

Biographies

Introductory remarks



Dragoș Pișlaru

Member of the European Parliament (RE, RO)

Trained as an economist, successful as an entrepreneur and a former Romanian Minister of Labour Dragoș Pișlaru is a firm believer that social affairs can, and should be, mutually beneficial with healthy and prosperous markets. He was elected as Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) Committee coordinator of the Renew Europe Group and has forged a strong and cohesive team made up of 16 MEPs from a variety of backgrounds and political perspectives. In addition, Pișlaru is a full member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) Committee and was also appointed rapporteur of the Reform Investment Support Programme, where he is driving the debate on supporting structural reforms and genuine upwards social convergence investment, building a economy that genuinely works for the people. Dragoș aims to become a champion of children's rights, which as a father of four is something he feels personally motivated to do. As vice-chair of the Intergroup for Children, he intends to be the leading voice in designing and implementing an ambitious Child Guarantee.

Panel discussion



Réka Horváth

Deputy Head of Unit
Recovery and Resilience Task Force
European Commission

Réka Horváth is Deputy Head of Unit in the Recovery and Resilience Task Force of the European Commission, responsible for Austria, Germany, Ireland, Malta and Portugal.

The Unit is also responsible for the policy areas of social affairs, education and health. This wide policy area encompasses questions of equality and inclusion and stakeholder consultation.

Previously she worked as a Policy Officer in the Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP).

She holds a PhD in Economics from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and University College London.



Alexandre Ounnas

Researcher
CEPS

Alexandre Ounnas is a Researcher in the Job and Skills Unit at CEPS. Alexandre is an expert in empirical and theoretical analysis of the labour market. His main research interests include the effects of structural changes, such as automation or demographic changes, on the dynamics of the labour market. In addition, he has extensive experience in economic forecasting and empirical methods for large datasets.

Alexandre's Ph.D. dissertation presents a study of gross worker flows by occupations in the U.S. and their effects on unemployment and labour force participation fluctuations.

Furthermore, he was part of the "Service d'Analyse Economique" (IRES Université Catholique de Louvain), a service in charge of producing quarterly analysis of short-term economic prospects for Belgium.

Alexandre holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Université Catholique de Louvain, a Master's degree magna cum laude in Econometrics from Université Catholique de Louvain and a Bachelor's degree mention très bien in Economics and Management from Université Lumière Lyon 2.

Mother tongue French, he is fluent in English and has good knowledge of Italian.



Felix Uedelhoven

Head of Government Affairs & Policy Europe
GE Healthcare

Felix leads Government Affairs & Policy for GE Healthcare in Europe. In his role he represents the company towards the European Union Institutions, national governments and authorities in the EU Member States across healthcare, medical devices and government funding policies. During the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Felix supported the company's global response to ensure the availability of medical equipment, the functioning of global supply chains and the participation of the company in EU and Member States' COVID-19 response efforts.

Felix joined GE Healthcare in June 2019 from previous roles at Bayer and in the European Parliament and represents the GE HC at AmCham EU, COCIR and Med Tech Europe. At GE Healthcare he is part of the company's EMEA Leadership team and the Global Government Affairs team.

Felix holds a Bachelor in Politics, Philosophy and Economics in Europe and Masters in European Public Policy and Etudes Européennes from the University of Kent and Science Po Lille.



Moderator

Kaarli Eichhorn

Partner

Jones Day

Kaarli is a Partner at Jones Day, leading Jones Day's Nordic Practice. He has substantial experience in competition law, international regulation, and government affairs, including legislative advocacy, foreign investment screening, and sanctions. His experience includes energy, oil & gas, transportation, telecommunications, digital, consumer products, aerospace, life sciences, financial services, and media.

Prior to joining Jones Day, Kaarli was global executive counsel of competition law & policy at General Electric (GE). During his 10-year tenure at GE he advised on hundreds of international transactions and led the merger review clearance processes with government agencies globally. He handled a significant amount of GE's counseling, training, guidance, internal investigations, and audits within the company's business divisions internationally and regularly handled matters related to cartel and abuse of dominance issues.

Kaarli was named vice-chair and member of the board of AmCham EU in July 2020, after having held prior leadership roles for many years, including as legal affairs chair and vice-chair of the Competition Committee.

He is a prior member of the board of European Justice Forum, a former vice-chair of the In-House Competition Counsel Association, and member of the BusinessEurope Competition Committee. He is a non-governmental advisor at the International Competition Network.