

European Biogas Conference

**SPEEDING UP
CLIMATE
NEUTRALITY WITH
RENEWABLE GAS**



26-27 OCTOBER, BRUSSELS
THE EGG CONFERENCE CENTRE



MEET THE SPEAKERS

26 OCTOBER - FUELLING THE RENEWABLE GAS MIX



Sasha Twining (moderator) - Television and radio presenter

Sasha Twining is a well respected television and radio presenter. She is currently presenting for the BBC on both radio and television. On radio, she works for the BBC World Service, presenting their high profile show 'Business Matters' (broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in the UK) and also 'World Business Report'. Her current TV work includes consumer champion show 'Inside Out' and the Politics Show for BBC South.



Piero Gattoni - Acting President of the European Biogas Association

Piero Gattoni has a Degree in economics at University Cattolica of Sacro Cuore in Milan (1997). He operates his family's farm in North Italy with great passion for breeding, cheese production and renewable energy, promoting biogas and biomethane technology. Piero is the Vice-President of Consorzio Parmigiano Reggiano (2008-2016) and the President of CIB – Consorzio Italiano Biogas since 2011. He was founder and Executive Board Member in EBA (2009-2013) and he was appointed Vice President of EBA in 2019. He is also part of the Advisory Board of the Technical and Scientific Committee of Eco-mondo.



Harmen Dekker - Director General of the European Biogas Association

Harmen Dekker has worked for almost 15 years within the sustainability sector and is devoted to the mitigation of climate change. With both a technical as well as a business administration background he has built his career in the water and gas sector, where he has held various management positions. He joins the EBA after being involved in the biogas sector for over 5 years. During those years, he not only focused expansion of biogas and in particular biomethane but also on the implementation of techniques such as bio-LNG, bio-Methanol, bio-Hydrogen and bioplastics.



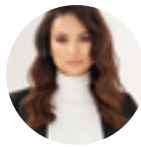
Peter Zeniewski - Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency

Dr. Peter Zeniewski is Lead Gas Analyst for the World Energy Outlook at the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA). He was formerly the Product Manager for Wood Mackenzie's European Energy Service and was a Policy Officer at the European Commission JRC Institute for Energy. He is a Chancellor's Fellow of Edinburgh University and holds a PhD from the University of Oxford.



Kitti Nyitrai, Head of Unit 'Decarbonisation and sustainability of energy sources' at the Directorate General for Energy of the European Commission

Dr. Peter Zeniewski is Lead Gas Analyst for the World Energy Outlook at the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA). He was formerly the Product Manager for Wood Mackenzie's European Energy Service and was a Policy Officer at the European Commission JRC Institute for Energy. He is a Chancellor's Fellow of Edinburgh University and holds a PhD from the University of Oxford.

**Boyana Ačovski, Secretary General at Gas Infrastructure Europe**

Boyana Ačovski is the Secretary-General of Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE), a role she has held since September 2016. Boyana led the Analysis and International Operations Division in Bulgartransgaz, later joining GIE in 2012 as the first secondment of the Bulgarian gas infrastructure operator to the European association. Boyana started her European affairs career in the European Parliament in Brussels. She has graduated in International Economic Affairs, specialised in International Finance, and holds a Master's degree in Finance and in Management of International Associations from the Solvay Brussels School. Boyana has also obtained a certificate in Women's Leadership from the University of Oxford.

**Mieke Decorte - Technical and Project Manager, European Biogas Association**

Mieke Decorte started working for EBA as Technical and Project Manager. She joined the association in 2018. She works on several biogas related EU projects with the focus on biomethane production and mapping the positive externalities of biogas, such as reduced GHG emissions. Mieke has earned technical and market knowledge on the biogas sector with her work at the Flanders biogas association. She graduated in 2016 as a bio-engineer at UGhent with a specialization in environmental technology.

**Taco van Hoek, Director of the Economic Institute for Construction and Housing**

Taco H. van Hoek (1960) studied economics and law in his hometown Amsterdam. Currently he is the director of the Economic Institute for Construction and Housing (EIB) in the Netherlands. The EIB is an independent research institute which provides applied analyses on a wide range of topics in connection with construction and the physical environment is an authority with respect to the analysis of public policy and the interaction between the private and the public sector in this area. Van Hoek has been the managing director of the EIB since 2006. Before that time, he was deputy director of the Central Planning Bureau, the main advisory body for the Netherlands central government on social and financial economic affairs.

**Luca Vailati is Product Development Manager for Alternative Fuels at SHV Energy**

Luca Vailati is Product Development Manager for Alternative Fuels at SHV Energy, with a focus on rDME, bioLNG and Green H2. He joined the Sustainable Fuels Team in January 2019, after 2 and a half years' service with Liquigas, the Italian subsidiary of SHV Energy. Before starting his journey in the off-grid energy, Luca spent almost 10 years in the Energy Services sector. During this time, he had various roles in Sales, Business Development, Operations & Maintenance and Project Management, culminating in P&L responsibility for a Utilities Business Unit in Northern Italy.

**Eva Hoos, Policy Officer in the Renewable Energy Unit of DG ENERGY**

Eva Hoos is a policy officer in the Renewable Energy Unit of DG ENERGY of the European Commission. She is responsible for the policy area of renewable heating and cooling, covering inter alia the relevant provisions of the revised Renewable Energy Directive and development of new policies. Eva Hoos holds a law degree and a business degree in management. She joined the Renewable Energy Unit in October 2016. Previously she worked in the Energy Efficiency Unit of DG Energy in the general policy team covering the Energy Efficiency Directive and the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy.

**Olivier Aubert - SWEN Impact Fund for Transition**

Olivier AUBERT is a Civil Engineer with 25 years experience in the Gas & Electricity sector. Having played managerial roles in business development internationally for 15 years, he became in 2012 Deputy CEO of GRTgaz, the French natural gas transmission operator. In 2019 he founded SWEN Impact Fund for Transition (SWIFT), the first private equity Fund dedicated to biomethane production and distribution in Europe, which has in March 2021 interests in more than 100 biomethane facilities, under production or construction or development in 6 European Countries.

**Leonardo d'Acquisto, Executive Committee Member at GD4S**

Leonardo D'Acquisto is Head of National and European Public Affairs at Italgas. He received his degree in Economics from the Palermo University and earned a MA in Economics from Columbia University in New York. He is member of the Executive Committee at GD4S – the sole European association gathering purely gas DSOs members.

**Peter Kristensen - Head of Market & Business Development, Evida & Board Director, GEODE**

Peter Kristensen has an extensive background in the energy sector. He joined Evida, Denmark's gas Distribution System Operator, as Head of Market and Business Development in 2019, before which he held several leading positions in both IT and the energy sector. Since 2021, Peter Kristensen is a member of the Board of GEODE, the European association representing local electricity and gas Distribution System Operators (DSOs). He has completed INSEAD's Executive Management and holds a Bachelor Degree in Commerce and Marketing from the Copenhagen Business School. Peter Kristensen is based in Viborg, Denmark.

**Matthias Edel - Secretary General of the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR)**

Since March 2021 Matthias Edel is Secretary General of the European Renewable Gas Registry, which aims to facilitate the cross-border transfer of renewable gas certificates. In 2019, Matthias Edel founded the consultancy firm Erneuergas, developing business models and strategies, scenarios and market analysis as well as concepts for the documentation of renewable gases. From 2011 to 2019, he worked for the German Energy Agency (dena). He started his professional career as a scientific research associate for the German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ). Matthias Edel studied economics and geography at the University of Mannheim and the University of Heidelberg.

**Hans Korteweg - Secretary General of COGEN Europe**

Hans Korteweg was appointed Managing Director of COGEN Europe in May 2017. He has over 20 years of energy and environment policy experience, during which time he spearheaded the implementation of effective communications and lobbying strategies for high-growth organisations in Brussels, across Europe and internationally. Hans has a BA in international affairs and politics from Vesalius College - Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium. He is also an Advanced Management Programme graduate of the IE Business School in Madrid, Spain. Most recently, he was Director of Communications and Government Affairs, EMEA Region, for Westinghouse Electric Company.

**Małgosia Rybak - Climate & Energy Director at the CEPI**

Małgosia Rybak joined the Confederation of European Paper Industry in January 2021. She is a public Affairs professional with 9 years of work experience in Brussels, including former positions in Fuels Europe and CEMBUREAU. She has thorough knowledge of national and European decision-making processes with expertise in the European energy and climate policies and also a strong knowledge of circular economy issues. She holds a Bachelor in Political Science from Uniwersytet Warszawski and a Master in European Public Policy from the University College of London.

**Marie Esteve - Sales Manager Biogas Upgrading at BIOTHANE**

With a background as a Master of Process Engineering, Marie began her career as Process Engineer for Veolia Water Technologies in 2007, for the design and build of water treatment plants. With over 10 years of experience in the design and sales of water treatment technologies, she took the opportunity to explore a new field, the biogas since 2017. She is today Sales and Product Manager for the Biogas Upgrading Technologies of BIOTHANE. Her greatest strength is business awareness, which enables her to permanently streamline the product to answer customer needs, together with her commitment to the ecological transformation for a better future.

**Ismaël Charbagi, Business Developer for Air Liquide Biogas division**

Ismaël Charbagi is Business Developer, New Market, for Air Liquide Biogas Solutions (Air Liquide's biogas division). Ismaël Charbagi is in charge of developing biogas activity in new geographies (such as Netherlands, Poland & Spain) and new market segments such as biogas to industries and to maritime transport. Ismaël has 15 years of international experience within Air Liquide Group. Since 2016, he has strongly contributed to Air Liquide's biogas activities in Scandinavia.

**Marco Buffi, Scientific Project Officer at the European Commission Joint Research Centre**

Marco Buffi is Doctor of Industrial Engineering, specialized in bioenergy, biofuels, hydrogen and alternative fuels. He is currently scientific project officer in the Energy, Efficiency and Renewables - Unit C.2 at the Joint Research Center of EU Commission in Ispra (Italy). He is also editor of scientific journals, and member of international organizations such as IEA (Task 39) and IPHE Hydrogen Production Analysis (H2PA) Task Force.

**Farid Trad, Head of Energy and Financial Markets at CMA-CGM****Jonas Strömberg - Sustainability Director (Scania buses and coaches)**

Jonas Strömberg joined Scania in 2008. As director for sustainable solutions, he is responsible for co-ordinating Scania's activities on Sustainable Transportation for buses and trucks. Previously, he has held positions as: Head of environmental department at Stockholm Arlanda Airport (Sweden's major Airport); Environmental manager at Stockholm Public Transport, Sweden's largest public Transport Company; and Environmental manager at Swedish Railways Freight Division and GreenCargo.

**Maximilian Kurth, Sales Department at bmp greengas**

For 3 years Maximilian Kurth has been a specialist for industry and renewable fuels at bmp greengas, which is based in Munich. With a trading volume of over 3 TWh, the company has developed into Germany's leading marketer of biomethane since it was founded in 2003. His studies in European energy economics in Kufstein laid the foundation for his professional career.


Dimitri Koufos, Direct Finance Unit Lead of Energy Efficiency Climate Change Team at EBRD

Dimitrios Koufos has more than twenty years of practical experience in areas such as Production Technology & Process Optimization, Production Management Systems, Energy & Environmental Technology, Energy & Environmental Legislation/Reporting, Supply Chain Management, Technology Strategy & Investment Analysis in companies like Shell, Motor Oil Hellas, TITAN Cement, and currently in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In his current role he is the Direct Finance Unit Lead of the Energy Efficiency Climate Change Team at the EBRD.


Pierre Bascou, Director of DG AGRI D 'Sustainability and income support', European Commission

Pierre Bascou is the Director for Sustainability and income support, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission. Between 2010 and 2014 he was Head of the Unit responsible for Agricultural Policy Analysis and Perspectives. From 2003 until 2009 he was heading the Unit in charge of the economic analysis of EU agriculture for the conception, the management and the evaluation of the Common Agricultural Policy. He received his PhD in Agricultural Economics (1989) from the Imperial College London, UK) and Ingénieur» in agronomy from ESA Toulouse in 1986.


Emilio Folli, Dr Agrarian Sciences & Technologies at Consorzio Italiano Biogas

Emilio Folli is a doctor in agrarian sciences and technologies with technical-economic major from March 2019. He has been working for years in 2 biogas facilities of Family's farm in Cremona and is a member of Consorzio Italiano Biogas. Before the degree he spent 6 months in Penn State University, working with professor Tom Richard, director of Land and Water research building at Penn State University.


Adam Nowak, European Young Farmers Organisation

Adam is a dairy and arable young farmer from Marzecice in central Poland. He graduated from The Main School of Fire Service with a degree of fire safety engineering. He also studied farm management at Warsaw University of Life Sciences. Adam is an active member of advisory and monitoring bodies of rural policy at the national level. In 2017, he took part in an internship programme for young farmers organised by Texas A&M University in the USA. Adam has experience working in companies in the agri-food sector and for the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Since 2018, Adam has been the President of Związek Młodzieży Wiejskiej (ZMW), the Polish rural youth association.


Vasileios Diamantis - Department of Environmental Engineering , Democritus University of Thrace

Dr. Vasileios Diamantis holds an MSc (2002) and PhD degree (2006) in the field of anaerobic wastewater treatment (Department of Environmental Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace). Since 2009 he is a member of the Laboratory and Teaching Staff of the same Department, dealing with the courses of wastewater treatment, advanced processes and anaerobic digestion. He works in close cooperation with the industry and from 2018 he co-founded the spin-off company ACT4ENERGY PC. He is a member of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE) and a member of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Association of Biogas Producers (HABIO).


Thomas Mannheim, Head of Agronomy, Advocacy and Regulatory Affairs at DUCTOR

Thomas Mannheim is responsible in Ductor for agronomy, regulatory affairs and advocacy. Thomas owns 25 years of experience in fertilizer industry in various positions. Before he came to Ductor, he was heading the R&D department of a major global fertilizer company, responsible for the development and implementation of novel and sustainable fertilizer technologies. Thomas holds a doctorate from the Institute of Plant Nutrition at the University of Hohenheim. He is a lecturer for plant nutrition and fertilization at the University of Applied Science DHBW, Germany.


Joanna Post, Programme Officer at UNFCCC

Joanna Post is Programme management officer at the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She leads negotiations and international support on the research and systematic observation agenda under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. She also leads support for ocean-related activities and engagement, including as the secretariat's UN-Oceans focal point. Prior to joining the secretariat, Dr. Post was communications manager for a number of national and international research and educational projects. She holds a Ph.D. in environmental science from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK.


Bruno Sander Nielsen, COO Danish Biogas Association, Chief Advisor, Copa-Cogeca/Danish Agriculture and Food Council

Bruno Sander Nielsen is employed at the Danish Agriculture and Food Council since 1990. He has worked for the Danish Biogas Association for 25 years where he is currently working as COO. He is also Chief Advisor for Copa-Cogeca.


Vanya Veras, Secretary General at Municipal Waste Europe

Vanya Veras is a multinational, multicultural environmental economist of Greek and English parentage with over 20 years' experience in waste management legislation, practices and systems. She has been Secretary General of Municipal Waste Europe since early 2012; the association represents municipalities and public responsibility for waste. With the benefit of this combined experience of the waste industry, the producer and the local authority, Vanya Veras helped to guide municipalities and their waste management companies in cooperation with Brussels stakeholders to shape the new legislation which now works towards achieving a circular economy and the ambitious goals of the green deal and the UN sustainability goals.


Viktoria Wechselberger - Research Associate, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

Dipl Ing Viktoria Wechselberger is a research associate at the Institute of Waste Management from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences of Vienna focusing on the quantification of methane emissions from biogas plants. Previously, she has worked in R&D in the field of steam explosion pre-treatment of ligneous agricultural residues for the production of biogas.


Michael Sutcliffe, Business Development Director for Europe at SeekOps

Michael is the SeekOps Business Development Director for Europe, based in the UK. Since joining SeekOps in early 2021, his focus has been on initiating, growing and managing opportunities for methane emissions detection and quantification services across the oil and gas, utility and biogas industries. Michael is committed to the energy transition and ensuring that new technology provides real value and benefits to our clients. Previously he had over 30 years' experience in the oil and gas industry in offshore and onshore operations, service delivery, business development and new technology implementation.


Francesca Magnolo, PhD student at Gent University for AgRefine ETN

Francesca Magnolo is a PhD student at the Department of Agricultural Economics in Gent University for AgRefine ETN. She holds a B.Sc. in Environmental Engineering obtained in Italy and a M.Sc. in Industrial Ecology by Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. Her current research work focuses on the sustainability of business models in the circular bioeconomy and on the financial and organizational challenges of local feedstock integration for the biorefinery sector.


Marieke Verbeke, Representative of SYSTEMIC EU project

Mrs. Marieke Verbeke holds a master degree in Biomedical Sciences (2012, University of Antwerp) and Bioscience Engineering – Environmental science (2014, University of Leuven). She has experience as a consultant in industrial wastewater treatment and works since 2017 for VCM as leader of WP3 of the H2020 project SYSTEMIC. Within SYSTEMIC she contributed to the development of a calculation tool for mass balance and cost estimation of nutrient recovery technologies on digestate.


August Bonmati Blasi, PhD IRTA

August Bonmati, PhD is an agronomist engineer with a long and consolidated experience in organic waste management, characterization and processing. He has been working as researcher in the academia and research institutions. In 2008, he started working as a researcher at the Technological Centre of Organic Waste (GIRO) Management that was afterwards taken over by the Institute of Agro-food and Technology Research (IRTA). During these years, he has been responsible of the coordination of public and private research projects with industry and government departments. The projects are related with the organic waste characterization and management, anaerobic digestion of complex wastes, effluent post-treatment (struvite, stripping, etc.), microbial characterization (molecular biology techniques), GHG emission sampling protocols and bioelectrochemical systems


Ann-Kathrin van Laere, Project Manager for DiBiCoo EU project at GIZ

Ann-Kathrin has a background in Politics and International Relations with academic studies in Germany and Belgium. Previous professional experience includes work for GIZ Innovation Factory with a focus on innovation management, digitalization and managing multi-actor projects, as well as work in the field of international cooperation at the Foreign Affairs Directorate of the Office of the Federal President.



Philipp Lukas, Chief Executive Officer of Future Biogas

Since 2008 Future Biogas has grown to over 140 employees dealing with all aspects of AD operations, from feedstock acquisition and biology through operations and maintenance, to all aspects of financial, regulatory and sustainability reporting. It has developed and built 11 plants across East Anglia and Midlands, and now also takes on turnarounds and distressed assets. Philipp's background is in law and renewables, having worked for corporate firm Travers Smith in the city and run a cellulosic ethanol developer. He has an LLB from Kings College London and an MBA from Imperial College. He is a board member of the European Biogas Association (EBA).



Madeleine Alphen, General Delegate of the Pyrogasification Club at ATEE

Madeleine Alphen is an engineer specializing in energy production systems who graduated from the French engineering school IMT Atlantique. After several experiences in research and abroad in the development of renewable energy projects, Madeleine took the position of General Delegate of the Pyrogasification Club of the French Technical Association for Energy Environment in October 2019. For 2 years, she has been leading and guiding the strategy of this collaborative exchange platform which brings together French players in the pyrolysis and gasification sectors across their entire value chain (waste management, industries, technology developers, researchers, energy companies, etc.). One of the main missions of the Club is to elaborate the common voice of the sector via various technical working groups and to bring this voice to French or even European administrations.



Steve Jones - Senior Vice President of BayoTech

Steve Jones is a commercial executive focused on high-quality development through leadership of successful teams. Experienced in the management of both R&D, government funded and customer led development programmes. Driven by linking commercial requirements with engineering solutions to ensure development of commercially valid products. Steve's areas of expertise include project management, gas systems design, high pressure systems, hydrogen systems, low carbon technology, and renewable energy.



Susanna Pflüger - Secretary General of the European Biogas Association

Susanna Pflüger has worked as an energy advocate in Brussels since 2010. She joined EBA in 2012 as Policy Advisor and was appointed as Secretary General in 2016. She is responsible for various policy issues relevant to the European biogas industry and represents the EBA members vis-à-vis the European institutions. She holds a Master's degree in European studies from the Ruhr-University of Bochum (DE) and Bachelor from the University of Helsinki (FI).

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