

Ruxandra Draghia-Akli

Deputy Director General, DG RTD, European Commission



Dr Draghia-Akli is Deputy Director-General for Research & Innovation at the European Commission, responsible for the Research Programmes. She serves as the Commission representative in the Governing Boards of most Joint Technology Initiatives of the EU with different industrial sectors. Dr Draghia-Akli joined the European Commission in 2009 as Director for Health Research in DG RTD. She has contributed considerably during these past years to the successes of the 'Health' Programme. She holds a MD degree and a PhD degree in human genetics from the University Carol Davilla, Romania and has participated in a fellowship programme in Genetics and Metabolic Pathology Department in "René Descartes" University in France, and a post-doctoral training in molecular biology at Baylor College of Medicine, USA. Before joining the Commission, Ruxandra worked in biotechnology companies, as Vice-President managing research programmes in the area of gene therapy and DNA vaccination.

Tomáš Drucker

Minister of Health, Slovakia



JUDr. Ing. Tomáš Drucker was born in 1978 in Bratislava. He graduated from the Faculty of Law at Trnava University in Trnava and Applied Informatics and Automation in Industry at Slovak Technical University in Bratislava. In the past he held a position of a Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Nuclear and Decommissioning Company where he was inter alia responsible for cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. He also led merger projects of national health insurances in the Slovak Republic and took part in preparation of conceptions for the reform of financing of health care.

Tomáš Drucker was appointed to the post of the Minister of Health of the Slovak Republic on March 23, 2016 by The President of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska.

Carlos Moedas

Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation



Carlos Moedas was born in Beja (Portugal) in 1970. He graduated in Civil Engineering from the Higher Technical Institute (IST) in 1993 and completed the final year of studies at the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris (France). He worked in engineering for the Suez-Lyonnaise des Eaux group in France until 1998. He obtained an MBA from Harvard Business School (USA) in 2000, after which he returned to Europe to work in mergers and acquisitions at investment bank Goldman Sachs in London (UK). He returned to Portugal in 2004 as Managing Director of Aguirre Newman and member of the Executive Board of Aguirre Newman in Spain. In 2008, he founded his own investment company, Crimson Investment management. In 2011, he's elected for the National Parliament and was called for the government to Secretary of State to the Prime Minister of Portugal in charge of the Portuguese Adjustment Programme. In 2014, he became Member of the European Commission, as Commissioner in charge of Research, Science and Innovation.

Vytenis Andriukaitis

Commissioner, Health and Food Safety



Vytenis Andriukaitis is Lithuanian and is married with 3 children. He has served as Commissioner since 2014. Before that he was Vice-President of the World Health Assembly, Minister for Health and Deputy Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament.

He has a Doctor of Medicine degree and a Master's degree in History from Vilnius University.

Karmenu Vella

Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries



Karmenu Vella is Maltese and is married with 2 children. He has served as Commissioner since 2014. Before that he was Minister for Tourism and Aviation, Chairman of the Orange Travel Group and Group coordinator for the Labour Party Parliamentary Group.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Civil Engineering and has served as a member of the Maltese Parliament for 38 years.

Antti Peltomäki

Deputy Director General, DG GROW, European Commission



Mr Antti Peltomäki is Deputy Director-General of the Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs Directorate-General since February 2012. In this function, Mr Peltomäki is responsible for Industrial transformation and Advanced value chains; Consumer, Environmental and Health Industries; and Innovation and Advanced Manufacturing Directorates.

Mr. Peltomäki is also the Commission representative at the Management Boards of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

Before that, Mr Peltomäki was Deputy Director-General in the Information Society and Media Directorate General where he was firstly responsible for research cooperation in the context of the seventh research framework (2007-2013) and thereafter for regulatory policy in the telecommunications, media and internet fields.

Mr Peltomäki has also worked as Head of the Commission's representation in Helsinki in 2006 – 2007.

Prior to joining the Commission in 2006, Mr Peltomäki worked for almost ten years in the office of the Prime Minister of Finland, initially as State Under-Secretary, then State Secretary for EU affairs.

A lawyer by training, Mr Peltomäki began his career as a coordinator of international research and training courses at the Helsinki University of Technology.

Charlina Vitcheva

Deputy Director General, JRC, European Commission



Prior to becoming Deputy Director-General at JRC, she was Director for Smart and Sustainable Growth and Southern Europe in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). She was in charge of policy development and consistency of implementation across 28 member states of the Smart and Sustainable aspects of Cohesion Policy covering the following thematic objectives of the investment support: Research & Innovation, ICT, Competitiveness of SMEs, Low Carbon Economy, Climate Change & Risk prevention, Environment, Energy & Transport and Key Infrastructure.

She was involved in the implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes and negotiations on/implementation of the 2014-2020 programming documents for Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Malta.

She was previously Director for Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development and Northern Europe (DG REGIO). She was in charge of policy development and implementation across all the MSs of the territorial approach & the urban dimension of the European Cohesion Policy; design, development and implementation of the new role of DG REGIO in coordinating & synergizing the urban initiatives across the Commissions' services and initiating the Urban Agenda for the EU; consistent implementation across all the MSs of the Inclusive growth aspect of the European Regional Development Fund ERDF (education, health, social inclusion).

Birgit Wolz

Head of Division, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany



Birgit Wolz holds a PhD in Law and a Master Degree in Public Administration (Harvard). She has worked for the University of Kiel, Germany and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London.

A Director in the Ministry for the Environment since 1999, she has been working on a range of issues such as nature conservation, radiation protection, transport and environment, water management as well as international environmental policies.

Since early 2008, she is heading the unit "Environment and Health" at the Ministry where her responsibilities cover i.a. human-biomonitoring, indoor air quality, environmental food contaminants, and the German Environmental Specimen Bank. In 2010, she started a ten-year-cooperation project with the German Chemical Industry Association to develop new HBM methods for modern chemicals of concern.

She is engaged in a number of international processes relevant for environment and health involving i.a. the World Bank, WHO and the Children's Environmental Health Birth Cohort Group (ECHIBCG). Within HBM4EU she will be a member of the Governing Board.

Marike Kolossa-Gehring

Head of Section, German Environment Agency



Dr. Marike Kolossa-Gehring, Head of Section "Toxicology, Health-related Environmental Monitoring", biologist/toxicologist. PhD from Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, responsible for HBM in the German Environmental Survey (GerES), the Environmental Specimen Bank (ESB), the Human Biomonitoring Commission, and the HBM cooperation between the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUB); involved in the development of assessment strategies and methods at national and international (EU, OECD) level.

Work package leader in the EU HBM projects ESBIO, DEMOCOPHES and COPHES; from 2006 to 2010 vice-chair and chair of the OECD Endocrine Disruptor Testing and Assessment Advisory Board. From 2011 to 2014 Governmental Councillor of the International Society of Exposure Science (ISES); Coordinator of the HBM4EU programme.

Karen Van Campenhout

Head of Unit, Flemish Government Environment, Nature & Energy Department, Belgium



Karen Van Campenhout was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1976. She received a degree in bio-engineering from Ghent University, in 1999 and obtained a PhD degree in biological sciences from Antwerp University in 2004, for her work on metal toxicity in fresh water fish.

Since 2007 she is heading the Environment and Health unit, within the Environment, Nature & Energy Department of the Flemish government.

Karen's work focusses on closing the gap between science and policy when dealing with health and environment policies. Concretely, she is the coordinator of the Flemish phased plan for policy translation of the human biomonitoring result of the Flemish environment and health surveys.

Klaus Berend

Head of Unit, DG GROW, European Commission

Dr. Klaus Berend joined the European Commission in 1994 and is currently Head of Unit in the European Commission's Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs, responsible for the implementation of the EU Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), which sets out the overall framework for regulating chemicals in the EU.

Before, he was Head of Unit in DG Enterprise & Industry, responsible for EU legislation on the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP), Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), detergents, fertilisers, drug precursors, explosives and pyrotechnic articles. The unit also dealt with the sustainability and competitiveness of the chemicals industry in the European Union.

Previously, he was Deputy Head of Unit in the Commission's Directorate General for Environment, Unit Biotechnology & Pesticides, where he co-ordinated the work concerning biocides, plant protection products and the Community's participation in the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC).

He studied chemistry at the universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg, and Stanford, and obtained a PhD in polymer chemistry from the University of Freiburg (Germany).

Patrick Breysse

Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the National Center for Environmental Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA



Dr. Breysse leads CDC's efforts to investigate the relationship between environmental factors and health. He served as Associate Chair for Educational Programs within Johns Hopkins University's Department of Environmental Health Sciences and co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Childhood Asthma in the Urban Environment. His research focused on the evaluation and control of chemical, biological, and physical factors that can affect health. He's published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles. Dr. Breysse received his PhD in Environmental Health Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 1985 and completed postdoctoral training at the British Institute for Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland. He's a board certified Industrial Hygienist and an editorial review board member for the Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.

Douglas Haines

Former Director, Chemicals Surveillance Bureau, Health Canada



During his thirty-year career at Health Canada, Douglas Haines was engaged in environmental health issues spanning air pollution, ecosystem health, climate change, and chemical monitoring. Under the Government of Canada's 2006 Chemicals Management Plan, he developed and implemented national human biomonitoring initiatives to track Canadians' exposures to chemicals and their integration into health risk assessments. This included biomonitoring in the Canadian Health Measures Survey, in the Maternal-Infant Research on Environmental Chemicals Study and in northern populations in partnership with the Northern Contaminants Program. Mr. Haines managed the health components of the federal Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem programs. He has published in peer reviewed journals and has presented at Canadian and international scientific, public and policy venues.

Shoji Nakayama

Section Head, Centre for Health and Environmental Risk Research, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan



Dr Shoji Nakayama holds MD and PhD in public health. His expertise is in exposure science, especially of compounds of emerging concern such as persistent organic compounds, fluorinated chemicals, endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

In 2005, Dr Nakayama was invited to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and worked on exposure research on perfluorinated alkyl compounds. In 2009, he moved to EPA's engineering laboratory to help risk management of the emerging contaminants. Then in 2011, Dr Nakayama joined the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Japan. He is a lead exposure scientist for the Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS), which is a national longitudinal birth cohort study involving 100,000 mothers and children.

Elizabet Paunovic

Head of WHO Centre for Environment and Health, Germany



Dr Elizabet Paunovic is the head of WHO European Centre for Environment and Health. She is holding degrees from the Medical Faculty in Belgrade (Serbia) as the medical doctor, and postgraduate degree from Medical Faculty in Ljubljana (Slovenia), specialization of occupational health.

Her working experience is covered by 30 years of experience in occupational and environmental health, as the main researcher in numerous projects related to occupational and environmental impacts on health. Her main areas of professional expertise and activities are related to occupational and environmental health interventions and actions aimed to prevent and reduce occupational and environmental impacts on health. She also served as the State Secretary in the Ministry of Health of Serbia. At the current position Dr Paunovic is managing WHO Centre for Environment and Health.

Ovnair Sepai

Head of Unit, Public Health England, UK



Lead a team of toxicologists, we provide authoritative advice to Government, PHE and other health professionals on the human health risks of chemical contamination in water, waste, and soil. Produce chemical compendia. Independent toxicological advice on chemicals in cosmetics, consumer products and input to chemical regulation and review use of human biomonitoring in risk assessment. Lead the scientific secretariat to the UK Expert Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM) and its sister committees on carcinogenicity (COC) and toxicity (COT).

Manage and develop the HBM programme of work for PHE. Led the UK component of-COPHES, DemoCOPHES (www.eu-hbm.info).

Train health professionals in HBM techniques and application to public health including deliberate release scenarios.

Jean Nicolas Ormsby

Deputy Director, French National Public Agency for Food, Environment and Occupational Health and Safety, France



After studying medicine at Paris University, and completing his training in Public health J.N. Ormsby worked in various organisations at national, european and international level including the National school of Public health (ENSP), European Commission DGV, WHO – Regional office for Europe, French Board of Health and more recently in the National health and safety agencies AFSSET and ANSES. He has been Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment of the French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (AFSSET), and since 2010 Deputy Director, Risk Assessment Department, in the French Agency for Food, Environment and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES).

Hana Tolonen

Senior Researcher, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland



Hanna Tolonen has worked past 20 years on the field of harmonization and comparability of health examination surveys. Her speciality is standardization of measurements for cross-country comparisons and issues relating to non-response in surveys.

She has been coordinating several European level initiatives relating to standardization of health examination surveys: The European Health Examination Survey (EHES) Pilot Project (2009-2012), The Feasibility of a European Health Examination Survey (FEHES) Project (2006-2008), and The European Health Risk Monitoring (EHRM) Project (2000-2002). Currently she is leading the EHES initiative.

She has Adjunct Professorship in epidemiology, PhD in epidemiology/public health and MSc in statistics.

Erik Lebret

Chief Science Officer, National Institute for Public health and the Environment, Netherlands



Erik Lebret studied environmental sciences at Wageningen University. He obtained his doctorate on indoor air quality in Dutch homes.

Over the years, he worked on a variety of environment and health issues and impact assessments in national and international projects. He has applied HBM for research applications and acted as project manager for the Dutch National HBM Surveillance Programme "Man, Food and Environment". He spearheaded the application of HBM in victims and relief workers in the aftermath of the Firework Disaster Enschede (2010). He was President of the International Society of Exposure Sciences (ISES). He regularly participates in (inter-)national expert committees and is endowed professor Environmental Health Impact Assessment at IRAS Utrecht University.

Elke Anklam

Director, JRC, European Commission



Elke Anklam is a chemist, with specialisation in food, organic and radiation chemistry. After obtaining her phd from the University Hamburg, Germany, she worked in various European research institutions and was a teaching professor at the applied university of Fulda, Germany.

Since 1991, she has been working at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC). From 2006-2012, she was Director of the JRC-institute for health and consumer protection (IHCP) in Ispra, Italy and from 2012 – July 2016, director of the JRC-institute for reference materials and measurements in Geel, Belgium.

Since July 2016, she is the director of the JRC-Geel site and the new JRC directorate F: health, consumers & reference material (a merger of the former IHCP and IRMM), located at the JRC-GEEL and JRC-Ispra site.

Jana Klanova

Director, Research Center for Toxic Compounds in the Environment, Czech Republic



Jana is director of the RECETOX centre and research infrastructure (ESFRI) and professor of environmental chemistry with an expertise in assessment of human exposure pathways, indoor and outdoor monitoring, fate of chemicals, transport and transformation processes, and environmental determinants of health. She was/is an executive director of the CETOCOEN and CETOCOEN PLUS projects from the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and PI of multiple FP and H2020 projects. She has been actively working at the science-policy interface as a member of the Expert Group for implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention and Leading partner for the area of Health (HE-2) of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Sébastien Denys

Director, Santé publique France



Sébastien Denys has worked in different French public organizations where he developed research and expertise on fate of contaminants in terrestrial environment and human risk assessment. Since the creation of Santé publique France, he leads the Environmental Health Division that is dedicated to the epidemiological surveillance of public health related to environmental risk factors such as atmospheric pollution, industrial environment or chemical exposure.

The Environmental Health Division pilots in particular the French Biomonitoring Program. This Program aims to estimate the levels of chemicals in the French population and the main determinants of these exposures and focus on both general and specific populations.

Stanislav Špánik

State Secretary for Health, Slovakia



Prof. MUDr. Stanislav Špánik, CSc. was born in 1959. He started studying medicine at the Medical Faculty of Charles University in Prague and in 1984 he completed the study at the Medical Faculty of Comenius University in Bratislava. Subsequently in 1987 he acquired first level attestation in internal medicine, in 1991 attestation in hematology and transfusion and in 1994 he acquired attestation in clinical oncology. In 1996 he gained lectureship in public health - epidemiology of infectious diseases, and in 2002 he defended the professorship in public health at the Trnava University in Trnava. In 1984 he joined the department of hematology-transfusion and chemotherapy department of Clinical Oncology Institute in Bratislava. Since 1990 he had worked at the Department of Internal Medicine Department and later at the National Oncology Institute. Since 1996 he has worked at the Oncology Institute of St. Elisabeth in Bratislava, first as a primary, and later as a Head of Internal Oncology Medicine Clinic. He was also the chief expert in clinical oncology for the Ministry of Health SR. Professor Špánik has a rich publishing and scientific research activities. He has completed several educational stays in the USA, is active in educational activities and is also a member of many professional organizations.

He was appointed to the post of a State Secretary of the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic by the Slovak Government on 14 April 2016.

Argelia Castaño

Director, National Center For Environmental Health, Instituto de Salud Carlos III , Spain



Argelia Castaño is Director of the National Center for Environmental Health, in Instituto Salud Carlos III, Spain. She developed, and is responsible, for the Spanish National Program of Human Biomonitoring financed by the Spanish Ministry of Environment. She is leader of Pillar 2 in the HBM4EU initiative: HBM structure and responsible for the Spanish National Hub. As scientific expert, she contributed to the EU Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010, in which one of the priorities was the development of a European HBM program. Within the EU COPHES project she pioneered the harmonization of biomarker measurements for HBM at European level. Dr Castaño has a PhD in ecotoxicology and 35 years of experience in environmental toxicology, developing in vitro-based methods for hazard characterization of chemicals. President and later, Honorary President, of the Spanish platform for Animal Alternatives (REMA). She has published more than hundred peer-reviewed papers in international journals.

Maria Krautzberger

President, German Environment Agency



Maria Krautzberger has been the President of the German Environment Agency since May 2014. She served as Permanent Secretary in the Berlin Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment from 1999 to 2011. She played a significant role in introducing the low emissions zone in Berlin.

Prior to this she was Head of Office of Environmental Protection for the City of Wuppertal and Senator for the Environment for the Free Hanseatic City of Lübeck serving also as Deputy Mayor. Maria Krautzberger was born in Mühl Dorf am Inn.

Eva Thörnelöf

Senior Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency



Thörnelöf has worked in the environmental field since 1978, at different positions within Sweden's governmental administration. Academic basis is a BSc in biology.

In 2015 the Acting Director General at SEPA. Spring 2016 she was the head of the secretariat for Future and Strategy in the Prime Minister's office.

2011-2015 Head of the Research and Assessment department at the SEPA, 2009-2011 Head of the department of Natural Resources.

2001-2009 Deputy Director of the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra).

80-90-ties within the SEPA, focus on monitoring and research.

Chair of the Foundation for International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics, board member of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and member of the Royal Academy of Agricultural and Forestry.

Hans Bruyninckx

Executive Director, European Environment Agency



Hans Bruyninckx is the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since 1 June, 2013.

In 1996 Dr Bruyninckx completed a PhD in international environmental politics at Colorado State University.

From 2010 until his appointment at the EEA, he was head of the HIVA Research Institute in Leuven, Belgium, a policy-oriented research institute associated with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, where he was also head of the Political Science department from 2007 to 2010.

Over the last 20 years, he has conducted research in more than a dozen countries, in areas including environmental politics, climate change, and sustainable development. He has taught on global environmental politics and global environmental governance in relation to the European Union (EU), publishing extensively on EU environmental policies and its role as an actor in global environmental governance.

Throughout his career Dr Bruyninckx has worked with governmental agencies, civil society and businesses, often in an advisory role.

Frans Verstraete

Official, DG SANTE, European Commission



Frans Verstraete graduated in 1985 as agricultural engineer at the University of Ghent (Belgium). After his studies he held positions at the University of Ghent and thereafter at the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture and he was for a period technical adviser of the Belgian Minister of Agriculture. He is working for the European Commission since 1997. In the European Commission he has had various functions but since 2000 he is working at the Directorate General Health and Food Safety. He is responsible for the elaboration, development and management of the EU-legislation concerning certain contaminants in feed and food.

Hans Verhagen

Head of Department, European Food and Safety Authority



Prof. Verhagen has 32 years of professional experience, both in the public and private sector. Before joining EFSA, he held management positions at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and TNO Nutrition and Food Research Institute, both in the Netherlands. He also worked in Unilever Research and at the Universities of Maastricht and Nijmegen, in the Netherlands.

He was a member of EFSA's NDA Panel from 2006 until June 2015. He was editor in chief at "Food & Chemical Toxicology" and the "European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety".

Prof. Verhagen has published widely on subjects related to toxicology and nutrition.

He studied chemistry (University Nijmegen, The Netherlands and Université de Paris VII, France). He obtained his PhD from the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. He is a board-certified toxicologist and a board-certified nutritionist (Foundation for Biomedical Scientific Research Training, the Netherlands). He is a visiting professor at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland.

Palmi Atlason

Scientific Officer, European Chemicals Agency



Palmi Atlason is originally from Iceland and has been working in the Classification & Prioritisation Unit at the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for over six years. He mainly works at identifying substances of potential concern for human health or the environment (such as new carcinogens or ED substances) and prioritise them for regulatory action by either Member States or ECHA. The regulatory action could be e.g. Authorisation or Harmonised Classification and Labelling.

Prior to working at ECHA, he worked for several years in academic research, gaining a DPhil from Oxford University in Neuropharmacology and conducting post-doctoral research in developing drug targets for neuroreceptors. He has also worked in the pharmaceutical industry developing in vivo methods for drug validation.

Julie Yome

Acting Manager, Health Canada



Julie Yome is a Senior Biologist in the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch of Health Canada, with over eight years of experience working on the national biomonitoring program as part of the Canadian Health Measures Survey. Her expertise includes stakeholder consultation, strategic development, and program management. She also has experience in food safety, animal reproduction, and vaccine development. Ms. Yome has a Bachelor's degree in molecular biology and genetics, and a Master's degree in pathology and molecular medicine, with a specialization in cancer genetics.

Michael Bader

Vice-President, BASF SE, Germany



Michael Bader studied chemistry at the University of Muenster (Germany) and received his doctoral degree in 1996 from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany). He specialized in human biomonitoring and analytical toxicology, and was habilitated for occupational and environmental toxicology in 2007 at Hannover Medical School (Germany).

In 2010, he joined the Occupational Medicine & Health Protection Department at BASF SE.

He is a member of the DFG Senate Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area ("MAK Commission") and its work groups "Analyses in Biological Materials", "Setting of Limit Values in Biological Materials" and "Dermal Absorption", and of the Biological Exposure Indices Committee of the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH).

Genon K. Jensen

Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Belgium



Ms Jensen has been an official member of the WHO's European Environment and Health process representing the health sector since 2000. She is also on the Steering Committee of the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), and co-chairs the CHE EDC Strategy working group.

Before setting up HEAL, she was the Director of the European Public Health Alliance. She has a degree in journalism and international politics from George Washington University in Washington, DC and an MA in European Administrative Studies from the College of Europe, Belgium.

She is a co-author of several publications and reports, including 'Policy recommendations and cost implications for a more sustainable framework for European human biomonitoring surveys' (2015), "Halting the child brain drain: why we need to tackle global mercury contamination" (2006), "The Unpaid Health Bill: How coal power plants make us sick" (2013), and "Health costs in the EU - How much is related to EDCs?" (2014).

Bjorn Hansen

Head of Unit, DG ENV, European Commission



Bjorn Hansen obtained his Masters degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, New York, U.S.A. in 1985 and his Ph.D. in 1988 from the Technical University in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. After a "habilitation post" at the Georg August University in Göttingen, Germany, he joined the European Commissions Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, in 1991 and was work area co-ordinator for the team working on existing substances (Reg. 793/93) in the European Chemicals Bureau from 1993 to June, 2003. In June, 2003 he joined the Chemicals Unit of DG Environment in Brussels, Belgium where he is now the Head of Unit. From 2007 to 2008 he was seconded as Director of Operations to the European Chemicals Agency.

Catherine Ganzleben

Project Manager, European Environment Agency



Catherine is the project manager for environment, health and well-being at the European Environment Agency (EEA). She works collaboratively with EEA members and partners organisations to build knowledge on how stressors in the environment combined to impact on health, as well exploring the positive dimensions of how the environment provides ecosystem services and contributes to human well-being. Prior to join the EEA, Catherine worked for a Brussels-based consultancy delivering projects on EU chemical policies and public health. From 2005-2007 she worked for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research delivering technical assistance projects on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as well as the Stockholm, Basel and Rotterdam Conventions. She has a post-doc from the United Nations Institute for Advanced Studies in Japan on the urban ecosystems approach and a PhD in economic geography from the University of Oxford, UK.

Robert Barouki

Professor, University Paris Descartes/Inserm, France



Robert Barouki is a Professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at University Paris Descartes and head of the Inserm research unit 1124. His main research focus during the last twenty years was on the impact of environmental contaminants on human health and the mechanisms of action involved in those effects. In particular, he has studied the biological consequences following the activation of the dioxin receptor AhR using in particular “-omics” technologies. He has also studied the effects of combination of contaminants.

In addition, as head of the clinical metabolic biochemistry department, he has initiated and organized a shared mass spectrometry facility at the Necker hospital. He has also been involved in the networking of French and European research in the field of environment and health.

Nicolas Olea

Professor, University of Granada, Spain



Nicolas Olea, MD PhD, is full professor at the School of Medicine of the University of Granada and the Scientific Director of the Institute for Biomedical Research ibs.GRANADA conceived to promote biomedical, clinical and epidemiological research and foster translational investigations. Prof. Olea leader a multidisciplinary team on Environmental Medicine integrated by physicians, epidemiologists, biologists and chemists working on the effects of environmental factors in human health. He also leader the Spanish Conference on Endocrine Disrupters and is advisor for the Danish and French Programmes.

He has been involved in International Research and Training Programs funded by the EU as Environ Reprod Health QLRT-1999-01422 (2000-2003), EDEN QLRT-2001-00603 (2002-2005), CASCADE, FP6-FOOD-03-506319 (2004-2010), CONTAMED- FP7-ENV-07-212582 (2008-2013), ONCONET-SUDOE (2017-2019) and by National programmes as Infancy and the Environment, INMA cohort G03/176 (2004-2018), CIBERESP RD09/0076 /00148 (2009-2018) and INTRASALUD ISCIII, PI11/00610 (2012-2016).

Maria Uhl

Senior Expert, Environment Agency Austria



Maria Uhl is toxicologist with more than 15 years' experience in the field of environmental health. She is involved in risk assessment and evaluation processes within Biocides and Chemicals legislation, and International treaties (UNEP- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants). She was senior scientist in projects for the European Commission and project leader of human biomonitoring studies, including a study in mothers and their new-borns in the frame of the European Transnational Cooperation programme. She is leader of the working group Pollutants and Impacts within the department of Chemicals and Biocides at the Environment Agency Austria and she is coordinator of the Austrian platform for human biomonitoring.

Ilse Loots

Professor, University of Antwerp, Belgium



Ilse Loots holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences. She is spokesperson of the research group 'Society and environment'. (Assessing) boundary work in knowledge generation configurations and science-policy oriented procedures, performed in local, regional and international settings with scientists, policy makers, stakeholders and civil society is a core activity of the group.

Since 2001, professor Loots supervises the sociological research activities in the Flemish Policy Research Centre 'Environment and Health', a consortium of universities and knowledge institutions where large scale human biomonitoring campaigns are set up and delicate research results reported and communicated ([FLEHS](#)). Risk perception, risk governance, risk communication, environmental justice, institutional dynamics and (methodology for) environmental policy evaluation are key words.

Arnd Hoeveler

Head of Unit, DG RTD, European Commission



Arnd Hoeveler received his PhD from the Institute of Genetics at the University of Cologne.

In 1991 he was awarded a full Professorship in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in France. He served several positions in France before joining the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission in 1996.

Between 2001 and 2006 he served as Head of Unit, covering Infectious Diseases, and led several European programmes dealing with HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Since 2007 he was Head of Unit of the European Commission's Health Biotechnology programme and is now in charge of the unit 'Novel Medical Developements' dealing with Regenerative Medicine, Advanced Tools and Technologies, Systems Medicine, Predictive Toxicology, Animal Replacement Strategies and Human Biomonitoring.

He is an observer on several International Advisory Boards.

Greet Schoeters

Programme Manager, VITO, Belgium



Greet Schoeters manages the Environmental Health projects at VITO, is professor at the Public Health Institute of the University of Southern Denmark University and Professor at the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Antwerp. She coordinates the Flemish human biomonitoring study (FLEHS) of the Flemish ministries of Environment and Health (2002-2020) and participated in the EU ESBIO and EU COPHES project to prepare a European human biomonitoring programme.

She is member of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and participated in the European Scientific Committee of Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER 2013-2016) and of the CONTAM panel of the European Food Safety Agency (2003-2006). She was president of the European Society for Toxicology in Vitro (2008-2012).