

30th ACR+
General Assembly &
LIFE IP SMART WASTE
project closing seminar

18-19 JUNE 2024
MARSEILLE (FR)

THE TRANSITION WE WANT FOR THE FUTURE WE NEED

Circular cities and regions
that deliver for people

OUR SPEAKERS



Janez Potočnik

Dr Janez Potočnik is an economist graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He served as Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in Ljubljana. He was appointed Head of Negotiating Team for Accession of Slovenia to the EU and served as Minister responsible for European Affairs. In 2004 he joined the European Commission as Commissioner responsible for Science and Research. In 2010 he became Commissioner for Environment. After the mandate he was appointed as a Co-Chair of UNEP Environment International Resource Panel. He is also Partner at SYSTEMIQ.



Patrick Child

Patrick CHILD is currently Deputy Director-General in DG Environment at the European Commission with particular responsibility for the EU's zero pollution strategy, chemicals legislation, urban agenda, research and innovation for environment and communication. He is also the Mission manager for the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, which aims to reach 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030.

From 2016-2021, he was Deputy Director-General in DG Research and Innovation (R&I) at the European Commission. As member of the Board of DG R&I, he followed in particular research and innovation in clean energy and climate technologies as well as the R&I dimension of the post-COVID recovery and resilience strategy and Horizon Europe mission on Cancer. His international roles included Commission representative and chair of the steering committee of Mission Innovation (a coalition of 24 countries and the EC working to accelerate global clean energy innovation) and lead co-chair of the Group of Earth Observations (GEO). Until April 2016, Patrick Child was Managing Director of the European External Service with responsibility for administration and finance, covering human resources policy, security and the budget. Before he took up this post in 2011, he was director in the EC External Relations Directorate-General in the responsible for managing the network of Commission delegations. He has previously served as head of cabinet for External Relations Commissioners Benita Ferrero-Waldner and Chris Patten.



Stéphane Arditi

Stéphane works as the Director for Climate, Circular Economy and Industry European Environmental Bureau (EEB), a federation of over 180 ENGO's from across Europe and beyond. Before joining EEB, Stéphane worked as a Quality/Lean consultant within the automotive and aeronautics industry in France and the UK. He has also collaborated with academic research programs concerning energy efficiency in buildings and the evaluation of sustainable development policy in France. Stéphane has a dual education background in Philosophy and Environmental Management. In his everyday work, Stéphane attempts to promote policy instruments, business models and innovative practices, focussing on resource and energy savings and the prevention of pollution and waste. He is now investigating how to bridge between different policy areas, such as Climate, Circular Economy, Bio-economy, Industry, Chemicals and Wellbeing economy, as well as how to best adapt sound sustainability practices and policy outside Europe.



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Christof Delatter

Christof Delatter is engineer in biochemistry. He currently is active as Head of Strategy and Policy for OVAM, the public administration responsible for waste management and soil remediation for the region of Flanders, Belgium. He temporarily acted as interim Administrator General for OVAM. Christof has more than 25 years of experience in waste management policy and implementation, both on the local and regional level. During those years, he has been involved in several international projects and has cooperated with different international institutions.



Virginia Janssens

Virginia Janssens joined Plastics Europe as Managing Director in March 2020 with a clear mandate to help accelerate a solutions-driven approach, working towards the circularity and climate goals of a sustainable plastics industry. Building on eight years as Managing Director of EUROPEN (the European Organization for Packaging and the Environment), Virginia brings considerable experience in business-critical issues, engaging with different parts of the plastics value chain, and key EU policy priorities. Prior to EUROPEN, Virginia acquired her knowledge of the Brussels arena working for a leading public affairs consultancy on multi-sector clients including food, chemicals and energy.



Mira Toumi

Mira Toumi, PhD, in behavioural and experimental economics, is a Behaviour Change Manager at Behaven, a consultancy firm specialising in sustainability. In this role, Mira collaborates closely with regional and local authorities to develop innovative behavioural interventions and deploy evaluation methodologies to assess their efficacy. Her primary focus lies in evaluating behaviour change initiatives, with a particular emphasis on waste management and energy consumption.