

WELCOME AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES

Gwendolyn Rutten – Deputy Minister-President of the Government of Flanders and Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities



- Gwendolyn Rutten (°1975) grew up in Aarschot, where she completed her Latin studies in secondary education. She obtained a Master of Law degree and took an additional course in International Relations at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven), which she completed summa cum laude in 1999.
- She spent the following years working successively for the Flemish liberal party Open Vld and several European institutions, and as the head of several Government of Flanders ministers' offices.
- In 2010, Rutten was elected to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, where she served on the Finance and Budget Committee and the Accounting Committee, among others.

➤ Gwendolyn was elected alderwoman in Aarschot in 2012, a position she held until her election as mayor in 2018. Between 2012 and 2020, Gwendolyn Rutten was party chair of the Flemish liberal party, Open Vld. Meanwhile, in 2014, Rutten became a Member of the Flemish Parliament. In 2023, she became Deputy Minister-President of the Government of Flanders and Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities, the office she holds until today.

➤ Gwendolyn Rutten is married with two children.

Michael Shotter – Deputy Director-General in charge of Horizontal Affairs & Migration – DG Home Affairs and Migration (HOME) – European Commission



Michael Shotter, is a director in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, responsible for Migration and Asylum. He was earlier head of the unit, which is responsible for civil justice policy, having been a member of the European Commission's Legal Service over a number of years. Before his present post, he was Senior Legal Adviser in the private office of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and previously worked in the private office of Commissioner Viviane Reding. He has a degree in law from Cambridge University and a licence spéciale from the Institut d'Etudes européennes in Brussels.

INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS IN 2030:

CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Meghan Benton – Director of the International Programme – Migration Policy Institute



► Meghan Benton is Director of the International Program at MPI, where her work spans a wide range of areas including labor mobility, immigrant integration, border management, and humanitarian protection. She has a particular interest in the role of technological and social innovation in immigration and integration policy, and in how labor market disruption affects immigration and integration. In 2016, she co-founded MPI Europe's Integration Futures Working Group, which seeks to develop a forward-looking agenda for integration policy in Europe. Most recently, she has been working on how the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped global mobility. She convenes MPI's Task Force on Borders and Mobility During and After COVID-19.

► Dr. Benton previously was a Senior Researcher at Nesta, the United Kingdom's innovation body, where she led projects on digital government and the future of local public services. Prior to joining Nesta, she was a Policy Analyst at MPI from 2012-15, where she co-led an MPI-International Labor Organization six-country project on pathways to skilled work for newly arrived immigrants in Europe. She also worked on Project UPSTREAM, a four-country project on mainstreaming immigrant integration in the European Union. Previously, she worked for the Constitution Unit at University College London and the Institute for Public Policy Research.

► Dr. Benton received her PhD in political science from University College London in 2010, where her PhD research focused on citizenship and the rights of noncitizens. She also holds a master's degree in legal and political theory (with distinction) from University College London, and a bachelor's degree in philosophy and literature from Warwick University.

Kaare Dybvad Bek – Minister for Immigration and Integration - Denmark

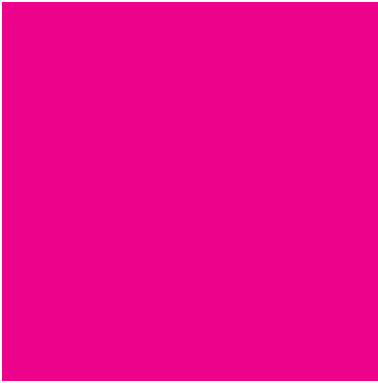


- Kaare Dybvad Bek was born in 1984 in Holbæk.
- Kaare Dybvad Bek has been Minister for Immigration and Integration since May 2022. Before Kaare Dybvad Bek was appointed as Minister for Immigration and Integration, he was Minister for the Interior and Housing.
- Kaare Dybvad Bek has been a member of the Danish Parliament since 2015 as a member of The Social Democratic Party.
- Kaare Dybvad Bek has a master's degree in Geography and Geoinformatics.
- He is married to Maiken. The couple has two kids named Aksel and Pelle.

INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS IN 2030:

CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Reem Alabali Radovan – Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Migration, Refugees, and Integration – Germany



Info will be here soon

Martin Kienl – Director-General for Integration, Office of Religious Affairs and Ethnic Groups – Federal Chancellery of Austria



► Martin Kienl holds the position of Director General for Integration, Office of Religious Affairs and Ethnic Groups, which is part of in the Federal Chancellery of Austria. He has over 10 years of expertise in the field of integration.

► From 2014-2017 he was officer and Deputy Head of Department and from 2018 Head of Department “Integration Coordination” in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. As Head of Department he was responsible for the implementation of the Austrian strategy for integration based on the National Action Plan for Integration (NAP.I). Martin Kienl was a guest lecturer at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-

Nürnberg on the topics Radicalisation and Prevention. He further serves as Deputy Head of the Supervisory Board of the Austrian Fund for the documentation of religiously motivated political extremism (Documentation Centre Political Islam). He also provides regular advice for „Weitblick“, a non-profit foundation for - amongst other topics - education and integration of refugees.

► Martin Kienl graduated from the Vienna School of International Studies and studied Political Science at the University of Vienna, Austria. He is married with two children.

INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS IN 2030:

CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Michael Shotter – Deputy Director-General in charge of Horizontal Affairs & Migration – DG Home Affairs and Migration (HOME) – European Commission



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Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer – State Councilor for Social Affairs and Youth – Upper Austria (Austria)



Info will be here soon

INTEGRATION OF NEWCOMERS IN 2030:

CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Fabrizio Rossi – Secretary-General – Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)



- Fabrizio Rossi holds the position of Secretary General at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).
- Before joining the CEMR, he was Innovation Orchestrator and Director of Programmes for the Land Use area in Climate-KIC, the main climate innovation agency of the EU.
- Working for the Barcelona Provincial Council, he led a mid-sized international association of local intermediate authorities. He was EU Affairs adviser for the Regional Parliament of Sardinia and researcher for the structural funds department of the Scottish Government.
- Fabrizio has been an active social entrepreneur, strongly engaged in reforestation activities.

- He holds a MAS and MPhil in International Relations from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Bart Somers – Mayor of Mechelen – Flanders (Belgium)



- Bart Somers studied law at KU Leuven and is an experienced Flemish Open Vld politician.
- He was born in 1964 in the city where he has now been mayor for more than 20 years.
- He was appointed as Minister-President of the Flemish Government in 2003. Then he was elected Open VLD party leader. Active both as a federal MP and as Flemish party leader.
- In 2016, he was awarded the World Mayor Prize for his work on integration, living together and the prevention of radicalisation. The organisation congratulated him for transforming Mechelen as the ugly duckling in Flanders to the top of class.

- He was formerly active as Minister of Home Affairs, Living Together and Equal Opportunities of the Flemish Government. Today he is once again mayor of Mechelen.

ROLE OF HOST SOCIETIES

Ola Henrikson - Regional Director for EEA, EU and NATO - International Organization for Migration (IOM)



► Ola Henrikson is the Regional Director of IOM's Regional Office for the EEA, the EU and NATO.

► Ola has substantial knowledge of global and EU migration issues stemming from more than 25 years of experience in the asylum and migration sector at the national and international levels.

► Prior to joining IOM in 2019, Ola was the Director General for Migration and Asylum at the Swedish Ministry of Justice. He has also served in several executive positions, including Director of the Department for Migration Policy in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also headed the Swedish Delegation in the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

(SCIFA) of the Council of the European Union from 1999 to 2018. Other international assignments include the World Economic Forum and the Global Commission on International Migration.

► Ola holds a LL. M. from Stockholm University.

Kjetil Vevele - Secretary of State for Integration at the Ministry for Labour and Social Inclusion - Norway



► Kjetil Vevele was appointed State Secretary at the Norwegian Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion on 16 October 2023. He has previously been State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, at the Ministry of Finance, at the Ministry of Oil and Energy and also at the Prime Minister's office in the period from when the present government took office on 14 October 2021.

► He has also worked at Norsk Hydro, the Ministry of Local Government and Modernization, Public Services International, the Trade Union and ZERO.

► From political experience, he has been a central board member of AUF, The Workers' Youth League, Norway's largest political youth organization - affiliated to the Norwegian Labour Party.

► Mr. Vevele has studied administration and organizational science at the University of Bergen, and also Public Relation and Communication Management at BI School of Business.

► Kjetil Vevele was born in 1987, grew up in Odda and lives in Oslo.

ROLE OF HOST SOCIETIES

Ana Catarina Mendes - Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs - Portugal



- Ana Catarina Mendes is currently Minister in the Cabinet of the Prime Minister and for Parliamentary Affairs, that includes the portfolio on migration and equality.
- She holds a degree in law from the University of Lisbon's School of Law and took part in the master's degree course on New Law Frontiers from ISCTE-IUL.
- Ms Mendes has been an elected member of the Portuguese parliament since 1995, has served as President of the Socialist Party's Parliamentary Group between 2019 and 2022 and as vice-president between 2015 and 2019.
- She took the role of Deputy Secretary General of the Portuguese Socialist

Party from 2015 to 2019 as took part in the Party of European Socialists' Democracy Network.

➤ Ms Mendes served as Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) between 2016 and 2017 and was chair of the Portuguese Delegation from 2016 to 2019, after 11 years as a member of PACE in the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and in the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy.

Baroness Penn - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Housing and Communities) – United Kingdom



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ROLE OF HOST SOCIETIES

Eda Silberg – Undersecretary for Cultural Diversity at the Ministry of Culture – Estonia



► Eda Silberg is the undersecretary for cultural diversity at the Estonian Ministry of Culture. She is responsible for developing and implementing Estonian integration strategies. This includes adaptation programs for new immigrants, creating the necessary conditions for the cultural development of minority communities living in Estonia, as well as supporting the cultural activities of Estonian nationals living outside of Estonia.

► Before her appointment as undersecretary, Eda served as the head of department of cultural diversity at the Estonian Ministry of Culture. She has previously worked as an administrative director, director of educational programs, project manager and coordinator for Estonian language camps at the Integration Foundation. She has also been the executive director of the Tallinn unit of the Open Education Union and a trainer for adult education at the Tartu unit of the Open Education Union.

► Eda Silberg has a master's degree from the University of Tartu in Russian and Slavic philology.

Tània Verge – Regional Minister of Equality and Feminism – Catalunya, Spain



► Prior to her cabinet appointment, Hble. Mrs. Tània Verge was Full Professor of Politics and Gender at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), where she also led the institution's Equality Unit in the period 2014-2021. She has published extensively on the adoption and implementation of equality policies. She has also served as a gender consultant for national and international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, the European Institute for Gender Equality, the Parliament of Catalonia, and the Catalan Ombudsman.

► The Ministry of Equality and Feminisms leads the gender mainstreaming strategy, from an intersectional approach, in all government action. The

Ministry's portfolio includes: women's rights, gender-based violence, LGBTI+ rights, care and time policies, migrants' and refugee's rights, antidiscrimination and antiracism policies. The feminist transformation, one of the four axes of the government plan of the Generalitat de Catalunya (the Catalan Government).

► The Minister had been appointed as expert for the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Intercultural Inclusion ADI-INT (2022-2023). The Ministry also chairs the Intercultural Regions Network and is part of the EU-BELONG project (AMIF-2020-AG) devoted to the development of an intercultural framework for the integration of migrants in European regions.

ROLE OF HOST SOCIETIES

Nerea Melgosa – Regional Minister of Equality, Justice, and Social Policies – Basque Country, Spain



- ▶ Ms Melgosa holds a Master's in Human Resources from the EADA Business School and a Bachelor's in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Deusto. The academic foundation is complemented by specialized courses in Cooperatives and Market Studies.
- ▶ She served as an Advisor to the Department of Equality, Justice, and Social Policies for the Basque Government from 2020 to 2023 and as the Director of Equality and Human Rights for the Diputación Foral de Álava in 2019-2020. Earlier roles include being a Delegate Councilor for Employment and Sustainable Economic Development (2015-2019) and Delegate Councilor of the Service for Coexistence and Diversity (2015-2019) at the Vitoria-Gasteiz City Council.

▶ She has held positions such as President of the Board of Gasteizko Industria-Lurra S.A. (GILSA), a Representative on the Board of Directors of the Álava Business and Innovation Center S.A (CEIA), and Representative at various organizations including Vitoria S.A. Transportation Center, VIA-Promotion of Vitoria-Gasteiz Airport, and HAZIBIDE.

Mike Connolly – Deputy-Director Operations Homes for Ukraine Scheme – Wales, UK



- ▶ Mike Connolly joined Welsh Government as a senior Civil Servant in September 2021 after serving a 30-year career in the United Kingdom Armed Forces. During his time in the military, he worked closely with international allies and partners to deliver healthcare in some of the most challenging environments in the world.
- ▶ His first appointment in Welsh Government was as Deputy Director Test, Trace and Protect where he was responsible for working with the United Kingdom Health Security Agency, Public Health Wales, Local Authorities and other departments in Welsh Government to develop policies in the fight against COVID-19.
- ▶ He was subsequently appointed as Deputy Director Operations for the Welsh Government Homes for Ukraine Scheme where he coordinated the arrival and

integration of several thousand Ukrainian people to Wales. Most recently he was appointed as the interim lead for the Welsh Government Nation of Sanctuary and Migration team and is responsible for working with the Home Office, Local Authorities and other key partners to manage migration including the integration of new arrivals to Wales.

- ▶ His transition to Welsh Government was driven by a desire to continue in Public Service and support the people of Wales. He is passionate about helping others and enjoys working in partnership with others to develop effective policies and systems.
- ▶ Mike is married to Gillian, and they have two grown children Sian and Morgan. He enjoys exercising including walking and cycling and spending time with family and friends. He is a long-suffering Manchester United football fan, enjoys travel and learning the Welsh language.

ROLE OF HOST SOCIETIES

André Sobczak – Secretary-General - Eurocities



► Mr Sobczak is currently serving as the Secretary General of Eurocities since September 2023, where he is instrumental in defining and implementing a strategic vision to enhance the influence of the network of European cities. His responsibilities include supporting member cities in fostering inclusivity and sustainability, and ensuring active city participation in European decision-making processes.

► Prior to his role at Eurocities, Mr Sobczak held key positions at the Metropolitan and City Council of Nantes, notably as Vice-president for Employment, CSR, and European Affairs from 2020 to 2023. His achievements encompassed the integration of CSR into the city's economic development

strategy and the establishment of strategic partnerships between Nantes and other European cities.

► He contributed to Audencia Business School, holding leadership roles such as Chief Executive for CSR, Academic Director of the Specialized Master "Actor for Energy Transition," and Founder of the Positive Impact Chair.

His career includes founding and directing the Institute for CSR, demonstrating a commitment to advancing corporate social responsibility practices through impactful research and scholarly contributions.

► Mr Sobczak holds a Habilitation from Université Paris Est Créteil and earned his PhD in European Labour Law from the European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

Johan Pehrson – Minister for Employment and Integration - Sweden



- ▶ Johan Pehrson was born in 1968 and resides in Stockholm. Currently serving as the Minister for Employment and Integration since 2022, he focuses on crucial areas such as the labour market, integration, and the inclusion of newly arrived immigrants.
- ▶ Mr. Pehrson assumed the position of Party Leader for the Liberal Party in 2022. His political journey includes a term as a Member of the Riksdag from 2018 to 2022 and a prior tenure from 1998 to 2015.
- ▶ Beyond his political career, Johan Pehrson has held key roles in various sectors, notably as the CEO of Watt & Veke from 2015 to 2018. His earlier experiences include serving as Party Secretary for the Liberal Party, a District

Court Clerk at Örebro District Court, and holding advisory positions in government ministries and banking institutions.

- ▶ Educationally, Mr. Pehrson earned his Diploma in Legal Studies from King's College, London, and pursued courses in Economic History at Uppsala University, culminating in an LLM from Uppsala University in 1996. Married with four children, Johan Pehrson is dedicated to shaping Sweden's political landscape and fostering a dynamic, inclusive society.

Sofia Voultepsi – Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum in charge of Integration - Greece



- ▶ Ms Voultepsi currently serves as the Deputy Minister of Migration & Asylum in Greece. She has been a Member of the Greek Parliament since 2004, affiliated with the New Democracy party. She has previously served as the Government Spokeswoman, marking a historic milestone as the first woman to hold this position in the government. Additionally, she has served as a Deputy Minister by the Prime Minister.

- ▶ She has studied Public Law & Political Science at Athens University Law School, complemented by a focus on Italian Language and Literature at Athens Italian School. She is proficient in English, Italian, and French.

▶ With a background in journalism, Ms Voultepsi has enjoyed a career in daily newspapers and magazines. She has held the role of Editor-in-chief in daily newspapers and has contributed to radio and television programs. Beyond journalism, her commitment extends to intense parliamentary and trade union activities.

- ▶ Ms Voultepsi is married with two children and is the daughter of the late journalist John Voultepsi, renowned for his investigative work in the case of the assassination of Parliamentarian Grigoris Lambrakis, later to be known as "Z" journalist.

LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

Catherine Scott - Assistant Deputy Minister of Settlement, Integration and Francophone Affairs - Canada



► Catherine Scott was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Settlement, Integration and Francophone Affairs (previously Settlement and Integration) at Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in March 2022. Her responsibilities span the Settlement and Resettlement assistance programs and coordination of the Department's Francophone immigration commitments.

► Catherine joined IRCC in September 2019 as Director General of the Refugee Affairs Branch, and more recently, was Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic and Program Policy, beginning in March 2021.

► Prior to this, she spent a decade working at Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on both labour market and social policy issues. During this time, she led a significant renewal of the federal homelessness program as part of the National Housing Strategy. Catherine led extensive consultations to develop the first Government of Canada social innovation and social finance strategy. She also led the Foreign Credential Recognition Program and launched the first federal initiative to support capacity-building in Black Canadian communities.

► A federal public servant since 1999, Catherine has also worked for the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Privy Council Office and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

► Catherine holds a Bachelor of Arts in French and International Studies from Glendon College, York University and an M.A. in International Relations from Université Laval. She is also a graduate of the Government of Canada's Career Assignment Program (Direxion) and the Ivey Senior Public Sector Leader Program.

Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer - State Councilor for Social Affairs and Youth - Upper Austria (Austria)



Info will be here soon

LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

Andriana Sukova - Acting Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion – European Commission



- ▶ Since January 2024 Mrs Sukova is the acting Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Until the end of 2023 she was Deputy Director-General in charge of Funds, fair transition and analysis in the same directorate general. Ms Sukova is an economist by education, with ample experience in the area of integration into the European Union both in the Government and non governmental sector.
- ▶ After Bulgaria's accession to the EU, Ms Sukova joined the Cabinet of Commissioner for Consumer Protection Meglena Kuneva.
- ▶ In August 2010 she was appointed Director in DG EMPL. She was in charge of the European Social Fund policy and legislation preparation, negotiations on the regulatory framework for the 2014-2020 and 2021-2027 programming periods. She also monitored ESF implementation in 18 member states.
- ▶ In March 2018, Mrs Sukova was appointed the Deputy Director- General of DG Employment, in charge of all funds in this directorate general, the biggest still is the European Social fund. She is also in charge of the coordination of social and economic policies in the EU in the framework of the European semester and the fairness of the twin green and digital transition.

Antje Grotheer – Member and rapporteur CIVEX (Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs) – European Committee of the Regions



- ▶ Antje Grotheer has been a member of the European Committee of the Regions since 2020 and the Committee's Rapporteur on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 and on the Revised Schengen Agenda.
- ▶ Antje Grotheer is President of the Bremen State Parliament, of which she has been a member since 2011. A lawyer by profession, she has been active in the Committee for Science, Media, Data Protection and Freedom of Information as media policy spokeswoman for the SPD parliamentary group, in the Legal Committee, in the Judge Selection Committee, in the Constitution and Rules of Procedure Committee and in the Election Examination Court.
- ▶ Antje Grotheer is also active in the Working Group of Social Democratic Lawyers (ASJ) and in the Working Group of Social Democratic Women (ASF).

LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION

Thomas Liebig - Senior Migration Specialist in the International Migration Division – OECD



► Thomas Liebig is Senior Migration Specialist in the International Migration Division of the OECD in Paris, where he is in charge of the work on the integration of immigrants and their children. Among other projects, he led in-depth country studies on integration in 17 OECD countries as well as international comparative work on a broad range of topics related to migration and integration. He has also been in charge of an OECD-wide project that aims at identifying good practices for getting the most out of diversity for businesses and societies at large. Since 2018, he is member of the expert group for demographic projections of the German Federal Statistical Office and in February 2019, he was appointed member of the expert commission on integration capacity by the German federal government.

► A German national, Thomas holds a doctorate and an MSc in Economics from the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). He also holds an MSc in International Affairs and, following studies at the ESADE (Barcelona, Spain), a CEMS Master in International Business Management. Prior to joining the International Migration Division in 2004, he worked for the OECD's Economics Department in 2000 and for the Institute for Labour Economics and Labour Law at the University of St. Gallen from 2001-2004.