

"FUELING CLIMATE CHANGE?"

AUTOMOTIVE REGIONS TAKING UP THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

PRESIDENT AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP (AT/EPP)

CHAIR



Christopher DREXLER

Christopher Drexler was elected as President of the Committee of the Regions interregional group "Future of the Automotive Industry (CoRAI)" for the new periode in 2020. As an active member of the CoR he focuses his work in Brussels on the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC). Christopher Drexler is a Minister in the government of the Land Steiermark responsible for Culture, Europe, Sport and Human Resources.

Job and political details:

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|------------------|---|
| 2000 - 2014 | Member of the Styrian Parliament |
| 2003 - 2014 | Chairman of the People's Party in the Styrian Parliament |
| since 24/06/2006 | President of the Styrian Employees' Organisation |
| 2014 - 2015 | Minister for Health, Nursing and Science |
| 2015 - 2017 | Minister for Health, Nursing, Science and Human Resources |
| 2017 - 2019 | Minister for Health, Nursing, Culture and Human Resources |
| since 19/12/2019 | Minister for Culture, Europe, Sports and Human Resources |

**European Commission, Deputy Director-General for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)**



Maive RUTE

Since November 2020 Deputy Director-General at DG GROW, previously Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ms Rute joined the European Commission in 2005 to become Director for the SME policy, bringing in her previous management experience from the Estonian business and export financing and the Estonian central bank. Ms Rute also worked as Director for Biotechnologies, Food and Agriculture Research and as a Resource Director in DG Research and Innovation. Ms Rute graduated as an agricultural economist from the Estonian University of Life Sciences and holds an MBA from the Danube University Krems, Austria, and a Masters in international politics from CERIS, Belgium.

Minister for Regional Development, Free State of Saxony (DE/EPP)



Thomas SCHMIDT

Thomas Schmidt is a Minister in the government of the Free State of Saxony responsible for Regional Development since 2019. As an active member of the CoR he focuses his work in Brussels on the Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) and Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE).

Job and political details:

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| Since 2004 | Member of the Saxony State Parliament |
| 2009-2014 | Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environment and Agriculture |
| 2011-2014 | Deputy Chairman, CDU Parliamentary Group in the Saxon State Parliament |
| 2014-2019 | Minister for Environment and Agriculture, Free State of Saxony |
| since 2019 | Minister for Regional Development |
| since 2020 | Member of the European Committee of the Regions |
| Honorary Posts | Vice-Chairman of CDU Saxony, Member of the Board of Trustees of the „Fraunhofer Institute for Electronic Nanosystems“ (ENAS) Chemnitz Vice-Chairman of the Agrarsoziale Gesellschaft e.V. (Agro-Social Society) |

**Chairman of the Management Board & Managing Director Technology and Logistics of
Volkswagen Saxony (DE)**



Stefan LOTH

Dr. Stefan Loth holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering. He began his professional career at Ford in 1997.

In 2006, he moved to the Volkswagen brand in Wolfsburg as Head of Production Systems.

After holding other responsible positions at Volkswagen, he took over management of the SEAT plant in Martorell, Spain, in 2011.

In 2015, he was appointed head of the FAW-Volkswagen plant in Chengdu.

Since 2016, Dr. Loth has been Head of Plant and Vehicle Construction at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg.

He is Chairman of the Management Board & Managing Director Technology and Logistics of Volkswagen Saxony since January 2021.

State Secretary, Representative of the Land of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federal Government (DE)



SACHSEN-ANHALT

Michael SCHNEIDER

Dr Michael SCHNEIDER has been State Secretary for Federal and European Affairs at the Representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federation since 2002.

He is a Member of the European Committee of the Regions' Commissions for Cohesion Policy and for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs.

Having already served as Chairman of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy of the Committee of the Regions (COTER) between 2008-2010 and 1st Vice-Chairman prior to that, Dr Schneider has demonstrated his commitment to regional affairs and specifically cohesion policy. Michael Schneider was President of the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions between 2010-2020.

In 2018, Dr Schneider was one of the seven members of the Task Force on subsidiarity, proportionality and doing less more efficiently established by EC President Jean-Claude Juncker. In 2018, he was the CoR co-rapporteur on CPR post 2020.

Key Researcher / Project Manager HyCenta (Steiermark, AT)



Marie-Gabrielle MACHERHAMMER

I have been a project manager at HyCenta Research GmbH since 2019 and my activities focus on research and development topics related to the production, distribution, storage and application of hydrogen. Previously, I spent five years in an industrial company in flexible packaging, where I established global innovation and patent management. I studied Chemical Engineering at the Graz University of Technology and finished my PhD at the Institute of Process and Particle Engineering in 2013.

Professor of mechanical engineering / University of Lorraine (FR)



Fabrice LEMOINE

Fabrice Lemoine is currently full Professor of mechanical engineering in University of Lorraine, since 2004. Prof. Fabrice Lemoine was, between 2009 and 2017, the head of Laboratoire Energies, Mécanique Théorique et Appliquée (LEMTA), a research laboratory in mechanics and energy research, at University of Lorraine.

He is the coordinator of the socio-economic challenge “Energies for the future” in the framework of the excellence programme of University of Lorraine, granted by the French government as an excellence campus. He coordinates a large multi-disciplinary program of research and education about hydrogen energy (ULHyS for Hydrogen University of Lorraine Hydrogen Science and technologies) in University of Lorraine that gathers more than 40 researchers on the topic and manages the challenge related to energy transition and future energies of the University of Lorraine excellence program. Since 2019, he is the director of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master “Decentralised Smart Energy Systems”, funded by the European commission, a worldwide excellence programme dedicated to energy.

He is a member of several French commissions and international groups dealing with research and education in energy: representative of University Rectors Conference (CPU) in the French alliance for energy research (ANCRE)- he serves as a general secretary for the next two years, French national research funding agency (ANR) strategic committee “Energy and Materials”. He is representative of University of Lorraine in the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) He is also a member of the steering committee of the Energy and environment platform of the European University Association (EUA).

Job and political details:

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|-------------|--|
| 2009 - 2017 | Head of Laboratoire Energies, Mécanique Théorique et Appliquée (LEMTA) / |
| Since 2004 | Professor of mechanical engineering / University of Lorraine |
| Since 2019 | Director of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master “Decentralised Smart Energy Systems” |

Manager at Automotive Technology Centre-CTAG (Galicia, ES)



Eduardo RIVERO-GRAÑA

Eduardo Rivero was born in Vigo (Galicia), Spain, in 1975. He holds a M.Sc. Degree in Mine Engineering awarded by the University of Vigo. Currently, he is managing the Electric Vehicle lab at the Automotive Technological Centre of Galicia (CTAG). He has been working for 20 years in the field of automotive components and vehicle reliability, leading R&D activities including the performance of experimental campaigns on full vehicle and isolated components for different OEM's. Previously, he worked for a renewable energy company in Darmstadt (Germany) involved in the energy production with solar photovoltaic panels and wind generators.

Since 2016, he has been involved in the creation of the EV lab at CTAG. At the present time, he is leading the integration of a hydrogen testing lab to develop future fuel cell subsystems for vehicles.

Vice-President of the Regional Government Castilla y León (ES/Renew Europe)



Francisco IGEA ARISQUETA

Nowadays, after the regional elections of 26 May 2019, in the autonomous region of Castilla y León, he is Vice-president in office and spokesman for the Regional Government. He has also undertaken the Ministry for Transparency, Regional Planning and External Action.

He was elected a Member of the National Parliament for the constituency of Valladolid in the general elections both in 2015 and in 2016 with the Citizens party. In 2017, Francisco Igea became part of the Citizens party Executive, assuming the responsibility for the Health Area, and became in his party's spokesperson in the Health Commission of the Parliament.

Author of numerous publications in national and international journals. He has also given presentations in gastroenterology congresses. He has been an important and active member of the Spanish Society of Digestive Endoscopy National Board and in 2016 he was awarded the Gold Medal by this organization.

Regional Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment (ES)



Arantxa TAPIA

Industrial Engineer in Electrical Engineering.

PhD Cum Laude from the University of Navarre in 1992.

- Lecturer at the School of Engineering of the University of Navarra. 1987-1992
- Senior Professor at the Faculty of the University of the Basque Country (UPV-EHU) 1995-2005
- "Invited Lecturer" at Massachusetts MIT for three years.
- Deputy Minister for Transport and Public Works of the Basque Government 2005-2007
- Provincial Councillor for Mobility and Land Planning of Gipuzkoa Provincial Council.
- Chair of the Innovation Commission of Gipuzkoa General Assemblies
- EAJ-PNV Member of Parliament in the Spanish Parliament since 2011-2012.
- Spokesperson for the Economy & Competitiveness, Development, Defence, Education & Sport, and Agriculture, Food & the Environment commissions of the Spanish Parliament.
- Minister of Economic Development and Competitiveness (2012-2016)
- Minister of Economic Development and Infrastructure (2016-2020)
- From 2020, Minister of Economic Development, sustainability and environment.

Worked on research for Iberdrola, Indar, Lasa & Eustek, Gikesa, LAPTON and JEMA, among other companies.

Director of Innovation and European affairs, ID4car (Bretagne, FR)



Isabelle DUSSUTOUR

Isabelle Dussutour is the Director of Innovation and European affairs at the ID4car competitiveness cluster, an innovation accelerator for the Brittany, Pays de la Loire and New Aquitaine regions. After a career in Brussels at the head of the Polis network of cities and regions involved in smart mobility, Isabelle returned to Brittany to manage the ITS Bretagne association. Currently, within the ID4CAR cluster, Isabelle is in charge of supporting members, companies, laboratories and local authorities in the development of European projects and experimentation of innovative mobility solutions. As an expert for the European Commission, Isabelle is involved in the mobility, SME accelerators and energy sectors

State Commissioner for Strategy and Chief Digital Officer (Saarland, DE)



Ammar ALKASSAR

Ammar Alkassar has been appointed as State Commissioner for Strategy and Chief Digital Officer by August, 1st 2018. In this function, he is responsible for digitization and the innovation, technology as well as the long-term structural policy of the state. Since October 2019, he is also Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Saarland State Government. Until then, Mr. Alkassar served since 2015 as CEO at Rohde & Schwarz Cybersecurity, Munich, Germany's major Cybersecurity provider. From 2006 to 2015, he was co-founder and CEO of Sirrix AG security technologies, a world-wide technology leader in Cybersecurity.

Before founding Sirrix AG, Mr. Alkassar was senior researcher at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, and before that he was a researcher at Stevens Tech, NJ and HUT, Helsinki. Ammar Alkassar holds a M.Sc. from Saarland University and a B.Sc. in both Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Ammar Alkassar is board member of the Permanent Stakeholder Group at the European Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and was director of the European competence network for IT security eurobits.

Programs Director, Energy & Propulsion / Pôle Véhicule du Futur (FR)



Bruno JAMET

Bruno Jamet is a powertrain engineer & manager, he joined “Pôle Véhicule du Futur” as Programs Director for Energy & Propulsion area in 2016. He aims to boost and guide innovation in the ecosystem, with technological neutrality as a guideline. Together with partners, he launched or upgraded programs related to Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, but also provides advice and help in the field of batteries, or innovative thermal engines: the target being economic and environmental sustainability in the medium and long terms.

Job and political details:

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|-------------|--|
| 2000 - 2005 | “Arts & Metiers”, then “IFP-School” engineer. |
| 2005 - 2016 | Powertrain R&D manager then Director, PSA Group (Peugeot-Motorcycles). |
| Since 2016 | Programs Director, Energy & Propulsion / Pôle Véhicule du Futur |

Director General of Industry and Energy (Valencia, ES)



Empar MARTÍNEZ BONAFÉ

PADE in Senior Business Management from ESADE with ongoing training in the field of innovation in business management, leadership, strategy, and promotion.

She was Director-General of Public Business Sector, Heritage and Economic Model of the Vice Regional Minister of Treasury and Economic Model being responsible for designing and promoting the Plan for the transformation of the Valencian Economic Model.

She has coordinated and promoted various international projects within the framework of entrepreneurship, innovation, education, occupation, diversity and the social economy. At the same time, she participated as an expert in the Strategic Plan of the city of Valencia, in the Valencia educational city working group and the Strategic Plan for Vocational Training of the "Generalitat Valenciana" among others.

During her career, she has led and chaired the scientific secretariat of different international congresses and conferences. Especially on issues related to gender, innovation and business and cooperation and she participates as a member of BPW Spain in the annual consultation on the statutes of women in the world carried out by the United Nations, as well as in the annual assembly of BPW Europe with the presentation of good practices deployed among female entrepreneurs.

Actually, she is the Director General of Industry and Energy and Mines of the Vice Regional Minister of Sustainable Economy, Productive Sectors, Commerce and Labor, being vice president of the following Technological Institutes: AINIA, AICE, AIMPLAS, IBV, ITENE. She is responsible for the Regional Strategic Plan for Industry 2018-2023 of the Valencian Community and regional leader of energy and mines policies.

At the same time, she is the representative of the Valencia region in the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance focused in the energy field and also one of the leaders of the design of the Valencia Regional Batteries Alliance.

President of the Regional Government of Navarra (ES/PES)



María Victoria CHIVITE NAVASCUÉS

She joined the Socialist Youth in 1998. She first held office as councillor for the Town of Cintruénigo in 2003. From 2007 to 2011, she was a member of the Parliament of Navarra and the spokesperson for the Health Committee. In 2011, she took office as senator, where she was the spokesperson for Health first and then, from September 2014 on, for the Socialist Party in the Senate. In 2014, she was awarded the prize for 'Senadora Revelación' (Newcomer to Senate).

In August 2019, she was sworn in as President of Navarra. In 2015, Ms Chivite returned to the Parliament of Navarra as leader of the PSN-PSOE group for the 2015-2019 term. She became leader of the Socialist Party in opposition. She was the recipient of the Parliamentary Press Award, in recognition of her good relationship with the media. She also got the Sanitaria Award for Best Politician from Sanitaria Publishing Group in 2000.

Clustermanager of the Saarland automotive industry and research (DE)



Pascal STROBEL

Pascal Strobel holds a doctorate in electrical engineering and since 2013 has headed the Saarland automotive industry network, which is with 42,500 employees in 265 companies and 20 research centres one of the strongest in Germany.

After completing his academic qualification in 2000, he initially worked as a project manager in special mechanical engineering and in this capacity built test benches and assembly systems for vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

For the Saarbrücken University of Applied Sciences htw saar, he is also a lecturer in the study programmes "Automotive Production Engineering" and "Management and Leadership".