

## COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

### ***PUBLIC HEARING “THE DRAGHI REPORT: COMPETITIVENESS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY FROM A TRADE ANGLE”***

3 December 2024, 14.30-16.30  
Brussels, Room SPINELLI 1G3

#### **BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS**

**Carlo ALTOMONTE, Professor of Economics of European Integration at the Social and Political Sciences Department of Bocconi University and Bruegel non-resident fellow**



Carlo Altomonte is Professor of Economics of European Integration at the Social and Political Sciences Department of Bocconi University, and Associate Dean of SDA Bocconi School of Management, where he teaches International Business Environment. He is currently the Director of the Globalization and Industry Dynamics unit at the Baffi-Carefin centre of research of Bocconi University, Vice President at ISPI, the Italian centre of Studies on International Politics, and a Non Resident Fellow at Bruegel, a EU think tank. He has been regularly acting as consultant for a number of national and international institutions, including the Italian Government, where among others he has been an Economic Advisor to the Draghi Government, the United Nations (UNCTAD), the European Commission and the European Central Bank. His main areas of research and publication are international trade and investment, the political economy of globalization and its implication on competitiveness.

**James WATSON, Director General of Eurometaux**



James Watson takes up his duties as Director General of Eurometaux on 2 December 2024. He was previously Secretary General of Eurogas, a role he has held since January 2019. Prior to taking the helm at Eurogas, James was the Chief Executive Officer of SolarPower Europe, the European solar industry association. Before joining SolarPower Europe, he worked as the Director of Public Affairs for Weber Shandwick, specialising in energy and trade policy. He has over 15 years experience in Brussels policy making. Before coming to Brussels, James worked for the Commonwealth Secretariat on a European Commission project on trade and sustainable development based in Ethiopia. Earlier in his career James worked for various public sector organisations in London and worked as a lecturer in Environmental Law at the University of Manchester. He has over 25 years of policy and public speaking related experience. He holds a Ph.D in International Trade and Environmental Law from the University of Leeds, and was a Visiting Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel until 2022.

**Victoria DE POSSON, Secretary General of the EU Tech Alliance (EUTA)**



Victoria de Posson is currently the Secretary General of the European Tech Alliance (EUTA), a role she took on in September 2022. The EUTA is an organisation that represents leading European-born tech companies. In her role, Ms de Posson works on digital policies, including on digital services, consumer protection, artificial intelligence, and competition. She also manages the day-to-day operations of the alliance. Before joining EUTA, Ms de Posson held a senior position in public policy at the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA) and at FTI Consulting. She started her career at Samsung Electronics and the European Parliament. Victoria studied European Affairs at the College of Europe and

International Relations at the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve. In addition to her work in tech policy, she is also involved in promoting gender equality in the digital sector.

**Elena CRASTA, Senior Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)**



Elena Crasta works at the ETUC as a senior advisor on trade, external relations and EU enlargement. Sits on the domestic advisory groups (UK, Canada, Moldova), bodies that monitor EU trade agreements' trade and sustainable development chapters. Prior to this, she has been special advisor at the Just Transition Centre, set up by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to work with affiliates to secure their support for the green transition, international climate targets, and devise just transition plans. She has also worked for the Trades Union Congress (TUC) for 20 years, both in the UK and their office in Brussels, where she represented the TUC in the European Union institutions and liaised with the ETUC and its affiliated organisations. In this role she gained extensive experience of EU directives in the field of workers' rights and social policy; worked also on trade policy, Brexit negotiations and regulation of the EU internal market; and represented the TUC in European social dialogue negotiations with employers.

**Anthony GOOCH GÁLVEZ, Secretary General of the European Round Table for Industry (ERT)**



Mr Gooch Gálvez was appointed as SG of ERT on 1 September 2024. Prior to this he spent 15 years as Director at OECD, joining on the eve of the GFC, working across major policy areas including the G20-mandated overhaul of international tax standards (AEOI/BEPS), Trade in Value Added (TiVA) & Global Value & Supply Chains (GVCs). Over 14 years as an EU Commission official, trade negotiator & diplomat, he began in 1995, co-ordinating successful negotiations for the EU's first ever full-service FTA with Mexico, on the strength of which incoming Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy appointed him EU Trade Spokesman & Special Adviser. Participating in negotiations at

WTO Ministerials in Seattle in 1999 & 2001 to launch the Doha Trade Round, complete China's Accession to WTO & broker a deal on Access to Medicines for the world's poorest countries, he helped manage transatlantic relations including high profile trade disputes such as Boeing/Airbus & US steel tariffs. Key diplomatic postings followed at the EU's Embassies in Washington & London, managing relations with the US and UK. A recent graduate of IESE Business School's Advanced Management Programme, he holds degrees from Sciences Po Paris & Cambridge University.

**Véronique WILLEMS, Secretary General SMEunited**



Véronique Willems serves as Secretary General of SMEunited, the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe, as of 2017. SMEunited stands for 65 SME organisations – national cross-sectoral and European sector federations – from over 30 European countries.

With 25 years of experience in advocacy at local, regional, national and European level, Ms Willems builds on several years of counselling and mentoring SMEs and uses their everyday life as a basis to shape an SME-friendly business environment. Véronique Willems holds a law degree and a master's degree in commercial sciences/business management.