



European  
Commission



# Partnering for the Bioeconomy in European Regions

Speakers' biographies

*Research and  
Innovation*

## Eliecer López



Born in Cordoba, Spain, in 1972, Eliecer López is a Master of Science Agriculture (University of Córdoba) and has a Professional Masters' Degree from the ESADE Business School, Barcelona.

He started his career in quality and food safety management in the livestock sector in COVAP, a large cooperative in the south of Spain, and has been working as a third party auditor for an international certification body in the scope of fresh agricultural products, animal production, food and retail.

Since 2007 Eliecer López is in charge of the technology transfer office of IRTA, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Research belonging to the Catalan Ministry of Agriculture.

IRTA is a public research institute that has been dealing with private-public partnership and science valorisation since its creation in 1985. It employs more than 800 people and produces around 250 research contracts with private companies each year.



## Rogier van der Sande



Rogier van der Sande (1966) is member of the Zuid-Holland Executive Council (The Netherlands).

Zuid-Holland is the country's most densely populated province. It boasts major centers of knowledge and expertise and it is the Netherlands' most important province in terms of economic activity, agriculture and service sector.

Van der Sande's portfolio includes: Organisation & Finance, Recreation & Tourism and European & International Affairs.

In the domain of public service, he was "*Alderman*" (council member) of the City of Leiden between 2000 and 2006.

From 1995-2000, he was a Member of the Municipal Council of the City of Leiden and at the same time held the position of Account Manager and Director of private banking at ABN AMRO Bank Leiden and Bollenstreek.

Mr. Van der Sande has a Master's degree in Political Science.



## Catia Bastioli



After graduating in Pure Chemistry in 1981 at the University of Perugia, where she obtained top marks, in 1985 Catia Bastioli started attending the school of Business Administration at the Bocconi University, in Milan.

Project Leader from 1984 to 1988 at the Guido Donegani Institute for the Montedison Strategic Composite Materials Project, Ms Bastioli entered Novamont in 1991 as a Director, becoming Technical Director in 1993 and Managing Director in 1996. Currently she is Novamont's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Catia Bastioli has been a member of EU working groups such as the Committee for "Renewable Raw Materials" of the Directorate General Industry and the ECCP (European Climate Change Program) and the Environment Advisory Group of the Directorate General Research.

Author of more than 100 papers on various scientific and industrial subjects published in International Journals, she has also contributed to international reports dealing with renewable materials on behalf of leading institutional organizations. She is the editor of the "Handbook of Biodegradable Polymers", published in 2005.

Ms Bastioli is the inventor of more than 80 patents and patent applications in the sectors of synthetic and natural polymers.

Catia Bastioli has won numerous international awards for her discoveries in the field of starch-based biodegradable materials. On April 18, 2007 she was nominated for the "European Inventor of the Year 2007".



## Charles Nielsen



Charles Nielsen, is Head of Group R & D of Dong Energy. He is responsible for corporate development with a focus on integration of renewable energy - mainly biomass and wind into the energy system. From 1998 to 2006, Nielsen was responsible for the company's efforts to develop a second generation bioethanol concept and linked technologies for using increased amounts of biomass in power plants.

Work development has recently focused on refinery processes and increased value creation on agricultural surplus products.

Charles Nielsen was for several years chairman of the Eurelectric working Group Renewables. He is today chairman of the recently formed Danish based Biorefinery alliance - a collaboration among the Agriculture and Food association in Denmark, Topsoe, Novozymes and Dong Energy.



## Christophe Luguel



Christophe Luguel has a Master of Engineering in Agronomy (AgroParisTech, France).

After three years spent in a R&D Centre at Hoechst, he occupied various positions in sales, marketing and business development in chemical and biotech companies.

Luguel joined the French Competitiveness biocluster "Industries & Agro-Ressources" (IAR) in late 2007 as Head of International Affairs.

He was the coordinator of the FP6 CSA project "Biorefinery Euroview" between 2007 and 2009 and was involved in the FP7 CSA project Star-Colibri between 2009 and 2011. Within this project, he coordinated the development of the "Joint European Biorefinery Vision for 2030" and the "European Biorefinery Joint Strategic Research Roadmap".

"Industries & Agro-Ressources" is a French "world-class" Competitiveness Cluster focused on Bioproducts and Biorefinery. It brings together stakeholders from Research, Higher Education, Industry (SMEs and Large Companies) and Agriculture (mainly from the regions Picardie and Champagne-Ardenne), in order to develop the regional economy, boost the competitiveness of companies and support local employment growth by leveraging innovation, training and partnership opportunities.



## Karin Emilson



Mrs. Karin Emilsson is a Master of Social Sciences (MSc) and Director of Technology at Södra Skogsägarna in Sweden.

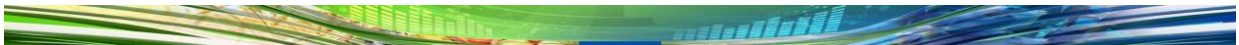
She is responsible for Södras organisation for Research & Development department, Södra Innovation.

Södra Innovation is focused on pulp, paper, polymer technology and wood raw materials and.

Under the management of Karin Emilsson, Södra Innovation started research work within new fields of application for paper grade pulp and last year launched two new products:

Dura Pulp – a fully renewable composite manufactured from a speciality paper grade pulp and a bio-plastic, a new product on the world market;  
and Textile pulp – a dissolving grade pulp for production of yarns and cloths.

Karin Emilsson is the chairman of the “Swedish National Research Programme for the Forest based sector” since 2006.



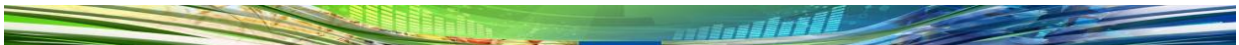
## Hans-Harald Jahn



PhD in Economics, licensed engineer in agriculture (Dipl.-Ing. agr.).  
More than thirty years of experience in research, sector policy, public and private project work in industries & services in both industrialised and developing countries.

Since the early 1990's, Hans-Harald Jahn has been responsible for the tourism sector projects the European Investment Bank is supporting.  
Before joining the EIB's sector expert group some twenty years ago, Hans-Harald Jahn worked for other International (World Bank) and National Finance Institutions.

After heading the EIB's division for economic/market questions, then the manufacturing and commercial services (including tourism) division, Jahn now leads the newly formed Natural Resources & Agro-industry (NARA) division which has the responsibility for Agro-food-forestry and tourism as well as bio-mass based renewable energy.





## Csaba Harsányi



Csaba Harsányi has 17 years of professional experience in the public sector, more concretely in activities related to EU integration.

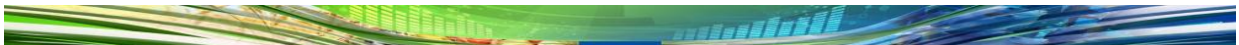
Having obtained an Executive Masters' degree in International and European Relations at the Amsterdam School of International Relations, he joined the newly established Phare Directorate of the Hungarian Development Bank, the public bank responsible for assisting the restructuring and integration of the Hungarian Economy in light of EU accession.

During Hungary's accession negotiations and since 2010 Csaba Harsányi has been working as the Brussels Representative of the Bank.

Since the country's accession, he has also used his in-depth knowledge of programming and implementation of pre-accession and structural and cohesion instruments as a consultant.

His references include preparation of analyses, evaluations and studies commissioned by the Hungarian government as well as by EU institutions and providing technical assistance for public institutions in candidate and potential candidate countries.

He has practical experience in project management and in drafting strategic documents and policy papers.



## Jussi Manninen



Principal Scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Finland.  
Jussi Manninen is responsible for preparing a large research programme on Bioeconomy Transformation.

He is also a programme manager of an industry-led research programme on efficient energy use. His technical and scientific interests include resource efficiency and efficient processes.

Jussi Manninen graduated from Helsinki University of Technology in Mechanical Engineering and holds a PhD from University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) in Process Integration.

He joined VTT in 1999, and has held various research and managerial positions at VTT.



## Giancarlo Catanzano



Giancarlo Catanzano is a Graduateon Economic and Social Sciences from the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, in Milan, Italy.

From 1985 to 1990 he worked as a Financial Analyst and Marketing Manager at Ing. C. Olivetti S.p.A. Ivrea, in Torino, Italy.

In 1990 he moved to André & Cie SA Lausanne, one of world largest trading company in food commodities.

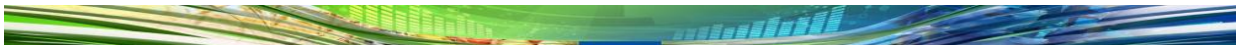
He gained an extensive experience in Central Asia while developing the Group's activities.

Giancarlo Catanzano developed more than 30 Projects mainly in Europe and Asia in accordance with the Development Group strategy.

In 1998 he became Head for Asia and founder of the first Asia Agri Investment Fund to collect Investors money to be invested in Agricultural Projects in that continent.

Between 2001 and 2011 he worked as an advisor for structuring and financing of projects in the renewables energy sector.

Currently, Catanzano is the Business Development Manager for Chemtex Italia S.p.A. Tortona (M&G Group).



## Stefan Sundman



Stefan Sundman has a Master of Science degree from the Helsinki University of Technology. He has a Major in wood technology.

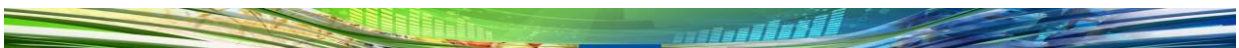
Sundman joined UPM in autumn 2011 as Vice President, Corporate Relations and Development. He is working especially with energy, climate change and forest related issues and the development of the global bioeconomy.

Prior to UPM, Stefan Sundman worked for a decade within Finnish Forest Industries Federation with different responsibilities both at national and EU level.

UPM leads the integration of bio and forest industries into a new, sustainable and innovation-driven future.

The products are made of renewable raw materials and are recyclable.

UPM consists of three Business Groups: Energy and pulp, Paper, and Engineered materials. The Group employs around 24,000 people and it has production plants in 16 countries.



## Gunter Festel



Gunter Festel is the founder and CEO of the advisory and investment firm FESTEL CAPITAL, specialised in the commercialisation of technologies in the areas of energy, environment, health, materials and nutrition.

He is also co-founder of Founding Angels, an initiative to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in high tech areas and biotechnology start-ups in Germany and Switzerland.

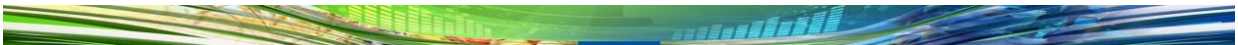
Gunter Festel was a member of the management team and head of the consulting business for the chemical and healthcare industry with Arthur D. Little, in Zurich, and a consultant with McKinsey.

He started his career with Bayer, where he held various management positions in R&D and marketing.

Festel has a PhD in chemistry, a PhD in management and economics from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, and an executive master of corporate finance.

At ETH Zurich he heads the ETH Start-up Research Group focused on start-up related scientific research.

He is a member of various advisory boards, consultant to the OECD and reviewer for the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.



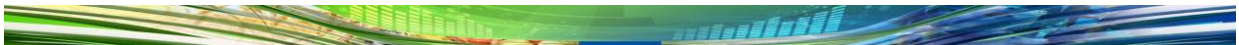
## Mathieu Fichter



Mathieu Fichter Works since 2008 at the European Commission, Directorate General for Regional Policy as Team Leader on 'sustainable growth', following a first position as Policy Analyst in the field of environment and sustainable development.

Previously he worked for the European Parliament as Climate Change & Energy Adviser and earlier he held a position as Business Analyst and European marketing project manager in a major private company.

Fichter has a Master of Science in Environmental Management from the "Université Libre de Bruxelles" and a Master of Science in Economics & Sociology from the "Université Marc Bloch in Strasbourg", including studies at the "Universität Bayreuth" in Germany.



## Moderators

### Antonio Di Giulio



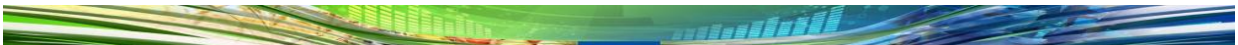
Antonio Di Giulio is currently acting Director of Directorate E (Biotechnologies, Agriculture, Food) at the European Commission Research and Innovation Directorate General.

He started his professional career as an agricultural economist with the United States Foreign Agricultural Service- Department of Agriculture, (FAS/USDA) in Rome, Italy, working primarily on commodity and food products market analysis as well as on scientific and regulatory aspects including food safety and WTO trade issues.

Prior to his post with the European Commission, he was Principal Administrator with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, (CIHEAM), a Paris based inter-governmental organisation, linked to the OECD, where he worked on policies and research programmes on agricultural and food production systems of the Mediterranean region.

His duties included the co-ordination of research programmes, and the supervision of CIHEAM Annual report on "development and agri-food policies in the Mediterranean region", and he was also part of CIHEAM senior management committee.

He holds a Master degree in Agricultural sciences and a specialized Master degree in rural development, programmes and projects. He has a Doctoral degree in food economics.



## **Barend Verachtert**



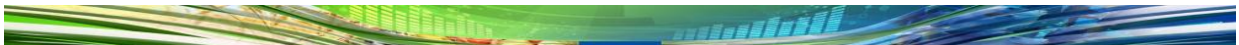
Barend Verachtert is currently the deputy Head of the Biotechnology Unit in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

The unit is in charge of the development and implementation of biotechnology research policies in the context of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7) and beyond.

Previous assignments in DG Research included the SME unit in charge of the development of SME research policies and the promotion of SME participation in FP6 and FP7, and the Food Quality and Safety unit.

Before joining the European Commission in 1998, Barend Verachtert was a technology acquisition manager for Plant Genetic Systems NV, a Belgian plant biotechnology company.

He obtained a PhD in biology from the University of Leuven in 1988.





## Luca Polizzi



Luca Polizzi is a Senior Policy and Funding officer for Research, Innovation and Education in Scotland Europa EU Office since September 2006.

He is also a visiting Professor in EU policies at the University of Sassari since 2011 and member of the board in ECRAAL (European Centre for Research in Asia, Africa and Latin America) since 2010.

From May 2004 to April 2006 Polizzi was the EU Programme Manager at the Research and International Affairs Department of the Università "Guglielmo Marconi" of Rome.

From December 1999 to February 2003 he worked as European Affairs and Projects Manager at the Universities Consortium RAI NETTUNO SAT.

He took his degree at the University of Rome in 1996 followed by two Master degrees at the Katholieke University of Leuven and at the Venice International University focusing on European law, public affairs, fund raising, education and research innovation policies and funding strategies.

He promoted "GUDE", the Association of Global Universities in Distance Education in April 2005 and got a two year academic appointment between 2004 and 2006 as University Professor in European law and EU Policy law.

He was appointed as member of the UNESCO and Italian Foreign affairs Ministry missions in Syria, Kuwait and Latin America to provide expertise and support in drafting research and education bilateral agreements, to carry out scientific cooperation projects and implementing development innovation strategies.

