



LAUNCH OF HORIZON EUROPE

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Belem Cultural Centre - CCB, LISBON

Speakers

Manuel Heitor, Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education Portugal

Manuel Heitor is Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education in the Portuguese Government since November 2015. From March 2005 to June 2011 he served as Secretary of State for Science, Technology and Higher Education.



He is a Full Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisbon, having a PhD from the Imperial College of London in Mechanical Engineering (Experimental Combustion, 1985). He did a post-doctorate at the University of California at San Diego, 1986, having subsequently pursued an academic career at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisbon, where he started to develop his research activity in the area of energy and environment, with an emphasis on Fluid Mechanics and Experimental Combustion.

He served as Deputy President of the Instituto Superior Técnico between 1993 and 1998, and since early 1990s has been committing to the study of science, technology and innovation policies, including higher education policies and management. In 1998 he founded the Centre for Studies in Innovation, Technology and Development Policies, IN +, from IST, which was named in 2005 as one of the Top 50 global centres of research on Management of Technology, by the International Association for the Management of Technology, IAMOT. He coordinated, among others, the IST PhD programs in Engineering and Public Policies and in Design Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Systems.

He was a Research Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, at the IC2 Institute, Innovation, Creativity and Capital, and during the 2011/12 academic year he was a Visiting Professor at Harvard University.

Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

Mariya Gabriel is the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education, Youth and Sport. Under her leadership, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) will be defined and implemented.



Her main priorities are excellence in research, innovation and education (ERA, EEA, EIA); tackling the R&I divide in Europe; Europe as a leader in strategic innovation areas through the digital and green transition, with a particular attention for young people and regions. “No one left behind” and “Think out of the box” are her mottos.

Between 2017 and 2019, Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She proposed the new Digital Europe programme, worked on EU Strategy on AI, disinformation online, cybersecurity and launched the EuroHPC strategy. She has extensively engaged with external EU partners to enhance digital cooperation, in particular with the Western Balkans and Africa.

She was elected as Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Mariya Gabriel is First Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP), and, since 2012, Vice-President of EPP Women.

Commissioner Gabriel is a board member of the United Nations youth programme Generation Unlimited (GenU). She has been ranked among the 50 most influential women in Europe in the field of cybersecurity by the leading European cybersecurity magazine SC Media UK (2019).

Mariya Gabriel is also known for her involvement in the fight for gender equality. Among others, she received the prestigious Italian prize “Golden Apple” for highest achievements for women. At the European Parliament, she was awarded twice “MEP of the year” - in 2016 for the Development category, and in 2013 for the Gender Equality category.

In November 2020, Commissioner Gabriel received the Annual Award of the Vienna Economic Forum “Partner of the Year 2020” for contribution to the economic development, rewarding Ms Gabriel’s vision of a European knowledge strategy comprising the European Education Area, the European Research Area and the new Digital Education Action Plan.

She holds a Master's degree in political sciences and international relations from the Institute of Political Studies (Bordeaux, FR) and a Bachelor’s degree in Bulgarian and French Languages from “Paisii Hilendarski” University (Plovdiv, BG). She also graduated from “Dr.Petar Beron” Language High School (Kyustendil, BG).

Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Born in 1978 in Romania, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi is, since 2007, a Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee since 2014.

Between 2007 and 2013 was member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Substitute for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety on the European Parliament.

In 1996 he became a member of the National Liberal Party and in 2004 entered the Romanian Parliament as Member of the Committee for Health and Family and in 2013 became President of the National Health Insurance.

Cristian-Silviu Buşoi has a PhD in Public Health and Health Management, he graduated in Medicine at the "Carol Davila" University in Bucharest, in Law at the Titu Maiorescu University in Bucharest and in Diplomacy at the Romanian Diplomatic Institute in Bucharest.



Richard Roberts, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine and Chief Scientific Officer New England Biolabs

Richard J. Roberts is the Chief Scientific Officer at New England Biolabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts.

He received a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1968 from Sheffield University and then moved as a postdoctoral fellow to Harvard.



From 1972 to 1992, he worked at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, eventually becoming Assistant Director for Research under Dr. J.D. Watson.

He began work on the newly discovered Type II restriction enzymes in 1972 and these enzymes have been a major research theme. Studies of transcription in Adenovirus-2 led to the discovery of split genes and mRNA splicing in 1977, for which he received the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1993. During the sequencing of the Adenovirus-2 genome computational tools became essential and his laboratory pioneered the application of computers in this area.

DNA methyltransferases, as components of restriction-modification systems are also of active interest and the first crystal structures for the HhaI methyltransferase led to the discovery of base flipping. Bioinformatic studies of microbial genomes to find new restriction systems are a major research focus as is the elucidation of DNA methyltransferase recognition sequences using SMRT sequencing and a new approach to m5C containing recognition sequences

Jean-Eric Paquet, Director General of DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission

Jean-Eric Paquet became Director-General of DG Research and Innovation on 1st April 2018; however, his involvement in EU research policy dates back from 2002, as Deputy Head of Cabinet of Philippe Busquin, then Commissioner in charge of Research and Development.



Jean-Eric's career at the European Commission started in 1993. Since then he contributed in shaping EU policy in various fields and achieved major breakthroughs, notably in DG Transport, where he led the development of the Trans-European Transport Network Policy and was responsible for Europe's transport infrastructure policy and investment strategies, the single European rail area, inland waterways and port policy.

He also gained considerable experience at international level: in DG Enlargement, his portfolio covered Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro and FYROM. He was also EU Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 2004 to 2007.

In 2015, he was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the European Commission, in charge of Better Regulation and Policy Coordination.

In all his endeavours, he puts co-creation and systemic change at the heart of the decision-making process, and strongly believes that citizens should be more involved in shaping public policy agendas.

Christian Ehler, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur for Horizon Europe Specific Programme

Christian Ehler has been a MEP since 2004 and a member of the Parliament's ITRE committee for over a decade. He has been one of the leading figures in the design and implementation of the EU research and innovation programmes, as Rapporteur for both Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. He is the initiator of an ITRE working group dedicated to closer parliamentary scrutiny of EU R&I Programmes implementation and he is vice-chair of the EP think tank STOA.



One of Dr. Ehler's main priorities is to ensure Europe's excellence in science, technology and innovation in all sectors, including health, digital and climate. As Rapporteur for Horizon Europe, he has put forward a number of instruments to reduce the administrative burden for researchers and SMEs and for boosting public-private partnerships contributing to achieving EU climate and digital goals. Dr Ehler plays an instrumental role within EPP as the group's Coordinator for the ITRE Committee.

In the European Parliament, Dr. Ehler is also member of the US Delegation and substitute member in the Committee on Culture and Education, Delegation for relations with Israel and Delegation for the Mediterranean.

Mark Ferguson, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland

Mark Ferguson commenced as Director General of Science Foundation Ireland in January 2012 and as Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland in October 2012.

He is Chair of the European Commission Pilot Advisory Board for the European Innovation Council and is a founding member of the Small Advanced Economies Initiative. He was Chair of the eHealth Ireland Committee, (2015 – 2017), a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Horizon 2020 Impact (2017) and has been involved in a number of international reviews of R&D systems, including Hungary, Denmark and Canada. Previously he was Professor in Life Sciences at the University of Manchester (since 1984) and co-founder, CEO and Chairman of Renovo Group plc (1998-2011).



He is the recipient of numerous international research awards including the 2002 European Science Prize (jointly) and is the author of 329 research papers and book chapters, 61 patent families and author / editor of 8 books. He has contributed to a number of scientific films, documentaries, TV and radio programmes and held offices in 16 international scientific societies, including President of the European Tissue Repair Society. He has wide ranging research interests in cellular and molecular mechanisms in scarring and wound healing, developmental mechanisms in normal and cleft palate formation, alligator and crocodile biology including temperature dependent sex determination.

Mark Ferguson graduated from the Queens University of Belfast with degrees in Dentistry (BDS 1st class honours), Anatomy and Embryology (BSc 1st class honours, PhD) and Medical Sciences (DMedSc), holds Fellowships from the Royal Colleges of Surgeons in Ireland (FFD), and Edinburgh (FDS), Fellowship of the Irish Academy of Engineering and is a Founding Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci). He is a member or Fellow of a number of learned Societies and was made a “Commander of the British Empire” (CBE) by the Queen in 1999 for services to Health and Life Sciences.

Teresa Czerwinska, Vice-President European Investment Bank

Teresa Czerwinska, a Polish national, born in 1974, is a Professor of Economics of Warsaw University. In 2010, she received her post-doctoral degree in Economics/Finance at the Gdańsk University where, in 2000, she had also obtained her Ph.D. in the same field of science. She is a 1998 graduate of the Gdańsk University with a major in Management, and in 2007, she also received an M.A in Psychology from the same Alma Mater. Professor Czerwińska is currently on unpaid leave from the Warsaw University. She specialises in risk management, financial markets, and public finances.



In the years 2015 – 2017, Teresa Czerwińska served as undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland. In the years 2017 – 2018, she held the position of undersecretary of state at the Polish Ministry of Finance and later, in 2018 – 2019, she became Minister of Finance in the administration of Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. At the same time, she held the position of Governor of the European Investment Bank

From 2019 to 2020, she was Member of the Board of the National Bank of Poland. On 1 March 2020, she received a nomination to the position of Vice President of the European Investment Bank. Within her oversight, Prof Czerwińska is responsible for the countries of her constituency (Poland, Hungary, and Croatia), as well Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, China and Mongolia. She is also overseeing the subjects of science, education, innovation, digital economy, and InvestEU. Her tenure as EIB Vice-President is 6 years.

Miguel Belló Mora, CEO Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre)

Miguel Belló Mora is since 2020 the CEO of the Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre).

With more than 37 years of experience in the space sector, is an entrepreneur in the European Space sector and management of International Space Programs and Institutions.

Was the promoter of the DEIMOS 1 (launch 2009) and DEIMOS 2 (launch 2014) Earth Observation satellites and maximum responsible of its operations and downstream applications.



Founder and CEO of all companies in DEIMOS Group: DEIMOS SPACE, SL in Madrid since 2001, DEIMOS Engenharia, SA in Lisbon since 2003, DEIMOS Aplicaciones Tecnológicas (DAT) in Valladolid (Spain) since 2005, DEIMOS Imaging in Spain since 2005, DEIMOS Castilla la Mancha (Spain) since 2009, DEIMOS UK in Harwell since 2013, DEIMOS Romania in Bucharest since 2013 and DEIMOS Italy since 2017.

Expert in Space Systems Operations, Space System Engineering, Earth Observation systems and applications, Mission Analysis, Flight Dynamics, Interplanetary Mission Design, Launcher Trajectory Optimization and Space Software Engineering: project management, design, development, validation and operation of space systems.

Full Member for Section 2 (Engineering Sciences) of the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA).

Member of the Astrodynamics Committee of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF).

Chairman of the Mission and Constellation Design Session of the IAC Astrodynamics Symposium.

Former Member of the European Space Agency Space Debris Advisory Group (SDAG).

Invited Professor on Space Debris Environment at the Universidad Politécnica in Madrid.

Invited Professor on Celestial Mechanics at La Sapienza University in Rome.

Former Member of the Board of Directors of the Earth Observation company SATLANTIS in Spain.

Former Member of the Board of Directors of the micro-launcher company ORBEX in UK.

Miguel Belló Mora has a Master Degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, 1983, specialised in Aircraft, Missiles and Propulsion (End of Studies Honour Award), a PhD in Aerospace Engineering, Flugmechanik Institut, Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrttechnik, Technische Universität Braunschweig (Germany), 1993, and a General Management Programme (MBA), 2000-2001, IESE (Madrid).

Has received several special honors:

- 2018 IEEE GRSS Industrial Leader Award, given by the IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society
- 2016 Regional Merit Award, given by the government of Castilla la Mancha
- 2015 Emerging Earth Observation Operator of the year, given by Euroconsult (Paris)
- 2013 “1st Edition Miguel Belló Award”, established by the Entrepreneur Association in Spain
- 2011 Communication Award, given by Cadena SER Spain
- 2010 Entrepreneur Award, given by the Regional Federation of Entrepreneurs

- 2009 Onda Cero National Award, given by Onda Cero Spain
- 2008 Innovation Award, given by the regional government of Castilla León
- 2007 Scientific Project Award, given by the Spanish Association of Scientists for Don Quixote project.

Maria Teresa Fabregas Fernandez, Director, European Commission Recovery and Resilience Task Force

Maria Teresa FABREGAS is, since August 2020, one of the Directors in the Task Force RECOVER in the European Commission, in charge of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Maria Teresa joined the European Commission in 1997. Since then she has worked in the Directorate-General for Enterprise, the Directorate-General for Trade, the Directorate-General for the Internal Market, the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union where she became Head of Unit and the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union where she was appointed Director for Indirect Taxation and Tax Administration.



Pascal Lamy, Chair of the Mission Board “Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters”

Pascal Lamy is the President of the Paris Peace Forum and Brunswick Europe Chair.

He shares his other activities between the Jacques Delors think tanks (Paris, Berlin, Brussels), the presidency of the UNWTO ethics of tourism committee, of the French Committee of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PEEC), and the Musiciens du Louvre orchestra (Marc Minkowski). He is also holding positions in various French, European, and global boards or advisory boards (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, IFPRI, CERRE, TMEA, Transparency International, Alpbach Forum, Beijing Forum, World Trade Forum, WEF global risks, Europaeum, Collegium international etc.). He is affiliate Professor at the China Europe International Business School CEIBS, Shanghai, and at HEC (Paris).



From 2005 to 2013, Pascal Lamy served for two terms as Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). He previously was European Commissioner for trade (1999-2004), CEO of Crédit Lyonnais (1994-1999), Chief of Staff to the President of the European Commission Jacques Delors and his G7 sherpa (1985-1994), Deputy Chief of Staff to the French Prime Minister (1983-1985) and to the French Minister for Economy and Finance (1981-1983).

Peter Carlsson, CEO Northvolt

Peter Carlsson is the CEO and founder of Northvolt. He left the position as CPO and Head of Supply Chain at Tesla Motors in the end of 2015 to become an entrepreneur, advisor and angel investor. In 2016 Peter founded Northvolt with the mission to build Europe's largest lithium-ion battery factory.



Before joining Tesla, Peter was the CPO for NXP (former Philips Semiconductors) responsible for purchasing and outsourcing. Located in Singapore, he was country manager for Singapore, Malaysia and Philippines. Before starting at NXP, Peter was CPO at Sony Ericsson since 2005. Peter had a total of 13 years' experience from different roles with Ericsson and Sony Ericsson. He has a Masters degree with specialization in production and quality control at Luleå Technical University in Sweden.

Frederique Vidal, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation France

Before being appointed Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal was President of the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (UNS), since 2012.



Holder of a master's degree in biochemistry at the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis (UNS), a DEA at the Institut Pasteur and a doctorate at the University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis, she was recruited there as a master of conferences in 1995.

Frédérique Vidal was, since 2004, professor in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology at the UNS.

She also held the position of Deputy Director of the Life Sciences Department from 2007 to 2009, was appointed Research Assessor to the Dean of the Faculty, then Director of the Department in 2009.

She was previously responsible for internships, then deputy director of the magisterium of pharmacology.

External member of the Inserm regional scientific council from 1999 to 2003, Frédérique Vidal has been a member of the jury for the master's degree in virology at the UPMC -Paris Diderot-Institut Pasteur since 2004.

She was co-responsible for the European Tempus project on the implementation of LMD's place in the Balkans, from 2006 to 2009.

Frédérique Vidal has also been a Knight of the Legion of Honor since 2013.

Radovan Fuchs, Minister of Science and Education Republic of Croatia

Radovan Fuchs is Doctor of Biomedical Sciences in Pharmacology and Toxicology by the Biomedical Center, Uppsala, of the Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm, in Sweden, has a Master's degree of Biomedical Sciences by the University of Zagreb and is graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb.

Before being Minister of Science and Education, was Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia.

In 2012 was an Assistant Director for International Cooperation at the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Medicine, where he started in 1979 as a research assistant and where was also Senior Research Associate - Principal Investigator (1988-1993), Research associate - Researcher (1991-1993) and Scientific Adviser (2001-2003).

Radovan Fuchs was Research Assistant at the Biomedical Center, Uppsala, Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm in Sweden and Director of the Public Enterprise ZGOS.

Between 2009 and 2012 was Minister of Science, Education and Sports and between 2008 and 2009 was State Secretary, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports.

Is member of the presidency of the HDZ Committee for Science and Education and of the Croatian Democratic Union.

Radovan Fuchs published over 100 original scientific papers and co-authors in 11 scientific professional books, 10 of which are in international edition.



Owen Bonnici, Minister for Research & Innovation and the Coordination of the Post-Covid19 Strategy Malta

Owen Bonnici is a lawyer by profession and lectures at the Faculty of Law - University of Malta. He was elected to Parliament at the age of 27 years.

Served as a Shadow Minister to Youths & Culture and also of Higher Education, University & Research. Then, served as Parliamentary Secretary for Justice when elected in 2013 and as Minister for Justice, Culture & Local Government between 2014-17.



He was re-elected in 2017, keeping his previous portfolio and then, became Minister for Education & Employment in 2020.

Since November 2020, he was appointed the First Minister for Research, Innovation and the Co-Ordination of Post Covid-19 Strategy.

Wojciech Murdzek, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Education and Science, Poland

Electronics engineer, Mayor of Świdnica for many years, member of Sejm (lower house of the Polish Parliament) of the 8th and 9th term. Party activist of "Agreement".



During his time in Parliament he chaired the special parliamentary deregulation committee. He participated in the parliamentary committees on economy and development, public finances and the "commission of inquiry on VAT". He worked on the Act of November 4, 2016 amending some acts specifying the conditions for conducting innovative activity ("first act on innovation") as well as the Act of November 9, 2017 on amending certain acts to improve the legal environment of innovative activities ("the second act on innovation").

He was born on 13th December 1957 in Świdnica. In 1981, he graduated from Wrocław University of Science and Technology with a Master's degree in Engineering at the Faculty of Electronics. In 1988, he completed postgraduate studies in the field of Designing Microprocessor Systems at the same university. In 2008, he received a postgraduate degree in the field of New Public Management at the International University of Logistics and Transport in Wrocław.

In the years 1999–2002 he held the office of Starosta Świdnicki (district governor) and in years 2002–2014, the office of Mayor of Świdnica for three terms.

He is actively involved in social activities: since 1984 he has been a member of Fundacja Pomocy Biednym Dzieciom (Foundation to Help Needy Children) "Ut unum sint" (and has served as its president since 1990).

In years 2019-2020 he held the post of Secretary of State in the Ministry of Development.

He is a member of the board of Sieć Badawcza Łukasiewicz (Łukasiewicz Research Network).

Kyriacos Kokkinos, Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus for Research, Innovation and Digital Policy Cyprus

Appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades as the National Chief Scientist, with the mission to develop - in collaboration with the National Board for R&I - the National Strategy for Research and Innovation R&I and lead the implementation of the Country's Strategy on R&I.



Was PwC Cyprus Executive Director, leading Digital Transformation and Strategy Consulting Advisory Services IBM Executive Director and Partner for Cognitive Solutions, IBM Europe, leading IBM's European Consulting practice in Cognitive Computing, with twenty-seven years of experience in Information Technology.

He is distinguished for his strong understanding of IT in Telecommunications, Energy and Utilities Sectors and has a solid understanding of Public Sector, Healthcare and Banking industries.

Strategic Thought Leadership, strong business acumen, innovation and knowledge creation consultant, trusted business advisor at board level.

Serves in a number of Board of Directors of a number of organizations, such as:

- National Council for Research and Innovation; serves as Board Member and Chief Scientist
- CIPA: Member Board of Directors of Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency. Regular keynote
- Cyl: Member of the Board of Trustees of Cyprus Institute

Regular speaker on Management, Strategy and ICT conferences for themes focusing on themes such as Smarter Planet agenda, Innovation and Corporate Governance.

Karina Angelieva Deputy Minister of Education and Science Bulgaria

Karina Angelieva is a former Counsellor, Head of Sector Education and Research at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EU. She holds Master degrees in European integration and in Contemporary History from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Previous positions held include Director-General of Structural Funds and International Educational Programs at the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science and Director of the Joint Innovation Centre at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (JIC – BAS). Ms. Angelieva is a founder of the Club of Young Scientists in Bulgaria and has been in charge of the coordination of National contact points' network for the EU Framework Program for Research and Innovation for 10 years. On 1 of September she was appointed a Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Bulgaria.



Karina Angelieva is a longtime expert in the field of research and innovation, including the coordination, preparation and management of projects related to the development and deployment of new applications and services in the field of technology transfer, inter-sectoral partnership "industry-academy" and others. As a former director of the JIC at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, she led the innovation policy of the Academy and contributed to the establishment of an effective cooperation between BAS and the industrial sector. She also guided the participation of JIC in the Bulgarian consortium of Enterprise Europe Network.

Karina Angelieva has been a representative at the European network EURAXESS for career development and mobility of researchers, including inter-sectoral mobility, as project expert at the Research Department of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". Furthermore, she participated in two European networks - E * CARE and ISEE-Mob, where she developed two methodologies for assessing the potential of the research and industrial sector for the development of human resources, evaluation of existing instruments on a national level for career development and mobility of researchers between the two sectors, as well as the development of database of innovative firms.

As a longtime employee of the Ministry of Education and Science in the period 2002-2009, Ms. Angelieva was involved in the coordination of the 6th EU Framework Program for Research and Technological Development, overseeing the national contact network, organizing information days and training for representatives of academic and business sector to boost their participation in the program. Karina Angelieva was the head of projects under the PHARE program on the topic of overall modernization of the research system in Bulgaria. She provided analysis and recommendations for the introduction of modern European practices in program financing on a national level. Ms. Angelieva participated in various working groups, including the group tasked with the preparation of the National Charter for SMEs and of the methodology for the Technology Transfer centers and evaluation of innovations in Bulgaria as a preparation for the participation in the OP "Competitiveness".

Thomas Rachel, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research Germany



Thomas Rachel has been a Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Education and Research since November 2005. In this function, he supports the Minister in fulfilling her governmental duties, in particular in the parliamentary sphere. His priority topics at the Federal Ministry are the science system, higher education institutions and research organizations, key technologies and innovation strategies, bioethics and bioeconomy as well as energy and climate research. He is a member of the Senate of the Fraunhofer Society (FhG) and a member of the Board of Governors of the German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF).

Thomas Rachel has been a Member of the German Bundestag since 1994. He was spokesman on education and research policy of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group there from 1998 to 2005. As a directly elected Member of the German Bundestag, Thomas Rachel represents the constituency of Düren. He was vice-chairman of the commission of inquiry on Globalization of the World Economy, later also spokesman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the commission of inquiry on Ethics and Law in Modern Medicine. For many years, he was vice-chairman of the German-Greek Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Thomas Rachel has been Chairman of the CDU Aachen district association since 2011. He has been Chairman of the CDU Düren-Jülich county association since 2012. Mr. Rachel has been involved in voluntary work from a young age, initially in youth work, later in local politics and the protestant church. Since 2000, Thomas Rachel has been a member of the Land Synod of the Protestant Church of the Rhineland, since 2003 a deputy member of the Synod of the Protestant Church of Germany. He has been Federal Chairman of the CDU/CSU Protestant Working Group (EAK) and as such a member of the CDU Federal Executive since 2003.

From 1986 to 1987, Mr. Rachel worked as an assistant for Matthias Wissmann, a Member of the German Bundestag. From 1992 to 2004, Thomas Rachel worked for the Steel Trade Association Düsseldorf.

Thomas Rachel graduated in 1992 with an M.A. in Political Science, History and Public Law at the University of Bonn with a fellowship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. He obtained his Abitur at the Städtisches Gymnasium am Wirteltor in Düren.

**Christos Dimas, Deputy Minister of Development and Investments
Greece**

Christos Dimas is a lawyer and a Member of the Hellenic Parliament, representing Nea Demokratia in the district of Korinthia and since July 2019 he is Deputy Minister for Research and Technology.



He was born on the 29th of May 1980 and graduated from Athens College Christos obtained his LLB degrees from the Law School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and from Queen Mary University of London. He completed his master's degree in Comparative Politics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

At the LSE, he finished his PhD in European Political Economy, as a scholar of the Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. His thesis title was «National institutional contexts and domestic discourse during proposed transformative policy change. The case of the telecoms privatization in Greece and the Republic of Ireland».

During his studies, he worked as the London correspondent of Apogevmatini newspaper and practiced journalism at the BBC.

At the age of 25, Christos taught the course «Introduction to Comparative Politics» at the LSE Government Department. He has also taught the course «Mass Media and Social Regulation» at ICON College, University of Leicester and worked as a research associate at the European Centre of Excellence «Jean Monnet». He has published many articles in Greek and international journals.

Before entering politics, he worked in the private sector as a business consultant for the Boston Consulting Group (BCG), one of the leading business consulting companies in the world.

Christos was elected to office at the May and June 2012 elections and was re-elected at the January and September 2015 general elections. Currently, he is a member of the Standing Committee on Growth and Trade and to the Special Permanent Committee for Environment. Moreover, serves as Shadow Secretary for Economy and Growth for Nea Demokratia.

Aase Marthe Horigmo, State Secretary for the Minister of Research and Higher Education Norway

Aase Marthe J. Horigmo is the State Secretary for the Minister of Research and Higher Education.

She previously held the same position at the Ministry of Local Development and Modernisation.

Horigmo represents the Conservative Party.

She holds a ph.d in Political Science and has worked as an analyst and consultant within the field of regional development, education and research.



Ľudovít Paulis, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic

Ľudovít Paulis, PhD. MPH. (1981) graduated in 2004 from the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of Comenius University in Bratislava and in 2006 also studied at the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Bratislava, where he also obtained a PhD in 2007. In 2010, he defended the title of RNDr. at the Faculty of Science of the PJ Šafárik University in Košice and he also completed his education in public health management (MPH). He worked as a specialist at SAS, a project manager at the Medical Faculty of Charles University, a post-doctoral student at INSERM in Montpellier, an EU researcher and later a visiting scientist at the Medical University Charité in Berlin.



After returning to the Slovak Republic, he works at the Medical Faculty of Charles University and the Slovak Academy of Sciences. Since its founding in 2017, Alerras Therapeutics has been leading a drug development company that innovatively modulates the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system to treat diseases such as hypertensive pulmonary hypertension or adult acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). He is very actively involved in the support of science and research. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Cardiovascular Research Council. He has published 63 papers in peer-reviewed journals with more than 1200 SCI citations.

As one of the youngest scientists, he received a prestigious grant from the European Commission Marie Curie-IEF and several awards such as the People's Bank Award for Education, Guoth SLS Award or honorable mention in the nomination of Scientist of the Year for outstanding scientific results, publications, strengthening foreign cooperation, foreign representation of young Slovak science. He is a member of the SaS Education Team and its science and research expert.

He was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic on March 21, 2020.

Rafael Rodrigo Montero, General Secretary for Research, Spain

Rafael Rodrigo Montero has a degree in Mathematics and a PhD in Physical Sciences from the University of Granada and is an Honoris Causa Doctor from the Metropolitan University of Puerto Rico.

He began his scientific career at the Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia, of which he was director, and has been president of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC).

He has held the position of Secretary General for the Coordination of Scientific Policy in the former Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.



Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President ad interim European Research Council

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon was President of the European Research Council between 2014 and 2019 and remains as President ad interim since July 2020.

He has a PhD in Mathematical Sciences (Global Differential Geometry) by the Université Paris VII (1974).

He was the Director of the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHÉS) from 1994 till 2013, where is now Honorary Professor. He was also the first ERC Panel Chair in Mathematics, for Starting Grants.

For 44 years he was Research Fellow of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), where now remains as Directeur de recherche emeritus.

He held a Professor position at École polytechnique from 1986 to 2012.

From 1990 to 1991, he was President of the Société Mathématique de France and President of the European Mathematical Society from 1995 to 1998. He is a former member of the Board of the EuroScience organisation (2002-2006) and served on EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) committees since 2004.

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon received the Prix Paul Langevin in 1987 and the Prix du Rayonnement Français in Mathematical Sciences and Physics from the Académie des Sciences de Paris in 1997. He is a foreign member of the Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences. In 2005, he was elected honorary member of the London Mathematical Society and has been the secretary of the mathematics section of the Academia Europaea. In 2008, he was made Doctor Honoris Causa of Keio University, Japan, and, in 2011, Doctor Honoris Causa of Nankai University, China. In 2017, he was elected honorary member of the German Association of Mathematicians (DMV) and foreign member of the Portuguese Academy of Sciences. In 2019, he was made honorary member of the Polish Mathematical Society.



Dan Nica, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur for Horizon Europe Framework Programme

Dan Nica is a Romanian engineer and politician, member of the Social Democratic Party in Romania. From 2000 to 2014 he held several ministerial positions such as Minister of Communications, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Administration and Home Affairs. He also served four terms as Member of the Romanian Parliament.

Member of the European Parliament since 2014, Dan Nica is the S&D coordinator for the Committee on industry, research and energy and member in the Delegation for relations with the United States and since 2018 - head of Romanian S&D delegation. He has been appointed in June 2018 as Rapporteur for the Regulation establishing HORIZON EUROPE - the Framework Programme for research and innovation 2021-2027.



Dan Nica graduated the Electronics and Telecommunications Faculty, University of Iași (Romania), holds a Ph.D. in Communication Sciences and co-designed three patented inventions.

Ugur Sahin, President BioNTech

Ugur Sahin, M.D., Co-Founder and CEO of BioNTech, is a physician, immunologist, leader in the development of novel approaches to fight cancer and infectious diseases and one of the world's foremost experts on messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) medicines.

He has pioneered several breakthroughs enabling the development of mRNA vaccines and other types of immunotherapies.



Ugur Sahin initiated and oversees "Project Lightspeed," the historic development of the first mRNA vaccine for COVID-19, moving from lab and clinical testing to conditional approval within an unprecedented 11-month period.

He also leads BioNTech's research and development of neoantigen specific mRNA cancer vaccines which are individually tailored and produced on demand according to the profile of non-synonymous mutations identified by next-generation sequencing in patients' tumors.

Ugur Sahin is co-inventor of more than 500 filed patents applications and patents. Sahin's academic credentials include serving as a Full Professor (W3) in Translational Oncology & Immunology at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, where he was the supervisor for more than 50 PhD students.

He also holds the role of Chairman of the Scientific Management Board of the Helmholtz Institute for Translational Oncology (HI-TRON), also in Mainz. Based on his contributions to scientific discovery, Ugur Sahin has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the German Sustainability Award, the Mustafa Prize, and the German Cancer Award. He is married to Dr. Özlem Türeci.

Elvira Fortunato, European Research Council Grantee, NOVA University Lisbon, Former Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Commission

Elvira Fortunato is Vice-Rector at NOVA and Director of the Materials Research Center (CENIMAT) of the Associated Laboratory i3N, the Institute of Nanostructures, Nanomodeling and Nanofabrication.



Elvira Fortunato pioneered European research on transparent electronics, namely thin-film transistors based on oxide semiconductors, demonstrating that oxide materials may be used as true semiconductors. She is co-inventor of the paper electronics concept worldwide: Paper-e[®]. In 2008 she wins an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) for the project "Invisible" and in 2018 she received the second one ERC, with the amount of € 3.5 million. The project is entitled "Multifunctional Digital Materials Platform for Smart Integrated Applications | DIGISMART".

Her research team is exploring novel active properties in advanced and sustainable multifunctional materials, including oxides as well as novel electronic-active materials including alternative deposition methods, with the main objective of developing eco-friendly technologies and devices to be used and exploited in electronic circuits made of stable amorphous semiconductors able to serve large area smart flexible and conformable surface electronics.

She is an elected member of: Academy of Engineering (2008); European Academy of Sciences (2016); Lisbon Academy of Sciences (2017) and Academia Europaea (2019). She belongs to the Board of Trustees of the Luso-American Development Foundation (2014).

Former Chief Scientific Advisor of the European Commission, between 2016 and 2020.

She is coordinating since 2019 at NOVA University the SPEAR project, an European platform for supporting and implementing plans for gender equality in academia and research.

Lars Montelius, Director International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL)

Lars Montelius is the Director–General of the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) since 2014.

Professor in Nanotechnology at Lund University, Sweden, and the founder of several Swedish nano-tech companies.



Lars Montelius is the former President of the IUVSTA: The International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications, Board Member and Working Group Chair of the European Technology Platforms NANOFutures and EuMat.

Between 2003 and 2009, Lars Montelius was Dean of the Physics Department, Science and Engineering Faculties at Lund University and between 2009 and 2011, he was the Director for Øresund University & Øresund Science Region, a cross-border cooperation between eleven universities and three regional authorities of two countries in the Øresund Region. Lars Montelius was Chair of the Swedish Technical Standardization Committee on Nanotechnology from 2007 to 2014.

Peter Visser, Business Development Manager SALD - Spatial Atom Layer Deposition

Peter Visser studied Technical Business Administration at the University of Twente, Netherlands.

For 15 years he was active as a program manager for (funded) Open Innovation project for Philips Research and Philips Lighting.

Between 2004-2008 he was responsible for the FP6-OLLA project, the first European research project on OLED lighting.

Since 2018 he started his consulting firm InnoVisser: Connecting People, Ideas and (public) Funds. In this role, he helps small SME's and big firms to innovate together.

Peter is now acting Business Development Manager for SALD, a start-up company specialised in Spatial Atomic Layer Deposition. Spatial ALD is the process technology that will enormously enhance the European battery industry's development.



Kristina Edström, Uppsala University and Chairman of Battery 2030+ initiative

Kristina Edström is professor of inorganic chemistry at Uppsala University Sweden and coordinator of the large-scale European research initiative BATTERY 2030+.

She studies Li-ion batteries, Na-ion batteries, solid-state batteries and other new sustainable battery chemistries. Kristina Edström's particular interest is to study interfaces between materials and components and she has developed in situ/operando techniques.



Kristina Edström leads the Ångström Advanced Battery Centre. She has more than 280 scientific papers with an H-index of 65.

She is elected member of the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA), honorary doctor at NTNU, Norway, she received the KTH grand prize, the gold medal from IVA and she is a Wallenberg Scholar. She is scientific coordinator of Batteries Sweden and in the board of Faraday Initiative UK.

Jan-Eric Sundgren, Chairman of the Swedish Association for Advanced Materials, Senior Adviser to the Swedish Association of Engineering Industries

Jan-Eric Sundgren works since October 2016 as an independent consultant and senior adviser to the Swedish Association of Engineering Industries.

Before this he was with the Volvo Group from 2006 and 2013 as executive vice president for public and environmental affairs and part of the Group Executive Management Team and then between April 2013 and October 2016 Senior Adviser to the CEO at Volvo Group.

Prior to joining the Volvo Group, he was President of Chalmers University of Technology between 1998 and 2006 and prior to this Secretary General of the Swedish Research Council for engineering science.



He holds a PhD in Materials Physics and a Professorship in Thin Film Physics from Linköping University. He has published more than 300 papers in international journals in the field of thin film and materials science.

He is currently chairman of the board for the board for the Swedish Association for Advanced Materials (SAAMs), and member of the board of the Hasselblad Foundation. He is a honorary member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences IVA. He is also an advisor to the Chairman of European Round Table for Industry ERT.

Willy Borsus, Vice-President of Wallonia and Minister of Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital, Agriculture and Spatial Planning

After a graduate in legal sciences at the Institut d'Enseignement Supérieur de Namur, he took the first steps in politics as a municipal councilor of Somme-Leuze, in 1989, and six years later, became the mayor.

Between 2001 and 2004, he joined the office team of the Minister of the Environment and Regional Planning, and at the same time, from 1994 and for ten years, got involved at the Namur provincial level.

For ten years, was an effective member of the Commission for Sustainable Development and then of the Governance Commission of the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg).

It was then on the benches of the Parliament of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation that he continued his political commitment, first as a deputy, then as President of the MR Group.

In 2014, Willy Borsus joined the Province of Luxembourg and settle in the city of Marche-en-Famenne. It was also at this time that he joined the Federal Government in which he held the position of Minister of Middle Classes, Independents, SMEs, Agriculture, Social Integration and Transport Regulation rail and air.

In 2017, Willy Borsus joined the regional level as Minister-President of Wallonia.

Since 2019, he has been at the Vice-Presidency of Wallonia with ministerial competences in the Economy, Foreign Trade, Research and Innovation, Digital, Agriculture, Urbanism and Regional Planning.



Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Ireland

Simon Harris TD is the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science. He was appointed to this role in June 2020.

Simon is a native of County Wicklow and has been involved in the community all his life.

Simon first became involved in politics through his work as a disability advocate. Before entering politics, Simon established the Wicklow Triple A Alliance, a charity to support children and families affected by Autism.



He was first elected to Dáil Éireann in the 2011 General Election and was the youngest member of the 31st Dáil. During that Dail term, Simon served as a member of the Public Accounts Committee, Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Secretary of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Party and Co-Convenor of the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Mental Health, before being appointed in July 2014 as Minister of State in the Departments of Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of the Taoiseach with Special Responsibility for OPW, Public Procurement and International Banking (including IFSC).

Simon was re-elected as TD for Wicklow and East Carlow in the February 2016 General Election and subsequently appointed Minister for Health.

Prior to his election to Dáil Éireann, Simon was a member of both Wicklow County Council and Greystones Town Council, having been elected in the 2009 Local Elections with the highest percentage vote of any candidate in the country. He has also served his community as Chairperson of the County Wicklow Policing Committee, Chairperson of the Dublin-Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum, Board Member of Wicklow Tourism and Member of Wicklow Vocational Educational Committee.

Ciprian-Sergiu Teleman, Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization Romania

Is a new generation Romanian politician, member of the Freedom, Unity and Solidarity Party, part of Renew Europe group in European Parliament.

From 1996 to 2004, Ciprian Teleman was a research scientist at the Geological Institute of Romania. Since 2005 he has worked in entrepreneurship and business consulting for a global consulting company, being a specialist in performance management.



In December 2020, he was appointed Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalisation.

Pavel Doleček, Deputy Minister Higher Education, Science and Research Section Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

Pavel Doleček has been working at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) since 2014, from 2015 to 2016 as Head of the Conceptual Unit of Higher Education Institutions.

From 2016 to 2017, he served as Vice-Deputy Minister of the Higher Education, Science and Research Section. Since the end of 2017 he was in the position of Acting Deputy Minister, officially appointed Deputy Minister in July 2019.

He is in charge of conception and realization of higher education, research and development policy under the authority of the MEYS, including international bilateral and multilateral cooperation, legislative framework and funding policy.

In the past, he served as a Czech delegate in the Governing Board of the Institutional Management of Higher Education at OECD.

He currently holds a position in a number of governing boards, be it those of public universities like the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences or state-funded organizations, such as the Fulbright Commission (Chairman of the Board) or Centre for Higher Education Studies (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), as well as program boards of institutions providing financial support for research, development and innovation. Prior to joining the MEYS, he dealt with pedagogical, publishing and research activities.



Georges Ternes Deputy Permanent Representative, on behalf of Minister of Higher Education and Research Luxembourg

A career diplomat, Georges Ternes (1971) has been representing the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg since April 2019 on the Committee of Permanent Representatives (deputies, "Coreper I") of the Council of the European Union.

Previously, he accompanied the negotiations on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU within the article 50 ad hoc group of the Council (since 2017), headed the Luxembourg Embassy in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) as Chargé d ' affaires (2011-2016), represented Luxembourg on the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD as Head of Evaluation and Aid Effectiveness (2005-2009) and prepared Luxembourg interventions on the Security Council as Chargé de mission at the Permanent Representation to the UN in New York during the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU (2003-2005).

Before joining the Luxembourg diplomatic corps, he worked in Brussels, first as Parliamentary Attaché to Madame Viviane Reding, Luxembourg Member of the European Parliament (1997-1999), then in her Cabinet during her first mandate at the European Commission (1999-2001).

Graduated from the Sorbonne (History), the College of Europe (Political Science) and the University of Michigan Business School (MBA), Fulbright Scholarship.



Daniela Braga, CEO DefinedCrowd

Daniela Braga is founder and CEO of DefinedCrowd, one of the fastest growing scale-ups in the AI space.

With two decades of experience across research, industry and entrepreneurship, and a hybrid background that spans from linguistics to engineering to AI, Daniela Braga is a citizen of the world and one the world leaders of Crowdsourcing adoption in large enterprises.



She has raised more than \$63 million USD and is the woman founder who raised the largest Series B in an AI company the US. Always looking for the next challenge and to get out of her comfort zone, Daniela Braga has led her company to outstanding achievements in just five years.

She has been recognized as the Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 by the João Vasconcelos Award and is an Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2020 Pacific Northwest finalist. Under her leadership, DefinedCrowd ranked #27 in the Inc 5000 list with an 8550% revenue growth (2016-2019), won the VentureBeat AI Innovation Award (2019); and was featured on the following rankings: Forbes' America's Best Startup Employers, Forbes' America's Top 50 Most Promising AI Companies (2019); Hottest Start-ups in Lisbon by Wired (2018, 2019); AI 100: The Artificial Intelligence Startups Redefining Industries (2019).

Maria da Graça Carvalho, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur for partnerships Horizon Europe

Maria da Graça Carvalho is currently a member of the European Parliament.

She is actively engaged in ITRE, IMCO, FEMM and AIDA committees, while she is also co-chairing the parliamentary intergroup on Long-term, Sustainable Investments and Competitive European Industry.

Maria da Graça Carvalho is also the chair of the Board of Directors of Instituto Francisco Sá Carneiro.

She is a Full Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon). Previously, she was a senior advisor of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, she was a member of the European Parliament and one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. She was Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

She served twice as a Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV and XVI Constitutional Government of Portugal.



Cédric Villani, Chair of the Office Parlementaire pour l'Évaluation des Choix Scientifiques et Technologiques France and Former Chief Scientific Advisor of the EC

Cédric Villani was born in 1973 in Brive-la-Gaillarde.

After going to high school in Toulon and Paris, he studied mathematics at the École normale supérieure in Paris, from 1992 to 1996. He worked for four more years in this institution as an Associate Professor.

In 1998, he defended a thesis on the mathematical theory of the Boltzmann equation. His work was inspired by his thesis director Pierre-Louis Lions, but also by Yann Brenier, Eric Carlen and Michel Ledoux.

From 2000 to 2010, he was a teacher-researcher at the École normale supérieure in Lyon, and today he's currently working at the Université de Lyon. He is also a Visiting Professor in Atlanta, Berkeley and Princeton.

Since 2009, he has been Director of the Henri Poincaré Institute in Paris. This national institute is 80 years old and is dedicated to receiving visiting scholars. It plays a central role at the heart of French mathematics.

His work has earned him several national and international awards, including the Fields Medal, awarded at the 2010 edition of the International Congress of Mathematicians in Hyderabad, by the President of India. Since then, he has been a key spokesperson and ambassador for the French mathematical community in the media and in politics.

He is a Member of Parliament for Essonne since June 2017 and a member of the Law Commission and chair of the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST) of the National Assembly and the Senate.

Awards and honours:

- Fields Medal in 2010
- Fermat Awards in 2010
- Henri Poincaré Prize in 2009
- IUF Member in 2006



Célia Reis, Chair of Altran Portugal Board of Directors & Deputy Managing, Director for Altran Engineering Centers

Célia Reis is Computer Engineer from Sciences and Technology Faculty of Universidade Nova de Lisboa and completed an MBA at AESE Escola de Direção e Negócios, being continuously connected to the ITC challenges and its transforming role in the society.



In 1991, she started her career working in Xerox mainly in Pre-sales for the Public Sector. From early days, Célia always had a strong drive for entrepreneurship so, in 1996, with a small group of entrepreneurs, she founds Global N SA, developing decision support systems both in Portugal and Brazil. In 2001, the company is integrated with the Altran Group, the undisputed global leader in Engineering and R&D services (ER&D), with some 47,000 employees in more than 30 countries.

Since then, Célia Reis was in charge of the merging and consolidation process of the Altran Group in Portugal, becoming the CEO in 2009. In 2013, she launched the building blocks of the Portugal Global Engineering Center for the Altran Group, in Fundão and, in 2016, in Porto.

Moreover, Célia has had several leading roles within the Altran Group.

Currently, Célia Reis plays the role of CEO of Altran Portugal, managing over 2500 people, 1500 of those working exclusively for international projects. Throughout her career, Célia Reis has been involved with actions promoting Women in Engineering and IT and, in 2018, she launches the We Can Do I.T. campaign, in partnership with the Portuguese Government and several education institutions.

She is a strong believer in the role of Portugal as nearshore technology platform, working with several work groups both nationally and internationally.

Martin Vechev, European Research Council Grantee and Associate Professor ETH Zurich

Currently Martin Vechev is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at ETH Zurich where he leads the Secure, Reliable, and Intelligent Systems Lab.

Prior to ETH, he was a Research Staff Member at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in New York, USA (2007 - 2011).

He obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge, England (2003-2008), his B.Sc. from Simon Fraser University (SFU), Canada (1996-2001) and before that he studied at the Sofia High School of Mathematics (SMG).

His work spans the intersection of artificial intelligence and programming languages, including both theoretical and system aspects. With his group he has also built a number of AI systems, now widely used in academia and industry.

Martin Vechev co-founded two start-ups: DeepCode which aims to revolutionize programming using AI, and ChainSecurity, which brings security to decentralized systems using advanced automated reasoning.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions including the ACM SIGPLAN Robin Milner Young Researcher Award for major contributions to the area of programming languages, Distinguished Paper Awards (RV, OOPSLA), SIGPLAN Research Highlight, CACM Research Highlight, ERC Starting Grant, Google and Facebook Faculty Research Awards, Outstanding Artifact Award (OOPSLA), IBM Research Division Award, IBM Extraordinary Accomplishment Award (awarded by John Kelly, IBM Senior Vice President and Director of IBM Research), IBM Research Outstanding Project Award, John Atanasoff Award, awarded by the President of Bulgaria (Photo, National TV:), IBM Invention and Outstanding Technical Achievement Awards, University Scholarships (SFU, Cambridge), and others.

Martin Vechev was the Program Chair for ACM PLDI'17, a top conference in programming languages and systems. He currently serves on the SIGPLAN steering committee, SIGPLAN research highlights committee and the SIGPLAN Doctoral Dissertation Award committee.



João Barros, CEO Venian

João Barros is Founder and CEO of Veniam Inc. and Professor Catedrático (on leave) of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Porto, Portugal.

He was Founding Director of Instituto de Telecomunicações in Porto, which grew from 8 to 100 researchers during his six-year tenure. João Barros was also a Fulbright scholar twice and has held visiting appointments at MIT, Stanford, Cornell, and Carnegie Mellon. He regularly teaches at the Porto Business School and serves on the board of Streambolico, a WiFi multicast company he co-founded.



João Barros has received several awards, including the 2010 IEEE ComSoc Young Researcher Award (EMEA), the 2011 IEEE ComSoC and Information Theory Society Joint Paper Award, the 2012 BES National Innovation Award, the 2013 Building Global Innovators Grand Prize (ISCTE-IUL and MIT) and a best teaching award by the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts.

His work has been featured on NPR, BBC, MIT Technology Review, TechCrunch, FastCompany, and The Atlantic, among several other relevant media outlets. João is fluent in Portuguese, German, English, French and Spanish. He received his undergraduate education in ECE from the Universidade do Porto (UP), Portugal and Universitaet Karlsruhe, Germany, a performing arts degree in flute from the Music Conservatory of Porto, and the Ph.D. degree in EE and IT from the Technische Universitaet Muenchen (TUM), Germany.

Gioia Ghezzi, Chair Governing Board European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Born in Italy, Gioia Ghezzi obtained a degree in theoretical physics from the University of Milan and later an MBA at London Business School.

She is Member of the EIT Governing Board and Executive Committee and also holds a number of non-executive and institutional roles, including Chair of the RGI Group (Corsair Capital), Board Member and Chair of the Nomination Committee of Atlantia (Edizione Holding), Member of the Scientific Committee of Confindustria (IT), Vice-President Smart City & Sustainability of Assolombarda (IT). She was previously Chair of the Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane Group in Rome between 2014 and 2018.



She brings extensive experience and her career includes roles such as CEO of International Group Risk Solutions for the Zurich Insurance Group in 2013 to 2016; Chief Operating Officer for Willis Group in 2012 to 2013; over 11 years with McKinsey & Company as Partner in their London office as well as various positions at Academic Press in London and IBM Research in Rome and Milan.

**Ingrid van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science
Netherlands**

Ingrid van Engelshoven began her career in 1989 as a policy officer for the Democrats '66 (D66) parliamentary party in the House of Representatives and served as its secretary from 1994 to 1996. She then worked as an adviser to the Netherlands Bar Association and at Pauw & Van Spaendonck, a communications consultancy.

From 2000 to 2004 Ms Van Engelshoven was Head of Strategy at the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and Director of the Foundation for Responsible Alcohol Consumption from 2004 to 2008. She went on to become a partner at Dröge & van Drimmelen, focusing on public affairs and corporate communication.

In 2010 Ingrid van Engelshoven joined the municipal executive of The Hague for D66, where she was responsible for education and public services. From 2014 to 2017 her portfolio covered the knowledge economy, international affairs, education and youth services. On 23 March 2017 she became a member of parliament for D66. Her work in the House of Representatives encompassed home affairs, the police, the civil service and copyright.

On 26 October 2017 Ingrid van Engelshoven was appointed Minister of Education, Culture and Science in the third Rutte government.

Ingrid van Engelshoven was the D66 party chair from 2007 to 2013. In addition, she pursued a range of outside activities, including as chair of the supervisory board of the De Veste theatre in Delft and member of the supervisory board of the Netherlands Youth Institute. She also served on the panel tasked with designating outstanding schools and on the advisory board of Leiden University's Public Administration Institute.



Simona Kustec, Minister of Education, Science and Sport Slovenia

Simona Kustec, born on 19 June 1976, was a full professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences in the Department of Political Science, Chair of Policy Analysis and Public Administration. In the 2019/20 academic year, she also lectured at the Venice International University.

She taught subjects on policy analysis, human rights policy and global governance. She is the author of over 400 scholarly works on a variety of issues, published by leading Slovenian and international academic publishers.



Simona Kustec was also a researcher with a rich and diverse body of work. She was involved in several research project groups in Slovenia and abroad. The common thread of her research was the study of elections and electoral behaviour, democracy and various public policies, including sports policy. She was an established name in numerous professional scientific networks and associations and a respected member of the academic and research community.

In the 2014–2018 term, she was head of the Party of Modern Centre Deputy Group (SMC). In addition to leading the largest deputy group in the history of the Slovenian Parliament, she also coordinated the work between coalition members in the National Assembly.

Throughout the 2014–2018 period, she was Vice-President of the SMC and a member of the party's executive committee. During preparations for the European Parliament elections, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) invited her to participate in the expert group drafting the programme document for the 2019 elections.

Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation Switzerland

Martina Hirayama is since 2018 the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation in Switzerland.

She has been president of the Institute Council of METAS, the Federal Institute of Metrology, since 2012. She has also been vice president of the board of Innosuisse, Switzerland's Innovation Promotion Agency (up to the end of 2017 the Commission for Technology and Innovation) since 2011 and a member of the Swiss National Science Foundation's Foundation Council since 2016.



Since 2011 she has been dean of the ZHAW School of Engineering, with 13 institutes and centres, nine-degree programmes and 620 staff, and is a member of the ZHAW's Executive Board. Since 2014 she has also been Head of International Affairs.

Martina Hirayama studied chemistry at the University of Fribourg, at the ETH Zurich and at Imperial College London, obtaining a doctorate in technical sciences from the ETH. She later took a postgraduate degree in economics at the same institution. Following her doctorate she was group leader at the Institute of Polymers at the ETH Zurich, from 1995. During this time, Martina Hirayama co-founded a start-up in new coating technologies, and was CEO of the company until 2008. In 2003 she began lecturing in industrial chemistry at Zurich University of Applied Sciences Winterthur ZHW, where she developed and headed the field of polymer materials and obtained her professorship. From 2007 to 2010 she developed the Institute of Materials and Process Engineering. Ms Hirayama is a citizen of both Switzerland and Germany.

Kimmo Tiilikainen, State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Employment , Finland

Kimmo Tiilikainen, born in 1966, has been the Minister of Housing, Energy and the Environment of Finland since 2015 to 2019 and the Minister of Environment between 2007 and 2008.

He has been a Member of the Finnish Parliament in the Finnish Centre Party since 2003, and a member of the Ruokolahti Local Council since 2001.

Kimmo Tiilikainen has also served on numerous committees, including the Agriculture and Forestry Committee from 2003 to 2007, the Environment Committee from 2007 to 2015 and the Commerce Committee from 2007 to 2009. He was also Chair for the Council of Natural Resources.

He holds a Master of Science in Agriculture and Forestry, which he attained from the University of Joensuu in 1991, and speaks Finnish, English and Swedish.

He is also an organic farmer and forester and has a long-standing personal interest in finding solutions to the challenges of the global climate change.

A Member of Parliament for 13 years, additionally he has served on the Council for Natural Resources as well as on the stakeholder advisory board of the energy company Neste Oil and he has been a member of the supervisory board of the powerhouse conservation group WWF.



**Anja Karliczek, Federal Minister for Education and Research
Germany**

Anja Karliczek was appointed Federal Minister of Education and Research and member of the government of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on 14 March 2018.



Following her training as a bank clerk at Deutsche Bank AG and a period of employment at the bank, Anja Karliczek underwent training in hotel management at her family's hotel during which she also gained qualifications to train apprentices. She worked in a managerial position at the Hotel Teutoburger Wald from summer 1994 until becoming a Member of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag) in 2013. She has three children.

She completed her studies in business management at the FernUniversität Hagen in 2008 with a diploma thesis analysing the fiscal advantages of transferring pension obligations from the employer's point of view.

She was elected Parliamentary Secretary of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group in January 2017. She was a member of the Bundestag Finance Committee and deputy member of the Budget Committee and the 4th Committee of Inquiry. She was a full member of the Tourism Committee from October 2013 to January 2017.

She was the Parliamentary Group's rapporteur on the Finance Committee for the topics of old age provision, employee shareholding, the Life Insurance Reform Act and Solvency II with the Investment Directive. In the field of tourism, Anja Karliczek was responsible for initial and continuing training in the hotel and catering sector, quality initiatives in the German tourist industry and the EU funding period 2014-2020.

She began her political career in 2004 when she was elected as Member of Tecklenburg Town Council. Here she held the position of Chair of the Committee for Families, Senior Citizens and Social Affairs and Chair of the Lengerich Adult Education Centre Association.

Anja Karliczek became Deputy Chair of the CDU political group on Tecklenburg Town Council in 2009. In January 2011 she became leader of the Tecklenburg CDU political group, a position which she held until 2014, and took over as Chair of the Tecklenburg CDU Association. She still holds this latter office today.

Anja Karliczek was born in Ibbenbüren on 29 April 1971.