



WISE PERSONS GROUP



ON CHALLENGES FACING THE CUSTOMS UNION



Members of the Wise Persons Group



Members of Customs Wise Persons Group
Chair: Mrs. Arancha González Laya , former Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain.
Vice chair: Mrs Mateja Vraničar Erman , Adviser to the Slovenian Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Minister of Finance of Slovenia.
Member: Mr Emmanuel Barbe , Préfet at French Ministry of the Interior and former Deputy Secretary General for European Affairs at the French Prime Minister's office.
Member: Mrs Manon van Beek , CEO of TenneT.
Member: Mr Kevin Cardiff , non-executive Director at KBC Bank Ireland, former Member of the European Court of Auditors and former Secretary General of the Finance Department of Ireland.
Member: Mr Martti Hetemäki , Professor at the Helsinki Graduate School of Economics and former Secretary of State at Ministry of Finance of Finland.
Member: Mrs Vendulka Holá , former Deputy Director General of the Czech Customs.
Member: Mrs Katarina Kaszasová , Managing Director of the Auditing Oversight Authority of Slovakia and former Director General at the Slovak Ministry of Finance.
Member: Mrs Gerda Koszinowski , Head of Directorate at the German Central Customs Authority.
Member: Mr Kris Peeters , Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and former Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium.
Member: Mr Sérgio Vasques , Professor at Universidade de Lisboa and former Secretary of State for Tax Affairs in Portugal.
Member: Mr Vincenzo Alfonso Visco , President of Nuova Economia Nuova Società (NENS) and former Minister of Finance of Italy.




Curriculum Vitae of the Members of the Wise Persons Group

<p>1</p>	 <p>Chair</p>	<p>Arancha González Laya has extensive knowledge of international relations, trade and economics, coupled with broad experience in European institutions as well as in multilateral organisations.</p> <p>She was Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain from January 2020 to July 2021.</p> <p>Ms. González served as Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), the joint development agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation, from 2013 to 2019.</p> <p>Between 2005 and 2013 Ms. González served as Chief of Staff to World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy.</p> <p>During her tenure at the WTO, she played an active role in launching the Aid for Trade initiative and served as Mr. Lamy's representative (Sherpa) at the G-20.</p> <p>Prior to working at the WTO, Ms. González held several positions at the European Commission, conducting negotiations of trade agreements and assisting developing countries in trade-development efforts.</p> <p>Ms. González began her career in the private sector as an associate in a German law firm advising companies on trade, competition and state-aid matters.</p> <p>Ms. González holds a degree in law from the University of Navarra and a postgraduate degree in European Law from the University of Carlos III, Madrid.</p> <p>Besides her native Spanish, she speaks English, French, German and Italian.</p>
<p>2</p>		<p>Mateja Vraničar Erman is adviser to the Minister in the Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, responsible for broader economic policy issues from the perspective of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, especially within the scope of the Slovenian Presidency to EU and cooperation with European Parliament.</p> <p>Prior to the present assignment Ms Vraničar Erman held different positions in Slovenian public administration: she was a Minister for Finance (2016-2018), State Secretary within the Ministry for Finance, responsible for Public Finance as well as Tax and Customs Policy and Legislation (2010-2012 and 2013-2016). Prior to that Ms Vraničar Erman held different expert positions within the Ministry of</p>

	<p>Vice Chair</p>	<p>Finance, Directorate for Tax and Customs Policy and Legislation, dealing with broader issues of tax and customs policy, coordination of tax and customs administration, adaptation of Slovenian Customs Administration to the membership to the EU and modernisation of the customs and tax administration.</p> <p>She led the expert group for drafting the first Customs Law of the Republic of Slovenia, aligned with the EU Customs Code, as well as negotiated the final text of the law with national Parliament (1995). She also led the expert group for drafting implementing regulations to the Customs Law (1996). She drafted the first Slovenian Law on Customs Service as a part of the legislative package that the Parliament adopted upon declaring the independence of Slovenia (1991). In 2013 and 2014 she supervised (from the management point of view) merger of Customs and Tax Administration into a single Financial Administration of the Republic of Slovenia.</p>
<p>3</p>		<p>Emmanuel Barbe, Préfet, is currently foreshadower of the French police academy.</p> <p>Prior this position, he had inter alia the following positions: prefect of police of the department of the Bouches-du-Rhône (13) (2020), interministerial delegate on Road Safety (2015-2020), diplomatic adviser of the minister of interior (Manuel Valls, Bernard Cazeneuve) (2012-2015), Deputy General Secretary at the general secretary for European affairs of the prime minister in charge of European area of security and justice (2009-2012), head of the European and international service of the ministry of justice (2007-2009), liaison magistrate for France in Italy (2002-2005), justice counsellor at the French permanent representation in Brussels (1997-2002). He began his career as investigative judge at the court of Lille (59), specialized in economic and financial investigations, after his training at the French National school for judges in Bordeaux.</p>
<p>4</p>		<p>Manon van Beek is CEO of TenneT, a leading European electricity transmission system operator. In her role at the helm of TenneT Manon inspires more than 6,000 employees in the Netherlands and Germany to drive the energy transition in the pursuit of a brighter energy future – more sustainable, reliable and affordable than ever before. She also engages in far-reaching cooperation at European level, holding several high-profile advisory roles including the Roundtable for Europe's Energy Future (REEF, chair), the European Clean Hydrogen Alliance (co-chair) and Think-tank Agora Energiewende. Manon's vision of a sustainable society goes beyond climate and energy. She is a passionate advocate for gender equality, workplace diversity and economic empowerment, chairing several related foundations. Before her CEO role at TenneT, Manon spent</p>

		<p>more than 25 years at Accenture - a global professional services firm with a focus on digitalisation, innovation and transformation - in various European roles and with a focus on energy. For the last five years she was Country Managing Director for the Netherlands. Manon holds a master's degree in Business Economics from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and lives close to Amsterdam with her Italian partner and two children.</p>
5		<p>Kevin Cardiff is a non-executive director of KBC Bank Ireland, and performs consultancies in the public and private sector, usually dealing with organisational effectiveness. He is chair of the Audit Committee of the Irish Defence Ministry and has been a board member with the research charity TASC. In 2020 Cardiff completed a three year term as Chairperson of the Board of Audit of the European Stability Mechanism.</p> <p>Cardiff completed a six-year term of office as a member of the European Court of Auditors at the end of February 2018. In that organisation, he was responsible for a range of audit products, including in relation to the performance of EU programmes, and for reviews of organisational issues in various EU bodies.</p> <p>Previously, Cardiff was a senior official in the Department of Finance of Ireland and was appointed by the Government as Secretary General of the Department in February 2010. Although much of the most recent years in the Ministry were dealing with the financial crisis in the banking system and subsequently the State itself, Cardiff's assignments at various times included responsibility for tax policy, including as division head.</p> <p>Cardiff was educated at the University of Washington, in Seattle, and at University College Dublin.</p>
6		<p>Katarína Kaszasová is a Managing Director of the Auditing Oversight Authority in the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>Prior to her current assignment, Katarína Kaszasová had professional assignments as: Head of Governing Bodies (2016 – 2019) and Board member (2005 – 2015) of the European Investment Bank; Director General of the State Reporting Section of the Slovak Ministry of Finance (2004 – 2015); Vice Chair and Board member of the Slovak Auditing Oversight Authority (2008 – 2015); Chair and member of the Board of Auditors of the European Stability Mechanism (2012 – 2015) and Board member of the European Investment Fund (2013 – 2015). Prior 2004 she held various positions in the KPMG Slovakia.</p> <p>She is the executive offering more than 20 years of experience in banking, corporate and public finance; with</p>

		proved professional track record on European and banking issues within the context of European institutions; with extensive experience on leading complex public finance management projects on national level, implementing EU and global professional standards, auditing (licenced internal and external auditor), corporate governance, advising, and supervision/oversight.
7		Martti Hetemäki is a professor of practice in University of Helsinki and Aalto University at the Helsinki Graduate School of Economics. From 2013 to 2020, he was Permanent State Secretary in Finland's Ministry of Finance, and prior to that, Permanent State Under-Secretary and Director General in the ministry. From 2015 to 2018, he was the Chair of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Group (ESGAB). From 2003 to 2013, he chaired the Statistics Sub-Committee of the Economic and Financial Committee. He was first member of the Economic Policy Committee from 1995, then an Alternate Member of the Monetary Committee, Member of the Economic and Financial Committee, the Eurogroup Working Group, and served as a Director of the European Stability Mechanism until he started as the Permanent Secretary in 2013.
8		Vendulka Holá is the former Deputy DG of the Czech Customs Administration, since 2018 retired. During her professional career she held various positions at the Ministry of Finance, General Directorate of Customs, Prague, Czech Republic: Trainer of customs policy and foreign trade (1979 – 1982), Member of International Department (1990 – 1991), Head of International Department (1992 – 2002), Deputy DG and Director of International and PR Department (2002 – 2017). Her major tasks and responsibilities included: preparation for the CZ accession to the EU (CZ Customs Liaison Officer for the EU), Czech Presidency leadership in the Customs field in 2009, Chair of working group on the revision of the World Customs Organization (WCO) structure (later called Bergen Agreement), Chair of conference on e-Customs establishing future e-Customs developments as well as Chair of number of ASEM, WCO and V4 working groups and meetings at the Director – General level. Although retired from her duty, V. Holá is still active, taking part in seminars and discussions on Customs topics and working as a licensed Prague tourist guide.

9		<p>Gerda Koszinowski is Head of Directorate III (General Tax Law, Criminal Law, Customs Controls) of the German Central Customs Authority.</p> <p>Prior to her current assignment Gerda Koszinowski had professional assignments as: head of division (motor vehicle and aviation tax) in the Federal Ministry of Finance (2016 – 2020); Head of the Main Customs Office in Erfurt (2009 – 2015); Deputy Head of the Main Customs Office in Nuremberg (2009); 2006 – 2007 during the German EU Council Presidency, senior officer in the Federal Ministry of Finance responsible for customs law; policy officer in the Oberfinanzdirektion Nuremberg responsible for customs law, prohibitions and restrictions (2001 – 2008).</p>
10		<p>Kris Peeters is Vice-President at the European Investment Bank (EIB). He joined the EIB in January 2021 where he holds the Benelux seat in the Management Committee. His oversight includes transport financing, financing of security and defence, operations in the Benelux, relations with the European Parliament and NATO as well as operations in the ASEAN countries.</p> <p>Before his career in politics, Mr Peeters was a lawyer and held several managing positions at UNIZO, the Belgian Union of Self-Employed Entrepreneurs and SMEs. In 2004, Kris Peeters became a Minister for the first time in the Flemish Government, succeeding Mr Yves Leterme as Minister-President three years later. During 2014 - 2019, Kris Peeters was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Consumer Welfare and Labour. Between 2019 and 2021 he was a Member of the European Parliament, focusing on Internal Market & Consumer Protection, Justice & Home Affairs and Defence and Foreign Affairs, with a special interest in NATO-related topics.</p>
11		<p>Sérgio Vasques is a Tax Law Professor at the Catholic University in Lisbon.</p> <p>Sérgio has an academic career spanning over 20 years, having focused his work in the area of indirect and environmental taxation. In Portugal, he served as Secretary of State for Tax Affairs (2009-2011), Advisor to the Minister of Environment (2006-2008) and Advisor to the Secretary of State for Tax Affairs and the Minister of Finance (2000-2002). Before that, he was a member of the Centre for Tax Studies of the Portuguese Tax Administration. Outside Portugal, he has been working as a consultant on tax reform in different Portuguese-speaking African countries, namely in projects assisted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.</p>

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Vincenzo Visco is President of the research center NENS (Nuova Economia Nuova Società).

He has studied at the Universities of Rome, Berkeley (USA), York (UK), and was Professor of Economics and Public Finance at the Universities of Pisa, Luiss (Rome), and Roma (La Sapienza). When he retired he was appointed as professor emeritus at the University of Rome, La Sapienza.

He has been member of the Italian Parliament from 1983 to 2008. He was Minister of Finance in the Prodi and D'Alema governments (1996-2000), Minister of Treasury in the Amato Government (2000-2001), and vice minister of the Economy in the 2nd Prodi Government (2006-08).