

**FINAL CONFERENCE
OF THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN LABOUR MARKET IN CONSTRUCTION (FELM) PROJECT**

SPEAKERS' LIST

Josef Muchitsch

Federal Chairman of GBH, Austria

Josef Muchitsch is the federal chairman of the Construction and Woodworkers Union (GBH) in Austria since 2012, and has been a member of the Austrian National Council since 2006, with a focus on employment and social issues. He has also been active in the international trade union movement for many years. Since 2015, he has served as the Vice Chair of the EFBWW Building Committee and since 2022 as an Auditor in the BHI.

His national and international activities are characterised by the cross-border struggle for fair working conditions and against wage and social dumping. He played a leading role in the implementation of comprehensive Austrian legislation against wage and social dumping, which helped to push back unfair labour practices, particularly in the construction industry.

On a European level, he highlights the unfair practices of individual member states and is always in direct contact with EU commissioners and EU parliamentarians. After years of persistence, Slovenia abolished its controversial reduced social security bonus for posted workers by law on December 31, 2023. This was a success against unfair competition in Europe. Another goal is to establish a functioning ELA with more powers in the fight against wage and social dumping.

Christoph Wiesinger

Officer at the WKÖ, Austria

Dr. Christoph Wiesinger is a prominent expert in labour and social law, with a special focus on the construction industry. He has been working for the Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (The Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, WKÖ) since 2002, specifically in the Construction section and the Fachverband der Bauindustrie (Professional Association of the Construction Industry). In this role, he is responsible for labour law matters and the preparation of collective bargaining negotiations from the employers' side. Dr. Wiesinger was also involved in the drafting of the original version of the Überbrückungsgeld (bridging allowance) legislation.

In addition to his work with the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, Dr. Wiesinger is an expert lay judge at the Supreme Court and the Federal Administrative Court, specialising in public procurement law. He received his LL.M. degree from the University of Salzburg and is recognised as one of the leading experts in labour and social law in Austria.

Jonathan Cornah

Policy Officer at EFBWW

Jonathan Cornah is a Policy Officer at EFBWW, a position he has held since March 2022. In his role, he focuses on issues related to the construction industry, labour migration, the posting of workers, due diligence and social security coordination.

Originally from England, Jonathan holds a Master's degree in European Governance Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges. He started his career working at the European Parliament, where he worked for five years. Starting out working as an assistant to Members of the European Parliament from the British Labour Party, he developed his expertise in the field of EU employment and social affairs. After the UK left the EU, Jonathan moved to the administration of the European Parliament where he assisted in the creation of the remote meetings service at the European Parliament.

Christine Le Forestier

Director of Social Affairs at FIEC

Christine Le Forestier is French. She studied French and German law at the University of Nanterre-Paris X and Potsdam Universität. In 2007, she graduated from the Master of European Affairs and Lobbying of the Université Catholique of Paris.

Since then, she has been working at the European Construction Industry Federation (FIEC), based in Brussels. For more than ten years, she has been in charge of economic and legal affairs, dealing amongst others with public procurement, infrastructure and statistics.

In July 2019, she became Director for social affairs, covering three main areas of activities: education and training, occupational health and safety, employment and labour law issues. These topics, together with various EU-funded projects, are also addressed in the EU Social Dialogue committee for the construction industry in which FIEC represents the employers.

Sonila Danaj

Research Team Leader at European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Sonila Danaj is Team Leader of the Employment and Labour Mobility Research Team, at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria. She has twenty years of experience as a researcher. Her thematic expertise includes labour mobility and migrant labour, in particular posted work. She has managed and acted as a researcher for multiple projects on these topics. Her work has been published by Oxford University Press, ETUI, International Journal of Human Resource Management Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, and European Labour Law Journal. She holds an MA in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Sussex, UK, an MA in Political Science from the Central European University, and is PHD candidate at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

Eszter Zólyomi

Researcher at European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Eszter Zólyomi is a researcher at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, Austria (since 2007). She has over 15 years of experience in conducting comparative research and policy analysis in several areas pertaining to social protection and inclusion. Her research interests include poverty, non-monetary aspects of well-being, social and gender inequalities and social inclusion of migrants in the EU.

Elif Naz Kayran

Researcher at European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

Dr. Elif Naz Kayran is a researcher at the Employment and Labour Mobility Team at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna. She has over ten years of research experience in comparative labour market and social policy in the EU, trade union and collective action, migration policy and governance in Europe, and social and political rights for migrants and ethnic minorities. Dr. Kayran obtained her PhD in political science from the University of Geneva, and previously held positions as a post-doctoral researcher at Leiden University and a visiting researcher at Oxford University.

Herbert Krutina

Board Member at Strabag AG, Austria

Herbert Krutina graduated from the Vienna University of Business and Economics and began his career at STRABAG group in 1995. He worked in various positions within operative business before moving to Eastern Europe in 1998. During this time, he helped STRABAG expand its operations in the region and established a strong foothold there. Due to his contributions to the company, Herbert was appointed as a Member of the Board of Directors of STRABAG AG in 2005. In this position, he played a key role in the company's strategy and growth.

Jean-Marc Candille

National Secretary at FNCC-CFDT, France

Jean Marc Candille began his career as a First-Class Technical Officer in the Merchant Navy and later became a Second-Class Captain. After a 10-year career in the maritime industry, he left the navy for personal reasons and went on to work at Sanofi, Elf Aquitaine, and Veolia. It was at Veolia where he started his involvement with the trade union movement, joining the call for the 35-hour workweek agreements. Gradually, he became more and more involved in union work and eventually became the national secretary of the CFDT Construction and Wood Federation, where he is responsible for overseeing international affairs. Through his travels and interactions, he developed a deep sense of commitment to fighting against all forms of injustice and exploitation.

Alan Lievens

Chairman of the Board at European Dredging Association

Alan Lievens is a civil engineer who graduated from the University of Ghent in Belgium. He began his career in 1976 at Jan De Nul, a Belgian Dredging and Construction firm. During his time with the company, he worked on various dredging projects worldwide, including in Europe, the Middle East, Mexico, China, and Denmark. Alan started as a project engineer and later became a project manager, where he was responsible for managing projects from start to finish.

Alan's expertise and contributions to the company led him to become the area manager for Latin America and, eventually, the area director for the Americas until his retirement in 2015. He was responsible for overseeing the company's operations and projects in the region, ensuring that they were completed on time and within budget.

After his retirement, Alan continues to work as an independent consultant, offering his knowledge and expertise in the field of dredging and construction. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of the European Dredging Association, where he contributes to the development and promotion of the dredging industry in Europe.

Jan Vochten

Social Dialogue Director at Embuild, Belgium

Jan Vochten has been serving as the Social Dialogue Director of Embuild, the Belgian Construction Association, since 2016. He holds a master's degree in law from UA (Antwerp) and FUNDP (Namur) and in political sciences from KU Leuven, having graduated on October 12, 1974. Prior to joining Embuild, Jan worked as a trade union secretary for ACV-CSC (Belgian Christian trade union) from 1998 to 2006, and as a Counsel of Social Law at Agoria (Belgian Federation for the Technological Industry) from 2006 to 2013. Later, he served as the Head of Industrial Relations and Wellbeing at BAC (Brussels Airport Company) from 2013 to 2016.

Jan Vochten is a specialist in social law and social dialogue. His extensive experience in the field enables him to provide expert advice on social law and industrial relations.

Domagoj Fedebor

Regional Organiser at SGH, Croatia

Domagoj Ferdebar is a regional organiser for the Trade Union of Construction Industry of Croatia (SGH) since 2011. As a regional organiser, Domagoj plays a vital role in ensuring that the SGH's policies and initiatives are implemented and executed effectively in the region. Domagoj also holds a Master of Economics degree from the prestigious Faculty of Economics & Business in Zagreb.

Before his current position, Domagoj worked as a financial advisor for small and medium-sized enterprises at Hypo-Alpe-Adria Bank in 2010. During his time there, he assisted SMEs in managing their finances and maximising their business potential. Prior to that, he served as an economic policy adviser at the Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia (SSSH) from 2005 to 2009. In this role, Domagoj provided strategic advice and guidance on economic policy issues, helping the SSSH to effectively advocate for the rights of workers and promote a fair and just economy.

Olena Abramovych

Brussels-based Ukrainian Journalist, Ukraine

Originally from Kovel, a town in northwest Ukraine, Olena Abramovych earned a Master's degree from Kyiv Mohyla Academy in 2012. Since then, she has worked for various media outlets, including the Kyiv Post magazine.

Olena's stories shed light on the employment of Ukrainians in other EU countries, their struggles to receive fair payment, and the compensation claims that workers' relatives can make in case of workplace fatalities. While covering mainly political events and summits in the EU, Olena also focuses on the living and working conditions of Ukrainians in Belgium, with a particular emphasis on construction workers.

Aside from her reporting, Olena actively supports workers by helping them file complaints with labour inspection authorities, connecting them with trade unions, and providing translation services for communication with lawyers. She remains engaged with Ukrainian worker communities through social media groups, receiving updates and testimonials on work conditions and priorities.

Cosmin Boianiu

Executive Director of the European Labour Authority

Ambassador Cosmin Boianiu is the Executive Director of the European Labour Authority. He has served as a career diplomat for the Romanian Foreign Affairs ministry since 1996. His areas of expertise include EU affairs, multilateral diplomacy, security and strategic policies, development, NATO, and United Nations. From April 2016 to December 2020, he served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to the European Union and Representative to the Committee of Permanent Representatives I (COREPER I), where he presided COREPER I during Romania's presidency of the Council of the European Union (2019) and coordinated negotiations for the adoption of 48 EU's legislative acts. Mr Boianiu was Ambassador of Romania to the Republic of Slovenia from 2012 to 2016. He has also represented Romania at the United Nations and NATO, including as Minister-Counsellor in New York and Counsellor in Brussels. Mr Boianiu has received several awards for his diplomatic contributions and holds a PhD in Economics of climate change.

Tom Deleu

General Secretary of the EFBWW

Tom Deleu is a trade unionist from Belgium. He obtained his Masters degree in Social Work and Social Welfare Studies before starting work at ACV-CSC BIE, the Belgian trade union in the construction industry, as an international secretary for a decade. During his tenure, he acquired extensive experience in addressing various European and international issues linked to decent work, multinational companies, migration, social dumping, and capacity building.

In November 2019, Tom was elected as the General Secretary of the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) during the General Assembly. The EFBWW is a pan-European organisation that represents more than 1.5 million workers in the construction and wood industries across 79 affiliated unions in 36 countries. The Federation focuses on promoting fair and decent working conditions for workers in these sectors, advocating at both European and national levels.