









# Speakers' biographies

	<p><b>Claire DOOLE, Master of Ceremony and moderator</b></p> <p>Claire is passionate about European and world affairs - drawing on many years as a BBC correspondent in Berlin, Brussels, Geneva and London. A former spokesperson with UN Refugee Agency, International Federation of the Red Cross and WWF International, she specializes in moderating panel discussions on humanitarian, environmental, health and the sustainable development goals. Over the last decade, she has moderated hundreds of panel discussions with senior politicians, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, European Commissioners, and heads of international agencies and organizations. A British/Swiss national based in Geneva, she speaks fluent French and English. Claire trains in the art of moderating, speaking in public, talking to the media, storytelling and speechwriting.</p>
	<p><b>Nikolaus HIRSCH</b></p> <p>Nikolaus Hirsch is an architect, curator, editor, and educator, merging different formats and categories into a unique transdisciplinary spatial practice. Since 2020 is the artistic director of CIVA in Brussels. Previously he was the Dean of Städelshule and Director of Portikus Kunsthalle in Frankfurt and has taught at the Architectural Association in London, the Institute for Applied Theater Studies at Gießen University, at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and Columbia University in New York. His architectural work includes the award-winning Dresden Synagogue (2001), Hinzert Document Center (2006), Bockenheimer Depot Theater (with William Forsythe, 2003/04), Cybermohalla Hub (New-Delhi, 2012), together with artist Rirkrit Tiravanija the pavilion "Do We Dream Under The Same Sky" (Art Basel / LUMA Arles, 2016-18) and mobile school units (Hessen, 2018-20). Hirsch has curated „ErsatzStadt“ at Volksbühne Berlin (2005), "Cultural Agencies" (Istanbul, 2009/10), numerous exhibitions at the Portikus, the Folly project for the Gwangju Biennale (2013), "Housing Question" at the HKW in Berlin (2015) and the German Pavilion at the Architecture Biennale 2021 in Venice. At CIVA he curated groundbreaking exhibitions such as "Sick Architecture" (with Beatriz Colomina, 2022), "Style Congo" (2023) and "Power" (2023/24). He is the author of the books "On Boundaries" (2007), "Institution Building" (2009), "Style Congo" (2012), and co-editor of the Critical Spatial Practice series at Sternberg Press and co-founder of e-flux architecture, which developed into a global platform for spatial discourse.</p>
	<p><b>Ruth SCHAGEMANN, Architects' Council of Europe, President</b></p> <p>Ruth Schagemann is an architect who studied architecture at the University of Braunschweig and at the University of Stuttgart in Germany. In 2006 she founded the Architect's office VICEVERSA Architektur + Medien together with her husband. She was elected member of the executive board of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE) from 2016 until 2021, Coordinator of the European Network of Architects' Competent Authorities (ENACA), member of the Coordination Group Europe of the Federal Chamber of German Architects and head of department of national and international professional policy at the Chamber of Baden-Württemberg. Elected to the ACE executive board, she served as ACE President since January 2022 and Managing Director of the Brussels Office of BAK since January 2023. Re-elected ACE President for 24/25, she represents ACE in the 2023 Davos Baukultur Alliance Steering Committee.</p>
	<p><b>Roberta METSOLA, President of the European Parliament</b></p> <p>Roberta Metsola was elected President of the European Parliament in January 2022. She was first elected to the European Parliament in 2013, becoming one of Malta's first female Members of the European Parliament. Metsola was re-elected in 2014 and then again in 2019. In 2020 she was elected as the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, becoming the first Maltese national to hold the post. She was responsible for the European Parliament's relations with national parliaments and for the Parliament's participation in the interreligious and non-confessional dialogue (Article 17 TFEU). Within the European Parliament, President Metsola was the EPP Group's Coordinator in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, between January 2017 and 2020. President Metsola was the Parliament's rapporteur on the European Border and Coastguard Regulation in 2019. She also co-authored the Parliament's own-initiative report on the need to protect journalists in the European Union from Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation. Professionally she is a lawyer who has specialised in European law and politics. Prior to her election as a MEP, President Metsola served within the Permanent Representation of Malta to the European Union and later as the legal advisor to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. In her student years, she campaigned actively for Malta's EU membership, and was active in various organisations, acting as the Secretary-General for the European Democrat Student organisation between 2002-2003. She completed an Erasmus exchange in France and graduated from the University of Malta and the College of Europe in Bruges.</p>






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	<p><b>Tobias KEYL, Associate partner at Architects von Gerkan, Marg and Partners (gmp), Berlin, Germany</b></p> <p>Since joining gmp in 2004, Tobias has successfully managed several significant projects from the Berlin and Beijing offices. He is a true global citizen with experience in many different project types and regions. This enables him to quickly understand the complexity of his clients' culture and challenges, while pursuing the highest design standards.</p>
	<p><b>Elizabeth DE PORTZAMPARC, Founder of 2P Architectes &amp; Associés, Paris, France</b></p> <p>Elizabeth de Portzamparc is an architect and sociologist. From a very early age, she founded and directed the Atelier d'Urbanisme Participatif d'Antony, focusing in particular on the different uses of buildings and the city, but also on the identity and genius of places. His conviction is that the quality of a town depends on the diversity of its urban spaces, which enables it to be inhabited, in the many senses of the word. Its different places and their atmosphere should encourage a variety of uses, whether they be individual or collective, private or public. She has therefore created the notion of a hierarchy of intimacy, a design principle that she applies at every scale of the city, from the street to the metropolis. All of her work and theories illustrate what she now describes as the "architecture of links". This vision, on which her work is based, expresses a fundamental idea: the architect must take into account all the links that a project establishes with its context, both physical and cultural. For Elizabeth de Portzamparc, it is only by taking all these elements into account simultaneously that the city can become truly sustainable. This is also what makes her work unique. Particularly sensitive to environmental issues, in 2008 she set up the Atelier d'urbanisme durable within her agency, with a multi-disciplinary team including sociologists and anthropologists who participate in the development of her experimental projects. He is responsible for one of the five emblematic stations of the Greater Paris project, Le Bourget, as well as the Condorcet Campus Library and the TIOC Tower in Taiwan. A symbol of the city of Taichung, it will be the first 4th generation tower designed as a village, a veritable vertical neighbourhood. The Pudong Science Centre, due to open in 2021, will be a flagship facility for China's future "Silicon Valley" in Shanghai. Its Musée de la Romanité in Nîmes, inaugurated in 2018, was ranked by AD magazine as one of the most important museums built in the world since 1950.</p>
	<p><b>Donatien KASSEYET KALUME, African Union of Architects (AUA) President</b></p> <p>Donatien Kasseyet Kalume is an architect and urban planner who graduated from Ecoles St Luc/Belgium/Brussels in 1991. After 18 years' professional experience in France and Belgium, he returned to Africa in 2005, where he heads the AXCESS-CONGO office in the DRC and AXCESS-ARCHITECTS based in the RSA. He is currently President of the African Union of Architects (AUA) for the 2022-2025 term.</p>
	<p><b>Gerardo MONTARULI, Pan American Federation of Architects' Association (FPAA) President</b></p> <p>Arq. Gerardo Montaruli Presidente de la Federación Panamericana de Asociaciones de Arquitectos (FPAA), por el Periodo 2020 – 2024. Titular del Estudio Arq. Gerardo Montaruli &amp; Asociados, creado en 1989 e integrado por arquitectos, ingenieros y un equipo de soporte (asesores, colaboradores, y asociados). Jurado y asesor de concursos Nacionales e Internacionales. Expositor en diversos Congresos, Bienales y Jornadas en el país y otros países de América.</p>
	<p><b>Ar Saifuddin AHMAD, Architects Regional Council of Asia (ARCASIA) President</b></p> <p>Saifuddin Ahmad is the Principal of Saifuddin Architect and Managing Director of SNO Architects Sdn Bhd Graduated with Bachelor of Architecture from Deakin University, Australia in 1981. A Fellow of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia and Construction Industry Development Board. Registered ASEAN Architect, APEC Architect and Honorary member of Australian Institute of Architects, Association of Siamese Architects by Royal Patronage. President of ARCASIA 2024-25 President of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia 2011-2013</p>

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	<p><b>Dr. Philip STEDEN, Head of Unit “Economic Policy”, German Federal Chamber of Architects (BAK)</b> Philip is an economist, holds a Ph.D. in finance from Potsdam University and has completed a Master of Business Administration and Industrial Engineering at Technical University of Berlin and at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. Since 2019 Philip has been with the Federal Chamber of German Architects, where he is Head of Unit National and International Economic Policy. His tasks include business development and promotion for architectural firms, export promotion and internationalization, economic policy formulation for SME and the liberal professions, sustainable finance, market research &amp; statistics. Prior to 2018 Philip was Head of Division Investor Services I Manufacturing Industries at Berlin Partner for Business and Technology, Berlin’s official investment promotion and business development agency. His division was in charge of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and supporting the expansion of Berlin based companies. Before to joining Berlin Partner in 2010, Philip was senior manager at the Swiss-based consulting firm Prognos AG, European Center for Economic Research and Strategy Consulting, where he worked with clients from the private and public sector on topics such as strategy consulting, regional economic development, economic impact analysis, investment analysis and financial markets.</p>
	<p><b>Jacques BORG BARTHET, Maltese Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers (KTP)</b> <i>More info coming soon.</i></p>
	<p><b>Gergely SANDOR, Chamber of Hungarian Architects (MEK)</b> <i>More info coming soon.</i></p>
	<p><b>Joy MBOYA, Executive Director of the GoDown Arts Centre</b> Joy Mboya is the Executive Director of The GoDown Arts Centre, the leading nonprofit multidisciplinary arts facility in Nairobi, Kenya. She is a performer and cultural activist. Educated as an architect, she has led the Centre’s development as a site for artistic experimentation, cross-sector partnerships and creative collaboration. An outspoken advocate for artists she has spearheaded a variety of ambitious programs including Kenya Burning (2008) and the annual Nairobi-wide festival, Nai Ni Who. Joy has served on the Governing Council of the Kenya Cultural Centre (which oversees the Kenya National Theatre); she was a member of the Steering Committee for the Arterial Network, a pan-African consortium for the cultural sector, and is currently trustee of Gaara Dance Foundation. Her work has been recognized by several awards: she received the Head of State Commendation medal (2009) for her contributions to the development of Kenya’s creative economy and was awarded the Order of the Golden Warrior (2013) for her outstanding leadership in the field.</p>
	<p><b>Robert WINKEL, Founder of Mei Architects &amp; Planner, Rotterdam, the Netherlands</b> After studying Architecture at the TU Delft (1991), Robert Winkel worked as a project architect, founding Archined in 1995. In 1996, he started his own firm (Robert Winkel Architecten), which became Mei architects and planners in 2003. In 2019, Nice Developers joined the firm. The move into development illustrates Robert’s drive for innovation and progress. When Robert sees a need, he can’t help but act on it. “We constantly ask ourselves why something is done a certain way. There is a great eagerness in our company. But we don’t just want to talk about it, we want to do it! We want to show what we believe in. Show don’t tell!” As a developing architect, he was the mastermind behind SAWA: the first wooden (and prize-winning) building in Rotterdam. “The innovation at SAWA was in the clever combination of design solutions and technical elaborations. The result is a building with a supporting structure made of more than 90% wood.”</p>
	<p><b>Thibaud BODSON, Policy Officer, DG Trade, EU Commission</b> Thibaud Bodson works as a Policy Officer in the unit dealing with trade in services and digital trade at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Trade. His responsibilities include the development of the online tool “My Trade Assistant for Services and Investment”.</p>
	<p><b>Jakob Cornides, Policy Officer, DG Trade, EU Commission</b> <i>More info coming soon.</i></p>

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	<p><b>Claire WHITTAKER, Trade Negotiator, DG Trade, EU Commission</b>          Claire Whittaker is a trade negotiator in the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade. As part of the services and digital trade unit, she is responsible for mutual recognition of qualifications as well as for conditions relating to the movement of professionals. Prior to joining DG TRADE, she worked for DG GROW in the field of services and public procurement as well as for DG MOVE.</p>
	<p><b>Dana Adriana PUIA MOREL, Policy Officer, DG GROW</b>          Dana has been educated in Romania and in the US and has a sixteen-year experience in the European Commission as policy expert and policy adviser. Currently she is in charge of promoting entrepreneurial learning and supporting girls and women to achieve their full potential, acquire digital and entrepreneurship competences, as well as study and take up careers in entrepreneurship, science, mathematics and technology. Dana masters the innovative methods of participatory leadership and has extensive experience in organizing workshops and offering strategic advice on how to create inclusive policy processes by offering people a space for connection, creativity and debate. Dana is also a practicing internal coach and trainer at the European Commission, she teaches a course on Authentic Leadership and is passionate about accompanying people on their personal-growth journey, and guiding them on how to step into their power and discover their strengths, resources and gifts.</p>
	<p><b>Fatima VELEZ, Policy Officer, DG GROW</b>  <i>More info coming soon.</i></p>
	<p><b>Iker AYERBE, Project Adviser, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)</b>          Iker Ayerbe is project adviser in EISMEA - European Commission, managing competitiveness and internationalisation support measures for SMEs under the Single Market Programme. Iker has an extensive experience supporting researchers, SMEs and start-ups in their pursuit of innovations and business development. His complementary three-sided background as entrepreneur, business development consultant and EC project manager in some of the most renowned funding programmes such the EIC, ERC and SMP, allows him to have a comprehensive global vision to identify and implement valuable solutions for all stakeholders. Iker holds a degree in Business Science from the University of the Basque Country in Spain, and an Executive MBA in Solvay School of Economics and Management in Brussels.</p>
	<p><b>Madeleine Houbart, Architectes Français à l'Export (AFEX) Secretary General</b>  <i>More info coming soon.</i></p>
	<p><b>Pablo CONDE DIEZ DEL CORRAL, ICEX Spain, General Director of Business Internationalisation</b>          Pablo Conde Díez del Corral has a degree in Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid and a Master's degree in Institutional Framework and Economic Growth from the Rey Juan Carlos University. He has been a member of the High Corps of Spanish State Economists and Trade Experts since 2010. His professional career is linked to commercial policy and foreign trade with various positions of responsibility in the Sub-directorate of Financial Promotion of Internationalization of the State Secretariat for Commerce. He has also been Chief Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Economic and Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy in Warsaw (Poland). He has collaborated as a speaker in academic courses at George Washington University and the Center for Business Studies.</p>

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**Tamas SZUCS, EU Commission, DG EAC Principal Advisor International Dimension of policies and programme**  
*More info coming soon.*