

## Speakers' biographies



**Jonás Fernández Álvarez** (Oviedo, 1979) is a MEP in the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. He is member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, where he acts as coordinator for the European socialist party. In addition, he is a substitute member of the Budgets Committee. Jonás Fernández Álvarez holds an Executive MBA from IESE Business School (2010-12), a M.A. in Economics and Finance from CEMFI-Bank of Spain (2002-04) and a undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Oviedo (1997-2001). He has completed his training with a program of Advanced Econometrics at the London School of Economics and Political Science (2006) and the Senior Executives in National and International Security at Harvard University (2016).

Professionally, Jonás joined as an analyst in economics and international politics in the consultancy firm Solchaga Recio & Asociados in 2005, chaired by former Spanish finance Minister Carlos Solchaga. Three years later he was promoted to the company's board and later on, appointed as Chief Economist in 2014. Jonás has combined his work activity with teaching at the Universidad Carlos III (2007-10) and various entrepreneurial activities. In addition, he is a regular op-ed contributor to the main Spanish newspapers (El País, Cinco Días, La Nueva España, etc.). Politically, Jonás Fernández was Secretary General of the Socialist Youth in Oviedo (1998-2000) and served on the executive board of the Socialist Youth in Asturias (2000-01). During the college years he was also a member of the Senate of the Universidad de Oviedo as a student representative. More recently, he has participated in the design of the electoral programs in the 2008 and 2011 legislative elections, and was a policy advisor of PSOE (2004-05). Moreover, he is an associate in various national and international foundations. Jonás is also a participant of the Political Leadership Program of the Aspen Institute, chaired by Javier Solana, former EU Higher Representative and the Workshop in Global Leadership 2016 at Harvard University.



**Dr Peter Dröll**, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, Prosperity Directorate. Peter has been working in the European Commission for more than 20 years with positions in environment, enlargement negotiations, industry policy, innovation and research. He was a Cabinet member of Enlargement Commissioner Günter Verheugen and Head of Cabinet of the Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik.

Since 2010 he is at Directorate-General Research and Innovation where he was first responsible for Innovation then for Industrial Technologies. Following the re-orientation of DG Research and Innovation towards sustainability, his competences have been enlarged to include industrial R&I agendas and business intelligence as well as knowledge valorisation policies. Before joining the European Commission in 1991, Peter worked as a lawyer in a German law firm. Peter is a lawyer by training with a doctorate degree in German constitutional law and European law.



**Ms Rosalinde van der Vlies**, Director, European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, Clean Planet Directorate. Ms Rosalinde van der Vlies, is the Director of the Clean Planet Directorate in the European Commission's, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Before her appointment as Director, Ms van der Vlies was the Head of Coordination & Interinstitutional Relations Unit, and acting Head of Communication & Citizens Unit.

Previously she held positions in Directorate-General Environment, Directorate-General Justice and Home Affairs, and in the private office of Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for the environment. Before joining the European Commission, she worked as a competition lawyer in an international law firm in Brussels and was a part-time teacher at the Catholic University in Brussels.

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**Maria da Graça Carvalho** is currently a member of the European Parliament. She was a senior advisor of Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, from November 2014 to December 2015. Previously, she was a member of the European Parliament, between July 2009 and May 2014. In that capacity, she was one of the rapporteurs of Horizon 2020. She was also Principal Adviser to President Barroso in the fields of Science, Higher Education, Innovation, Research Policy, Energy, Environment and Climate Change from 2006 to 2009. She served as a Minister of Science and Higher Education of the XV Constitutional Government of Portugal and Minister of Science, Innovation and Higher Education of the XVI Constitutional Government. She is a Full Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico (University of Lisbon).

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**Maria Spyraiki** is a MEP in the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats). At the European Elections of 2014 she was elected first Member of the European Parliament with Nea Demokratia and she joined the European People's Party. She is a member of the Committees on Regional Development (REGI) and on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), as well as a member of the EU-FYROM Joint Parliamentary Committee. She is also a member of the Nea Demokratia Executive Board after Kyriakos Mitsotakis was elected in the presidency of the party.

Maria Spyraiki has worked for 22 years as a journalist in the private sector and she is a member of the Union of Editors of Macedonia and Thrace (ΕΣΗΕΜΘ). Since 1992 she worked at the newspapers «Ependitis», «Exousia», «Thessaloniki», «Aggelioforos», «Imerisia tou Savvatou» and at the TV Stations SKAI, STAR, ALTER, and MEGA, from where she resigned on April 4th of 2014 when the former Prime Minister Antonis Samaras asked her to run for office with Nea Dimokratia at the upcoming European Elections of the 25th of May. As a journalist she has participated in missions to Southeast Europe (Skopje, Cyprus, Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro). Since 1998 and until March 2014 she worked as a political reporter. She has also worked in the Press Office

of the European Parliament in Athens during the period of 2003-2004, as well as the office of Greek Commissioner to the EU, Mr. Stavros Dimas, for the period 2004-2009.

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**Jane Amilhat**, Head of Unit, RTD.C3 – Low Emissions Future Industries, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission. She took over the management of unit Low Emission Future Industries in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) of the European Commission in April 2021 after coming from Directorate General for Energy (DG ENER) where she was 3 years Deputy Head of Unit in charge of Energy infrastructures and Regional cooperation. Jane Amilhat worked in the private sector after her engineer/economist study in France and Germany. She

started her career in the industrial/energy sector (Danone, Gaz de France/Engie, RWE Trading). She joined the European Commission in Directorate General for Environment (previously DG ENV, now DG CLIMA) from 2006 until 2008, where she was responsible for international climate change negotiations and sectorial climate policies. She has been dealing with Energy and industrial issues when she started at Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE) at the end of 2008. She was responsible for Russia and the Eastern Partnership but also the Western Balkans and Switzerland when she became Deputy Head of Unit at DG TRADE in 2014.

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**Dr Sebastiano Fumero**, Head of Unit, REA.B1 –Future Low Emission Industries, European Research Executive Agency (REA). He has been working for European Institutions since almost 30 years. He served the European Commission in several Directorates General (SecGen, DG EMPL, DG Transport and Energy, and DG RTD), occupying several management positions.

He has been Member of Ms Emma Bonino's Cabinet from 1995 to 1999 and has worked also at the European Parliament for the Regional Development Committee.

As of April 2021, he re-joined the European Research Executive Agency REA, where he had been managing the 'Experts, Participant and Validation Support' unit from 2008 to 2016, and currently, as Head of Unit B1 for 'Low Emission Future Industries', he manages the Research Fund for Coal and Steel RFCS.

Sebastiano Fumero is a Political Scientist, with a major in international politics.

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**Michael Christian Laubenheimer**, Project Adviser, European Research Executive Agency REA. Michael is an electrical engineer, specialised in energy and economy. He joined the European Commission in September 2015. He was in charge of a series of research projects linked to emobility and smart grids. He was also in charge of a free-of-charge service for research projects in the field of energy aiming to support the exploitation of research results – the "[Support Services for Exploitation of Research Results SSERR](#)". He joined REA in April 2021, where he manages a portfolio of projects from the Research Fund for Coal and Steel RFCS, in particular projects related to Post-Mining Issues, Safe and Productive Coal Mining Operations. Before, Michael worked at the Common Support Centre of the University of Duisburg-Essen (DE), supporting the researchers to develop and submit research projects and to manage EU-funded research projects. From 2005-2013, he worked as a senior consultant, developed and managed European projects within the INTERREG, CIP and FP7 programmes, mainly related to sustainable transport. Before, he worked in Madeira (PT), Montpellier (FR) and Cologne (DE) for technology parks and research institutes where he coordinated research and demonstration projects in tourism, telework, distant training, telecommunications and urban development.

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**Dr. Thorsten Hauck** (male), study of process engineering at the Technical University Dortmund, has 21 years of experience in process research and development of steel production processes in different positions at BFI. He was responsible for 22 international and several national research projects. Since 2011 Dr. Hauck is head of the department “Process Optimisation Iron and Steel Making” at VDEh-Betriebsforschungsinstitut GmbH (BFI). The work of his department is focused on the development

and optimisation of processes and process chains with respect to digitisation, productivity, quality, energy supply and environmental issues and cooperates with all main European production companies and research institutes on the subject of iron and steel making.

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**Monika Draxler** is a Researcher and Project Manger at K1-MET in charge of national and international projects. She is currently working in the field of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation technologies and decarbonization of the iron and steel industry. She analyses the technical framework conditions to successfully implement the new technologies. Her main responsibilities are in the area of carbon direct avoidance. Another focus of her work is the treatment of steelmaking slag. Based on the reachable saving potential concerning a replacement of primary resources, the goal is to develop processes for metal recycling and the utilization of the low metal fraction as a secondary raw material. Her work includes mass

and energy models as well as the calculation of theoretical energy consumption concerning the treatment of slag. Monika completed her studies in Industrial Environmental Protection

with a focus on process engineering at the Montanuniversitaet in Leoben (AT). Her master's thesis dealt with the sinter process and the associated emissions.

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**Dr. Klaus Peters** is Secretary-General at ESTEP European Steel Technology Platform. He qualified as Doctor of Engineering in 1993 and as state doctorate (Habilitation) in 1998, started his industrial career with thyssenkrupp Steel Europe (tkSE). His senior experiences include production, sales, quality and R&D both on national and international level.

From 2011, Dr. Peters joined several working groups and committees of the European Steel Technology Platform (ESTEP) and was in charge of international research projects and European funding of tkSE. He became in July 2015 Secretary General of ESTEP.

Amongst others, he is member of the Steel Advisory Group (SAG) of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) and vice-president of the public-private partnership Processes4Planet, which is an evolution of the H2020 SPIRE partnership. He is the Executive Director of the Horizon Europe Clean Steel Partnership. In 2021, ESTEP was again appointed as member of the High-Level Group on Energy Intensive Industries.

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**Jean Borlée** is Unit Manager Energy and Low-Impact Industry, CRM Group.

In 1990 he Graduated in Chemical Engineering from the University of Liège and started at CRM at the cokemaking department, then moved to other fields of activity such as sintering, blast furnaces, direct and smelting reduction, steelmaking, continuous casting and environment.

Between 2000-2004, Jean coordinated the FP5 “Avoid Solid By-Products and CO2” project dedicated to the smelting reduction of various steel plant wastes and the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Between 2005-2007 he led the iron and steel production department at CRM, and between 2007-2012 he was seconded to ArcelorMittal to coordinate all the contributions of ArcelorMittal in the large FP6 ULCOS project. Jean was notably involved in all blast furnace, smelting reduction and electrolysis developments, including the erection and operation of pilot plants

His current positions include:

- at CRM Group, leads the ELIMIN (“Energy and Low Impact Industry”) unit and coordinates the technological platform on “Energy Shift”
  - chairman of the TGA2 Expert group “Iron and steelmaking” of the RFCS programme
  - member of the “Clean Steel Partnership” board
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**Dr. Paula Queipo**, is the Director of Business Operations at IDONIAL Technology Center and deals with innovation management, international project coordination communication strategy, networking and technology transfer activities.

With a degree in chemistry, she obtained the PhD degree in Materials Science and Technology in 2003 from the University of Oviedo (Spain). She has more than 20 years experience as researcher in academic and industrial contexts in several European entities such as Abo Akademi, VTT and Technical University of Technology (Finland), University of Leeds (UK), and CSIC and PRODINTEC (Spain). She belongs to the Management Boards of the

European Technology platforms on additive manufacturing “AM-Platform” (Platform Deputy Coordinator) and innovation in nanotechnology “NANO futures” (platform co-chair).

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**Michele De Santis**, Principal Consultant, Process & Control Systems, Rina Consulting – CSM SpA.

Degree in physics, over 30 years of experience in steel process modelling and problem-solving. His activity has been focused on thermofluid-dynamics modelling along all the steelmaking route and also to the related environmental aspects. Since 1991, he has been project leader in about 50 industrial & institutional projects in Italy & abroad. He has been member of the European Commission Technical Group Steel 3 (since

2008), the AIM Environment & Safety Technical Committee since 2016 and the Scientific Committee of Congresses (STEELSIM) in several editions. A reference for CSM of the Green Steel for Europe- GREENSTEEL project. Currently, he is vice-chairman of the RFCS TGA2 ‘downstream processes’ group, author of more than 60 publications and patents and referee for Journals and expert evaluator for the European Commission Funding Programmes.

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**Simona Pace**, Industry Relations & Financed Projects Team Member, Rina Consulting – CSM SpA.

Simona Pace is member of the Financed Research team at Rina Consulting – Centro Sviluppo Materiali with over 10-year experience in material research and development. She gained her PhD in 2015 at Imperial College London in Material Science and Engineering and worked in several research laboratories in Europe and UK. She recently joined the Financed Research team at Rina Consulting – Centro Sviluppo Materiali, where she

focuses on Industry relations and European funding programs & opportunities.

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**Erik van Doezum**, Director - Metals, Mining & Fertilizers EMEA, ING. Erik acts as Director within ING's Metals, Mining & Fertilizers sector coverage team. In addition, he is Steel Lead and as such is responsible for ING's strategy towards steel. He joined ING in 2010 and the sector coverage team in 2013, where he has structured and executed various large syndicated transactions in the metals and mining sector and for the steel sector specifically. Being responsible for steel, he has been significantly involved in ING's reporting on the carbon intensity

of its lending portfolio, Terra. Seeing the energy transition as the largest challenge for the steel sector, Erik is now leading a new multi stakeholder working group under the flag of the Net Zero Steel Initiative, which will draft a climate aligned finance agreement for the steel sector based on a net zero scenario.

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**Stéphane Tondo**, General Manager of ArcelorMittal is currently technical head for governmental affairs and climate change. In that function, he contributes to the decarbonization roadmap of European entities and its financing. Stéphane joined Sollac, a former company of ArcelorMittal in the automotive sales division in 1998 where he held several positions, from market development engineer, through key account manager and finally heading an automotive sales area.

Since 2013, he has been Chief Marketing Officer in charge of Packaging, Oil and gas, and Electrical Steel segments within ArcelorMittal Europe Flat Products. Additionally, in March 2020, he took the role of Chief Executive Officer of ArcelorMittal Avelino & Canossa in Italy. Stéphane holds a degree as sales engineer from the Esidéc business school in Metz (France) and he is a graduate in mechanical engineering

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**Gabriele Morgante**, Senior Policy Officer DG GROW, European Commission. After his degree in law, two years of traineeship as a lawyer and 13 years spent in the Italian public administration as a public official, Gabriele Morgante joins the European Commission in 2013, where he starts to work as policy officer in the energy-intensive team of DG GROW as responsible in particular for the steel sector. In this position, he contributes to the definition and implementation of policy instruments in several policy field, e.g.: climate policy ("fit-for 55" Package, Emission Trading System), Research and Development (clean steel partnership, research fund

for coal and steel), trade (G20 working group "Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity", OECD Steel Committee meetings, trade-defence instrument cases, foreign direct investment cases), competition (revision of the Energy and Environmental State aid guidelines, of the Regional Aid Guidelines, and of the revision of guidelines for compensation of ETS indirect cost; merger and state aids cases), environment (aspects relating to circular economy for steel), skills (Roundtable for Skills in the energy-intensive industries). Gabriele Morgante is also member of the scientific committee and lecturer at the Eurosteelmater.



**Axel Eggert** is the Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER), a position he has held since 2014. He initially joined the association in 2007 as Director of Public Affairs and Communications.

Mr Eggert has over twenty years of experience in EU affairs, having worked for eight years in the European Parliament prior to his role at EUROFER. In addition to his EUROFER leadership, Mr Eggert is also Vice-President and Member of the Board of the European Steel Technology Platform (ESTEP).

A German national, Mr Eggert holds Master's degree in Modern History, Economics and Law from the University of Darmstadt and the State University of New York at Buffalo.

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**Niklas Johansson** is Senior Vice President of the Communication and Climate Unit, LKAB, Sweden. Niklas is also a member of the Group Management at LKAB.

Niklas holds an MBA and has a broad experience from both government and industry, with previous positions including Deputy CEO and Head of Communications for a small international industrial group.

He joined the company from the post of State Secretary, where he was first of all State Secretary to Mikael Damberg when he was Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, and then State Secretary to Ann Linde when she was Minister for Foreign Trade.

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**Suzana Carp** is a EU Climate policy specialist advising EU institutions and NGOs across a range of climate policies. Suzana has led the EU engagement strategy of several European think tanks and NGOs and has most notably delivered effective civil society campaigns around the EU ETS, the EU Climate law, the Climate Action regulation implementing the Paris Agreement, and NECPs. For several years now Suzana has been involved in research concerning heavy industry decarbonisation and her ambition is to see the "hard to abate" sectors becoming supported with the right policy ecosystem and infrastructure to become less difficult to decarbonise.

Her academic background entails graduate studies at the College of Europe in Warsaw and at the University of Oxford (Climate & Energy focus and Migration, respectively) and her university degree in International Studies was completed in the United States.

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**Alejandro Gonzalez**, Project Adviser, REA B.1 “Future Low Emissions Industry”. Alejandro has been working in the European Commission since 2018 managing Iron- and Steelmaking Technical Group TGA1. In charge of steel related policies, Alejandro was the EC representative during the inception of the Clean Steel partnership. Since 2021, he continues his activities at the European Commission Research Executive Agency (REA).

Prior to joining the European Commission, Alejandro gained over 15 years of technical and managerial experience in industry, transport, mining and infrastructure in multinational companies in Spain, Germany and Australia. Alejandro is mechanical engineer, MSc electrical engineering.

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**Johanna Lehne** is a Senior Policy Advisor in E3G’s Brussels office. She works on industrial decarbonisation, competition policy and EU climate politics. Johanna works with NGO partners, industrial stakeholders and policymakers on issues relating to decarbonising energy- and resource-intensive sectors. Her expertise includes industrial policy, circular economy, built environment and trade and competition policy.

Before joining E3G in August 2019, Johanna was a research associate in the Energy, Environment and Resources Department at Chatham House. Her research, while at Chatham House, covered industrial decarbonisation, the circular economy, low-carbon innovation in the built environment, chokepoints in global food trade, natural resource governance in China and energy for displaced populations. She holds an MPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford, where her thesis focused on the role of oil-abundance and water-scarcity in interstate conflicts in the Middle East. Johanna also has a BA in European Social and Political Studies, with a specialisation in economics, from University College London.

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**Christian Egenhofer** is an Associate Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels and Senior Research Associate at the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute (EUI), Florence. He is also Visiting Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) in SciencesPo, at the College of Europe in Natolin/Warsaw.

Expert in energy, climate change, and issues of European Integration with over thirty years of professional experience, Christian provided research and advisory services to various public institutions. He has published 8 books on energy, climate change, resources and issues of European integration in addition to more than 160 reports, articles and book chapters. Selected articles and book chapters have been translated into 12 languages. He is a professional policy analyst, competent in data analysis and visualisation, conferences and workshop organisation and moderation, lecturing and training students and government officials, as well as project management.



**Dr. Pietro Gimondo**, Head of Relations with Industry, Tender, Funded Research, Rina Consulting – CSM SpA.

Dr. Pietro Gimondo has worked for the European Commission in the 2002-2006 period as Programme Officer of the Directorate General For Research and Development. Has a wide experience in the EU frame especially having worked for various Public-Private Partnership among those SPIRE PPP, Process4Planet PPP and various others. He is the Head of the Dept. Relations with Industry and Financed Projects at RINA-CSM, and he is one of the father founders of ESTEP the European Steel Technological Platform. The HYDRA-Project is inserted in the IPCEI Hydrogen for the Italy MS.

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**Andrea Renda** is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the CEPS Unit on Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID), and Professor and holder of the “Google Chair” for Digital Innovation at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). He is a non-resident Senior Fellow at Duke University’s Kenan Institute for Ethics. For 2018/2020, he was also a Research Fellow of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) at Columbia University, New York. In August 2019, he was named Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.

A very prolific author and keynote speaker, Andrea provides regular advice to several institutions, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and many more. He was the main author of key studies on better regulation for the European Commission, the OECD and the World Bank. He sits in the Board of the journals Telecommunications Policy (Elsevier), and European Journal of Risk Regulation (Cambridge). He is currently a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence. His current research interests include regulation and policy evaluation, regulatory governance, innovation and competition policies, and the ethical and policy challenges of emerging digital technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence.

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**Milan Elkerbout** is a Research Fellow at CEPS Energy Climate House. His research focuses on EU climate policy, in particular industrial decarbonisation and the EU Emissions Trading System. In 2019 and 2020 he spent a year in Stockholm at IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute as a visiting Mistra Fellow for the Carbon Exit research programme, which focuses on material value chains and climate neutrality policy challenges. He has been closely involved in analysing the EU ETS Phase 4 revision processes. He frequently participates in events on these topics, together with policy makers and civil society stakeholders, both at CEPS as well as at EU institutions and in other EU member states. Other topics of interest include industrial transformation and the bioeconomy, mobility,

state aid control, Energy Union governance, and the impacts of Brexit. His academic background is in Political Economy and European Studies. Before starting at CEPS in 2014,

Milan Elkerbout studied at the London School of Economics, SciencesPo Paris, and Maastricht University.

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**Hien Vu** is a Researcher in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID) unit at CEPS. Her expertise and publications cover regulatory policy and better regulation, in particular in the area of sustainable development, industrial decarbonisation, research and innovation, renewable energy, and the circular economy. Hien is affiliated with the EU-ASEAN Think Tank Dialogue, a research programme supporting the strategic partnership between the EU and ASEAN.

Prior to these positions, Hien was a Team Assistant at the World Bank in Vietnam. She gained experience with managing transport development projects, working with local governments, and coordinating with research institutes. Hien was also a Junior Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Besides, Hien was the co-founder and coordinator of a project on the circular economy in Douala, Cameroon. Hien holds a Master in Development Economics and International Project Management at the University of Paris-East Creteil.

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**Cristian Stroia** is a Researcher in the Energy, Resources and Climate Change Unit at CEPS. An experienced professional in European policy and international relations, he has over 6½ years of multidisciplinary experience in stakeholder engagement, project management, policy analysis, strategic communication, event management and capacity building. He has covered policy topics ranging from the EU Green Deal, energy transition, climate change, smart cities and sustainable urban development, to circular economy, regional cooperation, and sustainability

He was involved in over 16 European and international projects that dealt with the decarbonisation of urban economies, circular economy, regional energy cooperation, renewable energy, climate change mitigation and sustainable consumption and production. Cristian was part of the consortiums that developed the EU Circular Cooperation Hub (a circular economy platform for R&I joint programming in Europe), and the EU Smart Cities Information System (a knowledge platform for exchanging data, best practices, know-how and improved collaboration on the creation of smart cities in Europe, now part of the EU Smart Cities Marketplace). His previous experience is in the NGO sector, academia, business and entrepreneurship programs, and non-formal education initiatives. He is the winner of a 2013 national competition on renewable energies and smart-cities planning in Italy, and he holds a Master of Science Degree in European and International Studies (Italy), a Bachelor Degree in International Relations and European Studies (Romania) and academic courses in Political Science in the USA.