



BLUE FARMING

A NEW VISION FOR EU AQUACULTURE

SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE
AND BLUE ECONOMY CONFERENCE

22 SEPTEMBER 2022



Mr Simonas Šatūnas

Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Mr Šatūnas currently leads the Cabinet of Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius. He joined the European Commission on March 1st, 2022. Mr. Šatūnas for more than 20 years served as a Lithuanian diplomat, was posted in Latvia, United States of America, was a Lithuanian Deputy Permanent Representative and most recently Lithuanian Acting Permanent Representative in the EU.

Mr. Šatūnas has worked also as a foreign policy advisor to President of the Republic of Lithuania.

Mr. Šatūnas has graduated from Vilnius University (MA in political sciences) and took part in a number of professional trainings, as well as was posted to the U.S. Department of State as an exchange diplomat.



Mr Bronius Markauskas,

Member of the European Committee of the Regions

Mr Markauskas was born in the village of Trušeliai, Klaipėda district. In 1985 he graduated from Kaunas University of Technology and obtained the specialty of energy engineer.

In 1990, Mr. Markauskas started farming. He was actively involved in the activities of agricultural organizations: he headed the board of the Association of Lithuanian Milk Producers, was the chairman of the Milk Council under the Ministry of Agriculture, a member of the presidium of the Chamber of Agriculture, the board of the agricultural cooperative „Lietuviškas pienas“. He was also the chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania for two terms.

Mr Markauskas was a member of the Klaipėda District Council for three terms. In 2016 he was elected to the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Since 2016 December to 2018 May, he held the position of Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania. In 2019 he was elected as the mayor of Klaipėda district and is still holding this position.





Mr Martin Hlaváček

Member of the European Parliament

Martin Hlaváček was born on 14 January 1980 in Polička. He graduated at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, as well as at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including also studies in Universidad de Seville in Spain in 2002. He passed several dedicated trainings and courses in Spain, Belgium, USA and Switzerland. As from 2015 he is a member of PhD courses at the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, with a focus on international trade. He speaks fluent English, Spanish and French.

After his studies, he started his professional career as a diplomat in Greece, Athens and later on within the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic in the EU. He was a head of the agriculture and environment unit, participating in the negotiations of the previous EU Common Agricultural Policy as well as national items such as protection of local, traditional Czech products (famous trademarks of Karlovy Vary wafers, Czech carp or Olomouc curd cheese). As from January to October 2012 he was a Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic and moved from 2013 to Phillip Morris Company.

He made a personal decision to move into the European parliament to actively promote the interests of the Czech and European citizens in the area of agriculture, food sector and rural development. He is happy to become a member of the Agriculture committee and be able to actively shape the future of the European farmers.



Mr Simo Tiainen

Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

Mr Tiainen has 15 years of working experience in the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) in Finland and has worked for many years as a director of Brussels office. He has been following closely many EU policy areas which are relevant for farmers, forest owners and rural entrepreneurs. Before the career in farmers union, he also worked in the EU Commission and research sector. His main areas of interest are agricultural policy and markets, rural development, forestry, international trade and trade policies.





Mr Patrik Mlynář
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture of the
Czech Republic

Patrik Mlynář, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Forestry Section, has long been involved in this sector.

The forestry sector includes not only forestry issues, but also hunting, fishing and beekeeping.

In the Czech Republic, the forestry sector, like the fishing sector, has irreplaceable production functions (logging, fish farming) and non-production functions (in particular, landscape care, cultural, aesthetic and recreational functions). Traditional forestry and fishing have a long tradition, which Czech Republic has been building on and are keen to develop.



Mr Kęstutis Sadauskas
Deputy Director-General DG MARE

Kęstutis Sadauskas is a Lithuanian national. He holds Master degrees from Vilnius University in Political Science/International Relations and Geography.

From 1993 until 2006 he worked at the Lithuanian Foreign Service on multilateral issues.

In September 2006 Kęstutis Sadauskas was appointed Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Vilnius.

From April 2010 until October 2014 he was Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Algirdas Šemeta responsible for Taxation, Customs, Anti-fraud, Audit, and Statistics.

From November 2014 until March 2022 Kęstutis Sadauskas has been the Director for Circular Economy and Green Growth at the DG Environment of the European Commission.

From 1st April 2022 Kestutis Sadauskas is Deputy Director-General in Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission.





Ms Elina Hakonen-Meddings
DG REGIO

Ms Elina Hakonen-Meddings has 25 years of experience of working with the European Structural and Investments funds in the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban policy in different roles.

The last five years she has held the post of Deputy Head of Unit "Macro-regions, Transnational/Interregional/External Cooperation, Enlargement".



Dr Xenophon Markantonatos
Director of Rural Affairs, Decentralized
Administration of Epirus

Dr Markantonatos studied Agriculture, majoring Animal Science, at the Agricultural University of Athens. He got his Postgraduate Diploma and his MS in Animal Nutrition at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. In turns, he moved to the USA where he carried out graduate studies (PhD in Animal Science) at the Pennsylvania State University, and a Postdoctoral Research in Agricultural Economics at the University of Florida. He was involved in the international feedstuff industry, especially in Europe and the USA. Since 2002, he served in various positions at Regional Authorities in Western Greece. The last 12 years, he has been serving as the director of the Directorate of Rural Affairs, Decentralized Administration of Epirus-Western Macedonia, with the main area of jurisdiction the region of Epirus in North West Greece. Responsibilities of the office include the implementation of CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and European and National policies in Aquaculture in the area of Epirus.





Ms Áine -Lisa Shannon
Project Facilitator for BIM, Ireland

Áine-Lisa Shannon is a project facilitator for the Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC) for Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency. The ARC offers elementary and high school students an introduction to the wide range of education, training and career opportunities that exist within Ireland's aquaculture and marine sectors. With a bachelor's and master's degree in Marine Biology, Áine-Lisa has a keen interest in science communication, aquaculture, and food sustainability. She has a wealth of hands-on experience at sea, having worked on many research vessels all around the Atlantic Ocean. She also has practical experience in education having taught science experiments to students in primary schools throughout Ireland.



Mr Ben Dallaghan
BIM, Ireland

Ben works in the Economic and Strategic Services unit of BIM, the Irish Seafood Development Agency. He holds a primary degree in Zoology, an MSc in food science and is pursuing doctoral studies in sustainability. Ben has 20-years aquaculture experience and for the first 10 years of his career he focused on aquaculture site selection for marine finfish and shellfish. Ben is project manager on a range of strategic projects and is currently working on the Irish Seafood Carbon Footprint study which will generate baseline Carbon emission data for the entire Irish seafood sector. In 2021, BIM completed the Irish Aquaculture Socio Economic study and that will be the subject of his talk.



Stefano Dini and Fabio Giorgi

Mariculture and Research Cooperative, Capraia island

The *Cooperativa Maricoltura e Ricerca* (Mariculture and Research Cooperative (Maricap)) was created in 1998 by a regional experimentation project: since then, they have worked with passion and dedication. In 8 cages they produce 250 tonnes of sea bream and sea bass per year- their activity is small in size and production and rearing cycles are well adapted to the slow pace of the site. This allows them to distinguish themselves by the excellence of their products, with a unique and recognizable taste and texture: production that is deliberately modest, in order to guarantee extreme quality, is sought with the utmost care in every detail.

The island of Capraia, around 36 miles from the coast, is inhabited by a few hundred people and has no industrial settlement. Throughout the archipelago, the island is the only one to have a natural freshwater reservoir and has a considerable amount of endemic species, both plants and animals. In short, it is a small natural haven, a wild and uncontaminated oasis, which they take care of every day.



Maricap is located on the small island of Capraia in the upper Tyrrhenian Sea, in the Tuscan Archipelago National Park between Italy and the island of Corsica.





Mr Vedran Nikolić
Directorate-General for Environment

Vedran is a policy coordinator in the Nature conservation unit of European Commission's DG Environment. He is coordinating marine conservation work related to the implementation of EU nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives), management effectiveness of Natura 2000 network and marine protected area targets under EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Vedran is a marine biologist and he previously worked as a research scientist studying biodiversity and ecology of marine macroalgae and seagrasses and their use as bioindicators of ecosystem health. As a scientific diver, he has frequently evaluated the impact of aquaculture installations on marine ecosystems and advised on best practices to mitigate the negative impacts.



Ms Raphaëla Le Gouvello
IUCN expert

Raphaëla le Gouvello is Doctor in Veterinary Medicine and has been involved in the aquaculture field, on an international basis since the 1980's. She has been practicing as a fish vet, working in aquafeeds, developing aquaculture health products, and increasingly dealing with topics related to the improvement of aquaculture system sustainability. More recently, as an IUCN expert, in close collaboration with the IUCN headquarters, she has been developing a collection of case studies, of marine conservation and marine aquaculture, and now Aquaculture-related Nature-based solutions, to further explore and promote synergies between both fields, aquaculture AND conservation.

A recent PhD thesis in economics has enabled her to further explore the issue of circular economy applied to aquaculture and fisheries systems. Convinced on the idea of reconciling social and economic development with marine conservation, she is the funder and honor president of the French association [RespectOcean](#), today federating more than 70 small to large enterprises, acting for a sustainable blue economy, good practices, and innovations for a blue transition.

Raphaëla is also well-known for solo ocean windsurfing crossing, world records performed between 2000 and 2006: the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, and the Mediterranean Sea.

Credit photo: A. Meyssonier





Mr Giuseppe Cherubini
Regional administration, Veneto region

Giuseppe Cherubini was born in 1966 in Venice and has always frequented its lagoon with passion and interest. He studied at the University of Padua, obtaining a degree in Natural Sciences in 1991 and a degree in Biological Sciences in 1995. From 1993 to 1995 he attended the Italian National Institute for Wildlife with a scholarship, dealing with research on wetland bird populations. For more than twenty years, he worked in the hunting, fishing and aquaculture office of the Province of Venice. From 2018 he moved to the Veneto Region Administration and since August 2021 he has been holding the role of Director of the Regional Office for Fisheries and Aquaculture. In this role, he has also the responsibility of managing the budget assigned to the Veneto Region for the implementation of the Program of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.



Mr Oliver Martini
President of Veneto Lagoons Association

Oliver Martini is an agricultural expert and a farmer. Ever since he was a child, he accompanied his father in the Veneto fishing valleys, learning to know and love the unique environment of wetlands. Since the 90s, driven by the great passion he received from his father, he has specialized in aquaculture and managed two fishing valleys in the Veneto region.

In the first valley, which is located in the Po River Delta in the province of Rovigo, besides valliculture there is also a hatchery.

The second valley is located in the lagoon of Venice, in the Venice province, and the only activity carried out is traditional valliculture.

He and his team of professionals are passionately devoted to the management of the valley ecosystem, which requires constant efforts, investment and innovation to overcome today 's challenges, from climate change to sustainability, and to preserve the biodiversity of flora and fauna that is characteristic of these places and the ancient tradition of fish farming, which is very small and lives naturally, without human intervention, except for water management.

Finally, he is the President of the Veneto Vallicoltori and a member of the API Management Board (Associazione piscicoltori Italiani).





Mr Jan Mráz, PhD
Head of CENAKVA research program, South Bohemia

Jan Mráz is an associate professor in Aquaculture at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czech Republic. His research focuses on developing sustainable and circular aquaculture and food production systems. He aims to develop solutions that are a win-win situation for fish production, nature protection, and human health. Jan did his Master's in Fishery (University of South Bohemia) and Ph.D. in Fishery (University of South Bohemia), and Ph.D. in Food Science (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences). He habilitated in 2017 in Fishery at the University of South Bohemia. He is the leader of the Laboratory of Nutrition at the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters and the research program "Sustainable aquaculture with responsible water and nutrient management "at CENAKVA (South Bohemian Research Centre for Aquaculture and Biodiversity of Hydrocenoses). From 2014-2019, he was the Institute of Aquaculture and Protection of Waters director.



Mr Cyril Rouault
Policy Officer for aquaculture, Région Bretagne

Cyril Rouault is involved in monitoring and animation of the Breton aquaculture sector (shellfish farming, fish farming, algae). He forms links and exchanges with aquaculture enterprises, professional organizations and other stakeholders on subjects specific to these sectors. He is responsible for EMFF and EMFAF aquaculture measures.





Mr Béla Halasi-Kovács, PhD
Director of the Research Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture of MATE, Hungary

Béla Halasi-Kovács is the director of Research Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences. (MATE-HAKI). He has twenty-five years of experience in pond aquaculture management and fisheries management of Hungarian surface waters. His research areas are the community ecology of fishes and the ecology of fishpond systems. As the director of HAKI he organizes the multidisciplinary research programs in the institute that covers the development of various freshwater aquaculture technologies; studies of fish physiology, genetics, immunology and nutrition. It also provides scientific basis for responsible use of aquatic resources. He also leads the innovation and extension works of the HAKI, focusing on scientific and technical collaboration of the wide range of national and international organizations to the sustainable aquaculture development. HAKI is one of the European founding members of the Global Sustainable Aquaculture Advancement Partnership. Béla Halasi-Kovács is the vice president of the Hungarian Aquaculture and Fisheries Inter-Branch Organisation (Ma-Hal) and chair of Environmental and Climate Change Commission of FEAP.



Mr David Basset
General Secretary, EATIP

Employed by EATiP since 2017, David assumed the role of General Secretary at the beginning of 2021 and is responsible for the day-to-day management and strategic coordination of this European-wide multi stakeholder aquaculture European Technology Platform.

David has worked within the aquaculture industry since 2005, spending a decade as the Chief Executive of a UK producers association. Through this role he became active in European aquaculture, working with EATiP & FEAP (Federation of European Aquaculture Producers) where he followed a number of EU funded Framework Programme projects. Among other roles, David served as a director of the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum, acted as Director & Company Secretary for an independent industry led quality standard/certification scheme, worked on the steering committee of the WWF Aquaculture Dialogues (Rainbow Trout) and Technical Advisory Group of the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC TAG) and served as an industry representative on the management committee of the Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling (UK).

He currently sits on numerous EU Horizon project advisory boards including the BlueBio CoFund in addition to representing EATiP within the Aquaculture Advisory Council and Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR-Fish) Committee.





Ms Patrizia Busolini
Policy officer, DG MARE

Patrizia Busolini is a policy officer at DG MARE Unit dealing with Sea-basin Strategies, Maritime Regional Cooperation and Maritime Security. She is in charge of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea (CMA) that aims at supporting regional cooperation for a more sustainable blue economy in the Black Sea and which is the 3rd and most recent EU sea basin initiative that joins similar frameworks of cooperation in the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean.

She is also responsible for the file on smart specialization for sustainable blue economy, the approach DG MARE has recently developed and that will act as enabler of the implementation of the 2021 Communication on a Sustainable Blue Economy.

Pervious to this experience, she was in charge of Enlargement and Integration Action of the EU Commission Joint Research Centre, focusing the identification and implementation of projects supporting Horizon 2020 Associated countries in participating to EU research and innovation projects while promoting smart specialization approach.

Before joining the EU Commission, she was responsible for the implementation of the Axis 4 of the EU INTERREG Mediterranean Programme and the related Mediterranean intergovernmental platform focusing capacity building to Programme countries in the identification and implementation of joint policies and projects targeting common challenges in strategic sectors such as maritime surveillance, coastal/maritime tourism and innovation.



Mr Giuseppe Sciacca
Director for Maritime Affairs and Climate, CPMR

Mr Giuseppe Sciacca has been working for the CPMR General Secretariat since 2006. He is an expert in EU policies (notably Maritime Policy, Fisheries, Cohesion Policy, Transports and Energy and Climate) and has excellent skills in team management and drafting political and technical reports.

In July 2017, Giuseppe was appointed Executive Secretary of the CPMR Islands Geographical Commission. In this role, he managed the daily activities of a network of 21 island regional governments.

In September 2021, Giuseppe was appointed Director of Maritime Affairs and Climate within the CPMR General Secretariat. In his capacity as Director, he strives to support efforts to strengthen policy areas including IMP governance and investment, marine living resources, management and protection, education and training, marine energy and industry, and marine and coastal tourism.

Giuseppe has a long experience, and he is very well versed in designing and implementing EU projects. Giuseppe is a native Italian speaker and fluent in English and French. He also has a proficient working knowledge of Spanish.





Ms Lara Barazzi- Geroulanou

President of the European Federation of Aquaculture Producers (FEAP) and CEO of Kefalonia Fisheries

Lara Barazi-Geroulanou has led Kefalonia Fisheries as its CEO since 1998. Prior to that she worked in investment banking and trading in the US.

She is a graduate of Harvard University with a Master’s Degree in International Trade and Finance and of Columbia University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics.

She serves on the boards of many industry associations both in Greece and in the EU including the Federation of Greek Maricultures and the Hellenic Aquaculture Producers Organization. She is President of the Federation of European Aquaculture Producers, a Member of the Board of the Benaki Museum and the Advisory Boards of the Blue Revolution Fund as well as the New Agriculture New Generation Organization. She consults to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) on issues of sustainable aquaculture development.

She speaks Arabic, English, French and Greek.

