

Moderator



Karen Coleman

The award-winning Irish journalist, Karen Coleman is one of Ireland's most accomplished journalists who now specialises in European issues. Karen is the Editor of EuroParlRadio which reports on stories from the European Parliament. A former BBC foreign correspondent, Karen has worked for both radio and television. For many years Karen presented the award-winning international affairs radio show *The Wide Angle* on *Newstalk* in Ireland. During this time, she covered numerous international stories and interviewed a range of top figures from presidents and prime-ministers to human rights activists, writers and others from the arts, cultural and political fields. Karen regularly moderates high-level conferences that cover a wide range of topics from complex EU issues to economic, environmental, health and other topics. She is also a published author and has written for several major media outlets such as *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent*, *The Sunday Business Post*, *The Sunday Independent*. Karen also lectures in journalism at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

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Opening: Future –proofing our Food Systems

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Carlos Moedas

Commissioner, Research 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.

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Phil Hogan

Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development

Mr Hogan is the Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development and he is responsible for ensuring that EU agricultural and rural development policies promote growth, investment and new jobs, reviewing the effectiveness of EU spending on agriculture and rural development, identifying how European agriculture can be more energy efficient and can lower its carbon dioxide emissions, examining ways to simplify direct payments for farmers.

[More information](#)



Paul Bulcke

Mr Bulcke graduated from the University of Leuven (Belgium) with a degree in commercial engineering, followed by a postgraduate in the Vlerick Management School. Over the next sixteen years he held various positions in marketing and sales, and as division head, in Latin America Peru, Ecuador and Chile, before moving to Portugal as Market Head followed by the Czech and Slovak Republic, and finally Germany. In July 2004, Paul Bulcke joined the Nestlé Executive Board as Executive Vice President with responsibility for Zone Americas. Mr. Bulcke is a board member of Roche Holding Ltd., Vice-Chairman of Nestlé Health Science S.A. and of Nestlé Skin Health S.A. and co-chairman of the Supervisory Board of Cereal Partners Worldwide. He is member of the Consumer Goods Forum Board of Directors and of the Governance Committee, member of the World Economic Forum's International Business Council and of the European Roundtable of Industrialists (ERT). He is also member of the Board of Trustees, Avenir Suisse, the JP Morgan International Council and the IMD Foundation Board.



Mairead McGuinness

Irish member of European Parliament

As Vice-President of parliament she oversees the Parliament's Information Policy, Press and Citizens Relationship and has responsibility for the Parliament's scientific research body – STOA – which aims to bridge the gap between the scientific community and policy-makers. Mairead is an agricultural economist and is a member of the Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Mairead has worked on reform of the CAP, food security and unfair trading practices in the food supply chain. She is also co-chair of the Parliament's MEP Heart Group, focusing on how to tackle heart disease through information, awareness, diet and physical activity. In May 2014 Mairead was elected to the European Parliament for the third time. Prior to becoming an MEP she was a well-known journalist, broadcaster and commentator.

Building FOOD 2030: Align, Structure and Boost

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Dr John Bell

Director for the Bioeconomy in DG Research & Innovation

Dr John Bell is Director for the Bioeconomy in DG Research & Innovation. He is responsible for leading his Directorate team on the definition, implementation and investment of EU Research & Innovation policy and programming across the Bioeconomy; from agriculture and food systems, oceans, marine and maritime issues to

investment in new sustainable bio-based industries. This includes Horizon 2020, 3.6 billion Societal Challenge 2, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy, the 3.7 billion euro Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking and Food and Nutrition Security FOOD2030.

He has been a European Commission official since 1993. During his career he has worked in External Relations on financial assistance programmes in the former Yugoslavia, public administration reform in Central and Eastern Europe, and on Poland's accession to the EU. Dr. Bell was a member of the Cabinet of Commissioner David Byrne with responsibility for enlargement, food safety, tobacco control, public health and global health security issues, including bioterrorism. He was Head of Cabinet to European Commissioner Meglena Kuneva on Consumer Affairs and Head of Cabinet to Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn on Research and Innovation, who was responsible for developing and funding Horizon 2020, mainstreaming innovation financial investment and simplification.

A native of Dublin, Ireland, he was educated at University College Dublin and completed his Doctorate at St John's College, Oxford University.

Presentation 

Panel discussion 1: Nutrition, Sustainable Diets & Healthy Lives

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Prof. Dr. Hannelore Daniel

Hannelore Daniel holds the position of a Chair of Physiology of Human Nutrition at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany. Her main research interests are metabolic control mechanisms in mammals in response to alterations in nutrient supply assessed at the transcriptome, proteome and metabolite levels.

Hannelore is a nutrition expert by training and worked in Germany, UK and USA. In 1992 she was appointed as a Full Professor for Biochemistry of Nutrition (University of Giessen, Germany) and became in 1998 Chair and Scientific Director of the Center Institute of Food and Nutrition Research (till 2015) at TUM, Germany. Other offers for positions in Academia included a chair in Human Nutrition at the University of Jena, a director position/chair at the German Institute of Nutrition and the position of the president of the Max Rubner Institute for Nutrition Research (Germany). Hannelore is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and a reviewer and advisor for national and international funding agencies and the EU commission. For 5 years she chaired the scientific advisory board of the EU Joint programing Initiative "A healthy diet for a healthy life" and is since 2009 a member of the national Bioeconomy council in Germany. Hannelore Daniel has published around 400 scientific papers, reviews and text book contributions and has provided around 400 oral presentations as invited speaker. She received numerous scientific awards including the "Pro meritis-Award" and the Silver medal of the State of Bavaria.



Prof. Mark Post

Professor Mark Post is a medical doctor who has had several appointments as assistant professor at Utrecht University, Harvard University, as associate professor at Dartmouth college, and as full professor at Eindhoven University of Technology and Maastricht University. He currently holds the chair of the Physiology Department at Maastricht University. His main research interest is the engineering of tissues for medical applications and for food. The medical applications focus on the construction of blood vessels that can be used as grafts for coronary artery bypass grafting. Tissue engineering for Food has led to the development of cultured beef from bovine skeletal muscle stem cells in an effort to supplement and perhaps transform the traditional meat production through livestock. Dr Post co-authored 160 papers in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals and received during his career close to 40 million dollars in funding and awards from different sources including government, charity and industry. He presented the world's first hamburger from cultured beef in the August 2013 and is working on improvements and scaling up of production of cultured meat. Three companies have spun-off to work on a meat and a leather application of tissue engineering. Dr Post is CSO and co-founder of these companies.



Anne de Looy

Professor of Dietetics at University of Plymouth and Hon President of the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD)

Anne was the first ever Professor of Dietetics in the UK based at the University of Plymouth and is the Hon President of European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians which represents about 36,000 European dietitians together with Higher Education Institutions (currently 45) that teach nutritionists and dietitians. EFAD, in partnership with other entities across Europe, have a commitment to improving the nutritional health of Europe and has recently published their own European Dietitians Action Plan (EuDAP) which aims to make more visible the activities of the only fully qualified and registered nutritional professionals in Europe (www.efad.org). Anne coordinated two EU funded Thematic Networks for Dietitians (DIETS and DIETS2) linking 120 Partner institutions across 31 countries. She has published on carbohydrate and weight loss, the role of sugary foods as an adjunct to appetite control, weight maintenance and more recently on the use of technology to support weight control and adolescent nutrition. The unique feature of this work has been the use of free-living subjects often in a workplace environment. Anne lectures regularly to dietitians, nutritionists and medics both in the UK and Internationally.



Prof. Monique Raats

Professor Monique M Raats is Director of the University of Surrey's Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre. Her portfolio of research is wide ranging in terms of topics being addressed (e.g. food choice, food preparation, policy development, food labelling), and methodologies used (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, stakeholder consultation). She has published over 110 peer-reviewed papers, 19 book chapters, and co-edited two books (The Psychology of Food Choice; Food for the Ageing Population). She is a founding member of the International Society of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity. In 2011 Monique joined the UK's Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and is a member of its Subgroup on Maternal and Child Nutrition. Currently she is a partner in the Horizon 2020 RICHFIELDS project that aims to design a consumer-data platform to collect and connect, compare and share information about our food behaviours, to revolutionise research on every-day choices made across Europe; and the PROSO project that is to providing guidance on how to encourage engagement of citizens and third sector organizations, like non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), in Europe's research and innovation processes. She also coordinates the REDICLAIM project, which investigates how EU legislation impacts on the substantiation and use of "reduction of disease risk" claims on food and drinks.

Panel discussion 2: Climate-resilient Food Systems

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Prof. Joachim von Braun

Joachim von Braun is Director of the Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn University, and Professor for economic and technological change. His research is on economic development, science and technology policy, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, resource economics and trade. He is chair of the Bioeconomy Council of the Federal German Government. von Braun is member of German Academy of Science and Engineering (acatech); member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences of the Vatican; and fellow of African Academy of Science and of American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. He was Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) based in Washington, DC, U.S.A. from 2002 to 2009, and President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE).

Presentation 



Prof. Willie Donnelly

Professor Willie Donnelly is President of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). Prof. Donnelly is also founder and Chair of the Telecommunications Software and Systems Group (TSSG) a world class research mobile service and communications management research centre. Prior to entering academia he worked for 15 years in the telecommunications and utilities industries. He is a Principle Investigator in the Science Foundation Ireland's CONNECT Centre and Co-PI of the SFI funded Precision Dairy project. He has lead more than 30 Europe projects. He is a member of the Future Internet Forum and the RISE group. Prof. Donnelly's main research interests are the management of the Internet of Things and Precision Agriculture, communications management with particular emphasis on autonomic network management and Nano-communications. He has established a cluster of High Potential Start-up companies in mobile services at its research centre at Arclabs which currently employs more than 160 people. He is a founding member of spin-out companies FeedHenry and Zolk C.



Carlo Mango

Director of the Scientific Research Department of Fondazione Cariplo

Mr. Mango started his career in 1991, working for university-enterprise research consortiums in the field of R&D and technology transfer. He has been a coordinator of several international research projects and project manager of a significant number of technology transfer projects. He has been working as Director of the Scientific Research Department of Fondazione Cariplo (one of the biggest grant-making foundations in Europe) since 2001. He is in charge of the entire cycle of strategic planning, programme design and management of research, education and technology transfer initiatives. He is also involved in several international scientific committees, boards of directors of research foundations and is co-founder and an independent member of the Investment Committee of TT Venture Fund, an Italian VC fund focused on early stage science-based businesses. He has been deeply involved in the Milan Food Policy process and coordinates since 2007 the Ager Initiative, a national RTD Programme in the field of agrifood research. Since 2013 he is member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the European Investment Bank Institute.



Jean-François Timmers

Jean-François Timmers is acting WWF Global Food Practice Leader. Biologist with specialization in Economics and MSc in Ecology, Conservation and Sustainable Development, he led conservation, development, advocacy and research projects and programs in Brazil since 1992. Among these, he coordinated the “Man and the Biosphere – MAB” Program of UNESCO in Brazil, advocated for the protection and international recognition of the importance of Cerrado as world’s richest savannah, and led local livelihood and land tenure conflicts initiatives involving indigenous populations. He also coordinated studies and negotiations of new Federal protected areas in the Atlantic Forest, leading to the protection of more than 315 thousand hectares of highly threatened last remnants of original forests. He joined WWF-Brazil in 2012 to set up its Public Policies program, dealing with a wide range of policy, legislative and conservation issues in Brazil, among which the negotiations of the Soy Moratorium that reduced to almost zero the deforestation due to soy expansion into the Amazon. In 2015, he joined WWF International as Global Soy Lead, coordinating WWF network’s actions aiming at responsible soy supply chains worldwide. From 2016, Jean-François leads the initial structuring of WWF’s new Global Food Practice, discussing with more than 50 WWF offices on 5 continents the scope of WWF’s global actions on food.



Dr Tara Garnett

Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford

Dr Tara Garnett has worked on food issues for over 20 years, first in the NGO community and, since 2005 within the academic sector. Her work centres on the interactions among food, climate, health and broader sustainability issues. She has a particular interest in livestock as a sector where many of these converge. In addition Tara runs the Food Climate Research Network, which she set up in 2005. The FCRN is a network of thousands of individuals who share a common interest in food system sustainability, spanning diverse disciplines and sectors and drawn from over 70 countries worldwide. The FCRN provides accessible, policy relevant and integrative knowledge on food systems, and a safe neutral space for diverse stakeholders to engage in the contested food arena – through its membership, its very well used website, and via the workshops it runs.

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Natalia Alonso

Deputy Director of Advocacy & Campaigns - Advocacy Offices

Natalia Alonso is the Deputy Director of Advocacy and Campaigns of Oxfam International managing the influencing work of the Advocacy Offices in Brussels, Geneva, New York and Washington. In this role, Natalia oversees Oxfam's advocacy and campaigning towards the EU, UN and IFI institutions. In Brussels, Natalia and her team coordinate the work across Oxfam's in 9 European countries, fostering an ambitious EU response to climate change, food security, tax justice, humanitarian crisis and development aid. Her previous posts in Brussels were at Plan International, where she was head of the EU office and at Amnesty International's EU office as Deputy Director. Natalia, graduated as Agriculture Engineer, has over 15 years of experience on development and human rights issues, with 9 years overseas working in India and the Dominican Republic for the European Commission and INGOs.

Panel discussion 3: Sustainable and Circular Food Systems

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Dr Janez Potočnik

Dr Janez Potočnik (1958) graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (Ph.D. degree 1993). After a successful career starting in 1989 in Slovenia as a researcher at the Institute of Economic Research, Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (1994). He was appointed Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Slovenia to the EU (1998). He was also Director of Government Office for European Affairs (2000), Minister Councillor at the Office of the Prime Minister (2001) and Minister responsible for European Affairs (2002). In 2004 he joined the European Commission, first as "shadow Commissioner for Enlargement and then as Commissioner responsible for Science and Research. In 2010 Dr Potočnik became Commissioner for Environment. His term ended on November the 1st 2014. In November 2014 he was appointed for a three-year term as a member and Co-Chair of International resource Panel hosted by United Nations Environment Programme. In the same month he was also appointed as a Chairman of The Forum for the Future of Agriculture and RISE Foundation and a Member of the European Policy Centre's Advisory Council.

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Prof. Stéphane Guilbert

Stéphane Guilbert is Professor in Food Science at Montpellier SupAgro and Adviser for sustainability of food systems, urban food systems and biomass systems at the research direction of INRA (French National Institute for agricultural research). He is a specialist of food science and food processing and an expert on sustainability of food chain, urban food system, packaging cycle and territorial metabolism. He recently initiated a new collaborative research work on the food biomass system in urban context (North and South Cities) and on the urban biomass metabolism towards the promotion of a circular bio-economy. He is coordinating, for the Inra, a foresight on "Urban food systems: optimization of usage and reducing losses and waste in 2035". He participated, as an expert to the advisory panel, of the recent study on "The new plastics economy: Rethinking the future of plastics" published in 2016 by The Ellen MacArthur Foundation for circular economy. He is author of more than 130 original peer reviewed publications, 150 communications and 50 book chapters. He is fellow of the International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST).



Inge Hanssen

R&D manager of DCM since 2013. DCM is the market leader in Belgium for organic fertilisers. The company is known for high-quality, sustainable soil fertility and plant health products. Background: Bio-engineer in agriculture and plant protection (University of Leuven, 2001), PhD in plant virology (Wageningen University, 2010), expertise in plant nutrition, biological control and sustainable plant health management. Former employment (2001-2013): Research leader at the non-profit Research Institute Scientia Terrae, responsible for the research unit 'Phytopathology and biorational control'.



Dr Lydia Smith

Lydia Smith is Head of NIAB Innovation Farm. She has spent time as a plant pathologist at ADAS, and as a lecturer in soil science, plant microbial interactions, environmental biology and land reclamation at the Universities of E. London and Luton. At NIAB, Lydia built up research in crop genetic improvement, especially in novel and non food uses, leading a portfolio of more than a dozen projects; particularly concerned with plant genetic improvement for bio-pharmaceutical and probiotic applications. The need for industry participation and demonstration in this area led to the 'Innovation Farm' concept, a new venture, conceived and set up by Lydia. It now provides a practical grower-facing research facility, with knowledge exchange and route to application for end-users in industry at its core. It interacts with the UK's major research players in Agri/Hort crop research. Recent research has centred on improvement of forage legumes with probiotic applications and utilisation of waste plant material from a broad spectrum of sources; especially towards provision of higher value end products.



Richard Swannell

Richard is committed to working on ways of reducing man's impact on the environment. A biochemist by training, he has a Doctorate in Environmental Engineering and is a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He has a strong expertise in delivering more resource efficient and sustainable practices within businesses, and on reducing food waste and increasing recycling. He is Development Director for WRAP- a UK charity, at the forefront of the circular economy - thought leaders, champions of action and catalysts for change. Richard joined WRAP in 2004. He leads on developing and delivering WRAP's international and new product development strategies.



Sveinn Margeirsson

Born and raised on a farm in North Iceland. BSc in Food Science and PhD in Industrial Engineering. Has been CEO of Matis – Icelandic food and biotech R&D - since 2010 and finished the Harvard Business School General Management Program in 2015. Board membership includes the United Nations University – Fisheries Training Program, the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council and the European Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. Research experience includes working with several seafood companies, IT companies and universities, in Iceland and internationally. Has supervised MSc and PhD students and plays an active role in science and innovation policy making in Iceland and Europe.

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Voice of Cities in Food and Nutrition Security



James Taplin

Mr James Taplin is an Innovation Lead for Innovate UK, the UK government innovation agency. His particular area of expertise is city living, and developing integrated city systems that allow cities to meet their citizen needs more successfully through doing more with less. With a background in ecology, James is particularly concerned with how to help cities build resilience through enabling a flexibility in solutions that creates a dynamic innovation landscape. For ten years before joining Innovate UK, James was a principle advisor at Forum for the Future – a leading sustainability charity working with businesses to help make them be more successful by being more sustainable. James was a senior member of the energy system team, and led the work that Forum did on both assessing the sustainability of products and services, and digital technology for sustainability.

[Presentation](#) 



Pierfrancesco Maran

**Deputy Mayor for Urban Planning, Green Areas and Agriculture
Municipality of Milan**

Pierfrancesco Maran, born in 1980 in Milan, has a degree in Political Science and has worked as a consultant. He was Councilor in the 3rd administrative area of Milan for 7 years, specifically working on parking development and landscape preservation. In 2006 he became City Councilor of Milan. During his mandate he involved within the Mobility and Environment Commission.

[Presentation](#) 

Panel discussion 4: Investing in Tomorrow's Solutions Today

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Prof. Dr. Xavier Gellynck

Professor Gellynck graduated as a Master of Science in Industrial Economics at Ghent University, Belgium in 1987. In 1989 he obtained a MBA-degree in Marketing Management of Service Industries from the Business School IAAE at the University of Aix-Marseille in France. Since 1991, he works at Ghent University, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Department Agricultural Economics, Division Agri-Food Marketing and Chain Management. He holds a PhD in Business Economics and leads a research group of 5 post-doctoral and about 15 doctoral researchers. His main fields of research interest are situated in the domain of agri-business marketing and chain & network management. He is also founder and chairman of the board of management of Afoheat NV, a food machinery construction company as well as a member of the board of management of the cooperative bank Crelan NV. Prof. Gellynck is author of over 350 scientific publications of which several are published in peer reviewed scientific journals and books.

[Presentation](#) 



Gilles Morel

President, Food Drink Europe

Gilles Morel is President of FoodDrinkEurope since June 2015. At Mars, Inc., Gilles is Regional President of Mars Chocolate Europe & Eurasia. He is responsible for 17 markets and the chocolate manufacturing sites located in this region. He is also a member of the Mars Global Chocolate board. Gilles started his career in the French Chocolate unit in Haguenau (Alsace) and has since worked in Finance, Sales, Marketing, Operations and General Management across Chocolate, Petcare and Food. After France, a significant part of Gilles' career has been in Central & Eastern Europe. Prior to his role in Chocolate, he had been the Regional President for Mars Petcare in Central Europe and Africa. Gilles has a degree in Food Science and Technology and a Master in International Food management from ESSEC, the international business school.



Dr. Matthias Brunner

Dr. Matthias Brunner received his Ph.D. in statistical physics and worked for 10 years at in the development and sales of automotive sensor technology Robert Bosch GmbH, before he founded Urban Logistics in 2014. Urban logistics offers innovative conceptual consultancy and development services for implementing newest sensor and cloud technologies with a dedicated focus on cargo and supply chain logistics processes. We guide our customers to identify the key requirements, provide prototyping as well as MVPs for business model testing and support the change management for the first stage of the implementation project. With tsenso.com, we offer an off-the-self solution for automated and paperless temperature monitoring for food and produce logistics to small and medium sized companies on the basis of a holistic carefree sensor subscription model.



Adam Anders

Managing Partner, Anterra Capital

Adam is the Managing Partner and co-founder of Anterra Capital, an independent growth capital fund that invests in companies that are transforming the safety, security and sustainability of global food.

Anterra was founded in 2013 as a spin-out from Rabobank, a global leader in food & agriculture financing. The fund is backed by Rabobank and Fidelity International. Adam has over 15 years of private equity and venture capital experience. He grew up in rural South Australia where his interest in food and agriculture innovation was initiated. Adam is a regular speaker at food and agriculture conferences and is passionate about improving our food and agriculture system. Adam holds an MBA degree from Cambridge University, England and a Bachelors Degree in Law and a Bachelors Degree in Commerce from the University of Adelaide, Australia.

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Amy Novogratz

Managing Partner, Aqua-Spark

As co-founder and Managing Partner of Aqua-Spark, Amy is focussing on the fund's big vision and the role it can play in the expansion of the industry. Amy is an accomplished leader skilled at identifying remarkable ideas and executing on them. For a decade she led the

TED Conference's annual TED Prize, working with some of the world's smartest leaders and thinkers to turn their ideas into impactful global initiatives. Recognized for her unique ability to orchestrate complex collaborations that quickly reveal results, she directed over twenty international collaborations across a spectrum of sectors including science, technology, conservation, art, health and education. Among her high profile TED Prize successes are Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue, Jamie Oliver's Food revolution, artist JR's Inside Out Project, and Bono's [One.org](#). To achieve each initiative, Amy managed a core team to facilitate partnerships with some of the world's most recognized individuals, organizations and corporations. Prior to TED, Amy was part of the founding team of the Social Policy Action Network in Washington and led content production for a TV and web entity that facilitates collaboration among global youth.



Prof. Ian Andrew Macdonald

Ian Macdonald is Professor of Metabolic Physiology at the University of Nottingham and his current research concerns the metabolic aspects of diabetes and obesity, including the effects of diet composition and weight loss, and the impact of diet on carbohydrate and lipid metabolism and the influence of physical activity and inactivity (including immobilisation) in obesity and diabetes. He has published over 350 peer-reviewed original research papers, and is a Fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences, the Royal Society of Biology, and the Association for Nutrition. He is joint Editor of the International Journal of Obesity and a member of the UK Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition.



Prof. Monica Barni

In July 2015, Prof. Monica Barni was appointed Vice President of the Regional Government of Tuscany with responsibility for Cultural, University and Research policies. The main points of her mandate are: the promotion of scientific research; the coordination of research activities from different areas; the support to higher education and the right to University studies. At the very beginning of her mandate, Prof. Monica Barni promoted a regional call for proposals for Agrifood projects. One of the main targets of this call was enabling a more strategic connection between academy and enterprises. She participated in many research groups and project funding at European, National and Regional levels, and is author of approximately 150 publications.

Closing Session

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Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis

Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis born on August 9 in Siberia. He was appointed European commissioner for Health and Food Safety in November 2014. As of 1969 he was active in the anti-Soviet movement. His political engagement started already in 1976. He was one of the founders of the Lithuanian social-democrat party. In 1990 elected to the supreme the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania. Andriukaitis was a Member of Parliament for six mandates. During that period he has been the Deputy Chairman of Committee on European Affairs, the member of Foreign Affairs Committee and Vice-President of Social-Democrat party. The Commissioner has also led the Lithuanian delegation to the Convention on the Future of Europe. From 2012 to 2014

[More information](#)



Dr. Ruxandra Draghia-Akli

Deputy Director-General for Research & Innovation at the European Commission

Dr Draghia-Akli 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.