

Conference Speakers

Raw Materials Security of Europe Conference

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Jozef Síkela



Jozef Síkela is the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic since December 2021. Prior to that, he was a member of the Management Board of Erste Group, Austria. Responsible for Corporate & Investment Banking, Commercial Real Estate, Capital Markets, Treasury Sales and Financial Institutions, Research in Erste Group Core & Home Markets (Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Bosnia, Montenegro & Slovenia and for Erste Group Bank Branches in New York, Hong Kong & London, for Erste Group Immorent AG, Erste Securities Polska, S.A. and German Offices. Before that, he was a Chief Executive

Officer of Erste Bank Ukraine. He graduated as an economic engineer in 1991. In the same year, he was selected in an audition to join the prestigious banking study programme of the Austrian Creditanstalt AG in Vienna, where he worked until 1995.

Maroš Šefčovič



Maroš Šefčovič is a Slovak diplomat and politician serving as European Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight since 2019. Prior to this, he served as European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth from 2009 to 2010, Vice-President of the European Commission for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration from 2010 to 2014. Since 2014 to 2019 he served as the Commission's Vice-President in charge of the Energy Union. Earlier he was a Director-General of the European Affairs Section, Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and later Slovak Permanent Representative to the EU.

Maroš Šefčovič holds Ph.D. in international and European law, Comenius University in Bratislava and Doctor Honoris Causa, Pan-European University in Bratislava.

Thierry Breton



Thierry Breton is the European commissioner for the internal market, a position he has held since December 1, 2019. Before that, he was the chief executive officer of the French technology company Atos from 2008 to 2019. He was also minister for the economy, finance and industry for France from 2005 to 2007, as well as chief executive officer of France Telecom from 2002 to 2005 and of Thomson Multimedia from 1997 to 2002. Prior to that, he was director for strategy and development, then director-general of the computer company Bull from 1993 to 1997. His previous political experience also includes the vice-presidency of the

Poitou-Charentes Region in France from 1986 to 1986 and his role as an adviser to the French Minister for Education René Monory from 1986 to 1988. Breton received a master's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from École Supérieure d'Électricité (Supélec, now CentraleSupélec) in 1979 and later graduated from the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale (IHEDN).

Agnès Pannier-Runacher



Agnès Pannier-Runacher is currently Minister for Energy Transition of France. Prior to this, she held the role of the Deputy Minister to the Minister of Economy and Finance. Prior to joining the Government in 2018, she was Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Compagnie des Alpes. Furthermore, Agnès was Customer Business Unit Director at Faurecia Interior Systems, Executive Director at Fonds stratégique d'investissement, Deputy Director of Finance and Strategy at Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations, and chief of staff at Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris. She was a Board director and chairperson of audit committees of various industrial and financial companies between 2006

and 2018. She graduated from HEC and ENA civil service school and she holds CEMS Master's degree.

Jan Moström



Jan Moström is currently President and Chief Executive Officer at LKAB. Jan Moström joined LKAB in 2015. Between 2005 and 2015, he was Boliden's director of mining, with the responsibility for all of the company's mines. Jan Moström was also a member of the Steering Committee of Euromines. Before that, he was a technical manager at Skellefteå municipality but also continued to take on assignments at Boliden. Jan Moström graduated as a mining engineer in 1988 at the Bergskolan in Filipstad.

Pavel Cyrani



Pavel Cyrani is a Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Sales and Strategy Officer. Pavel Cyrani has worked in the CEZ Group since 2006 and apart from the Asset Management Department, he managed also the Controlling Department, Finance Division, for almost four years. Before his engagement in CEZ, a.s. he worked as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, where he specialized in the energy industry. Pavel Cyrani graduated from the University of Economics, Prague, Department of International Trade, and obtained an MBA degree in finance at the Kellogg School of Management in the USA.

Matthew James



Matthew James joined Euro Manganese as President and CEO in December 2021. Matt James has extensive leadership experience in both established global industries and small growth companies across the natural resources, chemicals and environmental services sectors. Previous executive roles include: Vice President, Strategy & Corporate Communications at Lynas Corporation; founding Managing Director of Rutila Resources; and Vice President, Strategy and Business Development, Harsco Corporation. Matt James holds a B. Eng. (Hons) degree in Ceramic Engineering from the University of New South Wales, Australia and a Ph.D. in Material Science

and Engineering from Queens' College at the University of Cambridge. He is a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Directors.

Hiroshi Shimotori



Hiroshi Shimotori Hiroshi Shimotori is the Executive Vice President of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) which was established on February 29, 2004, pursuant to the Law Concerning the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation. Since 2014 Mr Shimotori was the Director of Metals Finance Department and prior to that, he was in different divisions of the same institution. Mr Shimotori joined the Metal Mining Agency of Japan (Predecessor of JOGMEC) in 1987.

Joaquim Nunes de Almeida



Joaquim Nunes de Almeida is the director in charge of “Mobility and energy intensive industries” at the European Commission, in the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) since March 2021. He is the director in charge of “Green and Circular Economy” at DG GROW, which includes the Circular Plastics Alliance. From 2013 he was the director in charge of various single market policies (procurement, free movement of goods and enforcement). Joaquim Nunes de Almeida started his career at the European Commission in 1995 and has extensive experience in policies related to the internal market and home affairs (police cooperation, terrorism, law enforcement, asylum and immigration). Joaquim Nunes de Almeida studied law and worked as a lawyer at the Bar of Lisbon, Portugal, from 1989 to 1994, dealing mainly with anti-trust law as well as commercial and civil law.

Bernd Schäfer



Bernd Schäfer has over 30 years of international business experience. Prior to joining EIT RawMaterials as CEO and Managing Director, he was CEO of apt Group, a leading European aluminium company. He was previously the Vice President of Commercial, Global Commercial Transportation and Industrial in Alcoa. His area of accountability included global market responsibility as well as execution of the innovation agenda and technology roadmap. Mr. Schäfer was a long-time Board Member of the trade association of the aluminium industry and the umbrella of metal-producing companies in Germany until 2020. EIT RawMaterials is the world’s largest innovation community in the raw material sector and has been mandated by the European Commission to manage the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA).

Ruslan Strilets



Ruslan Strilets is the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine. In the year 2000, he graduated from the Oles Honchar Dnipro National University, majoring in “International Economics”. From 2007–2012, he held the positions of chief specialist and deputy head of department in the Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration. He later graduated from the Prydniprovsk State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture, majoring in “Ecology and Environmental Protection”. From 2015 to 2019, he held the position of director of the Department of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration. He supervises issues of digital development, digital transformations and digitalization as well as presented the National Register of Emissions and Transfer of Pollutants a digital service on the EcoSystem electronic portal.

Zdeněk Venera



Zdeněk Venera is the Director of the Czech Geological Survey. He was elected President (2019 – 2021) and a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of European Geological Services EuroGeoSurveys. From 1998 to 2003 he was the Director of the Geology Department of the Ministry of the Environment. Graduated from the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague (1990) and from the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague (1990). Zdeněk Venera worked as an assistant at the Department of Mineral Resources and at the Institute of Petrology and Structural Geology at the Faculty of Science of Charles University. From

2004 to 2005, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California at Davis and at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park.

Armida Torreggiani



Armida Torreggiani is a Senior Researcher at the National Research Council of Italy (CNR). She is a member of many Scientific Committees, national coordinator of a network involving 25 Research Institutes, and author of more than 120 publications in qualified journals and 110 communications to Congresses. Armida Torreggiani has a long experience in education and scientific dissemination activities at middle and high schools as well as at University and is very active in the framework of the EIT RawMaterials Community. She is the project leader of Raw MatTERS Ambassadors at Schools the flagship programme in the Wider Society Learning segment of

EIT Raw Materials. In 2018 she was one of the nominees for the EIT Awards 2018 which recognises the outstanding achievements of women entrepreneurs and leaders from European Innovation Communities and, regarding the EIT Public Award voting, she finished 2nd out of 38 nominees. Armida Torreggiani holds a degree in Chemistry and Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

Chris Heron



Chris Heron is the Communication & Public Affairs Director of Eurometaux, Europe's metals industry association, and in charge of the association's strategy and activities on raw materials. He has eight years of experience with the metals industry, and recently led the completion of KU Leuven's first-of-its-kind [Metals for Clean Energy](#) study. Previously he worked for the European batteries industry, with an academic background in European Politics and Literature from London and the Netherlands.

Mark Rachovides



Mark Rachovides is the President of Euromines. Mr Rachovides is also a Consultant to Dundee Precious Metals, Chairman of Venus Minerals a mining company operating in Cyprus and a Director of Greenroc Mining a mining company operating in Greenland. He has held numerous board positions in Natural Resource and other Companies active in Europe and elsewhere over the last twenty-three years. Executive roles included Executive Director of European Goldfields which was acquired by Eldorado Gold in 2012 and Vice President, Europe at Dundee Resources Limited. He also spent 11 years at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD.) He has been involved in a wide variety of

projects in Southern and Eastern Europe and holds an MA from Oxford University.

Veronika Sochorová



Veronika Sochorová is a communication expert; her goal is to raise awareness of the importance of metals and minerals. Ms Sochorová is the Communications Director of Euromines. She has more than 20 years of experience in communication activities related to the mineral raw materials industry on the national, European and international levels. With industrial experience in corporate communication in a large multinational company, she is now in charge of communication projects. She holds a master's degree in Communication and Media Studies and a post-graduation degree in Marketing Communication.