List of Speakers

(in order of appearance)

Paolo Gentiloni is Commissioner-designate for the Economy of the EU, entrusted with the Directorate Generals for Economic and Financial Affairs as well as Taxation and Customs Union, in the incoming von der Leyen commission from 2019–2024. In Italy, he served as Minister of Communications from 2006–2008, as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2014–2016, and as Prime Minister from 2016–2018. He is Member of Parliament since 2001.

In March 2019, he became President of the Democratic Party, of which he was in founding member in 2007. Before entering politics, Gentiloni worked as a professional journalist. He holds a degree in Political Sciences from Sapienza University in Rome and is fluent in Italian, English and French.

His last book is “La sfida Impopulista” (Rizzoli, 2018).

Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government and a Professorial Fellow of St Antony’s College. From 1998–2003 he took a five-year Public Service leave during which he was Director of the Research Development Department of the World Bank. He is currently a Professeur invité at Sciences Po and a Director of the International Growth Centre.

He has written for the New York Times, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. His research covers the causes and consequences of civil war; the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural resources rich societies; urbanisation in low-income countries; private investment in African infrastructure and changing organisational cultures. His recent books include The Bottom Billion (Oxford University Press, 2007); Wars, Guns and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places (Vintage Books, 2009); and The Plundered Planet: How to

Thomas Philippon is Professor of Finance at New York University, Stern School of Business. The IMF listed Philippon among the “top 25 economists under 45” in 2014. He also won the 2013 Bernácer Prize for Best European Economist under 40, the 2010 Michael Brennan & BlackRock Award, the 2009 Prize for Best Young French Economist, and the 2008 Brattle Prize for the best paper in Corporate Finance. He was elected Global Economic Fellow in 2009 by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy.

Philippon has studied various topics in macroeconomics and finance: systemic risk, crisis resolution mechanisms, the dynamics of corporate investment and household debt, and the size of the finance industry. His recent work has focused on the Eurozone crisis and on financial regulation. He currently serves on the Monetary Policy Advisory Panel of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and as a chairman of the scientific committee of ACPR, the French prudential regulator of banks and insurance companies. From 2012 to 2013, he was the Senior Economic Advisor to the French Finance Minister. Philippon has held visiting positions at Columbia, Chicago, Yale and Princeton University.


Carlo Altomonte is associate Professor of Economics of European Integration at Bocconi University and Director of the Globalization and Industry Dynamics unit within the Baffi Carefin research centre. He has been a visiting scholar at Paris School of Economics, the London School of Economics, the ECB and KU Leuven.

As a consultant on international trade and investment, he worked with the EU Commission and the EU Parliament as well as with the ECB and the UN. He serves as a member of the Group of Experts on Economic Policy with the Italian Office of the Prime Minister and is a Non-Resident Fellow at Bruegel, as well as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of International Studies in Milan.

Altomonte obtained a BA in Economics and a PhD in International Law and Economics from Università Bocconi, as well as a MA in Economics (UC Louvain) and a PhD in Applied Economics from KU Leuven.
Chiara Criscuolo is Head of Productivity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Division at the OECD, in the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation. She is also a research associate of the Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) at the London School of Economics. Since 2017, she is one of eleven economists appointed to the French National Productivity Board. The main focus of her research is on productivity, business dynamics, innovation and international trade.

At OECD, she co-manages the Global Forum on Productivity and has contributed to key horizontal and high level projects and publications. These include the OECD volumes “Future of Productivity”, “New sources of growth: Knowledge Based capital”, and the “OECD Innovation Strategy”.

Criscuolo graduated in Economics from the University of Siena and has a Master and PhD in Economics from the University College London. Prior to joining the OECD, she held academic appointments at the University of Siena, the University of Cambridge and the LSE.

Jens Suedekum is Professor of International Economics at the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics at Heinrich-Heine-University. He is a specialist on global trade, digitalization and labour markets, and published widely in leading academic peer-reviewed journals. According to Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, he is among the most influential economists in the German-speaking world. His work has been covered in outlets such as the New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, The Economist, ZEIT, BILD, etc. Moreover, he has been an advisor to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Commission, the German Federal Government, Bundesbank, and various political parties and public interest groups.

Suedekum is a research fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London and editor of the Journal of Regional Science. He has received numerous awards for his research, including the EPAINOSPrize of the European Regional Science Association. He holds a PhD from Georg-August-University Göttingen and studied economics at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).
Olivier Blanchard, a citizen of France, has spent most of his professional life in Cambridge, U.S. After obtaining his Ph.D in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977, he taught at Harvard University, returning to MIT in 1982. He was Chairman of Economics Department from 1998 to 2003. He was the chief economist at the IMF from 2008 to 2015. Since 2015, he is the C. Fred Bergsten Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute in Washington. He remains the Robert Solow Professor of economics Emeritus at MIT.

He is a macroeconomist, who has worked on a wide set of issues, from the role of monetary policy, to the nature of speculative bubbles, to the nature of the labor market and the determinants of unemployment, to transition in former communist countries, to macroeconomic slumps, and to external imbalances, to, more recently, fiscal policy. In the process, he has worked with numerous countries and international organizations. He is the author of many books and articles, including two textbooks in macroeconomics, one at the graduate level with Stanley Fischer, one at the undergraduate level.

He is a fellow and past Council member of the Econometric Society, a past president of the American Economic Association, and a member of the American Academy of Sciences.

Roel Beetsma is MN Professor of Pension Economics at the University of Amsterdam, as well as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business and Chairman of the Department of Economics and Econometrics. Since 2016, Beetsma also serves as a member of the European Fiscal Board, an independent advisory body of the European Commission.

Prior visiting positions include the University of California at Berkeley, the University of British Columbia, DELTA (Paris). Beetsma also advises national and international policy institutions on fiscal policy issues and has many publications on the European economic and fiscal governance framework.

Beetsma is a research fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London, CESifo in Munich and the Tinbergen Institute. He is also an International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute of World Economics. Beetsma holds a PhD from Tilburg University.
Margit Schratzenstaller is an economist at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), where she was Deputy Director 2006-2008, and again in 2015-2019. She is an expert in the Austrian Fiscal Council, lecturer at the University of Vienna, member of the board of trustees of the European Forum Alpbach and the KDZ – Centre for Administrative Research. Her areas of expertise include (European) tax and budget policy, EU budget, tax competition and harmonisation, fiscal federalism as well as family policy and gender budgeting. She was deputy coordinator of the FP7 EU project WWWforEurope (2012/2016) and partner in the H2020 EU project FairTax (2015/2019) and she has prepared studies for the European Parliament and the European Commission as well as national clients.

After studying economics at the Universities of Gießen (Dipl.-Oec., doctorate) and Milwaukee (MA (Econ)), she was a post-doc at the DFG-funded Research Training Group "Future of the European Social Model" at the University of Göttingen. She spent research stays at the German Institute for Economic Research Berlin, the Free University Berlin and the Berlin School of Economics and Law. The prizes she has been awarded include Women’s Prize of the City of Vienna (2009), the Progressive Economy Prize of the European Parliament (2016), the VCÖ Mobility Prize (2017) and the Kurt-Rothschild Prize (2018).

Volker Wieland holds the Endowed Chair of Monetary Economics at the Institute for Monetary and Financial Stability (IMFS) and serves as its Managing Director. Since 2013 Wieland is a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. Furthermore, he is a Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London and a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the German Ministry of Finance. He has been a visiting professor at Stanford Center for International Development and a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution.

Wieland has served as a consultant to a number of central banks and international institutions. His research focuses on monetary and fiscal policy as well as economic dynamics and macroeconomic modelling. He has developed a public archive of macroeconomic models together with a platform for model comparison that is available online at www.macromodelbase.com. Before joining the Frankfurt faculty in November 2000, Volker Wieland was a senior economist at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, DC. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in 1995.
Laurence Boone is the Chief Economist at the OECD. She began her career at Merrill Lynch Asset Management, was a researcher at France’s economic research institute, CEPII, and served as an OECD economist from 1998-2004. Other posts have included Chief Economist at Barclays Capital France and Managing Director of European Economic research at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Between 2014 and 2016, Ms. Boone was Special Advisor for Multilateral and European Economic & Financial Affairs and G20 Sherpa to the Presidency of the French Republic, in charge of managing the G20 negotiations on behalf of the President and of managing the relationships with the EU institutions, IMF and member states.

Boone, a French national, has a PhD in Applied Economics from the London Business School (UK); a Master’s Degree in Econometrics & Macroeconomic Modelling from Reading University (UK); a Master’s Degree in Economics from Université Paris X Nanterre (FRA) and a postgraduate diploma (DEA) in Modelling and Quantitative Analysis from University Paris X Nanterre (FRA).

Philip R. Lane joined the European Central Bank as a Member of the Executive Board in 2019. He is responsible for the Directorate General Economics and the Directorate General Monetary Policy. Before joining the ECB, he was the Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland.

He has also chaired the Advisory Scientific Committee and Advisory Technical Committee of the European Systemic Risk Board and was Whately Professor of Political Economy at Trinity College Dublin.

He is also a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, he was awarded a PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 1995 and was Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs at Columbia University from 1995 to 1997, before returning to Dublin. In 2001 he was the inaugural recipient of the Bernácer Prize for outstanding contributions to European monetary economics.
Klaus Regling is the current and first Managing Director of the European Stability Mechanism. The Managing Director of the ESM is appointed by the Board of Governors for a renewable term of five years. Regling is also the CEO of the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), a position he has held since the creation of the EFSF in June 2010.

He has worked for over 40 years as an economist in senior positions in the public and the private sector in Europe, Asia, and the U.S., including a decade with the IMF in Washington and Jakarta and a decade with the German Ministry of Finance where he prepared Economic and Monetary Union in Europe. From 2001 to 2008, he was Director General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission.

During 2008-09, he spent a year at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore where he researched financial and monetary integration in Asia. Subsequently, he opened an economic and financial consultancy in Brussels.

Previously, Regling had gained experience in the private sector as Managing Director of the Moore Capital Strategy Group in London (1999-2001) and as an economist with the German Bankers’ Association. He studied economics at the Universities of Hamburg and Regensburg.

Beatrice Weder di Mauro is Professor of Economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Distinguished Fellow-in-residence at the Emerging Markets Institute of INSEAD Singapore, and a senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. Since July 2018, she is serving as President of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).

From 2001 to 2018, she held the Chair of International Macroeconomics at the University of Mainz, Germany, and from 2004 to 2012 she served on the German Council of Economic Experts. She was Assistant Professor at the University of Basel and worked at the International Monetary Fund. Weder di Mauro held visiting positions at Harvard University, the National Bureau of Economic Research and the United Nations University in Tokyo.

She has served as consultant to governments, international organizations and central banks, including the European Commission, the ECB, the German Bundesbank, the World Bank, or the OECD. Weder di Mauro is an independent director on the board of Bombardier, UBS and Bosch. She holds a PhD from the University of Basel.
Session Chairs

(in order of appearance)

Mary Veronica Tovsak Pleterski is a director in the European Commission, at DG ECFIN in charge of investment, growth and structural reforms.

At the European Commission, she also held a position of director for European and international carbon markets at DG CLIMA and a position of principal adviser at DG CNECT. Before joining the European Commission, Mrs Tovšak Pleterski was the Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU. In this capacity she also chaired the COREPER1 (committee of deputy permanent representatives) during Slovenian Presidency of the EU in 2008. She started her career in the Ministry of foreign affairs of Slovenia and served as a Slovenian diplomat in Strasbourg, New York and Brussels.

Declan Costello was born in Galway, Ireland in 1967. He has a Degree in Economics from Trinity College Dublin and a Masters' Degree from the College of Europe in Bruges. He joined the European Commission in 1991. During the 1990s, he was actively involved in preparations to launch the euro, including the setting up of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP). From 2014 to September 2015 he was Director for the Economies of the Member States (Germany, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Croatia and Spain).

Since the onset of the economic crisis, he has actively been involved in efforts to devise an economic recovery strategy, as well as negotiations on economic governance in EMU especially on competitiveness and macroeconomic imbalances. He has been involved in the economic adjustment programmes, notably Greece. In October 2015, he was appointed Principal Adviser and the European Commission's Mission Chief for Greece for the Third Economic Adjustment Programme. During this period, he led the negotiations with the Greek authorities on the design and monitoring of policy conditionality underpinning the EFSF and subsequently ESM stability programme for Greece. He was also active in the discussions that led to measures being agreed by the Eurogroup in 2016 and 2018 to ensure the sustainability of Greek public debt. In August 2019, Mr Costello was appointed Deputy Director General.
Marco Buti has been Director-General for Economic and Financial Affairs at the European Commission since December 2008, after a 6-month period as acting Director-General.

After obtaining degrees in economics from the Universities of Florence and Oxford, Buti joined the European Commission in 1987. He held various posts as an economist in DG ECFIN and the Commissioner’s cabinet (private office) before taking up a post as an economic adviser to the Commission President in 2002-03. In 2003 he returned to DG ECFIN as Director for the Directorate for economies of the Member States, and in September 2006 was appointed Deputy Director-General.

Buti has been a visiting professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the University of Florence and the European University Institute, and has published extensively on Economic and Monetary Union, macroeconomic policies, welfare state reforms, and European unemployment.