



Biographies of the Speakers

Barbara Eibinger-Miedl



Barbara Eibinger-Miedl, was elected president of the Committee of the Regions interregional group „Future of the Automotive Industry (CoRAI) “in July 2018. As an active member of the CoR she focuses her work in Brussels on the Commission for Economic Policy. Barbara Eibinger-Miedl is Minister in the government of the Land Steiermark responsible for Economic Affairs, Tourism, European und External Relations, Science und Research. Previously she was chairing the parliamentary group of the Austrian Peoples Party in the Steiermark-Parliament. Additionally she was speaker for Constitutional, European und External Relations. She started her political career as a member of a local council, led the initiative “Women in business” and was head of the European Office in Graz.

Sigrid de Vries



Sigrid de Vries, a Dutch national, has held various positions in public affairs, industry and media over the past 25 years. Sigrid started her career as a financial journalist for the Amsterdam Stock Exchange and Het Financieele Dagblad (FD), the Dutch financial daily, and served as the paper’s EU correspondent in Brussels and foreign correspondent in Berlin. In 2006, she joined ACEA, the European automobile manufacturers association as director of communications. She managed external and institutional relations for Iveco and CNH Industrial before taking the lead at CECE, the European association of construction equipment manufacturers. She became Secretary General of CLEPA, the European association of automotive suppliers in 2017.

Markus Tomaschitz



Markus Tomaschitz is currently holding the position as Vice President of Corporate Human Resources at AVL, the world’s largest independent company for the development, simulation and testing of powertrain systems. Markus served as HR Director at AVL and Executive Director at the Magna Education and Research GmbH. He studied Social Economics and Business Administration and finished his master at the California University of Hayward (USA) and his PhD studies at the Institute for Human Resource Management in Graz. He is teaching at the Technical University of Graz and the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz as well as the FH Joanneum Graz.