

#GuildForum19
5 December 2019
BIP, Brussels

Forum on the European Universities Initiative

Towards a new vision for
Europe's higher education sector

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Agenda

13h30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME DRINK

14h00 OPENING REMARKS

Vincent Blondel

Chair of The Guild / UCLouvain

14h10 KEYNOTE SPEECH

Themis Christophidou

Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

14h30 ADDRESS

Valérie Glatigny

Minister of Higher Education and Research, Federation Wallonia-Brussels

14h45 PANEL DISCUSSION

Opportunities to bring together education, research and innovation

Vincent Blondel

The Guild / UCLouvain

Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot

DG EAC, European Commission

Apostolia Karamali

DG RTD, European Commission

Stanisław Kistryn

Jagiellonian University / UNA Europa

15h40 COFFEE BREAK

16h00 PANEL DISCUSSION
Civic engagement: the role of universities in local communities

Antoine Cazé

Université Paris Diderot / Circle U

Stuart Croft

University of Warwick / EUTOPIA

Vanessa Debiais-Sainton

DG EAC, European Commission

Martin Paul

Maastricht University / YUFE

17h00 PANEL DISCUSSION
International collaboration: alliances going beyond the EU / EEA

Klaus Birk

Erasmus+ National Agency for Higher Education / DAAD

Monique Scheer

University of Tübingen / CIVIS

Vanessa Scherrer

Sciences Po / CIVICA

Vivienne Stern

Universities UK International

18h00 NETWORKING RECEPTION

The speakers



KLAUS BIRK

Dr. Klaus Birk is the Director of the Erasmus + National Agency for Higher Education at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). He joined the DAAD in 2001, leading the Section “China and Mongolia” and subsequently worked as Head of the Divisions “Asia-Pacific” and “Knowledge and Network”. Dr. Birk studied Chinese Studies, Political Sciences and Philosophy, and taught at Leipzig University from 1995 to 2001.



VINCENT
BLONDEL

Professor Vincent Blondel has been Chair of The Guild since 2017, and Rector of UCLouvain since 2014. He also chairs the Rectors’ Council of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. In the past, Professor Blondel held positions as Dean of the Louvain School of Engineering and Head of UCLouvain’s Department of Mathematical Engineering. A graduate of UC Louvain and Imperial College London, he held visiting professorships at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of California (Santa Barbara). He has won multiple awards for his research, including the ‘Adolphe Wetrems’ Prize of the Royal Belgian Academy.



ANTOINE CAZÉ

Professor Antoine Cazé is Vice President for International Relations at the Université Paris Diderot, which has just become part of the Université de Paris, a member of the Circle U alliance. He teaches American Literature and Literary Translation. Having won several prizes for his work as a literary translator, Professor Cazé is Co-director of the Centre d’études sur la traduction (CET) and currently leads the Observatoire de la Littérature Américaine (ODELA).



THEMIS
CHRISTOPHIDOU

Themis Christophidou has been Director-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) at the European Commission since 2018. She joined the Commission in 2001, holding various positions at the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. From 2010 Ms. Christophidou worked as Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou, and later as Head of Cabinet for Commissioners Maria Damanaki and Christos Stylianides. A civil engineer by training, she worked in the private sector for 15 years.



STUART CROFT

Professor Stuart Croft is the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Warwick, a member of the EUTOPIA university alliance. After joining the University of Warwick as Professor of International Security in 2007, he held various positions including as Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost. A prolific academic and author of over a dozen books, he is a past chair of the British International Studies Association, and he served as the Ngee Ann Kongsi distinguished professor at at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Professor Croft’s commitment to the region is underlined by his active membership of the Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Board and the Midlands Innovation Board.



VANESSA
DEBIAIS-SAINTON

Vanessa Debiais-Sainton is the Head of Unit in charge of Higher Education policies and programme at the European Commission’s Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC). In charge of the higher education strand of Erasmus+, the unit is the lead service for EU policies on reform and the modernisation of higher education, including the European Universities initiative. A graduate of McGill University and the IFP (École Normale Supérieure du Pétrole et des Moteurs), Ms. Debiais-Sainton has worked as a process engineer and as a project manager before joining the Commission in 2006. Since then, she has worked at DG Research and Innovation (DG RTD), and DG EAC.



SOPHIA ERIKSSON
WATERSCHOOT

Sophia Eriksson Waterschoot is Director for Youth, Education and Erasmus+ at the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC). Since joining the European Commission in 1996, she has worked on various areas including employment and cohesion policy. Between 2013 and 2016 Ms. Eriksson Waterschoot worked as Head of Unit for Europe 2020, Investment Plan, Education & Training. A recipient of the Eisenhower Fellowship, she is a graduate of Uppsala University and UC Louvain, having studied Economics, Political Science and European Studies.



VALÉRIE GLATIGNY

Valérie Glatigny is Minister of Higher Education and Research of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation. A journalist by training, Ms. Glatigny worked in the office of Louis Michel between 2004 to 2009 who was at the time Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid. Later, she became an adviser to MEP Frédérique Ries and to the committee on civil liberties. Before joining the government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Ms. Glatigny worked as adviser for internal affairs to the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani.



APOSTOLIA
KARAMALI

Apostolia Karamali is Head of the Academic R&I and Research Organisations Unit at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). With more than twenty years of experience in EU institutions, Ms. Karamali has worked extensively in the areas of space and research policies, most recently as Deputy Head of Unit for Space Policy and Research at DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW).



STANISŁAW
KISTRYN

Professor Dr. Hab. Stanisław Kistryn is Vice Rector for Research and Structural Funds at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, which is part of the UNA Europa alliance. A distinguished physicist with over 100 publications, he has held positions at ETH Zürich and the Jülich Research Centre of the Helmholtz Association (Germany). He is a member of the team working on higher education and research funding algorithms at the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, having also served in the Committee for the Evaluation of Research Units.



MARTIN PAUL

Professor Dr. Martin Paul has been President of Maastricht University since 2011, and serves as the founding Chair of the YUFE alliance (Young Universities for the Future of Europe). In the past, he served as Dean of the Medical Faculty of the Freie Universität and Vice President of the Executive Board of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin in Berlin. Holding numerous positions in academic international bodies, Professor Paul is also an active researcher, with distinguished publications in the field of hypertension. He has been awarded several prizes as well as two honorary doctorates.



MONIQUE SCHEER

Professor Dr. Monique Scheer is Vice President of International Affairs at the University of Tübingen, a member of the CIVIS University alliance. A graduate of the University of Stanford, Professor Scheer completed her training in History and Religious Studies at the University of Tübingen. She held various academic positions at Tübingen and at the Max-Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin, before being appointed to a Chair at Tübingen in 2014. Prior to becoming Vice President in 2016, she served as Vice Dean of Academic Affairs for Social Sciences and Director of the Ludwig Uhland Institute.

The speakers



VANESSA
SCHERRER

Dr. Vanessa Scherrer is Vice President for International Affairs at Sciences Po, a member of the CIVICA university alliance. As a founding member of Sciences Po's Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA), between 2010 and 2017 Dr. Scherrer held the positions of Executive Director and Vice Dean, helping to establish PSIA's international reputation. Prior to this, Dr. Scherrer directed the Alliance Program at Columbia University, where she was a visiting Professor. She holds a PhD in Political Science.



VIVIENNE STERN

Vivienne Stern has been Director of Universities UK International (UUKi), since 2014. Ms Stern began her career in the House of Commons, working for the Chair of the Education and Skills Select Committee, before moving to UUK in 2008. She became Head of Political Affairs in 2011, leading UUK's response to the transformation of UK Higher Education through the deregulation of student places and the increase of student fees in England. Ms. Stern is a member of several groups and committees, including the Board of the UK India Research and Innovation Initiative and the British Council's Education Advisory Group. She holds an MA in English Literature from the University of Cambridge.



Moderator

JAN PALMOWSKI

Professor Jan Palmowski has been Secretary-General of The Guild since its creation in 2016. A contemporary historian, he started his career at the University of Oxford before moving to King's College London where he taught European politics and EU integration. He was Head of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at King's College London (2008-12), and Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Academic Vice-President at the University of Warwick from 2013 to 2018.

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ABOUT THE GUILD

Founded in 2016, The Guild comprises nineteen of Europe's most distinguished research-intensive universities in fourteen countries inside and outside the European Union and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.



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