



# EUROPEAN BIOMETHANE WEEK

**EUROPEAN  
BIOGAS  
CONFERENCE**  
24 - 25 OCTOBER 2023

With the support of



## MEET THE SPEAKERS



### **Kadri Simson – European Commissioner for Energy**

Kadri Simson is an Estonian politician from the Centre Party. She is serving as a European Commissioner for Energy in the von der Leyen Commission since 2019. She was previously the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure in Jüri Ratas' first cabinet from 2016 to 2019. During the Estonian Presidency in the Council of the EU, Kadri Simson chaired both energy ministers and transport ministers meetings in TTE Council and ministers of economy format in EU Competitiveness Council. From 2007 to 2016 Kadri Simson was a member of the 11th, 12th, and 13th Riigikogu and in 2019 she was also elected to the 14th Riigikogu.



### **Harmen Dekker – CEO, 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 joined the EBA after being involved in the biogas sector for over 5 years.



### **Anders Mathiasson – President, European Biogas Association**

Anders Mathiasson started his professional career in the construction sector after a master's degree in civil engineering. A little more than 25 years ago, he entered the energy and gas industry. In the mid90s he started to work for the energy company Öresundskraft in Southern Sweden as Managing Director of their marketing and sales company, then as CEO of the Swedish Gas Association between 2004 and 2016. Today he is an independent consultant and senior advisor to the Swedish Gas Association.



### **Jörg Fischer, Chief Financial Officer, EnviTec Biogas AG**

Jörg Fischer has been Chief Financial Officer of EnviTec Biogas AG since June 2007. He is responsible for Financing, Accounting, IT and Business Development. Before joining the biogas Allrounder, Jörg worked for Bremer Landesbank. In his final role there as head of the project financing team, he was responsible for the strategic expansion of the business unit, planning and controlling processes and key account management with a focus on renewable energies.



### **Hermann Benning – Project Developer, revis Bioenergy**

Hermann Benning is responsible for the development of new biomethane projects at revis bioenergy. Within revis, Hermann focuses on establishing and executing international collaborations in the areas of joint project development, biomethane off-take and co-investment. Hermann has an academic background in agricultural sciences and more than 10 years of experience in the biogas sector.



### **Antoine Sabatier – Head of Renewable Gas, ENGIE**

Antoine Sabatier has spent more than 20 years in the Energy industry, working for the Group ENGIE in different locations in Europe and different positions across the value chain such as Exploration and Production, North Sea gas, trading, and origination in Turkey. He also works on different commodities, Oil, NGLs, LNG, power but mostly gas and now renewable gas. Antoine Sabatier is currently the Head of Renewable Gas with the responsibility to develop the renewable gas portfolio across Europe.



### **Catherine Banet – CERRE Research Fellow**

Catherine Banet (Dr) is Professor in Energy Law at the University of Oslo and Head of the Energy and Resources Law Department. Prof. Banet has a background from the private law practice (Norway, France), the European Commission (DG ENV), U.S. diplomatic mission and academia. She is member of the Academic Advisory Group of the Section on Energy, Environment and Infrastructure Law of the International Bar Association, and Chair of the Board of the Norwegian Energy Law Association. She is an Academic Research Fellow at the Centre on Regulation in Europe (CERRE).



### **Luigi Lazzaro – President, Legambiente Volontariato Veneto**

Luigi Lazzaro is currently president of Legambiente in Veneto, member of the national secretariat of Legambiente and of the executive board of ASveSS. He deals with the major association campaigns and collaborates in the drafting of Legambiente's national and regional reports and dossiers (Air quality, Circular Economy and Waste reduction, Urban Ecosystem, etc.). He is also a consultant for businesses, not-for-profit organisations and Public Administration about advocacy, environmental policies, green communication and participation processes.



### **Laure Baillargeon – Policy Officer, European Commission**

Laure Baillargeon has been policy officer at the European Commission DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs since 2007. She has worked on product eco-design, micro-economic structural reforms, policy planning, technological innovation, strategic value chains and investments. Since 2018, she has been working on plastics circularity. She is acting as co-chair of Task Force 2 of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership since April 2023.



### **Nicolas Rega – Executive Director Climate Change and Energy, Cefic**

Nicola Rega joined the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) in 2020 as the New Energy Director and has been appointed Executive Director Climate Change and Energy in April 2023. In his role, Nicola represents the industry's interests to European institutions, international organisations and relevant stakeholders. Before joining Cefic, Nicola Rega gained extensive experience in Brussels working on EU-related policies for a wide range of stakeholders, including the European Commission, industry associations, NGOs, governmental institutes and consultancies.



### **Marisa Cascardo Vido – Global Energy Buyer, Heineken**

Marisa Cascardo Vido is a procurement professional with over 13 years of experience. She started in the energy sector just over 2 years ago and although she is relatively new to it, she is passionate about sustainability, renewable energy and climate mitigation. In her role as Global Energy Buyer, she supports Heineken's global sites in decarbonising Scopes 1 and 3 carbon emissions, by sourcing and contracting renewable thermal solutions.



### **Lars Kaspersen – Head of Communication & Corporate Affairs, Nature Energy**

Lars Kaspersen has been at Nature Energy as Head of Communication and Public Affairs for almost two years. Previously, he worked at The Danish Parliament, The European Parliament and in the energy industry sector.



### **Estelle Ballon – Market Director, OneB2B, TotalEnergies**

Estelle Ballon has spent more than 20 years in the energy field, mainly in the gas and trading activities. Previously she worked for Engie to develop and originate natural gas & electricity sales in Central & Eastern Europe, and she also worked within GrDF (the French Gas Distribution Operator) on the promotion of biomethane for French industries and the service sector. Since 2022, she has been in charge of developing decarbonised solutions for the Food & Beverage segment within TotalEnergies with the responsibility to develop and market new structured solutions for these industries on a global scope.



### **Mieke Decorte – Technical and Project Manager, EBA**

Mieke Decorte joined the association in 2018. She manages and coordinates the technical and project work within the EBA and supports EBA's policy and communication work with technical knowledge and data. Her main responsibilities include coordinating EBA's involvement in Horizon Europe and other programs and overseeing the EBA's technical publications such as the EBA Statistical Report and the European Biomethane Map.



### **Goher Ur Rehman Mir – Global Policy Manager Sustainable Fuels, SHV Energy**

Goher Ur Rehman Mir represents SHV Energy where he focuses his efforts in assessing EU policies on climate and energy, and advocates for favorable and smart policy frameworks for the development of renewable liquid gas which includes bio-LPG, renewable LPG and renewable DME. Goher Ur Rehman Mir has worked on a broad range of topics including industrial decarbonisation, renewable gases, CCSU, corporate sustainability as well as lifecycle GHG assessments of biofuels.



### **Olivier Louedin – EU/China Industrial Director for Biogas, Air Liquide**

Olivier Louedin is CEO at Air Liquide Biogas Solutions. He leads the Operations and the Industrial Direction of Biogas Solutions for Europe and China. Leveraging 20+ years of experience especially within the Air Liquide Large Industries business line, he drives the efficiency of the operations, and ensures that Biogas Solutions holds the highest safety standards. He is also the General Manager for Air Liquide Biogas Solutions in France.





**Oliver Hurtig – Project Officer, JRC European Commission**

Oliver Hurtig works for the Joint Research Center of the European Commission and assesses alternative fuels. He recently worked on assessing methane emissions from biogas plants and proposing solutions to reduce them.



**Thierry Arnaud – Director of Transformation & Scientific Services, Veolia**

Thierry Arnaud has designed, built and operated more than a hundred industrial biogas plants for more than three decades. After 15 years as Start-up founder, he has been working for Veolia since 2008, successively as Senior Technical Expert, CEO of Biothane and, since 2021, Director of Transformation and Scientific Services and member of the Executive Committee of the Veolia Corporate R&D department.



**Tom Howes – Advisor, Green energy transition and energy market regulation, DG ENER, European Commission**

Tom Howes is Advisor to Director Ms Sikow-Magny, in the energy department of the European Commission, covering green energy transition and market regulation topics, including biomethane policy. In the past, he was Head of Division at the International Energy Agency, and has worked on EU renewable energy legislation, market and grid integration issues, energy modelling, and energy finance for the European Commission and worked for the UK and Australian governments.



**Daphné Boret Camguilhem – Head of Renewable and Low-Carbon Gas Office, Ministry of Ecology, Energy and Territories of France**

Daphné Boret Camguilhem is head of the renewable and low-carbon gas office within the French general directorate for energy and climate since April 2023. Previously, she led there for 4 years the offshore wind development office, organising and piloting the development process and launching tenders for more than 4GW of projects. She was previously in charge of the New York City Housing Authority sustainability agenda and deployed NYCHA's PV program.



**Dinand Drankier – Program manager biomethane, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy**

Dinand Drankier, LL.M is program manager biomethane and deputy head of unit for residential heating at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. He has been in charge of drafting, and now executing, the Dutch biomethane policy program in which the national government, regional governments and the biomethane value chain cooperate in upscaling the Dutch biomethane production to 2 bcm in 2030. Dinand Drankier is also co-chair of Task Force 1 on national biomethane targets, strategies and policies of the Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP).



**Jeff O'Hara – Deputy Director, Office of Energy Policy and New Uses, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

Jeff O'Hara studies incentives and trends in the implementation of climate-smart practices on U.S. farms and ranches. Prior to joining USDA's Office of the Chief Economist in 2021, he was an economist at USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (2015-2021), the Union of Concerned Scientists (2010-2015), and the Chicago Climate Exchange (2007-2010).



**Bill Callanan - Chief Scientist, Head of the Environmental Directorate, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland**

Bill Callanan is Chief Inspector at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). He is responsible for the provision of advice on the practice of Agriculture and on Science and Technology related to the agrifood sector within DAFM. Heading up the Agricultural Inspectorate, with over 300 graduate professionals across the Department, he has direct responsibility for DAFM's research, and is environment policy lead on climate, water and biodiversity.



**Hanna Zamazieieva - Head of the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine**

Hanna Zamazieieva has more than 20 years of experience in the financial and banking sphere. She is Head of State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine, and the Ukraine representative of the Ukrainian delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe for 2021-2026.



**Giulia Laura Cancian - Secretary General, EBA**

Before joining the EBA as Secretary General in 2022, Giulia Cancian led Bioenergy Europe's advocacy strategy, coordinated the delivery of policy reports, and the organization of several working groups. She gained experience on sustainability, energy and transports working with the biodiesel, non-ferrous metals and hydropower European trade associations in Brussels.



**Matteo Botto Poala - Managing Director, Goldman Sachs**

Matteo Botto Poala is Head of Energy Transition in the Infrastructure Investment Group in Europe within Goldman Sachs Asset Management. He joined Goldman Sachs in 2001 as an analyst and was named managing director in 2012. Matteo Botto Poala also serves as a director on the board of Verdalia Bioenergy and Amedes. Prior to that, he served on a number of boards including Redexis Gas and Elenia Heat. Additionally, he is an associate fellow of the University of Oxford, Saïd Business School.



**Jorge Pinto Antunes - Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Wojciechowski, European Commission**

Jorge Pinto Antunes is the Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Wojciechowski of the European Commission, where he is responsible for forest policy, Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, organic farming, and more generally for the green and digital transitions in agriculture. He has extensive experience in the European Commission, covering the DG ENV and the DG SANTE, where he led a team in charge of strategy and innovation. Until recently, he was part of the EU team of negotiators for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



**Kees van Der Leun - Managing Director, Common Futures**

Kees van der Leun has been working on the energy transition as a consultant for over 35 years. Before co-founding Common Futures in 2021, he worked on renewable gases for Gas for Climate and the European Hydrogen Backbone, and on system integration of offshore wind for a variety of clients. Currently, he advises Dutch government on its Energy Infrastructure Plan for the North Sea, and supports major offshore wind developers in their system integration strategies. For the Biomethane Industrial Partnership, he is rapporteur of the Task Force on Cost efficiency of biomethane production and grid connection.



### **Jesse Scharf - President, ERGaR**

Jesse has been the Scheme Director of the Green Gas Certification Scheme (GGCS) since 2017 and is President of the Board of the European Renewable Gas Registry (ERGaR) association. His past experience in public sector sustainability and renewable project development has given him a broad perspective of the last 15 years of rapid development in those sectors. In his current role he sits at the center of developments in the UK, while maintaining a view of the emerging markets for renewable gas certification across Europe.



### **Ion Codescu - Head of Unit Land Use and Management, DG ENV European Commission**

Since November 2022, Ion Codescu has been the head of the Land Use Management Unit in DG ENV of the European Commission. Before that, he led the unit supervising the application of the EU environmental law across the European Union. Ion Codescu is a lawyer - he graduated in 1998 at the University of Bucharest and holds a master's degree in European Law from University of Lund, Sweden.



### **Tom van Essen - Head of New Business, Green Create**

Tom van Essen is an accomplished professional with over 15 years of experience in the field of renewable fuel production. As a driving force behind New Business Development at Green Create, he has played a pivotal role in advancing sustainable solutions within the AD sector. His strategic insights and innovative mindset have been instrumental in expanding Green Create's influence and impact. With a deep understanding of waste-to-energy processes, Tom van Essen has consistently pioneered initiatives that bridge environmental conservation and business growth.



### **Pieterjan Verhaeghen - Co-Founder & CEO, Bolt**

Pieterjan Verhaeghen is co-founder and CEO of Bolt, an innovative energy platform where families can buy their energy directly from local green producers. He wants to change the energy sector and preaches green transparency.



### **Stefan Rauh - Managing Director, Fachverband Biogas e.V.**

Stefan Rauh studied agricultural sciences at the Technical University of Munich. At the end of 2009, immediately after completing his doctorate, he switched to Fachverband Biogas e.V. (the German Biogas Association). Since then, he has been head of the agriculture department and has also been managing director since June 2013. Stefan Rauh is a Board Member of the EBA since 2022.



### **Guido Bezzi - Head of Agronomy Area, Consorzio Italiano Biogas**

Guido Bezzi holds a degree in Agricultural Science and Technologies and PhD at University of Bologna with a specialization in ecophysiology of biomass crops. He has been working since 2008 as a consultant on renewable energies and sustainable agricultural systems. He is Head of CIB's agronomy area and Director of Biogas Informa magazine since 2011. His work is focused on advanced and efficient crop systems integrated with biogas, soil fertility, digestate fertilisation and C-Farming.





### **Nick Primmer – Policy Lead Future Biogas**

Nick leads Future Biogas' engagement with government and associations, ensuring effective policies and regulations are in place for the delivery of Project Carbon Harvest – a venture to design and operate the UK's next generation of AD plants delivering Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS). Previously, Nick worked as policy lead at the World Biogas Association (WBA), where he has authored the report "Biogas: Pathways to 2030", recommending key policies to help scale up the biogas sector to its full potential.



### **Florent Levavasseur – Researcher, INRAE**

Florent Levavasseur is a researcher at the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE). His research focuses on the recycling of organic waste in agriculture, using a multi-criteria assessment framework from field to landscape scale. In the last few years, he has coordinated or participated in several projects focusing on the benefits and impacts of digestate recycling. He has also studied how the installation of a biogas plant on a farm changed its cropping systems and the associated impacts.



### **Stefanie Siebert – Executive Director, European Compost Network**

Stefanie Siebert is Executive Director of the European Compost Network ECN, and responsible for the management of ECN and for developing and implementing the ECN strategy and policies. She coordinates the ECN's representation and lobbying activities at European level. She is representing ECN in several expert groups of the EU Commission, like the Expert Group on Fertilising Products and the Industry Emission Directive Forum. Stefanie is a member of the Technical Committee on Soil Improver and Growing Media of the European Standardisation Body.



### **Christian Holzleitner – Head of Unit, European Commission**

Christian Holzleitner is currently Head of Unit responsible for Land Economy and Carbon removals at the European Commission DG CLIMA. Previously, he worked as Head of Unit for Finance for Innovation and Land Use and assistant to the DG CLIMA covering all issues related to EU and international climate policy; and at the DG for Competition in the area of State aid for services of general economic interest in the postal, transport, and health sectors.



### **Alessandro Agostini – Researcher, ENEA**

Alessandro Agostini spent 7 years, from 2009 to 2015, at the European Commission JRC, where he worked mainly on the sustainability criteria of solid and gaseous biofuels and the related default values for the REDII. He is currently working at ENEA, where he is investigating renewable gases environmental, social, and economic performances with the aim of improving their overall sustainability and secure their contribution to fighting climate change while avoiding trade-offs with other areas of environmental concern and socio-economic impacts.



**Maria Georgiadou - Senior Expert, DG RTD European Commission**

Maria Georgiadou works as a Senior Expert in the European Commission DG for Research and Innovation. She steers the strategic orientation for research and innovation in Renewable Fuels, Biofuels and Bioenergy and the development and implementation of relevant research and innovation programs and policies under the European Union's Framework programs.



**Camilla Cabano - Process Engineer B.U. Industry & Renewables, Ecospray**

Graduated in chemical engineering at Politecnico Milan University, Camilla Cabano started her career in Ecospray as Process Engineer. She was initially involved in the first biomethane liquefaction pilot plant project for Ecospray. After four years at Ecospray, she is currently engaged as Process Manager, coordinating the team for the development of biomethane and CO2 liquefaction plants that will be built and installed in Europe during 2023 and 2024.



**Giustino Manzo - Head of Government Affairs, Iveco Group**

Giustino Manzo is in charge of Government Affairs and relations with EU Institutions at Iveco Group. Experienced professional in the automotive sector, he covered roles with increasing responsibility in General Motors, Opel AG and CNH Industrial.



**Leonardo Senatori - Renewables Global Portfolio Leader, Pietro Fiorentini**

Leonardo is Renewables Global Portfolio Leader of Pietro Fiorentini Group. His role in the company is aimed to strengthen the company positioning in the renewable business, merging his knowledge on energy markets with the development and commercialisation of enabling technologies for economy decarbonisation. He has experience in strategy development and governance, representing Pietro Fiorentini in the Board of Directors of different cleantech in the energy industry, in the biomethane, e-methane, hydrogen and energy storage fields.



**Henna Virkkunen - Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, European Parliament**

Henna Virkkunen has been a member of the European Parliament since 2014. She is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Transport and Tourism. Henna Virkkunen is a keen advocate of digitalisation. She promotes an innovation-friendly Europe. She has served several ministerial posts in Finland as a Minister of Education and Science, Minister of Public Administration and Local Governance and Minister of Transport.



**Carlos Calvo Ambel - Senior Director, non-road policy and analysis, Transport & Environment (T&E)**

Carlos Calvo Ambel joined T&E in 2015, where he coordinates T&E's work on non-road transport policy, covering energy, shipping, aviation, rail and broader climate policy tools. Throughout his career, he has worked on climate change issues at the European Commission and as a consultant for the private sector, advising clients on the EU emissions trading system and other carbon reduction programs.





**Matti Vikkula - CEO Biokraft and Co-Chair of BIP TF4**

Matti Vikkula has been working as CEO of Biokraft International AB (Stockholm) since 2011. His previous roles include partner at PwC Management Consulting, CEO of listed telecommunication company Saunalahti and member of the management team of Elisa in Finland. Matti Vikkula is currently actively participating in the BIP Task Force 4 focusing on cost-competitiveness of biomethane.



**Jérémy Olivier - Head of energetic transition for buses and coaches at Île-de-France Mobilités (Transdev)**

Jérémy Olivier is Head of energetic transition for buses and coaches at Île-de-France Mobilités. He has more than ten years of experience as an urban and interurban transport operator. His six-year tenure as a bus transport offer manager at Île-de-France Mobilités, followed by five years as the Head of the Energy Transition Department, provided him with valuable insights and expertise in driving sustainable and efficient transportation solutions.



**Sasha Twining (moderator) - Television and radio presenter**

Sasha Twining is a well respected television and radio presenter. She is currently presenter 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.