

Horizons 2020 – Energy

Innovations for
climate protection

Tuesday, 12th February 2008

Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU
Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

Speakers List

Dr. h. c. mult. Hans Zehetmair was born in 1936 in Langengeisling near Erding. From 1974 to 1978 and from 1990 to 2003 he was a Member of the Bavarian Parliament. Between 1986 and 2003 he held several Bavarian ministerial posts such as Bavarian Minister of State for Education and Cultural Affairs (1986-1989), Bavarian Minister of State for Education, Cultural Affairs, Science and Arts (1990-1998) and Bavarian Minister of State for Science, Research and Arts (1998-2003). In addition Zehetmair was the deputy minister president of Bavaria from 1993 to 1998. He was also the representative of the EU Council of Ministers for Culture since 1993 until his retirement. Furthermore he got involved with the Enquete-commission “culture in Germany” from the German Bundestag as an expert. Since March 2004 he has been chairman of the Hanns-Seidel Stiftung.



Commissioner Andris Piebalgs took up the post of Energy Commissioner in November 2004. From 1, May 2004 until November 2004 he was heading the Cabinet of Latvian Commissioner Mrs. Sandra Kalniete. Before joining the European Commission, Mr Piebalgs has been working in diplomacy for almost 10 years. The Commissioner started his diplomatic career in 1995 when he became the ambassador of Latvia in Estonia. During five years – between 1998 and 2003 – Andris Piebalgs was the Ambassador of Latvia to the European Union, later he served as Undersecretary of State for EU affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia. Mr Piebalgs was also active in Latvian politics for 6 years. From 1990 to 1993 the Commissioner was Minister of Education, in 1993 and 1994 he was chairing the budget and finance committee of the Parliament of Latvia (Saeima). In 1994 Andris Piebalgs became Finance minister of Latvia and held this post for two years.



Dr.-Ing. Udo Niehage was born in November 1954. Dr. Niehage studied Electric Engineering and graduated as Dr.-Ing. from the RWTH Aachen. He also obtained a diploma in commerce at the same University. During this time he also worked as assistant and lecturer. In 1988 Dr. Niehage joined Siemens. After four years in different fields within Siemens, he took a leading position at ABB Germany and in the BEWAG AG Berlin-Utility. In 2000 he took the lead of Siemens Medium Voltage. Since 2003 he is the President of the Siemens Power Transmission and Distribution Group. Since 2008, within the new Siemens structure, he is the Energy Sector CEO Power Transmission.



Staffan Jerneck is economist and Director & Director Corporate Relations of CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies), a Brussels-based politically independent and influential European think tank having close relations to the EU Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, business executives, diplomats, politicians and other relevant decision makers. Mr Staffan Jerneck is in charge of the corporate sector. He was Secretary General and Director General of the Swedish International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) from 1986 – 1997 and assistant to the CEO of the Federation of Swedish Industries. He also served as secretary of the Boards of the Federation and the General Export Association of Sweden and joined the President's office.



Dr. Stephan Singer is the head of European Climate and Energy Policy Unit at WWF's European Policy Office in Brussels. In 1987 he received a master of soil science from the University Hamburg. From 1988 to 1992 he worked in Hyderabad for the GTZ on soil fertility and carbon dynamics in India's semi-arid tropics. In 1992 he completed his PhD on carbon cycling in Indian agricultural soils. From 1993 to 1999 he was head of the Climate Policy Unit at WWF Germany in Frankfurt. Since 1999 he holds this office at the WWF's European Policy Office in Brussels.



Dr. Angelika Niebler is a Member of the European Parliament since 1999 in the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats. She studied Law in Munich and Geneva. Since 1991 she has been working as a Lawyer in Munich and since 1999 she is CDU/CSU-Group parliamentary business manager in the EPP-ED Group. She is also a member of the CDU/CSU Group and EPP-ED Group Executive. Dr. Angelika Niebler is Chairwoman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. For the Committee on International Market and Consumer Protection and the Temporary Committee on Climate Change she works as a Substitute. Furthermore she is member of the delegation for relations with the Gulf States.



Gerd Becker was born in 1948 near Kassel in Germany. He received the Dipl.-Ing. from the Technische Universität München in 1975 and the Dr.-Ing. degree in 1981 from the Bundeswehr University, Munich. From 1981 to 1988 he was responsible for the high voltage grid and power station operations at Isar – Amperwerke (now E.ON Bayern) in Munich. In 1988 he was appointed professor in the field of Electricity Power Supply and Renewable Energies at the Munich University of Applied Sciences. Since 1996 he has been head of the solar lab. His work focuses on renewable energies. He is a consultant for numerous companies and organisations, works on many research projects and has published many papers especially on the topic of renewable energies. He is active in various committees of VDI/VDE, the Bavarian Association for the Promotion of Solar Energy and Bavarian Technology Transfer.



Dr. Jorgo Chatzimarkakis is a Member of the European Parliament. He was born 1966 in Duisburg. Under the foreign minister Klaus Kinkel he was working in the planning commission of the ministry of foreign affairs. Chatzimarkakis had several university teaching commissions at German universities since 1999. At the moment he has a university teaching commission at the University of Saarland in the faculty of information sciences and he is a guest lecturer at the School of Governance of North Rhine-Westphalia in Duisburg. He is in the federal board of the FDP since nearly one decade and serves as general secretary of the Liberals of Saarland. Since July 2004 he is a Member of the European Parliament und was elected as "the delegate of the year 2007" in the area of Research and Technology.



Heidrun Piwernetz is the head of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union. She graduated in law at the University of Bayreuth. Since 1988 she has been a civil servant and worked in all areas of the Bavarian civil administration: She was working for the district office of Coburg, the administration of Upper Franconia, the civil administration of internal affairs and the State chancellery of Bavaria. From 2000 to 2004 she was the vice president of the government of Lower Franconia. After this period she changed to Upper Bavaria and is now the government vice president of this region.

