



Speakers at the European High-Level Summit on Biosolutions 2024







Short bios of the speakers at the European High-Level Summit on Biosolutions in Brussels, February 21st

Moderation and introduction	
<p>Jacki Davis (UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator, Meade Davis Communications• Jacki Davis is a journalist, speaker, broadcaster, and moderator who has been based in Brussels for 20 years. She is also a Senior Adviser to the European Policy Centre think tank.	
<p>Sofie Carsten Nielsen (Denmark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director, European Biosolutions Coalition• Sofie Carsten Nielsen is a former Danish Minister of Higher Education and Research as well as Political Leader of the Danish Social Liberal Party.	
Biosolutions in a global perspective	
<p>Tobias Gehrke (Germany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Policy Fellow, ECFR• Tobias Gehrke holds a PhD in Political Science and at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) he covers geoeconomics, focusing on economic security, European economic strategy, and great power competition in the global economy.	
Keynote discussion	
<p>Stina Soewarta (Denmark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head of Cabinet for Executive Vice President Margrethe Vestager• Stina Soewarta has held roles in various Danish ministries and in the European Institutions. Prior to being Head of Cabinet to Margrethe Vestager, she was Head of the EU Representation in Copenhagen.	
<p>Ester Baiget (Spain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEO, Novonesis• Ester Baiget is a chemical engineer and businesswoman. She has been the Business President of Dow Industrial Solutions for 25 years and is currently a member of the Supervisory Board of AkzoNobel, a Dutch company producing sustainable coating.	

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Moderated conversation (MEP-panel)	
<p>Jan Huitema (The Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the European Parliament, Renew Jan Huitema holds a MSc in Animal Production Systems. Huitema has been an MEP since 2014 representing the Dutch party, VVD and is currently a member of the ENVI Committee. He has been rapporteur on the New Circular Economy Action Plan and the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). He has also been active in the debate on New Genomic Techniques (#NGTs) and is generally very invested in sustainable production of both food and materials. 	
<p>NN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the European Parliament, S&D 	
<p>Pernille Weiss, EPP (Denmark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the European Parliament, EPP Pernille Weiss is a trained nurse and holds a master's degree in Innovation and Leadership. She is a member of the ENVI (Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety) Committee in the European Parliament. 	
Pitch session (Companies)	
<p>Christian Poppe (Germany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Global Public Affairs & Sustainability, Formo Christian Poppe is the General Manager of Formo, a German-based company producing vegan dairy products through fermentation. Poppe is also one of the founding members of and spokesperson for Food Fermentation Europe. 	
<p>Marco Pistocchi (Italy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COO, Biosphere Marco Pistocchi is an industrial chemist who currently holds the position of COO at Biosphere. Biosphere is an Italian company producing bioplastics and developing biochemicals and bioproducts of renewable origin. 	
<p>Carlo Centonze (Switzerland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Founder and Group CEO, HeiQ Carlo Centonze is an engineer who co-founded the Swiss company, HeiQ, which specializes in material innovations and ingredient branding for the sports, outdoor, clothing, home fabric and medical industries. 	
<p>Marcel Wubbolts (the Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Technology Officer, Vivici Marcel Wubbolts is a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Biochemistry, and Molecular biology. He has worked at the Dutch biotech company, DSM for over 17 years and served as Senior Scientist, Program Director Industrial Biotechnology, and CTO. He has been CTO at Vivici for just under one year. 	

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<p>Niels Banke (Switzerland-The Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Scientific Officer, dsm-firmenich • Niels Banke holds a master's degree in biotechnology from DTU. He has worked as a scientist in Novo Nordisk for 11 years and been at Novozymes for 14 years, nearly 10 of these as Senior Manager. He has been CSO at dsm-firmenich for 8 years. 	
<p>Mosa Meat (The Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-President, Global Public Affairs, Mosa Meat • Robert E. Jones has long experience with political campaigns, public affairs, and development of alternative proteins. Alongside his work at Mosa Meat, Jones is also the President of the Board of Directors of Cellular Agriculture Europe. 	
<p>Münzer Bioindustry (Austria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harald Sigl, Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs, Münzer Bioindustry. • Münzer Bioindustry recycles liquid waste and turns it into new products. Their services include – among others – turning used cooking oil into high quality biodiesel and recycling cable and electronic waste. The company is one of Europe's leading collectors and trader of Used Cooking Oil and Austria's largest producer of waste-based Biodiesel. 	
<p>Iprona (Austria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannes Winkelbauer, CEO, Iprona. • Hannes Winkelbauer holds a degree in management and has been at Iprona since 2007. For 7 years he was a professional football player in Austria. 	
<p>Closing reflections (CEO-panel)</p>	
<p>Lars Sandahl Sørensen (Denmark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO, Danish Industry • Lars Sandahl Sørensen has worked as Chief Operating Officer at SAS and Senior Adviser in several investment companies and capital funds as well as CEO of Visit Denmark. 	
<p>Focco Vijselaar (The Netherlands)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO, VNO-NCW • Focco Vijselaar is an economist and has been working in different Dutch ministries across different policy areas such as financial affairs, climate politics, health, and innovation. 	

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<p>Gernot Haas (Austria)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of European Affairs, Federation of Austrian Industries• Gernot Haas has a master's degree in business administration. He has been at Federation of Austrian Industries for 20 years, 6 of these as Senior Project Manager working with lobbying and public affairs activities and 14 of these as Director of European Affairs.	
<p>Viola Bronsema (Germany)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEO, BIO Deutschland• Viola Bronsema is a biologist who has been at BIO Deutschland for 17 years. She is also a Board Member of CureVac, a global biopharmaceutical company.	
<p>Francois Baur (Switzerland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Head European Affairs, economiesuisse, Federation of Swiss Industry• Lawyer by training, specialities include labour law, intellectual property law and public administration, European law in the field of data protection.• Represented in the Governance Board of the European Biosolutions Coalition	
<p>Elena Sgaravatti (Italy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vicepresident, Federchimica-Assobiotec• Elena Sgaravatti is a pharmacist who co-founded Aethera Biotech and PlantaRei Biotech.	