlitschka has been Chair of the Governing Board of the European Joint Undertaking on Electronic Components & Systems. Currently, she is Vice President of the Federation of Austrian Industries, and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Austrian Supply Chain Institute (ASCII).

Sabine Herlitschka holds a PhD in Food & Biotechnology, Postdoc in Industrial Research and a Master of Business Administration.

### Anouk HILGER (Luxembourg)

Anouk Hilger is actively engaged in the renewable energy sector, currently serving as Head of Renewable Energies at Enovos Luxembourg, the leading energy supplier in Luxembourg, also active in the Greater Region. She leads the Luxembourgish renewable energy business with a focus on solar, wind, energy storage systems, and other emerging technologies. To accelerate the energy transition, Enovos has embarked on a significant expansion of renewable energy production and deployment of energy-related solutions.



In addition, she serves on multiple boards including Soler S.A., Luxembourg's major wind power developer and operator, and the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR). Prior to joining Enovos Luxembourg, she held leadership positions in operations, development, marketing, and sales within the manufacturing industry sector.

She holds a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering and a Doctor of Sciences in Chemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ).



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## **Inge HUIJBRECHTS (Belgium)**

Inge Huijbrechts is Global Senior Vice President Sustainability, Security and Corporate Communications for Radisson Hotel Group (RHG)– developing the Sustainability and Safety & Security programs in the group’s 1,250+ hotels in operations & development in 95 countries around the world.

She leads the group’s Net Zero transformation based on approved Science Based Targets.

In April 2022, she was one of the key leaders involved in the definition and launch of the Hotel Sustainability Basics. The new standard is supported by the World Travel & Tourism Council and hotels groups, destinations and associations representing over 50,000 hotels.

Inge is Co-Chair of the ASIS Europe conference, the leading cross industry organization for security. She is a member of the ASIS Chief Security Officer Center for Leadership and Development and of the US State Department’s OSAC Hotel & Lodging Sector Committee. She is a member of the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance Board of Trustees and sits on the GRI Club Sustainability Committee. Inge also serves on the board of Flanders Special Venues.

In 2022 and 2023, Inge was named one of the 100 Most influential people in Global Hospitality and in the global Top 100 Women in Sustainability.



## **Lubomila JORDANOVA (Bulgaria)**

Lubomila Jordanova is the co-founder and CEO of Plan A, Europe’s leading corporate carbon accounting, decarbonisation, and ESG reporting software provider. Lubomila is also co-founder of the Greentech Alliance, a community of more than 3,500 startups connected to more than 500 advisors from VC, media, and business.

She is a member of the International Advisory Board for Social Innovation under the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany and serves as an Advisory Board Member to the Sustainability Board at Chloé.



Prior to Plan A, she worked in investment banking and venture capital as well as the fintech industry in Asia and Europe. She has been recognised as Obama Leader Europe 2022, MIT Innovator Under 35 Europe 2022, Marshall Fund Fellow 2022, Top 50 Women in Tech in Germany 2021 (Handelsblatt) and 30 under 30 (Forbes), among others.



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### Ramona JURUBITĂ (Romania)

Ramona Jurubiță Country Managing Partner, KPMG in Romania, coordinates the company's governance and strategy, representing the KPMG group of companies in Romania both on the local market and internationally, since she is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Central and Eastern Europe region of KPMG.



Through her mandate, Ramona contributes not only to strengthening KPMG's position in Romania, but also to shaping a strong and sustainable socio-economic environment. She is a Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Foreign Investors Council, the President of the United Way Romania foundation and a member of the Strategic Orientation and Analysis Council of the University of Bucharest.

In addition, through her multi-dimensional experience of over 25 years in taxation, Ramona participates as an active member in some of the most prestigious professional associations, both local and international (CCF, CECCAR, ANEVAR, ACCA). She has degrees in both Finance and Law, and has several prestigious academic qualifications as well as a strong personal brand, Ramona is one of the most influential businesswomen in Romania, as recognized in league tables published by the leading business publications, Forbes and Business Magazin.

### Saara KANKAANRINTA (Finland)

Saara Kankaanrinta (M.Soc.Sc.) is a passionate environmental activist focusing on climate, biodiversity and healthy water cycle and interconnection between water, soil and air. She is Co-Founder of Baltic Sea Action Group BSAG Foundation, Carbon Action platform (regenerative agriculture) and two ecological growth companies: Soilfood (recycling nutrients) Ltd and Q Power Ltd (renewable energy, e-methane). She works as a chair or member of the board in each organization.



Kankaanrinta is also the vice chair of the Natural resource Institute of Finland. She's a nature columnist in the biggest news media of Finland. She is a member of global eco-networks related to soil carbon sequestration and ecosystem restoration.

Kankaanrinta and her husband own the oldest manor of Finland, Qvidja Research Farm, and Gullkrona archipelago harbour. "She has an exceptional ability of digesting knowledge from various fields and forming holistic yet targeted actions – and to mobilize people, ideas and resources within science, NGO, business and politics" (personal Medal of honour, Energy Globe Awards 2019). "Exemplary work for the environment, in particular the Baltic Sea, Kankaanrinta's environmental actions combine research, spreading information based on scientific research, and diverse societal interaction" (Honorary Doctorate (Sc.) 2022, University of Turku)





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## Phoebe KOUNDOURI (Cyprus)

Phoebe Koundouri is Professor in Economics and Director of ReSEES Laboratory at the School of Economics of the Athens University of Economics and Business, part-time Research Professor at the Department of Technology, Management and Economics at the Technical University of Denmark – DTU, and Director of the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) at ATHENA Information Technology Research Center.



She holds a MPhil and a PhD in Economics from the University of Cambridge, and has held academic positions at the University of Cambridge, University College London, University of Reading, and London School of Economics. She is the president of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) and chair of the World Council of Environmental and Natural Resource Economists Associations (WCERE). She is the director of the Alliance of Excellence for Research and Innovation on Aeiphoria (AE4RIA), with more than 200 researchers and 100 large interdisciplinary competitively funded projects involved (with applications in more than 120 countries).

She is chair of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Global Climate Hub and co-chair of SDSN Europe. She is member of Academia Europaea (European Academy of Science), the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, the World Academy of Art and Science, and InterAcademy Partnership Board. She was commissioner for the Lancet Commission on COVID19 Recovery, and member of the Program on Fraternal Economy of Integral and Sustainable Development of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

In 2022 she received the prestigious European Research Council Synergy Grant, and in 2023, she was awarded the Academy of Athens Excellence in Science Award, awarded every four years. She is member of the Nominating Committee for the Prize in Economics Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

## Ida KRABEK (Denmark)

Ida Krabek leads Global Sustainability at Ørsted, one of the world's leading renewable energy majors and awarded leader in corporate sustainability. Her teams work with colleagues across Ørsted to build world-leading sustainability practices and deliver transparent performance reporting, so that Ørsted continuously acts and is seen as a sustainability leader.



Ida joined Ørsted in 2012, and she has played a key role in building Ørsted's approach to sustainability, including its strategic and programmatic approach to integrating sustainability into the business, and building industry leading sustainability practices to push for a green transformation that revives nature and societies. Ørsted is the only energy company globally with a net-zero commitment approved by the Science Based Targets initiative, and in 2024, Ørsted was ranked the world's most sustainable energy developer in Corporate Knights' Global 100 index for the fifth time.

Ida is a frequent speaker at international conferences and serves on several boards and committees including the Board of the UN Global Compact Network in Denmark, the Danish Confederation of Industries' Sustainability Policy Committee, and the Advisory Board for the Danish Technical University's newly established center for Absolute Sustainability.

Ida holds a master's degree in Global Governance & Ethics from University College London (UCL) as well as a master's degree in Political Science from University of Copenhagen. Prior to Ørsted, she worked with sustainability from various angles, including multilateral cooperation at the Danish Foreign Ministry's permanent mission to the UN in New York, advisory to the Danish Minister of Employment, and public procurement at the Danish Ministry of Finance. Privately, she lives with her husband and three kids in Copenhagen.





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## Sandra LAGUMINA (France)

Sandra Lagumina, Franco-Italian, is senior partner of Argos Climate Action, an European Fund dedicated to the decarbonization of SME's. She joined Argos Wityu on 1 October 2022. She has worked for nearly 20 years to sustainably transform companies from strategic, operational and managerial points of view and has helped finance their transformation. She has also undertaken and supported development and fundamental changes within energy companies.



Sandra was most recently a Partner at Meridiam, a Global Infrastructure Fund which she joined at the end of 2017 as director of operations in charge of asset management, before becoming Deputy CEO. While at Meridiam, she developed and ran the strategy for managing a portfolio of more than 100 assets and companies throughout the world. She also directed Meridiam's transformation into a company with a mission and played an active role in the group's development.

Prior to that, she spent 11 years at the Engie group, devoted to energy sector transition. She supported, then managed the sector's recomposition and was in the front lines during its environmental transformation. In 2016 she was appointed Deputy CEO of Engie, in charge of gas infrastructure, China and GTT. In 2013, as CEO of GRDF, Europe's largest gas distribution network, she launched the company's transformation, orienting it towards renewable gas. In 2008, she structured and managed the legal department of GDF-Suez in 40 countries. Prior to joining GDF-Suez, Sandra worked at Gaz de France from 2005 as deputy director of strategy and public affairs delegate, then as director of legal affairs. She started her career in public service legal positions: from 1995 at the Conseil d'Etat as an auditor and then as a maître des requêtes (counsel), from 1998 alongside Laurent Fabius, the president of the National Assembly, and from 2000 at the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry with responsibility for legal issues, public procurement contracts and competition law and on the legal department of the Ministry of Finance.

Sandra Lagumina is a graduate of ENA (Ecole Nationale d'Administration) and has two advanced degrees (DESS) from Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne (in common market and public law) and from Sciences Po Paris. She's Chairperson of Agence France Muséums in charge of Louvre Abu Dhabi, member of the board of several foundations, and she is in charge the teaching of Energy Regulation in Sciences Po.

## Anne-Francoise LAIME (Belgium)

Anne-Françoise LAIME is Chief Transformation Officer for John Cockerill group. After having been working for 28 years within Safran group, occupying several management positions management at operations and corporate level, notably in finance and strategy, Anne-Françoise joined John Cockerill in 2017, as Chief Strategy Officer.



In 2021, in addition to her duties, she became General Delegate for France, in particular to give more visibility to the group's hydrogen and renewable energy project. She was also chosen as executive committee member of the Hydrogen task force created jointly by France Hydrogene and the MEDEF International.

In May 2022, she led the takeover of the Hamon group's "cooling" activities at court and was appointed CEO of these activities, which represent a turnover of €150M with entities France, Belgium, Spain, Korea and Indonesia. In October 2023, after having successfully integrated Hamon, Anne-Françoise was appointed as Chief Transformation Officer.

Of dual Belgian and French nationality, Anne-Françoise holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Liège, completed by a Diploma in Space Instrumentation in Toulouse. In 2007, she obtained a master's degree in management from ESSEC and in 2016, an executive leadership certificate from Duke and a strategy certificate from IMD in Lausanne. In June 2018, Anne-Françoise was graduated IHEDN auditor of the 70th national session.



# List of Members

## Vassiliki LAZARAKOU (Greece)

Vassiliki Lazarakou is Chair of the Hellenic Capital Market Commission (HCMC) since September 2019. She is also a Member of the Board of Supervisors of European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) and has been elected as Member of the Management Board of the ESMA. She is also chairing ESAs Joint Sub- Committee on Securitizations.

Vassiliki Lazarakou is a member of the IOSCO Board for a 2 year term (October 2022 - October 2024) since HCMC was elected by the European Regional Committee (ERC) as its Representative to the IOSCO Board. She has also been re-elected as a member of the Bureau of the Corporate Governance Committee of the OECD for the year 2024.



Dr. Lazarakou has a Doctorate in Law (JSD) from New York University School of Law, New York, U.S.A. and an LLM in International Legal Studies from the same University as well as a Bachelor in Law from the Athens University, School of Law. She is a lawyer admitted at both the Athens Bar and the New York Bar Association with expertise on capital markets, M&As, privatizations, corporate and commercial law and other similar issues. She has worked for more than 20 years as a Partner at several law firms and for more than 10 years she was heading the relevant Banking, Capital Markets and Finance Department of such Firms. From 2012 -2015 she was also a First Vice-Chair of the HCMC.

## Vedrana LIKAN (Croatia)

Vedrana Likan's name in the business world of Croatia and the wider Adriatic Region is synonymous with real estate and investments, sustainable economy, resilience and intellectual entrepreneurship, as well as women's leadership and systematic efforts to educate and empower women in business.



Vedrana holds a position of Managing Partner of Colliers - a leading global consultancy firm whose business for Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina she has been running since 2006. Prior to joining Colliers, Vedrana spent 10 years of her career in production and advertising, advocacy and communication management.

During last 15 years, she has held President and Board positions in various organisations, among which are British Chamber in Croatia, American Chamber of Commerce, and Croatia Green Building Council, where she holds a lifetime position of Honorary Member.

Vedrana is a frequent guest lecturer at colleges, institutes and universities (Croatian Institute of Finance, Faculty of economics, Vern, Financial Club, etc.). She actively participates as advisory board member, program advisor, moderator and panellist in the leading conferences in Croatia, region and Europe on the real estate, investments, women empowerment and advocacy, ESG and resilience. She is giving her professional contribution as a member of juries and judging panels of prestigious European awards.

After Political Sciences in Zagreb, Vedrana graduated from the New York Institute of Finance with a degree in Mergers and Acquisitions, the Academy for Political Development and the UN Academy. In 2016, she obtained an EMBA title at an International business school in Zagreb, while in 2018 she became a certified expert according to RICS standards, which is the greatest professional recognition in the segment of investments and real estate in the world. In 2022, she got her degree on University of Oxford at Organisational Resilience Programme, becoming the first formally educated specialist for that area in wider Europe, with a final thesis on "Governmental, social, organisational and individual resilience".



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### **Belén LINARES CORELL (Spain)**

Belén Linares has 24 years of professional experience in Aerospace & Energy business. She is an expert in Research, Technology & Product development for Energy & Powerplant Systems. She has been managing worldwide, international high-qualified engineering teams devoted to the Research & Development oriented to the Business Application & Profitability in Renewable Energy & Aerospace.



French educated, she started her career in the Airbus Industry in 1998, managing the A400M Military Aircraft Powerplant System Team in Toulouse (France) & Madrid (Spain). She moved in 2004 to the Energy sector, with Siemens Gamesa, a Global Wind Turbine Manufacturer, where she dedicated part of her career to lead the product & technology development team as head of Product Development. All her career developed in a global energy market: India, Mexico, Europe, USA & Brasil.

In 2016, Belén joined the Utility Acciona Energia as global Head of Innovation. Acciona Energia is a Global Renewables Company that commercializes the energy & operates more than 11GW Renewable Assets, in Europe, USA, Latam & Australia, pioneering in Europe the Green Hydrogen technology & business.

In 2023, Belén Linares moved to Cepsa as head of R&D&Innovation.

Belén is an Aerospace Engineer and has a High Degree Master in Electrical Systems by the Madrid Polytechnic University (Spain). An Aspen Institute Fellow, she completed the Advanced Management Program for Women Executives from ESADE Business School (Spain), and in 2017 the Global Growth Strategy Program at Wharton School in Philadelphia (USA).

Belén is also, since 2017, the Innovation & Technology Vice President of EJECON, the Spanish Women Executives & Women CEO's Association.

### **Manon LITTEK (Germany)**

Generation Fund, she supports breakthrough food tech and green tech start-ups in Europe and the US, aiming to build a resilient society within planetary boundaries. Furthermore, she serves on the Finance Advisory Board at the Global Alliance for a Sustainable Planet.



Prior to her current roles, Dr. Littek was the CEO of Katjesgreenfood and the Managing Director of DLD Ventures at Hubert Burda Media, where she led various initiatives that helped to drive innovation in the industry.

Dr. Littek holds a doctoral degree from the FU Berlin, and a BA in Philosophy from Oxford University. In recognition of her significant contributions to the industry, Dr. Littek was awarded the "Best Female Investor" award by KfW in 2022.



## List of Members

### Ragne MAASEL (Estonia)

Ragne Maasel is an Estonian expert in ESG and organizational development. Ragne's academic journey at the University of Sussex in the UK focused on digital and interactive media. Her degrees equipped her with a comprehensive understanding of critical thinking, analysis, representation and communication. Her eventually diving into the world of finance was, however, a mere coincidence.

She has previously established and led the ESG program and team at LHV, Estonia's largest domestic financial group. Estonian-born and globally seasoned, her current role as Head of Impact at Oyster Bay Venture Capital based in Hamburg marks a significant turn in her career. Here, she focuses on seed and A-round investments in the food and agri-tech sectors, combining her acute sustainable finance and change management acumen with a passion for new technologies, leadership and positive impact.

Ragne's work philosophy centers around her hands-on experience, a knack for challenging conventional wisdom and catalyzing change through the power of human connection. She likes to approach work creativity and enjoys simplifying overly complicated concepts and approaches so that problems can be solved more efficiently.

She also likes to travel, cook, ride horses, and hunt for bargains for vintage furniture at thrift stores.



### Anniek MAUSER (Netherlands)

Anniek Mauser is a business economist by training and holds a PhD in sustainability management with a special focus on internal change processes. She worked briefly in the retail sector and worked for 22 years for Unilever as a sustainability expert and change leader.



She worked in various sustainability related roles for: Unilever's global Sustainable Agriculture Programme, the Ben & Jerry's brand, the global ice-cream division, the Benelux market, and a pioneering global Sustainable Choices programme.

In her various roles she both contributed to the development of the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan and its successor the Compass Strategy, as embedding the Plan and way of working in the business, in people's daily jobs.

She believes people are central to this transition on every level. One of her key interests and expertise is transformational and behaviour change focusing on employee, consumers, other stakeholders, and the needed innovation in processes and tools behind it.





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## Mary McCARTHY (Ireland)

Mary is a Partner in the Sofinnova Partners Industrial Biotech Strategy, where she invests in the most promising early-stage companies developing biotech-enabled sustainable solutions in agriculture, food, chemicals, and materials across Europe and North America.

Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm in life sciences, specializing in healthcare and sustainability. Founded in 1972, Sofinnova has backed more than 500 companies and currently has more than €2.5 billion under management.

Before joining Sofinnova Partners, Mary was a Partner at Brightlands Venture Partners (BVP), a Dutch VC firm, where she was Fund Manager of the BVP Renewable Chemistry Fund investing in chemistry, materials, circular economy and sustainability. Mary has served on several different boards.

With over 24 years in chemistry and materials, Mary has held various roles in the sector: She was CEO of a start-up developing materials for the circular economy and worked at SABIC for 15 years, where she held various functions in R&D, HR, Change Management, and Corporate Venturing.

Mary holds a PhD in chemistry from University College Dublin, Ireland and held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands and the Max Planck Institute für Kohlenforschung, Germany.



## Nina MEGLIČ (Slovenia)

Nina Meglič has more than 10 years of experience in R&D project management, focusing on advancing technology transfer in the field of green transition. Currently, she is the Head of Project Management office at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Styria, located in Maribor, Slovenia. The Chamber is involved in several national and European projects in the fields of hydrogen technologies, circular economy, bio-economy, vocational training, women entrepreneurship, etc.



Additionally, Nina manages an innovation cluster, national Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership, focusing on the establishment of new value chains to support the transition to a circular economy in Slovenia. The partnership is a multi-stakeholder connection of companies, academic institutions, research organisations and non-governmental organisations, co-financed by the state. Nina and her team offer support services to the cluster members such as business and project consultancy, internationalisation, marketing, development collaboration with the state & stakeholder engagement.

Nina has a bachelor's degree in European Studies as well as a master's degree in Sustainability and Circular Bioeconomy from the Rome Business School.



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### **Alenka Recelj MERCINA (Slovenia)**

Alenka Recelj Mercina, MSc, is a dynamic professional with nearly two decades of expertise in the banking sector. Currently serving as the Head of Sustainability at NLB d.d., she spearheads initiatives that align banking operations with sustainable practices. In addition to her role at NLB, Alenka holds important positions in the financial industry, including being the president of the Sustainable Finance Committee at the Slovenian Banking Association and a member of the Sustainable Finance Expert Group at the European Banking Federation.



Alenka's career encompasses a broad spectrum of roles, from banking strategy and product development to asset management and private banking. Her forte lies in coordinating complex projects and initiatives, both within banking groups and on the international stage. Known for her ability to introduce innovative practices into banking operations, Alenka thrives on the challenges of fostering positive change.

With a keen interest in sustainable development, Alenka has expanded her expertise in recent years. She actively contributes to various working groups within the United Nations Environment Program – Finance Initiative, showcasing her commitment to driving positive environmental and social impact within the financial sector.

### **Inez MURRAY (Ireland)**

Inez Murray is the CEO of the Financial Alliance for Women, an international trade association of financial services providers driving women's wealth creation worldwide. Its members—banks, insurance companies, payments companies & fintechs—work across 180+ countries to build innovative, comprehensive programs delivering women the tools—access to capital, information, education and markets—they need to succeed.



The Alliance provides members with a unique platform for peer learning & networking, giving them the resources they need to serve women customers well. In 2023 the Alliance created a Working Group of members to understand how to support their women customers respond to the climate crisis, the deliberations of which are summarized in the report [Developing Gender Intelligent Green Customer Value Propositions](#). The Alliance also uses its collective voice to advocate for greater awareness of women's vital economic role as consumers, investors and job-creating entrepreneurs.



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### Alexis OLANS-HAASS (Germany)

Alexis is currently the Chief Sustainability Officer at Arcadis, the lead design and engineering consultancy for the built environment. Alexis' role is to create and drive Arcadis' global sustainability strategy and implementation, as well as lead their Global Sustainability team, both of which she does from her base in Munich. During her tenure, she has led Arcadis to have an approved SBTi Net Zero target (scopes 1-3), to become ranked top 1% of companies globally by Sustainalytics, and to have achieved Ecovadis Platinum status. Alexis previously led adidas brand's sustainability program from its global headquarters in Herzogenaurach, Germany. Her responsibilities included the creation of adidas brand's sustainability strategy, the development of new sustainable innovations & business models, the commitment to mass materials transformation & sustainable product, and the brand's sustainability messaging & consumer engagement. During her 13 years at adidas, Alexis helped bring to market such sustainable innovations as the 1st high-performance, closed-loop running shoe, the launch of the 1st ocean plastic runner at the UN, and the commitment to End Plastic Waste by using 100% recycled polyester by 2024. Alexis' previous work revolved around sustainable product development and clean technology with companies such as IDEO, P&G, and Fair Trade USA.



Alexis began her career with five years in international development, both in Washington DC as well as in countries across the global south. Her perspective on - and passion for - the UN's Sustainable Development Goals sprang from her early on-the-ground experience living and working in countries such as Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Colombia. Alexis is fluent in Spanish, German, French, and English, and is accustomed to working in fast-paced, multinational, matrix organizations. She has an MBA in Marketing and MS in Sustainable Systems from University of Michigan, as well as a BS in Foreign Service (International Relations) from Georgetown University.

### Paulette van OMMEN (Netherlands)

Paulette is the Director Health & Sustainability (Europe & Indonesia) at food retailer Ahold Delhaize, where she focuses on the region's brands' actions regarding climate, healthier sales, the protein transition, food waste and packaging.



Prior to this, she was Global Climate Lead at Royal DSM. With former CEO Feike Sijbesma and the wider board she built the company's first climate strategy and worked on the creation of CEO-led climate campaigns and carbon pricing coalitions with the World Bank, UN, WEF and partners of the wider #WeMeanBusiness network.

In recent years Paulette took executive courses at the Cambridge University Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and Duke University on how to use behavioral science, media & marketing as a force for good. She has a passion for creatively engaging people in sustainable (business) decisions, planet-friendly (lifestyle) choices and action communities (such as #Creatives4Climate).

Having studied in the US, UK, The Netherlands and various Latin American countries, Paulette holds a MSc in Development Management from LSE. Paulette lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, with her husband and daughters. Paulette was included in The Netherlands' list of sustainability "movers & shakers" (Trouw Sustainable Top 100) three times and was nominated for the Harper's Bazaar Women of The Year in 2021.



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### Mihaela POPESCU (Romania)

Mihaela Popescu is the President of TenarisSilcotub Romania since 2016, a seamless pipe manufacturing company with a turnover of around 900 million USD (2022). TenarisSilcotub is part of Tenaris group, a leading global manufacturer and supplier of steel pipe products and related services for the world's energy industry and other industrial applications.



With a team of 2000 employees, Mihaela leads the company's operations in Romania which spans several manufacturing facilities including an EAF steel shop, a rolling mill and several pipes finishing lines. As an energy industry supplier, the company actively contributes to the energy transition, providing products and services for hydrogen transportation, carbon capture (CCS) and geothermal installations.

Mihaela's professional journey started at KPMG, where she served as a financial adviser for over a decade within the Advisory practice. Her expertise was in merger and acquisitions, transaction financing, and guiding companies in distress through restructuring process. In 2005, Mihaela joined TenarisSilcotub, initially assuming the role of CFO before advancing to lead OCTG sales for Eastern Europe.

### Daria SAHAROVA (Latvia)

Daria Saharova is a General Partner at World Fund. She has over 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and investor. Daria was awarded 'Best Female Investor' at the German Startups Association Awards in 2020.

Daria is also an expert advisor to the European Commission, and maintains a close relationship with international tech industry thought leaders as co-founder of the think tank 1E9 Denkfabrik. She serves the advisory boards of Customcells, Juicy Marbles, IQM, Space Forge and Planet A Foods.



### Zita SCHELLEKENS (Netherlands)



Zita Schellekens is a dynamic leader with a diverse background spanning corporate strategy, sustainability, and politics. Her journey commenced with a foray into politics, where she honed her skills in campaigning, diplomacy and governance. However, it was her transition to the corporate world that reemphasized her belief that business can, and must, be a force for good.

Bringing this believe into practice, Schellekens made significant contributions during her tenure at HEINEKEN, where she played a pivotal role in spearheading social economic value projects in Africa, Myanmar, and Singapore. Her strategic vision and commitment to sustainable business practices left an indelible mark on the company's global footprint, earning her accolades for her innovative approaches to corporate social responsibility.

In 2023, Schellekens pivoted her career trajectory towards the aviation industry, joining KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. She currently holds the position of Senior Vice President for strategy, transformation, and sustainability and is a member of the Executive Committee. In this capacity, Schellekens continues to champion initiatives that drive organizational growth while prioritizing environmental stewardship and social responsibility.





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## Anita SIMON (Hungary)

Anita Simon is the Deputy CEO for Sustainability and Circular Economy of the ALTEO Group, the first company in the Hungarian energy market to obtain an international ESG certification. Within the ALTEO Group, Anita is responsible for the areas of sustainability, circular economy, waste management and e-mobility. Her main task is to enforce the ESG-based approach and sustainability principles in ALTEO's business decisions. She is committed to a green approach and a value-oriented way of thinking.



Anita gained experience in foreign trade and procurement starting her career in agriculture and in the feed industry. Afterwards she has been dealing with waste management, which is now not only her job, but also her passion. Her main area of expertise is the utilization and trade of organic materials generated in biogas plants. She is also responsible for the idea of Hungary's first biogas conference, which was organized in November 2023 under the name CH4NCE - I. ALTEO Biogas Conference.

Since 10th January, 2024 she is Board Member of the National Biomethane- Biogas Green Energy Industry Association. On the other hand she is member of the The Business Council of Sustainable Development in Hungary (BCSDH).

She holds degrees from the Faculty of Business and Agriculture of Szent István University in Hungary and from Anglia Ruskin University, and is a supporter, ambassador and advisory board member of the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

## Petra SOKOLOVA (Czech Republic)

Petra is an investment professional and founding member of INVEN CAPITAL, a VC fund of EUR 500m focused on climate-tech. Since 2014 she has been supporting European and Israeli climate-tech start-ups, serving as a member/observer to boards of companies like sonnen, forto or Taranis.

Petra is passionate about empowering new leadership to make an impact, influence others, and enable thousands of job opportunities, where diversity of gender, culture and religion matters.

Prior to INVEN Petra was with CEZ shaping its digitalization and decarbonization strategy and EY Transaction advisory. Petra holds an MA in Finance and Economics.



## Rita SOUSA (Portugal)

Rita Sousa is Partner of the Ocean/Climate tech fund at Faber, a Lisbon based VC firm investing in outstanding entrepreneurs who innovate at the intersection of science and technology to drive climate action and digital transformation across multiple industries. With more than 9 years of experience in VC, she co-leads the Ocean/Climate tech fund investments in deep tech early stage startups aiming for positive environmental impact on ocean sustainability, climate change mitigation and decarbonization of the global economy, in areas such as blue biotech, food & feed, desalination and clean energy.



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Prior to joining the VC industry, Rita worked in the energy and utilities sector, in innovation and CRM consultancy, in multinational companies such as Veolia, Altran and ABB. In parallel, she has also been working with the European Commission as Jury member of several Entrepreneurship funding programs such as the EIC Accelerator Pilot.

Rita has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Lisbon (IST), an MSc. in Energy Systems from the University of Strathclyde, an MBA from AESE/IESE Business School, and a Master in Finance from Catolica Lisbon School of Business & Economics.

## Kim TURK MEHES (Slovenia)

Kim is a Senior Manager at Deloitte Slovenia with more than 14 years of work experience. Kim oversees Deloitte Slovenia's Sustainability & Climate (S&C) portfolio working with public and private sector clients on regulatory and strategic S&C projects. In 2023 she was also the interim Deloitte Global Consulting Sustainability & Climate Program Lead.



Prior to joining Deloitte, Kim worked for EIT Climate-KIC, starting as EU funding specialist and continuing as a Lead of a strategic program for Slovenia's transition to a circular economy. While at InnoRenew CoE, a H2020 funded research institute focused on sustainable built environments, she worked as a consultant on green transition policies and activities promoting diversity and inclusion in research. Kim's career began at the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport, where she specialized in RDI strategy and policy design and transnational joint RDI funding, with special focus on inclusive participation in transnational research and innovation projects. Kim was Vice-president of the Board of Governors of the Jozef Stefan Institute (Slovenia's biggest research institute). She was also a founding member of AmCham Slovenia's Young initiative, AmCham Equals, which she led for several years focusing on promoting DEI in the Slovenian business community. Currently she chairs the Chapter Zero Slovenia (Directors' Climate Forum) working group.

## Terhi VAPOLA (Finland)

Terhi Vapola is a result-oriented venture capitalist with the focus on green transition, climate tech, digitalization, internationalization, and business growth.

She is Founder & Managing Partner of Greencode Ventures, a venture capital firm focusing on the most impactful European early-phase digital-first green transition startups (SFDR Article 9). Most recently before this, she founded Helen Ventures, the investment arm of a leading Nordic energy company Helen, where she led its creation from the initiation to a strong portfolio across Europe all the way to its first portfolio exit.



Prior to this, she has gained sustainability focused investment experience, co-founded multiple startups, and contributed to the rapid global business growth of Nokia in multiple operative roles ranging from R&D, product management to sales and acquiring startups.

She received her D.Sc. degree from Aalto University. She also holds degrees in Technology Management and Industrial Economics, and in Electrical and Electronic Engineering.



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## **Katarzyna (Kasia) WIERZBOWSKA (Poland)**



Entrepreneur and Social Entrepreneur, Social Innovator, Co-Founder and CEO of Sophia Health, digital health solution, FemTech positive impact startup.

Co-founder of Black Swan - Venture Capital Fund and a network of women's business angels, Founder and Ex President of The Board of Female Entrepreneurship Foundation/Entrepreneurial Women Network.

Female startup ecosystem activist, women empowerment advocate and gender equality expert. STEM background.

EIC Accelerator Jury Member. ● TEDx Woman Warsaw Speaker. Forbes 50 over 50.

## **Martyna ZASTAWNA (Poland)**

Martyna Zastawna is pioneer and promoter of Circularity in Europe. One of the World's most Promising Women by Fortune. One of the most influential women in Poland according to Forbes; Sustainable Development Leader by Forbes.

Founder of woshwosh (the world's first shoe renewal company) and these girls (Poland's first socially responsible marketing agency) university lecturer, mentor focusing on the issue of sustainability. Author of many social campaigns awarded in Poland and abroad.



## **Linda ZEILINA (Latvia)**

Linda is the Founder & CEO of International Sustainable Finance Centre (ISFC), an independent financial think tank where she oversees its work on sustainable investing and international ESG standardisation efforts. In 2023, Linda joined the EU's Platform on Sustainable Finance to advise on the usability of the EU Sustainable Finance framework and to help with the Platform's engagement efforts.



Linda is a Fellow at the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in London, a non-executive director at a London-based logistics startup, Pedal Me, and a Member of the Agora Energiewende Council for Europe. She is also an advisory board member at the Romanian Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (RoSIF), the Czech Sustainable Investing Forum (CzechSIF), and the Sustainable Investment Forum Poland (PoSIF). In 2023, Linda was honoured as an Obama Europe Leader.

As an external adviser, Linda works with the Florence School of Banking and Finance at the European University Institute (EUI) on climate-related prudential supervision and green debt instruments.

In the past, Linda was a Director at Re-Define, a London-based boutique consultancy, where her work focused on transformational change, and how to develop and implement sustainability initiatives. Linda has also been honoured as a New Security Leader by the Warsaw Security Forum and a Future European Leader by the Prague European Summit. Linda is an alumna of the University of Glasgow, McGill University, and the London School of Economics.





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## EIBG Co-chairs

### Barbara BALKE

Barbara is Secretary General at the European Investment Bank since January 2023. She served in the position of General Counsel, which she held since February 2020. From May until December 2022, she was also acting Director General of the HR Directorate, while continuing to serve as General Counsel.

Her career with the EIB started in 1999 as Legal Counsel Institutional Affairs. From 2001 to 2006 she worked as Legal Counsel on lending operations in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2006 she was appointed Head of Division “Central and Eastern Europe, Legal Department – Operations”.

In 2008 she was appointed Deputy Director of Human Resources. From 2013 to 2019 Barbara held the position of Director of the Corporate Department in the Legal Directorate, where she was also Deputy General Counsel since 2018. Before joining the EIB, Barbara worked as a German qualified attorney at Deringer Tessin Herrmann und Sedemund / Freshfields Deringer, Cologne and Brussels, specialising in Competition Law. Barbara holds a Doctorate of laws (“Dr. jur.”) from the University of Bonn, Germany, and a Master of Laws (“LL.M.”) in EU law and Commercial law from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland



### Marjut FALKSTEDT

Marjut Falkstedt is the Chief Executive of the European Investment Fund (EIF). Marjut re-joined the EIF after 7 years at the EIB, where she held the post of Secretary General. Previously, Marjut had been Deputy Chief Executive at the EIF and spent 17 years at DG ECFIN at the European Commission, having started her career as a loan officer and internal auditor at Dresdner Bank in Germany.



She is committed to promoting diversity and gender balance, participative and collaborative leadership, and a conducive corporate culture. Marjut holds a master's degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Hagen, and is fluent in Finnish, German and English, and conversational in French.

### Laura PIOVESAN

Laura PIOVESAN is Director General of the Projects Directorate at the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU's long-term financing institution headquartered in Luxembourg.

Composed of sector specialists, this directorate is responsible for project appraisal (including technical, economic, environmental and social issues) and the monitoring of project implementation, as well as for sector studies and policy – including the EIB's climate, environmental and social policies. Laura is a graduate in Chemical Engineering from the University of Padova, Italy.



Prior to joining the EIB she spent eight years at an Italian engineering company, first as Research Scientist and then as Industrial Economist.





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## EIBG Steering Committee

### **Alexandrina BOYANOVA**

Alexandrina Boyanova is a professional banker with over 25 years of experience, of which over 17 years at the European Investment Bank (EIB).

She is currently heading the Climate Office in EIB's Operations (Front Office) Directorate, having previously covered the energy and banking sectors in Poland, as well as South-East Europe.

Her current areas of responsibility include the design and operationalisation of EIB's climate-related policies, as well as more generally - the implementation of EIB Group's Climate Bank Roadmap, new (green) product development and EU Taxonomy.



### **Birthe BRUHN-LÉON**

Birthe is a senior executive with more than 32 years of experience in the private and public banking sectors spanning lending, structured finance, investment and asset management activities. For the past 10 years, she has focused with her teams on product development and business transformation in EIB's financing operations in the EU to support in particular the energy transition and the mitigation of climate change.



She is currently Director of the Financial Institutions Department at the European Investment Bank (EIB). The department groups EIB's financing operations with private sector financial intermediaries in the EU, turning market needs into policy and product delivery to the benefit mainly of SMEs&Midcaps and small to medium sized energy/climate-related projects and other thematic impact support. With her teams she has developed climate-focused initiatives and products such as green covered bonds, green securitisation and the EIB's financial support to the EU Wind Power Action Plan.

From 2015 to 2021, she was responsible for EIB's lending operations, project and structured finance and financial instruments in the Spanish and Portuguese public and private sectors, transforming the business towards a strong climate and innovation contribution.

She held prior functions in EIB Group in Risk Management and the European Investment Fund (EIF) as well as a Director of the Operational Support Department from 2012 to 2015. Prior to EIB Group, she worked 12 years in various roles in international business and structured finance at Deutsche Bank group in Germany and Spain and Birthe also has prior experience in institutions and industry.

Birthe has a degree in International Economics and Finance from the University of Passau, Germany, and she is holder of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charter by the CFA Institute, Charlottesville / USA. She speaks seven languages.



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### Catherine COLLIN

Over 30 years' experience in the financial sector, acquired in commercial banks both in Europe and South Africa. Joined the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg in 1995, covering development finance and institutional activities mainly, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Seconded to the Agence Française de Développement since April 2023 to support the Secretary General of Finance in Common (FiCS), a global coalition of public development banks fostering dialogue among its members and key players from the international financial architecture and promoting strategic initiatives to reorient the financial system towards sustainability.



2021 – 2023 Senior Managerial Advisor to the Acting Managing Director of EIB Global, EIB's dedicated financing arm outside the EU, with particular focus on climate action

2015-2021 Head of EIB Regional Representation for East Africa, covering EIB's lending activities in the infrastructure and financial sectors in the region

In depth understanding of the EU institutional set up, EU external policies and development financing instruments (including blending) acquired both in Europe and in Africa. Sustainability is my motivation.

### Adelaide CRACCO

Adelaide Cracco is Head of Greentech within the European Investment Fund which she joined in 2014. Together with her team she is responsible for EIF's fund of fund investment activities in climate action and environmental sustainability venture capital funds.

Prior to joining the EIF, she managed the Finaves seed capital funds supporting start-ups and entrepreneurs active in the digital technology, healthcare and cleantech sectors. She also previously held executive management positions in Mixtafrica a pan-African group promoting social and economic housing projects and began her early career in Clairfield International a global corporate finance advisory firm where she specialised in the pharmaceutical, chemical and waste management industries.



She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from IESE Business School in Spain and a Master's degree in Economics and International Relations from the University of Louvain in Belgium.

### Shiva DUSTDAR

Shiva Dustdar currently serves as the Head and Director of the EIB Institute, which brings the values and mission of the EIB Group close to society through philanthropic, academic, social and cultural activities supporting its climate, innovation and development priorities.

Shiva has 30 years of experience in the financial industry working for large private and public institutions in New York, London and Luxembourg. Since joining EIB in 2003, she has worked in risk management, lending, investing and advising in innovative companies. Until June 2022, Shiva headed the Innovation Finance Advisory (IFA) Division in the EIB, which she built and scaled up into a successful innovation financing advisory programme covering green, digital, gender-smart and health-related sectors.



Shiva started her career in 1993 at J.P. Morgan in Investment Banking in New York working in M&A, Project Finance and Emerging Markets before joining Fitch Rating Agency in 1999 to set up its European High Yield rating business. She holds a BA (Magna cum Laude) in Economics from Columbia University in New York and an Executive MBA from London Business School (LBS). Shiva is an innovation finance expert and regular speaker on innovation and impact



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financing, gender smart investing, digital and green financing and actively engaged in networks that promote sustainable and mission-oriented financing. She was nominated among the top 50 Women in Credit in 2006 by Credit Magazine and in 2023 received the WIN-Women International Global Inspiring Women Worldwide Award for being an “authentic, courageous feminine leader in the global stage”.

## Constance KANN

In 2010, Constance Kann joined the European Investment Bank (EIB), the EU Bank, as Director of Corporate Responsibility and Communication at its headquarters in Luxembourg. End 2014, she took up new responsibilities in EIB’s Brussels office, looking after developing the Bank’s policy agenda and relations with the EU Institutions as well as its broader stakeholder management. In 2020, she became Director (Special Advisor) at the Sustainability and Quality Management Department of EIB’s Project Directorate. In this role she focuses on the Directorate’s external engagement, partnerships and sustainability policies.



Prior to joining the EIB, she was the Managing Director for Group Communications for Swiss Re, the global re-insurance company based in Zurich. Before taking up this role, she worked with Unilever, as Senior Vice President Global Communications covering media, internal communications, corporate communications (including corporate brand) and government relations. She started her career in consultancy and was Managing Director of the Brussels office for Edelman Public Relations Worldwide.

She is a lawyer by background (Dutch and European law, Leiden University, the Netherlands). She completed the advanced management programme at Harvard Business School (2007), the Prince of Wales sustainability programme at Cambridge (2013) and the IMD/EIB Executive Leadership Programme (2015). She is co-founder of the Women Enablers - Change Agent Network that promotes the economic rationale for gender equality.

## Eila KREIVI

Eila Kreivi is Director and Chief Sustainable Finance Advisor at the European Investment Bank since February 2022. From April 2011 until end of January 2022, she headed the Capital Markets Department of the EIB, as its Director. Before that, she was the Head of Funding for the Americas, Asia & Pacific. Between March 2018 and January 2022, she was an alternate member of the Board of Directors of the European Investment Fund (EIF).



Prior to joining the financing arm of the European Union in 1995, Eila Kreivi worked at the Union Bank of Finland and Société Générale, in Helsinki and in Paris.

She holds a Master of Science degree in Economics from the University of Abo Akademi in Finland. In addition to her native language of Finnish, she is fluent in English, French and Swedish.

Eila Kreivi chaired the Executive Committee of the Green Bond Principles in 2015-2018. She has represented the EIB at the EU High-level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance in 2017 2018, established by the European Commission. Between 2018 and September 2020, she also represented the EIB at the European Commission’s Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance created in 2018. Since October 2020, she is a member of the Platform on Sustainable Finance, an advisory body created by the European Commission.

In July 2020, she was elected as member of the Board of Directors of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).



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### Silvia MANCA

Silvia is responsible for the Social Impact, Skills and Gender financing programmes at the European Investment Fund. She joined the EIF in 2008 as project manager and she has been working in the design and implementation of new programmes to support access to finance for enterprises, with particular focus on microfinance, impact investing and gender-smart financing.



Prior joining EIF, Silvia held officer positions at State Street Bank. She holds a Master's degree in Economics and Management of Arts, Culture and Communication from Bocconi University in Milano.

### Carmen NIETHAMMER

Carmen Niethammer is the Sr. Gender Specialist at the European Investment Bank, the EU's Climate Bank. Based in Luxembourg, she leads the EIB Gender Team on mobility and urban development investments and promotes women's access to finance through commercial banking – closing gender gaps while driving gains in productivity, competitiveness, and innovation.



Much of Carmen's work also focuses on strengthening the gender & climate-lens investing nexus. She co-authored numerous thematic and sector briefs as part of the 2x Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide that were published at COP26. On behalf of EIB, Carmen also supported the launch of EIGE's 2023 Gender Equality Index focused on the European Green Deal. She also conceptualized and helped establish the EIB-powered EU Women Climate Leaders Network. Among others, Carmen represents EIB in the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance's Gender Finance Taskforce.

Carmen joined EIB from the IFC/World Bank Group which included assignments in Brazil, Egypt, Sri Lanka, and the United States. She is a Senior Fellow at the Willy Brandt School of Public Policy and a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.





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## Elina ROINE

Elina Roine is currently heading the Operations Support Department in the Operations Directorate, the financing function of the European Investment Bank.



Before assuming her current role, Elina established and ran the Climate Office of the front line. She continues to spearhead the EIB's transition to the EU Climate Bank and mainstreaming of climate finance in the Bank's operations.

Elina joined the EIB in 2006 as a senior banker covering the German markets and was later promoted to head the Bank's lending division for Germany. She then moved on to lead the EIB's Corporate Financing team for Central and Northern Europe.

Elina started her Banking career in the Nordea Group in risk management. In 2001, she joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and their Financial Institutions business group, covering several markets and products from senior debt to trade finance and equity.

## Nancy SAICH

Nancy Saich is a chartered civil engineer who specialised early in her career in transport projects and more specifically in ports and coastal work. After 13 years of work as a consulting engineer, she joined the European Investment Bank in 1998.

An early founding member of the Bank's Environmental Assessment Group, providing the Bank's Project Teams with due diligence support on environment and climate, and the Bank's Inter-Directorate Climate Working Group and Adaptation Group. Nancy joined the Bank's Environment, Climate and Social Office in 2011. She leads the work on Paris Alignment with other MDBs, Climate Finance definitions and impact reporting. She also works on the definitions and impact reporting for the Bank's Green Bonds and works closely with other Finance Institutions on harmonised impact reporting and climate finance tracking.

Most recently, Nancy contributed to the EU High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Sustainable Finance on proposals for a future EU Taxonomy framework, and was a Member of the EU's "TEG" - Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, from 2018-2020. Since 2020 she has been a Rapporteur and Member of the EU Platform for Sustainable Finance.

Nancy is also an active contributor to the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group as an international observer (representing EIB) and represents the Bank in the International Platform on Sustainable Finance - in particular on Green Taxonomies and on Transition Finance.

