



Third annual EU conference on EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

Paris, Tuesday, 10 October 2017

Speakers' Biographies

– in the order of speaking

Welcomes and introductions



Mr Phil Hogan

*European Commissioner for Agriculture
and Rural Development*

Phil Hogan has occupied various senior posts at local, national and European level before becoming the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in 2014. This includes the Presidency of the Council of EU Environment Ministers (2013), Chairman of the European People's Party of Environment Ministers (2012-14), National Director of Elections for the Fine Gael party (2010-11), Fine Gael Director of Organisation (2002-2007), Chairman of Kilkenny County Council (1985 and 1998), Chairman of the Fine Gael Parliamentary Group (1995-2001) and Minister of State at the Irish Department of Finance (1994-1995).

As European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan oversees EU agricultural and rural development policies for promoting growth, investment and new jobs and the effectiveness of EU spending on agriculture and rural development.



Ms Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

*Director-General for the Economic and
Environmental Performance of Enterprises,
French Ministry for Agriculture*

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle is an engineer and a high official of the French Ministry for Agriculture, currently holding the position of the Director-General for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises (performance économique et environnementale des entreprises, DGPE). Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle has been Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) between 2006 and 2013. Prior to this, she held high positions on national and regional level related to the agriculture and food sectors.

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle holds an engineering degree from the Ecole Nationale du Génie Rural des Eaux et Forêts (ENGREF) and from the Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon (Ina-PG). She holds also a degree in Community Law from Paris II.



Ms Carole Delga

President, Occitanie region, France

Carole Delga was elected President of the Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region in January 2016. Previously, she was appointed Secretary of State for Trade, Crafts, Consumer Affairs and Social and Solidarity Economy in 2014 in the first government of Manuel Valls. In 2012, she was elected to the French National Assembly where she was member of the Finance Committee and Special Observer of the National Education and Agricultural Training Budget. From 2010 to 2012, Carole Delga was Vice-President of Regional Council of the Midi-Pyrénées Region in charge of Rural Affairs, Public Services and Information and Communication Technology. Moreover, Carole Delga served as Mayor of Martres-Tolosane for two terms from 2008 to 2014.

Carole Delga graduated from the University of Pau and the University of Social Science Toulouse 1. After university, she joined the public service, working for the City of Limoges. In 1998, she became Chief Executive Officer of the Water Board, Barousse, Comminges-Save, and in 2005, Deputy Director of Town and Country Planning of the Midi-Pyrénées Region.



Mr Pim van Ballekom

Vice-President, European Investment Bank

Pim van Ballekom was appointed Vice President of the EIB in January 2012. His responsibilities include transport and transport infrastructure including TEN-T, financing of natural resources and agribusiness / bio-economy, financing operations in the BENELUX, Turkey and ACP-OCT policies and financing operations in ACP countries and OCTs (except West Africa and the Pacific) and the Republic of South Africa. He is also Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Pim Van Ballekom has held many roles including Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner Bolkestein responsible for Internal Market, Taxation and Customs Union Head, Netherlands Director at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, head of International Public Affairs at APG Pension Group, Financial Counsellor and Head of the Financial Section at the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands at the EU, and various positions within the Ministry of Finance in the Netherlands.



Mr Pier Luigi Gilibert

Chief Executive, European Investment Fund

Pier Luigi Gilibert is the Chief Executive at the European Investment Fund since March 2014. He has been working for the European Investment Bank (EIB) since 1984, where he has been Director General of the Directorate for Operations in the EU and EU candidate countries from 2010 to 2014. Prior to that, from 2003 to 2010, he was Director General of the Risk Management Directorate at the EIB. Between 1984 and 1996, Pier Luigi Gilibert worked at the EIB's Financial Research Department, first as an Economist and later as the Head of Division.

Pier Luigi Gilibert graduated from the University of Turin (Italy) and Rochester (NY) with degrees in Economics.

Farm Union's views on access to capital for agriculture and farm investment needs in the EU



Mr Jean-Louis Cazaubon

Vice-chair of the COPA-COGECA Working Party on Rural Development

Jean-Louis Cazaubon is Vice-chair of the Working Party on Rural Development of COPA-COGECA. COPA-COGECA is an agricultural lobby representing both farmers and farm organizations and cooperatives in Europe.

Next to this, Jean-Louis Cazaubon is Vice-president of the French Chambers of Agriculture in charge of rural development (territory commission), President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Hautes-Pyrénées.

Additionally, Jean-Louis Cazaubon is also Vice-president of Occitanie region in charge of Agri-food and Viticulture and Vice-president of the Association of European Regions for Products of Origin (AREPO).



Mr Dominique Fayel

*Board member, Fédération Nationale des
Syndicats d'Exploitants Agricoles (FNSEA),
France*

Dominique Fayel is a farmer, Board member of the FNSEA (the greatest agricultural union in France) and President of the Commission for Mountains and Less-Favoured Areas.

In his function as Vice President of Euromontana (European Association of Mountain Areas), he is in charge of agriculture. He is also President of the rural development civil dialogue group of the European Commission.

Dominique Fayel is also a member of the National Mountain Council and President of the working group Agriculture, Agri-Food, Forest and Wood. Finally, he is a member of SIDAM, an organisation that focuses on projects of the Massif Central in France.

EAFRD Financial instruments in France



Mr Stéphane Molinier

*Chief Executive Officer, Occitanie region,
France*

Since 2016, Stéphane Molinier is Chief Executive Officer of the Occitanie Region. He is responsible for economic growth and innovation, higher education and research, agriculture and forestry.

Previously, he held the function of deputy general manager of Midi-Pyrénées region and was responsible for economic growth, innovation, agriculture, European funds management and land-use planning.

Graduate from an Electrical and Automation Engineering School in Toulouse, Stéphane Molinier joined France Telecom as a project manager in 1989. Then, graduated Telecommunication Engineer by the Ministry of Industry, he headed from 2000 to 2005 an industrial economic growth department of the Ministry of Industry regional directorate in Toulouse and in Paris.



Ms Cindy Schultz

Assistant Director of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry, Occitanie region, France

Cindy Schultz is Assistant Director of Agriculture, Agri-Food and Forestry in the Occitanie region. As expert in agriculture and agri-food economics, she develops and works on the implementation of regional policies. Among other things, Cindy Schultz leads the pilot FOSTER EAFRD project (*Fonds Occitanie de Soutien Territorial*) since 2014, expanding its use to the Occitanie region.

As agronomist specialised in fisheries economy, she started her professional career in the field of rural development in the private sector. In 2005, she joined the territorial public service where she currently works, as expert in rural economy and the EAFRD, on the creation of business activity in the agri-food industry and in agri-tourism.



Mr Nicolas Mestres

Head of Unit, Agricultural Market, Banque Populaire du Sud, France

Nicolas Mestres has been responsible for the Agricultural Market at Banque Populaire du Sud since April 2017. He started his career at Banque Populaire du Sud as an Expert in Sustainable and Agricultural Development in 2006. In 2010, he became Deputy Director of the Branche of Banque Populaire du Sud in St Paul de Fenouillet and Elne, Occitanie region. In this position, he was responsible for the management of client portfolios as well as the management and support of advisors.

In 2005, Nicolas Mestres graduated from the National Institute of Higher Agricultural Education in Dijon with an engineering degree in Agriculture.



Ms Camille Massol

*Project Manager, Directorate of
Agriculture, Agro-food and Sea,
Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, France*

Camille Massol is Project Manager at the Directorate of Agriculture, Agro-food and Sea at the Nouvelle-Aquitaine regional authority. Previously, she was working at the Directorate of Agriculture of the Aquitaine region, holding the position of Head of Unit and project lead of different projects.

Camille Massol obtained her degree as agronomist from the Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon in 2006, specialising on vegetable production.

Experiences of EAFRD managing authorities in preparing or using financial instruments



Prof. Gianluca Nardone

*Head of Managing Authority of the
Regional Rural Development Programme
Puglia, Puglia region, Italy*

Prof. Gianluca Nardone is the Head of the Managing Authority of the regional Rural Development Program 2014-2020 and the Department of Agriculture, Rural and Environmental Development of the Puglia region. He is also full professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Foggia. Since 2011, he is a member of the Board of Administration of the Puglia banking foundation. Next to this, he has served as General Manager and then C.E.O. of the Agro-Food Technological District of the Puglia region (D.A.Re.) since its beginnings in 2007 up to 2015.

Gianluca Nardone gained a BSc in Agricultural Sciences at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, a MSc at the University of Connecticut in Agricultural Economics and a PhD at the Università di Padova in Agro-Food Economics and Policy.

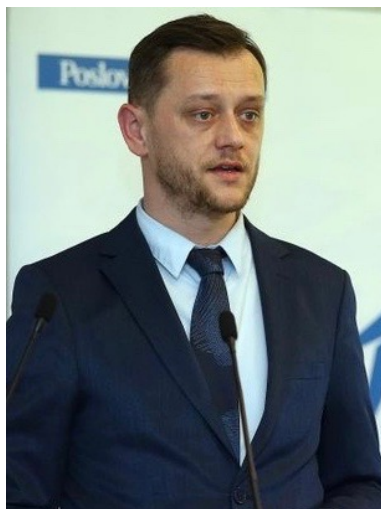


Ms Adela Stefan

*Head of Coordination and Evaluation Unit,
Ministry of Agriculture, Romania*

Adela Stefan works as a Head of Coordination and Evaluation Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania. Previously, she was a legal counselor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development.

Adela Stefan graduated in 2004 from the Nicolae Titulescu University of Bucharest with an MSc degree in International and Community Law.



Mr Krešimir Ivančić

*Assistant Minister, Ministry of Agriculture,
Croatia*

Krešimir Ivančić is the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture in Croatia. Previously, he was the Head of the Sector for Management of the EU Rural Development Fund at the Ministry of Agriculture. He started his career at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development of the Republic of Croatia, first as an advisor and later as an Expert Associate. He has since had multiple advisory and management positions within the Ministries of Agriculture and Regional Development.

In 2006, Krešimir Ivančić graduated from the University of Zagreb with an MSc degree from the Faculty of Agriculture.



Mr Konstantinos Apostolopoulos

Head of Evaluation and Institutional Support Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Greece

Konstantinos Apostolopoulos is Head of the Evaluation and Institutional Support Unit at the Managing Authority for Rural Development Programme in Greece. He is also managing the design and set-up of financial instruments as part of the Greek RDP.

Konstantinos Apostolopoulos has worked in the field of Rural Development for more than 15 years. He holds an MSc in European Economic Studies from the Athens University of Economics and Business.

EFSI for agriculture and rural development



Mr Benjamin Angel

Director Treasury and Financial Operations, Directorate-General Economic and Financial Affairs, European Commission

Benjamin Angel is currently Director for the '*Treasury and financial operations*'. During the last years, he has notably negotiated the Regulation creating the European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the European Investment project Portal (EIPP).

He is inter alia a member of the EFSI Steering Board, of the Board of Directors of the European Investment Fund (EIF), of the Supervisory Board of the Marguerite and European Energy Efficiency Funds.

Benjamin Angel graduated from HEC Paris (specialisation in finance), Sciences-Po Paris (specialization in economics) and has a master in political science and a PHD in law.



Mr Simon Barnes

*Director of Advisory Services Department,
European Investment Bank*

Simon Barnes is Director of Advisory Services at the European Investment Bank (EIB). He is responsible for delivery of the principal advisory programmes managed by the EIB, including the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH). Previously, he has held various senior posts within EIB, including most recently Director of Lending Operations in Western Europe where he was responsible for EIB financing of projects in the UK, France, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg.

His experience prior to EIB was in commercial and investment banking, having held diverse roles in financing and risk management positions in Europe and Asia/Pacific.



Mr Hubert Cottogni

*Director of Mandate Management,
European Investment Fund*

As the Head of the Mandate Management Department and Director for the European Investment Fund, Hubert Cottogni is responsible for originating and managing both regional and centralised mandates as well as fund of funds throughout Europe and beyond.

He also sits on the Board of several prominent funds such as the Green for Growth Fund and European Fund for Southeast Europe. Previously, he was a Director of Telekom Austria, first as Head of Strategy and Business Development, and later as Director of Mergers and Acquisitions. He spent more than 12 years working as Senior Banker in financial institutions such as European Investment Bank and Creditanstalt. Hubert Cottogni holds an MBA degree from the University of Innsbruck as well as an executive degree from INSEAD.

Financing agriculture in France



Mr Jean-Christophe Roubin

*Director of Agriculture, Crédit Agricole,
France*

Jean-Christophe Roubin is the Director of Agriculture at Crédit Agricole. Between 2009 and 2012, he was a Diplomatic and Expatriate Advisor for the Minister of Agriculture and Food in France.

Prior to this, he worked at the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union as an Adviser in charge of relations with the European Parliament.



Mr Michel Cottet

General Director, SIAGI, France

Michel Cottet has been General Director of SIAGI, a mutual guarantee society held by Chambers of Craft and major banks in France, for 25 years. Prior to this he worked as a Head of Unit at Banque Paribas and Banque Neuflyze (ABN AMRO group). Besides in 2005 he created Via Chocolat, a chocolate gallery selling chocolates made by regional artisans. He is a board member of the Confederation of chocolatiers and confiseurs of France.

Michel Cottet holds an executive MBA degree from HEC Paris.

Closing remarks



Ms Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann

*Director, Directorate-General Agriculture
and Rural Development, European
Commission*

Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann is Director of Directorate F – Rural Development Programmes I – at the Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI, European Commission) since July 2014. The Directorate is responsible for the conception and consistency of rural development, for the approval and management of 56 Rural Development Programmes of 12 Member States and for Financial Instruments under the EAFRD, including the relationships with the EIB Group.

Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann has been working for the European Commission since 1989, starting her career in the DG of Financial Control and changing in 1994 to DG Agriculture and Rural Development. In 2005, she became Head of the Unit dealing with the Rural Development Programmes of Sweden, Finland, Estonia and Latvia. In 2007, she took over the management of the unit responsible for the policy development and coordination of the Rural Development Policy. In 2014-2015, she was Head of Unit for Environment, Forestry and Climate Change in DG AGRI.



Ms Katrina Sichel

*Moderator, Wit and Word
Communications*

Katrina Sichel is a London-born, Brussels-based professional moderator of top-level events covering a broad spectrum of current EU policy topics and areas, from finance, R&D&I, agriculture and fisheries to environment, health and digitalisation. Alongside, she has developed and managed communications campaigns targeting EU and national level stakeholders as well as the general public, and spanning different sectors. A former TV producer, she put together news packages for, among others, the BBC, Sky News, Channel 4 and Reuters, interviewing well-known figures from political and other arenas.

Katrina Sichel holds a degree in Modern Languages from Oxford University. She speaks fluent French, rusty Russian and a smattering of German alongside her native tongue.