

Sustainable solutions to protect crops

09, 10 & 11 March



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Géraldine Kutas

Géraldine Kutas, former head of international affairs at the Brazilian Sugarcane Industry Association (UNICA), took reins of the European Crop Protection Association (ECPA) as of September 2019.

At UNICA, since October 2007, she was responsible for defining and leading the organisation's international activities becoming one of the key voices during the recently agreed EU-Mercosur trade deal.

Géraldine has over 15 years of experience in Public Affairs working in Belgium, France, Brazil, Costa Rica, the US and China. In her work she has achieved the removal of trade barriers and secured optimal regulations for various sectors of the agrobusiness. She brings to the job a wealth of knowledge in agricultural and international trade policies, coupled with her passion for sustainability and climate change.

Géraldine holds an MA in Foreign Affairs from Georgetown University (Washington, DC) and a Ph.D. in International Economics from l'Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). She speaks French, English, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian. She is a mother of two young children and in her free time she enjoys reading and traveling and is passionate about skiing and classical ballet.



Claire Bury

Claire Bury is currently Deputy Director-General in DG Health and Food Safety with responsibility for food safety and sustainability. She is also a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges.

She was previously Deputy Director-General for the Digital Single Market in DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology and Director of Modernisation of the Single Market in Directorate General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs.



Jan Plagge

Jan Plagge (* 1971) studied horticulture at the Technical University of Munich, Weihenstephan. In 1993 he switched his parents' business to organic farming and worked from 1997 to 2000 as a consultant for organic farming and horticulture in East Germany and from 1999 as the agricultural-political spokesman for the organic associations in Berlin / Brandenburg. From 2000 to 2008 he was managing director of the Bioland Producer Ring Bayern e.V., in particular responsible for the development and establishment of Bioland specialist advice in Bavaria. In 2008 Jan Plagge took over the management of Bioland Beratung GmbH, where he set up a nationwide advisory and training program for Bioland and its cooperation partners, and became a board member at FiBL (Research Institute for Organic Agriculture). In 2011 he was elected President of Bioland. From 2002 to 2011 Jan Plagge was also head of the organic farming trainee program, the nationwide program for young people in the organic sector as part of the Federal Organic

Farming Program (BÖLN). At the European level, he was elected Vice President in 2016 and President of the IFOAM-EU Group (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in May 2018. In summer 2020, he was confirmed again in this position. From 2011 to 2019, Plagge was also on the board of the Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW).



Luc Bas

Luc Bas is the Director of the IUCN European Regional Office in Brussels, representing IUCN towards the EU Institutions and providing leadership and guidance for all activities undertaken by IUCN Government and NGO members within the European context. This includes informing decision-making through IUCN's knowledge on topics such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Red Lists, Protected Area management, Natural Capital and promoting the use of nature-based solutions across different sectors.

Prior to this, Luc was European Director of The Climate Group in Brussels, working with business and government to reach more ambitious EU climate policies and prepare for a true energy transition. As International Director of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance, he established one of the most significant networks of sub-national governments leading on tackling climate change. Luc worked as adviser on international sustainable development policies for both the Belgian Federal and Flemish Governments, representing them at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (SD), the OECD national SD expert panel, the Belgium Federal Council on SD, as well as at various networks of subnational governments.

Luc holds a Master's degree in industrial engineering and postgraduate degrees in both environmental science and international politics.

Before that, she was Head of Unit for Company Law, Corporate Governance and Financial Crime in Directorate General Internal Market and Services, and Deputy Head of Cabinet to Internal Market Commissioners Charlie McCreevy and Frits Bolkestein.

An English barrister by training, she worked in the Commission's Legal Service and, before coming to Brussels, in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Christiane Lambert

Christiane LAMBERT was Born in 1961 in Cantal, from parents' farmers. At 19 years old, she settled on a dairy and pig farm in Cantal. Christiane and her husband, Thierry have three children and are now associates in a Society GAEC on a pig farm in West of France (Maine-et-Loire).

She was the first woman as President of the French Young Farmer association. Board's member of FNSEA since March 2002, member of the Bureau since 2005. Elected Vice President in December 2010. April 2017, first woman elected FNSEA President.

Since September 2020, President of COPA, European farmers' trade union.



Livio Tedeschi

Livio has been Senior Vice President EMEA & CIS at BASF's Agricultural Solutions division since 2017 and is a member of the division's Executive Management Team. Since January 2021, Livio has also been appointed as Chairman of CropLife Europe.

Prior to his current roles, Livio held several leadership positions at BASF Group, including as Vice President of Global Strategic Marketing Insecticides (Agricultural Solutions division); Director of Innovation Strategy (Corporate Strategy division); Head of Marketing (Chemical Intermediates division), Head of Marketing and Product Manager (Agricultural Solutions division) and Team Leader (Global Research).

Livio holds an Executive MBA from ESSEC Business School (France); a post-doctoral degree in Organic Chemistry from the Imperial College London (UK); a PhD in Organic Synthesis from RWTH-Aachen (Germany) as well as a Master of Science in Chemistry from La Sapienza University in Rome (Italy).

Livio is married and has an exceptional passion for classical music and arts.

Session 2 - Regulatory update – active substance evaluation process



Kersten Mewes

Dr. Kersten E. Mewes is currently the Head CP Regulatory EAME and responsible for regulatory approvals of crop protection active ingredients and products in Europe, Africa and Middle East for Syngenta Crop Protection AG. After finishing his PhD in organic chemistry at the university of Tuebingen in Germany, Kersten started his career investigating the environmental behaviour and metabolism of pesticides active ingredients in a number of roles for Syngenta and its legacy companies in the US, France and Switzerland. For the last 20 years Kersten enjoys working in the regulatory affairs group in Syngenta, initially in the global regulatory group and leading the EAME CP regulatory team since 2016.



Karin Nienstedt

Dr. Karin Nienstedt leads the Sector Pesticides – placing on the market in the unit “Pesticides and Biocides” of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission. Before joining the European Commission in 2010, she worked in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as scientific officer for the PPR Panel. She also worked several years in academia and in a GLP-contract research facility on topics related to crop protection and ecotoxicology.



Manuela Tiramani

Manuela Tiramani was appointed Head of the Pesticide Peer Review Unit (PREV) of the European Food Safety Authority in January 2019.

Manuela joined EFSA in 2005 as scientific officer for mammalian toxicology in the Pesticide Unit, where she afterwards took the position of team leader responsible for mammalian toxicology risk assessment and non dietary exposure assessment. Before joining the PREV Unit, Manuela has guided the EFSA FEED Unit from 2015 to 2018 for a total of 4 years.

Manuela graduated from the university of Milano as medical doctor, with a focus on occupational health, industrial hygiene and toxicology.



Martin Streloke

Dr Martin Streloke is the head of the Department of Plant Protection Products at the Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL) in Germany. He completed his PhD in zoology and entomology at Hanover University.

Dr Streloke has 25 years of professional experience in the field of risk assessment and risk management in the context of authorisation procedures for plant protection products in Germany and the EU.



Martyn Griffiths

Dr. Griffiths graduated from University of Newcastle Upon Tyne and obtained his doctorate in field of liquid fertilisers from Harper Adams College. His involvement in crop protection started 26 years ago with Schering. After 5 years of field development experience, he moved to Frankfurt, Germany with AgrEvo, where he held a number of positions including responsibility for registrations in China, Taiwan and Korea. With the formation of Bayer CropScience, he has worked in the European Regulatory Affairs team in Lyon, France and his current position is Senior Regulatory Policy Manager in EMEA Regulatory Science. He is chairman of ECPA Regulatory Policy Team.



Dominic Muyldermans

Dominic Muyldermans studied law in Leuven and Strasbourg, and obtained a Masters of Law (LL.M) from University College London. He has been an attorney in the Intellectual Property Department of the law firm Allen & Overy. He has been senior counsel at Bayer CropScience and is now working as an attorney specializing in biotech and crop protection matters, with a focus on issues related to Intellectual Property (IP); Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) related to the use of genetic resources, as well as the Protection of Regulatory Data (PRD). He is i.a. advising CropLife International, an international federation of agricultural biotechnology companies on these issues.



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Manuela graduated from the university of Milano as medical doctor, with a focus on occupational health, industrial hygiene and toxicology.



Federica Bruno

Federica Bruno is part of the legal team of the Pesticides and Biocides Unit at DG SANTE. Federica is primarily working on legal issues related to the approval of active substances in both the Pesticides and Biocides sectors, and she is part of the team that worked on the proposal leading to Regulation (EU) 2019/1381 on Transparency and Sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain. Her academic background is a master's degree in Law and an LL.M in Law and Government of the European Union, both obtained at LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome. Before joining the Commission she worked in the legal department of a multinational firm.



Jean Pierre Busnardo

Jean-Pierre Busnardo is the European Regulatory Affairs Leader for Corteva agriscience in Brussels. An agronomist by background, he started his career in Africa where he conducted agronomic research on tropical food crops. He joined the crop protection industry in 1986 and worked for various companies before joining DuPont in 1993. He has held portfolio regulatory assignments at national, European and global levels before working in Regulatory Affairs from 2003. Jean-Pierre is a member of the Crop Protection Regulatory and Outreach Policy Team at CropLife Europe.



Markus Kruse

Dr. Markus Kruse is EU Product Registration Lead in Syngenta based in Maintal / Germany. He graduated from the University of Hohenheim and obtained his doctorate in agronomy working in the area of efficiency in use of light and nitrogen of plant production systems. His involvement in crop protection started 24 years ago with DuPont where he held positions in product development, marketing, sales and registration on country and European level for about 19 years. After two years of leading the North European Business Unit regulatory team in CORTEVA he joined Syngenta in 2019 in his current position. He is engaged in Crop Life Europe activities since almost 10 years and currently is a member of the Product Authorisation Expert group.



Christian Prohaska

I studied at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Vienna) Food- and Biotechnology (1984 – 1993). From 1994 to 2000 I worked for different public bodies (Federal Institute for Food Control and Research; Federal Chancellery; Department for Toxicology; Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) dealing with various risk assessment issues in the field of plant protection products (risk assessment for consumer; evaluation of plant protection products with respect to residue behaviour; fate and behaviour of plant protection products in the environment with respect to drinking water contamination). In 2000, I completed a postgraduate programme in toxicology at the Medical University Vienna, Institute for Cancer Research. In 2002, I started to work in the field of toxicology at AGES (deputy head of department of toxicology) dealing with risk assessment for operator, bystander and worker; evaluation of plant protection products with respect to toxicology as well as classification and labeling. By 2005, I became head of the Department of Residue Behaviour at AGES. I am member at EU Commission WG “post approval issues” (chair since 2019) and national contact point for zonal evaluation (central zone Steering Committee).



Jeanne Roederer

Dr. Roederer studied Physics and Chemistry of Materials at the Sciences University of Nancy (France). She is working in ADAMA (formerly Makhteshim-Agan) for more than 25 years and served various positions, starting in Israel as Product Registration Manager. She then moved back to Europe fulfilling successively the positions of Regulatory Affairs Manager for France and later on for the EU Fungicides/ Insecticides portfolio. Since 2015 she is the ADAMA Regulatory Strategy Expert. She also chairs the ECPA Product Authorization Expert Group since end 2016.



Barbara Edler

I am a weed scientist by training. At the beginning of October 2020, I started work as coordinator for the Minor Uses Coordination Facility (MUCF), established in 2015 and based at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) in Paris.

The mission of the MUCF is to ensure continuous, sustainable production of speciality crops in order to maintain an independent and diverse European food production system.

For the last 7 years I worked in the field of plant protection for an Austrian company producing biological control agents. There I fulfilled the role of product manager with a focus on experimental research for regulatory purposes. This is where I first experienced the challenging complexity associated with specialty crops and minor uses.

To date, there is no EU-wide harmonised definition for minor uses and speciality crops. Minor uses of pesticides are applications on speciality crops or against pests that do not occur routinely but can occasionally be very harmful. These speciality crops have a high economic value for farmers but are usually of little economic interest for the agro-pesticide industry. An overview of the status of work on minor uses is available at: www.minoruses.eu



Mark Williams

Mark Williams is a Policy Officer in the Pesticides and Biocides Unit at DG SANTE. Mark is working primarily on the implementation of Regulation 1107/2009, focussed on the approval of substances and the decision making process for new substances, renewals and confirmatory information in addition to working on the development of new guidance, including most recently for emergency authorisations, and the implementation of the Plant Protection Products Application Management System (PPPAMS). Before joining the Commission he worked at the Health and Safety Executive in the United Kingdom and has a background in biochemistry and biomedicine.



Christian Prohaska

I studied at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Vienna) Food- and Biotechnology (1984 – 1993). From 1994 to 2000 I worked for different public bodies (Federal Institute for Food Control and Research; Federal Chancellery; Department for Toxicology; Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) dealing with various risk assessment issues in the field of plant protection products (risk assessment for consumer; evaluation of plant protection products with respect to residue behaviour; fate and behaviour of plant protection products in the environment with respect to drinking water contamination). In 2000, I completed a postgraduate programme in toxicology at the Medical University Vienna, Institute for Cancer Research. In 2002, I started to work in the field of toxicology at AGES (deputy head of department of toxicology) dealing with risk assessment for operator, bystander and worker; evaluation of plant protection products with respect to toxicology as well as classification and labeling. By 2005, I became head of the Department of Residue Behaviour at AGES. I am member at EU Commission WG “post approval issues” (chair since 2019) and national contact point for zonal evaluation (central zone Steering Committee).



José Luis Alonso Prados

Researcher in the Plant Protection Products Unit (PPPU-INIA) at INIA (Since 2001). Master Agricultural Engineering (1986-1993) and PhD Plant Pathology (1997) at Polytechnic University of Madrid. 2001-2011: Researcher at the Plant Protection Unit at INIA, responsible of the evaluation of active substances and plant protection products (PPP) in the frame of Directive 91/414/EC and the EU Regulation 1107/2009. 2011-2017. He got the position at INIA of Technical Director of Evaluation of Plant Varieties and Plant Protection Products. In 2017, until 2019, he got the position at INIA of General Deputy of Foresight and Research Program Coordination. Actually he is the Head of the Plant Protection Products Unit at INIA. PPPU-INIA is responsible of the assessment of active substances and PPP and MRL in the framework of Regulation 1107/2009 and Regulation 396/2005, authorized as OIE by MAPA in 2015. Also PPPU-INIA develops research projects in the field of pesticides and their residues and its behaviour and effect in the environment. He has published 49 publications in journals of impact, with 987 citations in 522 articles, 18 book chapter, he has also several publication in divulgation journals. He has presented 48 works in national and international congresses, 36 invited conferences, participation in 91 expert committees and organization of 10 research activities. He is acting as a co-chair in Post Approval Issues Working Group, as Spanish representative in the Pesticide Steering Committee in EFSA and he has chaired also the SMS Steering Committee and representing the SMS at the izSteering Committee.



Gábor Tokés

Since November 2010, he has been the head of Hungarian Authorization – responsible for both PPPs and Yield Enhancers.

Previous to his current role, he graduated as Biological Engineer on the Budapest Technical University. He gained his University doctor title at the Agricultural University of Gödöllő, in the topic of Growth regulators in cereal production.

Gábor organized the system for efficacy trials of plant growth regulators in the Hungarian plant protection network. He edited the Hungarian guidance for growth regulators and fertilizers, and for 20 years he coordinated the Hungarian efficacy trials of such products.

Since the first proposals he actively took part in the discussions about the new authorization regulation (1107/2009 EC)

Since 2006 he has been dealing with authorization matters and has been member of the Post Approval Issues working group.



Eva Lind

I am the head of Plant Protection and Fertilisers department in Agriculture and Food Board. I started out as an efficacy evaluator and have been involved in evaluation and authorisation of PPPs and coordination of authorisation in Estonia for nearly five years. Today I am also responsible for the supervision of PPPs. In 2021 Estonia is the chair of the Northern Zone Steering Group.

Session 6 - Trade & MRL setting



Kevin Bosc

Kevin Bosc is EMEA Leader in Product Advocacy and Approvals at Corteva Agriscience.

Based in Brussels, he is engaging with stakeholders on EU policy and regulatory issues and an active member of CropLife Europe and IBMA.

Prior to joining Corteva, Kevin served as the Policy and Regulatory Affairs Manager for COCERAL, the EU grain trade association, and previously worked in London as a regulatory advisor for the food industry.

A French native, Kevin obtained his Master of Laws (LLM) from University College London and his Master's degree in Economic Law and Global Governance from Sciences Po Paris."



Kieran Macdonell

Kieran has been the Counsellor (Agriculture) at the Australian Mission to the EU since January 2019. In this role he covers all aspects of Australia's agricultural trade relationship with the EU, member states and European institutions.

Prior to this appointment Kieran was based in Canberra working in the head office of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment. During his time at the Department Kieran has worked on agricultural policy for the dairy, wool, red meat and cropping sectors. He was also responsible for Australia's international fisheries engagement, including overseeing Australia's efforts to combat IUU fishing, and worked on Australia's frontline biosecurity system. Kieran has also worked as an adviser to three Australian Agriculture Ministers.



Almut Bitterhof

Almut Bitterhof, a food chemist by education, works in the European Commission, in the area of food safety since 1999. She is currently deputy Head of Unit in the unit "pesticides and biocides" in the Directorate –General for Health - DG SANTE, dealing in particular with issues related to pesticides residues in food/feed. She is the chair of the residues section of the respective Regulatory Committee with Member States, the Standing Committee on Plants , Animals, Food and Feed, section Phytopharmaceuticals, which is in charge of setting maximum residue levels for pesticides in food and feed.

Previously she already worked in the same Directorate-General in the area on contaminants legislation, as well as in a horizontal unit dealing with matters related to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and in the Directorate of DG SANTE dealing with audits and inspections. When she joined the Commission in 1999 she came from the private sector heading a unit dealing in particular with product development and analytical methods.



Juan Jose Pons

Juan José Pons Arizaga is the Coordinator of the Ecuadorian Banana Cluster. The Ecuadorian Banana Cluster is a guild of banana producers and exporters of Ecuador composed by: AEBE (Association of Ecuadorian Banana Exporters), ACOR-BANEC (Association of Banana Trade and Exports), AGROBAN (Regional Corporation of Ecuadorian Banana Growers) and the Ecuadorian Chamber of Agriculture for the second administrative zone (where bananas are produced).

The Ecuadorian banana industry is not the monopoly of a single foreign company based on large farmlands, instead, the production is composed by hundreds of Ecuadorian companies, which employs thousands of Ecuadorian families. Around 65% of total producers are smallholders (up to 30 areas), and 25% work in medium size production unit (less than 100 areas).

Currently, the Cluster is leading a broader coalition of banana producers and exporters from 7 Latin American countries, which altogether represent more than 70% of EU banana import. They are present in Brussels engaging with EU policy-makers to develop further the concept that “different regions in the world, have different needs”.



Nathalie Lecocq

Nathalie Lecocq is Director General of FEDIOL, the Brussels-based association representing the EU vegetable oil and protein meal industry and supporting common industry activities related to food and feed safety, sustainability and environment, supply chains and trade, nutrition/health and labelling. French citizen, she graduated in agro-economics from the Bonn University in Germany and has about 30 years of experience in representing European agri-food sectors towards the EU institutions and international organisations, having held positions in different EU agri-business associations with responsibilities areas of agricultural policy, international trade negotiations and regulations, industry competitiveness and association’s communication.

Break-out group - Biopesticides: Towards ambitious and fit-for-purpose EU policies



Ananda Scherner

Ananda Scherner is as a Regional Regulatory Manager for Plant Health in Europe, Middle East and Africa at FMC Corporation, based in Denmark. Ananda is an Agronomy Engineer, holding a Master’s degree in Crop Protection from Federal University of Pelotas in Brazil and PhD Degree in Plant Science from Aarhus University in Denmark. During her studies Ananda specialized on fate and behavior of Plant Protection Products in the Environment and Integrated Weed Management on Cereal crops. Ananda moved into a challenging Regulatory role in 2018, initiating her career at FMC as a Country Regulatory Manager for Nordic & Baltic Countries and has three years of experience working in this framework.



Domenico Deserio

“Domenico Deserio is a Policy Officer in the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission (DG SANTE). He is responsible for policies related to micro-organisms used as active substances in plant protection products. Within the EU Biopesticide Working Group, he is currently working on the amendment of Regulations concerning placing on the market of microbiological active substances and plant protection products.

He holds a Master of Biotechnology from the University of Bari (Italy), and completed his thesis on food microbiology. Moreover, he achieved an advanced post-graduate Master by Research of Agricultural Science at the University of Adelaide (Australia), carrying out his research on plant genomics and plant pathology.”



Rob Van Drent

Rob van Drent is senior policy officer at Ctgb, the Dutch authority responsible for the authorisation of plant protection products and biocides. He is involved with Ctgb's contribution to sustainable plant protection, specifically in the area of biopesticides, low-risk plant protection products and innovative application techniques. He is an active member of the EU Working Group on Biopesticides. Before joining the Ctgb, Rob worked as a national expert for the European Commission in the Pesticides Unit of DG SANTE, where he worked on similar topics.



Marie Noëlle Douaiher

Dr. ir. Marie-Noëlle Douaiher holds a PhD in Plant Science and an engineering degree in agronomy. Her interest and involvement in crop protection started in her early times at university. Marie-Noëlle started her career in regulatory affairs in 2006 in a major consultancy company as the Registration manager and principal. She joined Janssen PMP in 2012 where she holds the position of Senior Regulatory affairs manager. She is expert in the provision of global regulatory project plans and leads the regulatory strategies for pesticides, biopesticides and biostimulants globally at Janssen PMP. Marie-Noëlle is a member of the Biopesticides and PAEG working groups at Crop Life Europe.



Paula de Vera

Paula de Vera (Madrid, 1990), graduated in Veterinary Medicine by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in 2014, works as Policy Advisor in Copa and Cogeca since October 2018 and represents EU farmers and agri-cooperatives' interests regarding, particularly, Phytosanitary Questions and Plant Health, Animal Health and Welfare and Risk Management and Insurance.

Break-out group- Legal issues & Anti-Counterfeit



Gérardine Garçon

Dr. Gérardine Garçon is head of Global Regulatory Legal & Contracts at BASF Agricultural Solutions. She joined BASF corporate legal in Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany in 1996 and was delegated several years to the BASF Brussels office. Gérardine is an expert in European and international laws, with a focus on risk regulation and crop protection law. She chairs the legal team of the European Crop Protection Association and is as well chairperson of the legal team of the German Crop Protection Association (Industrieverband Agrar).

Gérardine holds a law degree from the Saarland University and a LL.M. from its

Europa Institut. She obtained her PhD in 1997 with a thesis on the legality of trade embargoes of the European Union under European and public international law. Gérardine regularly publishes and gives presentations in the area of regulatory laws and the freedom of information legal framework / Aarhus legislation.



Niklas Pieper

With more than 20 years of experience as attorney Dr. Niklas Pieper is responsible for the global legal advise to the Public Affairs, Sustainability and Crop Protection Regulatory functions within Bayer AG Crop Science Division. He joined Bayer in 2006 and previously managed major pharmaceutical US product liability litigation proceedings for Bayer, held global responsibilities in Bayer's compliance function and counseled various business and product supply units within Bayer's Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Health and Crop Science Divisions. Before Niklas joined Bayer he had worked from 1999 through 2006 as attorney in private practice and most of this time with the international law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. He graduated and holds a PhD in law from University of Cologne.



Darren Abrahams

Darren enables clients throughout the chemicals and life sciences supply chain to get and keep their products on the European Union market. He focuses on defense of products through strategic advice, advocacy before institutions and agencies, and litigation before EU and national courts and tribunals. He has a wealth of experience with the EU regulation of biocidal products, plant protection products (agrochemicals), REACH, classification, labelling and packaging, GM food and feed, cosmetics, endocrine disrupting properties, establishing and servicing the needs of consortia and taskforces, and Brexit regulatory strategies. He also has particular experience defending clients resisting requests for access to confidential business information. Darren is recognized Europe-wide for his Environment and Agro/Food practice by Chambers Europe, who quotes clients' praise for his work: "he is very knowledgeable and experienced in his field - a very good communicator who is responsive and strategically savvy."



Aleksandra Mrowiec

Aleksandra Mrowiec - a graduated lawyer that combine legal knowledge with 13 years of experience in communication and project management. Highly skilled at relationship-building with different stakeholders. As a part of the Polish Crop Protection Association (PSOR) she promotes principles of responsible purchase and use of pesticides as well as a waste container management among farmers. Starting from 2007 she contributes to the nationwide campaign dedicated at raising awareness about illegal pesticides. She also coordinates trainings and campaign "Buying counterfeits, you lose many times" organized jointly by customs, market control authorities and the industry.



Joanna Tumińska

Joanna Tumińska is a Director of the Plant Protection and Fertilizers Department in Main Inspectorate of Plant Health and Seed Inspection in Poland. She graduated from the University of Agriculture and Technology. Professionally she is associated with plant breeding, seeds and plant protection. She has been an employee of the State Plant Health and Seed Inspection Service since 2000, where she is currently involved in the creation and implementation of control procedures in the area of trade and use of plant protection products. She also coordinates the creation and maintenance of pesticide use safety standards for the primary production of food of plant origin. She is a member of international working groups operating at the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Break-out group - Consideration of Risk Mitigation Measures in PPP evaluations



Dr. Robin Sur

Dr. Robin Sur is a physical chemist by training and a Senior Bayer Science Fellow with 20+ years of international experience in environmental and dietary exposure assessment (modelling, environmental fate, residue analysis, metabolism, biomonitoring, global water quality). His current role deals with Bayer's risk mitigation strategy for the environmental safety of plant protection products. He is member of CropLife Europe's water expert group and ad-hoc team on risk mitigation, chairs the ecochemistry expert group and the project group on risk mitigation of the German industry association and is member of the steering committee of the SETAC multi-stakeholder group to develop guidance on spatially distributed leaching modelling.



Eric Liégeois

Eric Liégeois is born in 1967, in Tournai (Belgium). In 1990, he was graduated Chemical Engineer for Agricultural Industries, from the University of Gembloux (Belgium).

He joined for the European Commission as seconded national expert in 2002 at DG Environment where he was in charge of the Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides.

In 2005 he took the position of Director (Risk Management Unit) at the Belgian Ministry of Public Health and the Environment, where his team of 45 persons was in charge of implementing REACH, CLP and Biocides.

In June 2007 he decided to join again the European Commission as a permanent administrator official in the Chemicals Unit at DG ENTR (now DG GROW).

At DG GROW these recent years he was in charge of revised Fertilisers Regulation

proposal and manage for the Commission's recently adopted Plastics Strategy. He was leading a team in charge of Fertilisers, Detergents, Plant Protection Products, Biocides, Waste recycling and Plastics.

Since April 2018 he joined DG SANTE in the team in charge of the authorisation of plant protection products where he is among others chairing the biopesticides working group and is focusing on low-risk products and risk reduction activities. Eric is married and has no children.



Anne Alix

Anne Alix worked in the area of plant protection products risk assessment for 20 years. After a PhD in Integrated Pest Management at the University of Rennes, Anne joined the French National Institute on Research in Agronomy (INRA) as an ecotoxicologist in the scientific unit for the risk assessment of crop protection products. Anne was nominated head of the Environment and Ecotoxicology risk assessment unit at the French Agency on the safety of Food (AFSSA, now ANSES), where she initiated scientific collaborations with the pesticide unit of EFSA. Anne then joined the French Ministry of Agriculture as the deputy head of the Section for Regulation of Plant Protection Products and fertilizers, in charge of the implementation of risk mitigation measures for pesticides and of post registration monitoring. Anne joined Dow AgroSciences, now Corteva Agriscience, in 2011, as Policy and Risk Management Leader for Europe, Middle East and Africa.



Achim Gathmann

Achim Gathmann is the Head of the Unit Environment in the Department of Plant Protection Products at the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL). He has studied biology with the focus entomology and ecology. He holds a PhD in biology. His key qualifications are agroecology, plant protection, biological control, risk assessment and risk management of Plant protection products and genetically modified organisms.

Break-out group - Sustainable use of pesticides



Eugénia Pommaret

Eugénia Pommaret holds a degree in agricultural engineering from the School of Agricultural Engineering in Lisbon, specialization: plant pathology.

She was for 20 years head of the Environment Department at FNSEA (French Farmers Association) and member of various COPA-COGECA working groups. She actively participated in several Steering Groups held by the European Commission on Environmental issues linked to the farming activities and chaired the Advisory Committee on Agriculture & Environment from 2009 to 2012 on behalf of COPA-COGECA.

In November 2012 she joined UIPP, firstly as Head of Sustainable Agriculture Department and as Director General since November 2013.

My background and my career reflects my strong commitment to modern and sustainable agriculture.



Anja Klatt

Anja studied biology in Bochum and Tübingen and has a PhD in molecular biology. She started as a researcher in the pharmaceutical sector of BASF. Meanwhile Anja has more than 20 years of experience in the agriculture industry working in the area of public affairs covering the plant biotechnology and the crop protection field. She has been a member of various committees in EuropaBio and ECPA and is now chairing the team dealing with the Sustainable Use Directive in CropLife Europe.



Eduardo Oliveira e Sousa

Born on May 5, 1953. Graduated in Agronomic Engineering from the Instituto Superior de Agronomia. Agricultural and forestry entrepreneur in Ribatejo. He has held several positions throughout his professional career, such as: agricultural director of the National Zootechnical Station (1979 - 1983) and also senior technician on the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture from 1979 to 2013; State representative and Executive Director of the Sorraia Valley Irrigators and Beneficiaries Association from 1983 to 2013; Founding member of the Portuguese Pasture and Forage Society; agricultural director of Sucral (1986 - 1989); founder of FeNaReg - National Federation of Portuguese Irrigators; member of the National Water Council (1996 - 2007); Honorary director of EIC - Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community; assistant professor at the School of Agriculture of Santarém (1981 - 1984); chairman of the Board of ANPC - National Association of Rural Landowners, Game Management and Biodiversity (1994 - 2014), and currently Chairman of the General Assembly; founder of the Association of Forest Producers of the Municipality of Coruche. CAP presidente since 2018.



Andrew Owen-Griffiths

Andrew OWEN-GRIFFITHS is Head of the Unit in DG Health and Food Safety of the European Commission responsible for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. The Unit is also responsible for audits carried out in Member States and exporting countries on other aspects of pesticide legislation, but also Plant Health, GMOS, Biocides, Contaminants, Organic Farming and Geographical Indicators. He qualified in the UK as an Environmental Health officer and has worked in food safety implementation in both private and public sectors in the UK and Dubai before joining the European Commission in 2000. When not working he runs, canoes and tries to keep the Directorate Football team in order.



José Manuel Roche

José Manuel Roche was born in Teruel, Spain. He is a professional farmer with specialized background in environment, forestry and agriculture. He owns a family farm in Lechago, where he manages a family cereal farm. In 2001 he joined the professional farmer association Unión de Pequeños Agricultores (UPA), one of the main farming organisations in Spain. He is General Secretary of UPA in the autonomous community of Aragón, as well as UPA International Affairs Director. He is also member at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) based in Brussels where he has been actively involved for more than 10 years, participating as rapporteur of opinions related to agriculture, food and health safety and environment.

Break-out group - How can digital and precision technologies contribute to a more sustainable agriculture



Daniel Azevedo

Daniel Azevedo is a Director in the Commodities and Trade team of Copa and Cogeca, an agricultural lobby representing almost 70 national farm organizations and cooperatives in Europe. He is a natural resources engineer graduated in the University of Évora (Portugal) currently the coordinator of Copa and Cogeca Task Force on agricultural technology. He has previously been working for DG Agriculture and Rural Development after specializing on agro-environmental measures in SLU university (Sweden). Mr. Azevedo comes from a family producing wine and olive oil in Vila Real (Douro Region) in Portugal.



Doris Marquardt

Dr. Doris Marquardt works for the European Commission, in the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development since July 2019 focussing on the digitalisation of the agricultural sector and rural areas and at Research and Innovation.

She completed her PhD in agricultural policies at the Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany and holds a diploma (Msc) in Environmental Planning from the Technical University of Munich, Weihenstephan.

She held positions at the European Environment Agency, the German Permanent Representation, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the European Network for Rural Development Contact Point, the Germany-based Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe, the Center of Rural Economy in Newcastle, United Kingdom, and the European Academy in Bolzano, Italy.

She has experiences in the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in several EU Member States, including Romania, Italy and Germany. She served as

expert in policy design, agriculture, and rural and regional development in the wider European region in projects commissioned by, e.g. the World Bank, UNEP and FAO.



Dominic Widmer

Dominic's passion is to enable and scale sustainable farming practices by making it environmentally, agronomically and economically attractive. He currently focuses on developing and deploying cross-functional Business Sustainability initiatives critical for future European business models and to drive long term growth of Syngenta's business. Before joining the Business Sustainability department, he led the Crop Protection Digital Solutions Team helping the business to articulate and translate their needs, identifying opportunities through design-led thinking and turning them into customer-friendly solutions. Dominic holds a Master in Business Administration and Innovation from the University of St. Gallen.



Dorothee D'herde

Dorothee leads the sustainable business agenda at Vodafone Group and is also a trustee at Earthwatch Europe, an environmental charity. Before joining Vodafone, she spent 10 years at McKinsey & Company as director of sustainability and social impact, and as head of external relations for the Sustainability and Resource Productivity Practice. Before McKinsey, she worked in politics, public affairs and communications.



Corne Kempenaar

Dr. Corné (C.) Kempenaar is senior researcher precision agriculture at Wageningen University & Research, dept. Agro Systems Research, and Professor Smart Farming at Aeres University of Applied Sciences in Dronten. He has an MSc in plant protection and a PhD in Biological Weed control. During his ca. 30-year research career, he contributed to the development of several precision agriculture applications, such as variable rate crop protection, fertilizer use and seeding, and autonomous navigation in arable crops. This all has resulted on several apps on Akkerweb GIS data platform. Currently, he is coordinating public private R&D projects on precision farming (PA2.0, DISAC and PA4.0). He also coordinates the National Fieldlab Precision Farming (NPPL). Since 2020, he is board member of the Dutch Pesticide Admission Authority CTGB.



Elli Tsiforou

Elli TSIFOROU is the Director General of GAIA EPICHEIREIN, a broad coalition between agri-cooperatives & farmers that have teamed up with partners from the IT sector (NEUROPUBLIC SA) and the banking sector (PIRAEUS BANK GROUP), sharing a common vision of a more sustainable and competitive Greek agriculture based on knowledge and innovation.

Since January 2020, Elli is the Chairwoman of the Cooperative Coordination Committee (CCC) at COGECA (General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union), the European umbrella organization representing 22000 agri-cooperatives. Between 2015-2019 she was the Head of the Brussels Office of GAIA EPICHEIREIN and the Permanent Representative of the Greek delegation in the European farmer & agri-cooperative organizations COPA & COGECA.

Elli has studied Communication & Media in Greece and in France and has worked for more than 10 years as policy advisor on agriculture and rural development at the European and the Hellenic Parliament. She was also Chief of Staff to the cabinet of the Minister of Culture and Tourism during the Caretaker Government in 2012. She has participated in congresses, written articles and published translations mainly in the fields of media theory, political communication and agricultural policy.

Break-out group - Sustainable agriculture: Challenges and opportunities of plant biotechnology in Europe



John McMurdy

Dr. John McMurdy is currently the Director for Emerging Markets and Development Partnerships at CropLife International where he oversees CLI supported programming across Africa and Asia and programs focused on trade and gene editing. Previously, Dr. McMurdy served as senior international research and biotechnology advisor in the Bureau for Food Security at USAID where he managed agency investments in agricultural R&D and capacity development programs. Prior to coming to USAID, John served as the Chief Technology Officer at Corum Medical, a technology company he co-founded with physician and engineering colleagues in Providence, Rhode Island. He received his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Brown University and his B.S./M.S. from the University of Rochester.



Pedro Gallardo

Since 1996 manager and CEO Carvajal y Agregados C.B. farming business. Farm name is cortijo Carvajal and it's a CEREALS & OILSEEDS company which holds nearly 450 hectares, mainly crops are: sunflower, rape seed, wheat, durum wheat, maize & beans. I am farmer 4th generation. Our farm is located in south Andalu-

cía. I hold a Master degree in Management and Business from University of Cadiz.; and the presidency of several associations & committees, including President of ALAS (Alliance Sustainable Agriculture) since April 2019.



Filip Cnudde

Filip Cnudde is a Biotech Regulatory Leader for Corteva Agriscience, responsible for securing timely import approvals for GM products. Filip studied agricultural biotechnology at Ghent and Nijmegen University, and worked in science communication at Wageningen University. Filip has 14 years of Brussels experience working in the intersection of technical, regulatory and political issues related to green biotechnology and gene editing in EuropaBio, Dow AgroSciences and Corteva Agriscience. He has a passion for public engagement on GMOs and CRISPR-Cas. In CropLife Europe, Filip is part of the Agri Biotech Committee and the Agri Biotech Regulatory and Outreach Policy Team.



Petra Jorasch

“Petra Jorasch is German and holds a PhD in plant molecular biology from the University of Hamburg in 1999. In 2000 she became IP Expert at GFPi Service Ltd., a company which supports the German breeding industry in questions of IP and technology transfer. Since 2014 she was Vice Secretary General of the German Plant Breeders’ Association (BDP). During her career she developed solid experience in biotech patent law and plant variety as well as in regulatory issues concerning modern plant breeding methods.

Petra joined Euroseeds in February 2017 as the spokesperson of the EU plant breeding sector on modern plant breeding methods and innovative technologies.”



Sabine Jülicher

Dr Sabine Jülicher is Director for food and feed safety, innovation in the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission. She is responsible for policies relating to a range of sectors such as food information & composition, food processing technologies, novel foods, biotechnology, pesticides, biocides as well as veterinary medicines & animal nutrition. She was responsible for developing and coordinating the ‘Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system’.

She holds a veterinary degree from the Free University Berlin and completed her thesis on microbiology and food safety. Moreover she holds a postgraduate qualification in food hygiene.