

# EU Energy Day

on the road to becoming  
a climate-neutral continent

**13 January 2020**, Abu Dhabi, UAE

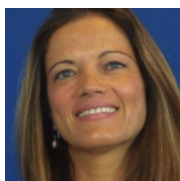
**#EUenergyday**



European  
Commission



## SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHIES



### **Paula Abreu Marques**

Head of Unit Renewables and CCS Policy, Directorate-General for Energy,  
European Commission

Since August 2013, Mrs Abreu Marques is the Head of Unit for 'Renewables and CCS policy' in the European Commission, DG ENER. She is responsible for defining and steering the EU renewable energy policy, including the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and the definition of a policy framework for Post-2020, as well as the EU policy strategy in the field of Carbon Capture and Storage.

Previously Mrs Abreu Marques was the Head of Unit for 'International Relations and Enlargement' in the European Commission, DG ENER. She was responsible for defining and steering the general approach in the area of international energy relations set in the context of the EU energy policy strategy, including the negotiation and coordination of the position vis-à-vis third countries or groups of countries and international organisations, procedures aiming at the conclusion of accession, association or cooperation agreements with third countries and regions, including energy trade related issues. She joined the European Commission in 1994.



**Andrea Matteo Fontana**  
EU Ambassador to the UAE

Mr Fontana started his career in international finance in 1992, working as Relationship Manager at Citibank in Frankfurt (Germany).

After this experience in banking, Mr Fontana decided to join the EU, where he has been working for over twenty years in different positions in external relations, dealing with the political, cultural, economic, trade and development aspects of bilateral relations.

In 1996, he joined the EU Headquarters in Brussels (Belgium) working as Policy Officer in charge of trade defence instruments in the European Commission Trade Department.

In 1998, Mr Fontana moved to the EU Delegation to Russia (Second Secretary), where he was appointed Head of the Economic Reforms Section dealing with private sector development, entrepreneurship, banking, accounting and audit.

In 2002, as Head of the Economic Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation to Syria (First Secretary) he managed bilateral and regional projects including trade and business development, energy, transport, telecommunication and water.

In 2006, Mr Fontana moved back to the EU Headquarters where he was Desk Officer for bilateral relations with the Palestinian Authority.

In 2010, Mr Fontana was appointed Head of Unit in the European Commission department dealing with the Eastern Neighbourhood (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine). For five years, he contributed to bringing Eastern Partnership countries closer to the EU, by developing comprehensive co-operation programmes and implementing Association Agreements including deep and comprehensive free trade areas.

From 2015 to 2019, Mr Fontana served as EU Ambassador/Head of Delegation to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In this position, he drew from his experience in economics, development, diplomacy and foreign affairs to promote stronger ties between Jordan and the EU in line with the advanced status of bilateral relations agreed in 2010 dealing with political issues, press and communication, culture and research, trade and investment and economic and social co-operation.

On 12 November 2019, HE Andrea Matteo Fontana presented to HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rachid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the letter accrediting him as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to the United Arab Emirates.

**About**

The Role of the EU Delegation is to initiate, promote, support and develop bilateral dialogue and cooperation for the mutual benefit of the EU and the UAE.



### **Mr. José Domínguez Abascal**

State Secretary for Energy. Ministry for the Ecological Transition  
Government of Spain

Mr. José Domínguez Abascal, was born in Seville, Spain, in 1953. He holds a BSc in Industrial Engineering by the University of Seville (1975) and he received his Doctorate in Industrial Engineering by the same University in 1977.

He was a Research Associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the framework of the Fulbright program between 1977-1978. He has been Associate Professor at the Technical University of Madrid and the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. He is a Full Professor of the School of Engineering at the University of Seville since 1982.

Prof. Abascal has also been Secretary-General for Universities, Research and Technology of the Regional Government of Andalusia during the period 2004-2008. He then became Technical Secretary-General of Abengoa. He was responsible for the renewable energy technologies development from 2008 to 2015 and President from September 2015 to February 2016. He has also served as Board member in several companies, among others the Iberian Electricity Market Operator (OMIE) from 2011 to 2015.

He was also a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Development at Harvard Kennedy School from September 2017 to June 2018. He was awarded the National Research Prize “Leonardo Torres Quevedo” in Engineering in 2004 and he holds an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Granada. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers as well as a member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Engineering and a member of the Academia Europaea.

He is the author of a number of papers and two books published in the USA and the UK.

### **About**

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition (MITECO) is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing the government policy on fight against climate change, protecting the natural heritage, biodiversity and sea, water and energy for a more ecological and productive social model.



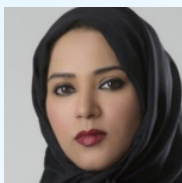
### **H.E. Dr. Matar Hamed Al Neyadi**

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy of the United Arab Emirates

Dr. Matar Al Neyadi is holding a Ph.D. in international law from the University of Edinburgh. Since his graduation in 1997 he has worked as a legal adviser in the UAE Government and in January 2012 he has been appointed as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy. In May 2014 Dr. Al Neyadi has become the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnection Authority (GCCIA). In addition, Dr. Al Neyadi is the UAE Executive Board Member in the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), and member of the Executive Office of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC). Dr. Al Neyadi is Member of Trustees Board of the Minister of Interior's Award for Scientific Research. Dr. Al Neyadi has authored a number of legal books which notably include 'Maritime Zones of the UAE', the 'Rules of International Treaties in Public International Law' and 'Documents in Public International Law'.

### **About**

The Ministry of Energy & Industry is keen to support & coordinate efforts, in addition to launching innovative initiatives; as it succeeded in developing the first National Energy Strategy 2050 at the regional level, which was applied at the 1st UAE future lab. It also launched the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 & the Water sector National Strategy for Innovation. It successfully convened the deregulation of the fuel prices and the adoption of a pricing mechanism. The latest endeavor is the operation of the Emirates National Grid Project through the Project Synergy.



**H.E. Fatima Al-Foora Al Shamsi (i)**

Assistant Undersecretary for Electricity and Future Energy, Ministry of Energy of UAE

Fatima Al-Foora Al Shamsi is the Assistant Undersecretary for Electricity and Future Energy in the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Energy and Industry. A passionate, futuristic and strategic thinker leader with a long track record of successfully senior management role with a rich background ranging from electrical engineering, renewables, Water, Business Development and project management. Fatima is educated to a very high level, she graduated from the United Arab Emirates University with an honors degree of BS in electronics engineering, add to that she holds an honors degree MBA in Financial Management, She is member of the UAE Board of Climate Change& Environment, member of UAE SDG's committee, member of the board of directors of Emirate authority for standardization & metrology, Head of the Emirates National Grid planning and operation committee. She succeeded to lead the team developing UAE energy strategy 2050, the UAE water security strategy 2050, is leading all activity related to energy security & future of energy, energy and water productivity, electricity& energy market, power and water regulations & supervision, in the Ministry of Energy and Industry, and before that she worked as the Vice President of the Privatization and Business Development in Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, and as the Executive Director for Electricity in the Federal Electricity & Water Authority.

**About**

The Ministry of Energy & Industry is keen to support & coordinate efforts, in addition to launching innovative initiatives; as it succeeded in developing the first National Energy Strategy 2050 at the regional level, which was applied at the 1st UAE future lab. It also launched the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 & the Water sector National Strategy for Innovation. It successfully convened the deregulation of the fuel prices and the adoption of a pricing mechanism. The latest endeavor is the operation of the Emirates National Grid Project through the Project Synergy.



**Dolf Gielen**

Director of the IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre

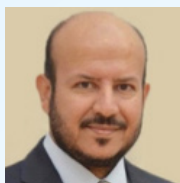
As director of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Innovation and Technology Centre in Bonn since 2011, Dolf Gielen oversees the agency's work on advising member countries on energy scenarios and planning, power sector transformation, cost and markets, technology status and innovation outlooks, and project development guidelines.

Before joining IRENA, Dolf Gielen worked for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Energy Agency. He has a PhD from Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands.

**About**

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy. As countries aim to decarbonise energy supply and demand by 2050, in an effort to meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement, attention is now shifting from power generation to end-use sectors. Despite a clear path ahead for buildings and transport, the way forward is less evident for other sectors. Increased attention on road freight transport, aviation, shipping, iron and steel, chemicals and petrochemicals, aluminium, cement and others is needed. IRENA is preparing a report that provides an overview and outlines the way forward for each of these sectors within the context of achieving the necessary carbon emissions reductions to meet the Paris Agreement targets. This Hard-to-Decarbonise Sectors report will launch later in 2020.



**Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Jodai**

Director, Corporate Programs at SABIC

Dr. Abdulaziz AL-JODAI has over 26 years of experience in development and project management. Currently, he is the Corporate Program Director at the Technology and Innovation Department, SABIC Company. Dr. Aljodai's current involvements include formulation of mid- and long-term corporate strategies, development of technology roadmaps as well as the portfolio management of various developmental programs. He has been granted several patents in process development and environmental fields. He is the key project developer of the world's largest carbon dioxide purification and utilization plant that has been commercialized at United Company, SABIC's affiliate. Dr Aljodai has represented Saudi Arabia in COP21 Paris, G20 Japan and other high-level events where he presented and chaired several technical sessions. Dr. Aljodai is a UOP engineering fellow, with a PhD in chemical Engineering and MS degree in industrial Management USA.

**About**

Since SABIC's founding, its employees have exhibited a remarkable ability to do what others said couldn't be done.

Ranked among the world's largest petrochemicals manufacturers, SABIC is a public company based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. 70% of the Company's shares are owned by the Saudi Arabian government, with the remaining 30% publicly traded on the Saudi stock exchange. SABIC began in 1976 by Royal decree and its growth has been nothing short of miraculous. Today, the company has operations in over 50 countries with a global workforce of over 33 000 talented individuals.

**Taavi Madiberk**

CEO, Skeleton Technologies

Taavi Madiberk is a Co-Founder and the Chief Executive Officer at Skeleton Technologies. His business development, sales and marketing, and company management skills have been instrumental in setting up and driving growth. Under his leadership, Skeleton Technologies has become a global tech leader in ultracapacitor energy storage and a qualified supplier to some of the largest companies in the world in automotive, transportation, grid, and industrial applications. Mr Madiberk brings knowledge from the IT, locomotive and NGO sectors from his experience prior to Skeleton Technologies. Among other Board positions he has served as the youngest ever Chairman of the Supervisory Board in Estonian Railways Ltd (AS Eesti Raudtee) from 2012-2014 the national railway. He also served as a Member of the Supervisory Board of RKAS in 2014, an Estonian state-owned real estate company with over 400 M EUR of assets.

**About**

Skeleton Technologies helps to save energy. We do it with our market-leading ultracapacitors, ultracapacitor modules, and full energy storage systems. Our technology enables companies to reach significant energy savings in a wide variety of industries ranging from automotive, transportation, and maritime, all the way to renewable energy, power grids, industrial applications, and aerospace. Our competitive advantage is 'curved graphene', our proprietary carbon material, which is the basis for all our products. It provides our cells, modules, and systems with four times the power density and twice the energy density compared to similar products on the market.

**Dr. Mohamed Shahtout**

Manager of Continuous Improvement, Emirates Steel

Dr. Mohamed I. Shahtout is a seasoned professional with more than 19 years of experience in steel industry. Dr. Mohamed was graduated from Faculty of Engineering – Alexandria University since 1998, received his PhD from the same university in Material Science since 2013.

He has more than 10 different technical publications in the practical field of steel industry during his career. He worked in different well-known steel producers in Egypt, Qatar and UAE. He is now the Continuous Improvement Manager in Emirates Steel.

**About**

Emirates Steel is owned by SENAAT, the UAE's largest industrial conglomerate and a driving force for implementing the Abu Dhabi government's industrial diversification policy. Strategically located in the Industrial City of Abu Dhabi, some 35 kilometers away from the heart of the city of Abu Dhabi, Emirates Steel is the only integrated steel plant in the UAE, utilizing the latest rolling mill technology to produce rebar, wire rod and heavy sections.

Established in 1998, Emirates Steel grew in a relatively short period of time from a simple re-roller of imported steel billets to a complex integrated manufacturing plant, using modern solutions to tackle traditional industrial problems to generate value for its various stakeholders. In 2012, the Company began producing at a capacity of 3.5 million MTPA, following two expansions and the investment of AED 11 billion (US\$ 3 billion).

Emirates Steel's underlying business goal is to be an efficient and competitive producer of finished steel products. To achieve this, the Company continually and significantly invests in expansions in the areas of processing, manufacturing and information technology. In addition, these investments help to improve product and service quality, reduce the Company's environmental footprint and increases safety for its workers and customers.

**Frank Wouters**

Director EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network

Mr. Frank Wouters has been leading sustainable energy projects, transactions, and technology development for over 25 years. He has played a lead role in development of renewable generation projects valued at over \$4.5 billion. These range from small scale PV solar electrification in Uganda to the 100MW Shams I Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in the UAE, and strategic equity investment in the London Array, the world's largest offshore wind project. His transactions have received multiple project finance 'Deal of the Year' awards.

As Deputy Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the first global intergovernmental organisation dedicated to all renewables, he managed a US\$350 million IRENA/Abu Dhabi Fund for Development project facility for RE. He appraised over 80 projects a year and recommended projects for funding, including solar PV projects in Africa. Mr. Wouters has served on the board of several energy companies, including Torresol Energy SA, where he developed three solar plants with an overall budget of US\$1.4 billion.

Mr. Wouters has a proven track record of advice to public power sector agencies. As Director of the Masdar Clean Energy Unit, a clean energy company owned by the Abu Dhabi Government, he managed more than US\$3 billion of power projects, including solar and wind power projects. He coordinated with government ministers and other stakeholders to promote private sector investment for RE projects as part of the Africa Clean Energy Corridor Initiative.

He currently leads the EU GCC Clean Energy Network, a high-level network catalyzing partnerships between EU and GCC energy stakeholders (WWW.CEN2.EU). Furthermore he has been a board member of Gorestreet Capital since 2015, a London-based renewable energy fund manager. Qualified with a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Delft University, he is fluent in English, German and Dutch.

**Gloria Gaupmann**

Head of Public Affairs, Technology & Innovation, Clariant  
Chair, LSB – Advanced Biofuels Coalition

As Head of Public Affairs, Technology & Innovation, Gloria leads the Public Affairs activities of Clariant's Group Technology & Innovation. Prior to joining Clariant in 2013, she was Deputy Secretary General at the European Renewable Ethanol Association (ePURE) since 2010. She has previous professional experience in the European Bioethanol Fuel Association (eBIO), where she specialized in energy policy and environmental affairs. Since 2015 Gloria represents the chemical sector in the BIC-Board, since 2018 as Vice-Chair. Currently she is the chairwoman of LSB, the advanced biofuels coalition.

**About**

Clariant is a focused and innovative specialty chemical company. 'Focus on innovation and R&D' as well as 'Adding value with Sustainability' are two pillars of the company's corporate strategy, which are reflected in Clariant's offering of integrated technologies and solutions for converting agricultural residues such as wheat straw, rice straw, corn stover and sugar cane bagasse. Its sunliquid® technology offers such a fully integrated process design, built on established process technology using enzymatic hydrolysis, to sustainably produce cellulosic sugars & ethanol from agricultural residues.

LSB is a coalition of leading advanced biofuel producers and technology developers committed to making a significant contribution to meeting the EU ambitions of reducing transport emissions. Sustainable advanced biofuels are a fast track solution and they bring multiple benefits in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, investments, increased revenues for farmers and forestry, and an increase in energy security.

**Sara Falaknaz (i)**

Chief Innovation Officer, DP world

Sara Falaknaz is currently the Vice President of Innovation for DP World and her new duties will expand the role in other directions. The company is building a group wide global innovation structure across its operations and has already created an online portal called 'innoGate' to collect ideas from its 37 000 strong workforce across 40 countries. She will also lead exploration of investment in breakthrough and disruptive ideas that could change the face of the industry and how operations are conducted in the future through new technologies and working practices

**About**

We are a global trade enabler and a vital part of the supply chain. We make sure cargo keeps moving so people have the things they need, when they need them, helping economies grow and nations prosper.

We foster a culture of collaboration, innovation and respect. Our global workforce is made up of 45 000 people with over 110 different nationalities who bring their experience and expertise together, allowing us to be a global leader.



### **Harj Dhaliwal**

Managing Director Middle East and India of Virgin Hyperloop One

Harj Dhaliwal oversees all customer activity and projects for Virgin Hyperloop One in the Middle East and India. With over 35 years of civil engineering experience, he has a proven track record for managing mega rail and infrastructure projects in complex challenging environments around the world.

He began his career as a contractor, moved into consulting and has held senior management roles in global client and consulting organizations. Harj has spent the last 22 years in the development, delivery, and management of heavy rail, light rail, and metro projects including PPP, PFI and D&B projects across Europe and the Middle East. Notably, he was the Programme Director for the delivery and operation of the first national heavy railway in the UAE – Etihad Rail.

Prior to Virgin Hyperloop One, Harj was the Senior Vice President for the International Rail, Transit and Systems business at Parsons Corporation where he was responsible for some of the largest and most complex rail and metro projects in the world and led a team of over 450 staff. Prior to joining Parsons in 2012, Harj led the development of several multibillion-euro rail and transit programs in the UK and Ireland.

Harj is a Chartered Civil Engineer, member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Member of the UK Engineering Council, and holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Nottingham Trent University, UK. Harj is based in Virgin Hyperloop One's Dubai office.

#### **About**

Hyperloop is a new mode of transportation that moves freight and people quickly, safely, on-demand and direct from origin to destination. Passengers or cargo are loaded into the hyperloop vehicle and accelerate gradually via electric propulsion through a low-pressure tube. The vehicle floats above the track using magnetic levitation and glides at airline speeds for long distances due to ultra-low aerodynamic drag. Virgin Hyperloop One systems will be built on columns or tunneled below ground to avoid dangerous grade crossings and wildlife. It's fully autonomous and enclosed, eliminating pilot error and weather hazards. It's safe and clean, with no direct carbon emissions.



### **Robert Hoevers**

CEO, Squad Mobility

Robert Hoevers MSc, former GM at A1GP Netherlands and one of the initiators of the FIA Formula E. Robert joined team China Racing which was later sold to NIO. He was one of the early employees at the Lightyear Solar Car project and was responsible for commerce, business development and government relations. Robert was the creator of the multi million Euro partnership with LeasePlan and the tax exemption for Solar cars in the Dutch climate accord.

At Squad Mobility, next to general operations as CEO, Robert is responsible for sales & marketing.

#### **About**

Squad Mobility develops new urban mobility concepts. Solar-Electric personal or utility mobility solutions that are both emission free as well as a solution to the urban congestion problem.

Squads are particularly designed for Mobility as a Service (MaaS).