



European
Commission

TAX SYMPOSIUM

#taxmix2050

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BRUSSELS

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KEYNOTES

Prior to his role as the European Commission's Executive Vice President, Valdis Dombrovskis served as European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union from 2016 to 2020.

From 2014 to 2016, he served as Vice President for the Euro and Social Dialogue. Before joining the European Commission, Dombrovskis served three consecutive terms as Prime Minister of Latvia from 2009 to 2014, becoming the longest-serving elected head of government in the nation's history. He was a member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009 and served as Latvia's Minister of Finance from 2002 to 2004.

Prior to politics, EVP Dombrovskis worked as a senior and chief economist at the Bank of Latvia. He also worked as a research assistant at Mainz University in Germany, the Institute of Solid-State Physics in Latvia, and the University of Maryland.

In 2011, he co-authored, "How Latvia came through the financial crisis". He was awarded the Order of the Three Stars, Latvia's highest state decoration, in 2014.

In March 2022, he received the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU Transatlantic Business Award for his contribution in resetting E.U. - U.S. relations.



VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

*Executive Vice-President
European Commission*

Paolo Gentiloni is the European Commissioner for Economy since December 2019.

He served as Prime Minister of Italy (2016- 2018), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2014-2016), Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (2013-2014) and Minister of Communications (2006-2008).

Previously he was Spokesperson for the Margherita Party (2002-2007), Chairman of the Broadcasting Services Watchdog Committee (2005-2006), Spokesperson for the Mayor of Rome and Commissioner in the City of Rome (1993-2000). Previously he worked as a professional journalist.

Born in 1954, Gentiloni graduated in Political Sciences from La Sapienza, Rome.

His last book is “La sfida populista” (the (Un)populist challenge).



PAOLO GENTILONI

*European Commissioner for
Economy*

Kadri Simson is an Estonian politician from the Centre Party. She is serving as a European Commissioner for Energy in the Von der Leyen Commission since 1 December 2019.

She was previously the Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure in Jüri Ratas' first cabinet from 2016 to 2019. During the Estonian Presidency in the Council of the EU, Simson chaired both energy ministers and transport ministers meetings in TTE Council and ministers of economy format in EU Competitiveness Council.

From 2007–2016 Kadri Simson was a member of the 11th, 12th, and 13th Riigikogu and in 2019 she was also elected to the 14th Riigikogu. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science from University College London.



Zbyněk Stanjura is Minister of Finance of Czech Republic.

Mr. Stanjura was born in Opava, where he graduated from the local grammar school (today Mendel's). He continued his studies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Brno University of Technology, where he completed a course in electronic computers.

After the fall of Communism, he started a company with several of his classmates, where he worked as a programmer and manager for 11 years.

Interest in the town of his birth led him to communal politics. For 17 years he was an Opava representative, led ODS in the communal elections four times, won three of these elections and was mayor of Opava for eight years. He later applied this experience in the Chamber of Deputies (Parliament of the Czech Republic) where he has been serving as its Member since 2010. He was the Minister of Transport from December 2012 until August 2013. In December 2021, he was appointed Minister of Finance.



Mathias Cormann is the 6th Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Prior to his appointment to the OECD, Mathias served as the Australian Minister for Finance, the Leader of the Government in the Australian Senate and as Federal Senator representing the State of Western Australia.

In these roles, he has been a strong advocate for the positive power of open markets, free trade, and the importance of a rules-based international trading system.

Between 1997 and 2003, he worked as Chief of Staff as well as Senior Adviser to various State and Federal Ministers in Australia and for the Premier of Western Australia

Between 2003 and 2007, Mathias worked for major Western Australian health insurer HBF in a range of senior management roles. Mathias Cormann is the 6th Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). His five-year term commenced on 1 June 2021.



Mr. Gaspar is Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department at the IMF. He joined in 2014. Before that, he was Portuguese Minister of State and Finance from 2011–13, and has held various positions in European and Portuguese institutions, including head of BEPA at the European Commission, director-general of research at the European Central Bank, director of Economic Studies and Statistics at the Central Bank of Portugal, and Director of Economic Studies at the Portuguese Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Gaspar holds a Ph.D. and a post-doctoral agregado in Economics from Universidade Nova de Lisboa; he graduated from Universidade Católica Portuguesa.



VITOR GASPAR

*Head of Fiscal Affairs
International Monetary
Fund (IMF)*

PANEL 1

What tax mix for the future?

Nadia Calviño is First Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Minister for Economy and Digitalization since July 2021. Recently she has been appointed Chair of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the International Monetary Fund with a two-year mandate. She holds a degree in Economics (1991) and a degree in Law (2001). In 1994 she joined the Spanish public administration as member of the corps of State Economist and Trade Experts.

She becomes Minister for Economy and Business (2018-2020) and third and second Vice-President and Minister for Economy and Digitalization (2020-2021).

She was the Director General in charge of the Budget within the EU Commission and previously, she held other senior management positions in the European Commission.



NADIA CALVIÑO

*First Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economy and
Digitalisation, Spain*

Paul Tang is a senior Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Partij van de Arbeid (PvdA), as part of the Group of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). In 2014, Tang led the list of the PvdA for the European elections. In 2019 he was re-elected.

Paul Tang's main priorities involve the fight against tax evasion, digital taxation, sustainable finance and platform regulation.

Since September 2020, Tang is chair of the subcommittee on taxation (FISC). Next to that, Tang is one of the co-founders of the Tracking-free Ads Coalition within the European Parliament. Previously, Paul Tang was a Member of the Dutch Parliament. Here, Paul Tang was spokesperson for financial and fiscal affairs from 2007 until 2010, right through the financial crisis. Prior to that, he worked for the Dutch ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis.



Rita de la Feria is Professor of Tax Law at the University of Leeds, and an International Research Fellow at the Oxford University Centre for Business Taxation.

Her research focuses primarily on tax law and policy, and she has published widely on these areas, including five books, and over 60 journal articles and book chapters. She has been a visiting professor and scholar at various Universities around the world, including New York University, University of New South Wales, and McGill University. She is actively engaged in global tax policy discussions, has provided tax policy and legal drafting advice to several Governments worldwide, and has testified before five elected Parliaments. Her research is regularly cited by courts across Europe, including the EU Court of Justice and various European Supreme Courts.

Professor de la Feria was listed two years running (2015-2016) in the Global Tax 50, as one of the most influential tax people in the World; was co-recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Women in Tax Award; and in 2019 was recognised in the 100 Years of Women in Tax, as one of the most influential women in tax in the last 100 years.



RITA DE LA FERIA

*Professor of Tax Law
University of Leeds*

PRESENTATION

Challenges to taxation in the short, medium and long term

André Sapir is Emeritus Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles, Senior Fellow of Bruegel, and Research Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research. He served at the European Commission as Economic Advisor to the Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (1990-2001), Economic Advisor to President Prodi (2001-04) and Member of President Barroso's Economic Advisory Group (2005-09). He was also Member of the General Board (and Chair of the Advisory Scientific Committee) of the European Systemic Risk Board (2011-15).

He has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Graduate Institute in Geneva, the College of Europe in Bruges, and was a visiting fellow at the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. He obtained his Economics PhD from The Johns Hopkins University under Bela Balassa. Sapir has written extensively on European integration, international trade, and globalisation. He is Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.



ANDRÉ SAPIR

*Professor, Université libre
de Bruxelles (ULB)*

PANEL 2

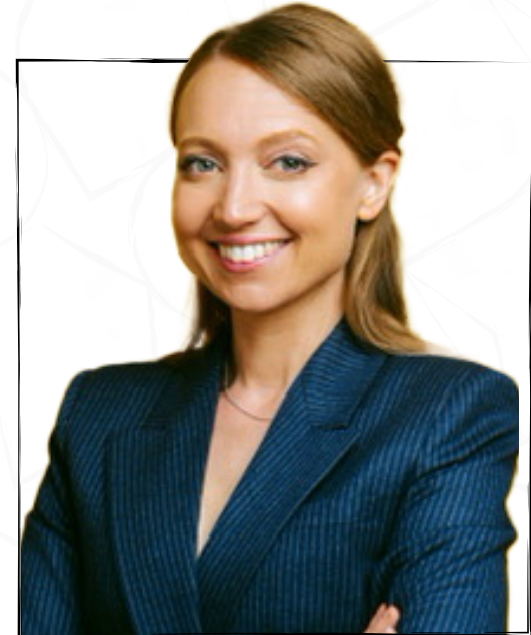
The role of taxation in supporting EU

energy autonomy and sustainable growth

Aurore Lalucq co-founded the Veblen Institute (French think tank), which aims to produce ideas to put the economy at the service of the social and ecological transition.

Specialist in the monetarization and financialisation of nature, social-ecological transition and banking regulation, she wrote with economist Jean Gadrey the book “Should we give a price to nature?” (book prize of the foundation of political ecology in 2015). Aurore Lalucq is the author of several books on economic, social and ecological issues (“Ecological transition, user manual”, 2014; “Product more, pollute less: the impossible decoupling”, 2014; “Bankers against Banks - The role of white collar crime in financial crises”, 2015 ; “Letter to Yellow Vests, for a Green New Deal”, 2019).

Aurore Lalucq is elected in 2019 as Member of the European Parliament. She became S&D coordinator of the FISC sub-committee. She was responsible for the reform of the code of conduct and the implementation of pillar 2 of the OECD agreement within the EU.



AURORE LALUCQ

*Member of the European
Parliament*

Sven Giegold is State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economy and Climate Protection.

From 2009 to 2021, he was a member of the European Parliament for Bündnis90/Die Grünen NRW. Most recently, he was the spokesperson for the German Greens in the European Parliament, chairman of the Green Group in the Committee on Economic and Financial Policy and a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.



Marnix van Rij is the appointed State Secretary for Tax Affairs and the Tax Administration in the fourth Rutte government in the Netherlands.

“The war in Ukraine shows us why there is a strong need to cooperate and act together as EU on ensuring energy autonomy and sustainable growth. Taxation is a useful instrument to support this transition.” In his term 2022-2025 he will further focus on legislation that benefits families, small and medium-sized enterprises, savers and pensioners. “The Netherlands needs to remain attractive to companies with ambition, including international businesses. Their innovations are crucial to the climate transition, our infrastructure and global food supplies.”



MARNIX VAN RIJ

*State Secretary for Tax Affairs
and The Tax Administration
Netherlands*

Femke Groothuis is co-founder and president of The Ex'tax Project, a think tank focused on fiscal strategies to boost the SDGs and the inclusive circular economy. Ex'tax researches the potential to shift the tax burden from labour towards pollution and the use of natural resources.

Since 2009, Groothuis has published a series of reports on the tax shift and she has presented on more than 100 stages around the world. Her latest study (<https://ex-tax.com/taxshift>) presents a roadmap for a rebalancing of the tax mix, both at national levels and in an EU context. Between 1999 and 2009 Groothuis was Investment Manager at Ex'tent Green Venture Capital, a pioneering impact investment fund.



FEMKE GROOTHUIS

*Co-Founder and President
The Ex'tax Project*

PANEL 3

The future of corporate taxation:

Beyond the global agreement

Daniele Franco was Minister of Economy and Finance from 2021 to 2022.

From May 2013 to May 2019, he held the position of State Accountant General at Italy's Ministry of Economy and Finance. He was Deputy Governor of the Bank of Italy from May 2019 to December 2019, then Senior Deputy Governor from 1 January 2020 to 12 February 2021.

Previously, he worked in the Economic Research Department of Bank of Italy until 1994. From 1994 to 1997 he was an Economic Advisor at the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. Upon his return at the Bank of Italy, he was head of the Public Finance Division of the Economic Research Department from 1997 to 2007, head of Structural Economic Analysis Department from 2007 to 2011, Managing Director of the Economic Research and International Relations from 2011 to 2013.

Over the course of his career, he has widely published and held lectures on public finance, social protection and income distribution, and has participated in committees and working groups at various national and international organizations.



DANIELE FRANCO

*Former Minister of Economy
and Finance, Italy*

Gabriela Bucher is Executive Director of Oxfam International, a global network which fights inequality to end poverty and injustice. Ms Bucher is a passionate advocate for social justice and is deeply committed to tackling economic and gender inequality.

Ms Bucher is also a member of the World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development and sits on the Advisory Council of the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion.

Ms Bucher, who grew up in Cali, Colombia, worked alongside children and communities affected by Colombia's decades-long armed conflict and contributed to peacebuilding efforts. She studied philosophy and literature in Bogotá, and History and Civilizations at EHESS in Paris. Prior to Oxfam, Ms Bucher was the Chief Operating Officer at Plan International, and led Fundación Plan Colombia.



GABRIELA BUCHER

*Executive Director
Oxfam International*

Stefan Pan is Vice-President of BusinessEurope and President of Pan Surgelati Srl, a family run food company.

Since 2020 he has been appointed delegate for the coordination and development of relations for the European industrial representation organisations by Confindustria for Europe.



A DUEL OF VIEWS

What role for taxation policy in a post-COVID world?

Thomas Rixen is Professor of International and Comparative Political Economy at Freie Universität Berlin. His research interests and teaching are in governance and globalization, institutionalist theory and economic, financial and tax policies. More info: www.thomasrixen.eu.

Prior to this appointment he was Professor of Public Policy at the University of Bamberg (2012-2019) and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) (2007-2012). He holds a Ph.D. from Jacobs University Bremen, where he was affiliated with the Collaborative Research Center (Sfb) “Transformations of the State”. His research interests and teaching are in governance and globalization, institutionalist theory and economic, financial and tax policies.



THOMAS RIXEN

*Professor of International and
Comparative Political Economy
Freie Universität Berlin*

Daniel Bunn is Executive Vice President at the Tax Foundation, where he also researches international tax issues with a focus on tax policy in Europe.

Prior to joining the Tax Foundation, Daniel worked in the United States Senate at the Joint Economic Committee as part of Senator Mike Lee's (R-UT) Social Capital Project and on the policy staff for both Senator Lee and Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). In his time in the Senate, Daniel developed legislative initiatives on tax, trade, regulatory, and budget policy.

He has a master's degree in Economic Policy from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from North Greenville University in South Carolina.



DANIEL BUNN

*President & CEO
Tax Foundation*

KEY CONCLUSIONS

Gerassimos Thomas is Director-General in the Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union at the European Commission.

Prior to his current assignment, G. Thomas had professional assignments as: Deputy Minister for Environment and Energy in Greece (2019-2020); Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Energy and Chairman of the Steering Board of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) (2014-2019); Director Finance at DG ECFIN (2009-2014); member of the EIB and EIF Board of Directors (2009-2017); Head of cabinet of Joaquin Almunia, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs (2005-2009); Deputy Spokesman for Commission President Romano Prodi; Spokesman for economic and monetary affairs for Commissioner Pedro Solbes (2000-2004). Prior to 2004 held various positions in the European Commission, the European Investment Fund and in investment banking in London.



GERASSIMOS THOMAS

*Director-General for
Taxation and Customs Union
European Commission*



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