

High-Level Conference

*on joining forces for the next generation
of Better Regulation*

Event speakers' biographies

2 December 2021



Panel 1- The contribution of the new Better Regulation approach to European recovery



1. Klaus-Heiner Lehne *(remote)*

Klaus-Heiner Lehne is the President of the European Court of Auditors since October 2016. He is a former Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs. Prior to this, he was a Member of the German Parliament and a lawyer.



2. Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations since 2019, and previously from 2010 to 2014

Vice-President for interinstitutional relations and foresight, leading on better policymaking, implementing the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making and coordinating work on better regulation, but also responsible for EU-UK and EU-Swiss relations.



3. Johannes Ludewig, German National Regulatory Control Council *(remote)*

Johannes Ludewig is the chair of the German National Regulatory Control Council since its inception in 2006. Previously, he has also been State Secretary and Director-General for Economic and Financial Policy at the German Federal Chancellery. Dr Ludewig is also active in RegWatch Europe, the informal network of 8 independent regulatory oversight bodies across Europe. We regularly exchange with him on topics like 'one-in, one out' and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.



4. Daniel Blockert, Ambassador, High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden (remote)

Mr Blockert is Ambassador at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Sweden. He was recently posted at the Representation in Brussels and before that was Permanent Representative of Sweden to the WTO in Geneva. As of next month, Mr Blockert will be chair of the Council High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth for 18 months on behalf of the next Trio of French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies.



5. Adrián Vázquez Lázara, MEP and Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs

Adrián Vázquez Lázara is a Spanish member of the European Parliament from the Renew Europe Group and he chairs the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI). He is also member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China and has recently being active on the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy. Previously, he worked for the OSCE, the NATO Parliamentary Research service, in public affairs and was advisor to the former Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs.



6. Véronique Willems, Secretary General of SMEUnited

Véronique Willems is representing Crafts and SMEs in Europe as the Secretary General of SMEUnited (formerly known as UEAPME) since January 2017. Beforehand and as from 2009, she was the Head of European affairs at UNIZO (SMEUnited Belgian member organisation) and was responsible for advocacy on policies affecting SMEs at EU-level. In January 2016, she was nominated deputy to the SME-representative for Belgium at the European Economic and Social Committee. Ms Willems started her career at UNIZO in 1999 as Policy Officer in charge of education, training and SME counselling and went on to work at the regional office (Vlaams-Brabant & Brussel) as responsible for advocacy at regional level, mentorship programs and individual counselling for entrepreneurs.

Panel 2 - Strengthening the shared inter-institutional endeavour of Better Law-making



7. Saša Jazbec, Acting Director of the Local Self-Government, Non-Governmental Organisations and Political System Directorate at the Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration

Ms. Saša Jazbec works at the Ministry of Public Administration of Slovenia, where she is Acting Director for Local Self-Government, Non-Governmental Organisations and Political System. She has 25 years of work experience in the fields of monetary and fiscal policy management, international financial markets, operations of European institutions and is an expert in Slovenian public finance system and fiscal rules. Previously, she has been State Secretary in charge of public finance, public accounting and budget oversight at the Slovenian Ministry of Finance and director-general at the budget directorate of the Ministry of Finance.

8. Tiemo Wölken, MEP and EP rapporteur on the Communication on Better Regulation *(remote)*



Tiemo Wölken is a lawyer and German member of the European Parliament for the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats since 2016. He is a Member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI and the S&D Coordinator in the Committee on legal affairs (JURI, where he has been appointed as a rapporteur on the forthcoming EP Opinion on Joining Forces to make better laws, better regulation. Mr Wölken areas of expertise are environmental issues, healthcare, legal affairs, and all things digital - from eHealth to tackling geoblocking. Recently he has been active on the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act.

9. Veronica Gaffey, Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board



Ms Veronica Gaffey is the chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board since March 2019, which is an independent body within the European Commission that provides quality control for the Commission impact assessments and evaluations at early stages of the legislative process. Previously, she held senior management positions in the European Commission, having been Director of budget and general affairs and Head of Unit for “Evaluation and European Semester” unit and “Innovative Actions” at DG REGIO. She also worked as civil servant in Ireland for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Department of Labour.

10. Ulrika Landergren, Member of the Committee of the Regions *(remote)*



Ms Landergren is a Member of the Committee of the Regions since 2013, where she is representing the Swedish Kungsbacka Municipal Council. She is Chair of the CoR Commission for Natural Resources (NAT. She is also member of the Fit for Future Platform and a rapporteur for one of the topics of the Platform's annual work programme (topic Patient rights in cross-border healthcare.

11. Rudolf Kolbe, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee *(remote)*



Rudolf Kolbe is a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 2015 as part of Group III, Diversity Europe. Mr Kolbe is the president of the Austrian Federal Conference of the Liberal Professions and President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineers. He is also a member of the Fit for Future Platform.