

CONFERENCE

**Healthy cities, healthy people**  
Pathways for clean air in the EU's urban environments

23 APRIL 2024



**Rachel Aldred**

Rachel Aldred is a Professor in Transport at the University of Westminster and Director of the Active Travel Academy. She is interested in sustainable mobility, especially active transport, and has published over fifty peer-reviewed articles in this area. Rachel Aldred teaches on Westminster's MSc Transport Planning and Management. She is a founding editor of the open access journal Active Travel Studies and sits on the editorial board of Mobilities and the European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research, as well as of Transport Reviews.



**Luk Bruyneel**

Luk Bruyneel is Lead Scientific and Economic Matters at the Independent Health Insurance Funds (Mutualités Libres) and Guest Professor at the KU Leuven Institute for Healthcare Policy. Both research and policy capture his attention, in domains such as the design of social insurance systems, work incapacity, hospital quality of care, and the association between environment and health. Luk Bruyneel completed master's degrees in Nursing (2008), Economic Policy (2013) and Statistics (2015), as well as a PhD in Biomedical Science (2015) and a post-graduate degree in Big Data Analytics for Business and Management (2019). He published close to 100 studies in international peer-reviewed journals.



**Oskar Bonte**

Oskar Bonte is 19 years old, studies law and is a Youth Advisor at the Flemish Youth Council, and chairman of the Mechelen Youth Council. He is passionate about youth participation and the climate. The Flemish Youth Council is the official advisory body of the Flemish Government on all matters concerning children and young people in Flanders, Europe and the UN.



**Tim Cassiers**

Tim Cassiers is air quality and mobility expert at BRAL – urban movement for Brussels. He's been active in several citizen science projects on air quality: Aircasting Brussels, Curieuzenair, ExpAir to name but a few. Through measuring, collective reflection and learning, BRAL sensibilises and mobilises for a healthy and liveable Brussels.



**Xavier Brenez**

Xavier Brenez has several degrees, including in management and management of healthcare institutions, acquired at the Solvay Brussels School, ULB and the London School of Economics. He began his career at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, before moving into consulting and development of digital postal services. In 2004, he joined the Independent Health Insurance Funds family, becoming CEO of Euromut. Xavier Brenez has been CEO of the Independent Health Insurance Funds (Mutualités Libres) since September 2010.



**Patrick Child**

Patrick Child is Deputy Director-General at the European Commission's DG Environment, with a particular responsibility on the EU's zero pollution strategy, chemicals legislation, research and innovation for environment and communication. From 2016-2021, he was Deputy Director-General in DG Research and Innovation (R&I), for which he oversaw key files on research and innovation in climate action and clean energy, mobility technologies as well as the R&I dimension of the post-COVID recovery and resilience strategy.



### Marie-Charlotte Debouche

Marie-Charlotte Debouche is an EU Public Affairs and Policy Officer at the environmental law charity ClientEarth, which is advocating to safeguard everyone's right to breathe healthy air. Prior to this role, from 2020-2023, she worked

as the Belgian Coordinator of the Clean Cities Campaign, a European campaign that advocates for measures to clean up transport in cities.



### Jacek Kisiel

Jacek Kisiel is Deputy Director in Air Protection and Climate Policy Department for the Warsaw City Hall. With several years of experience in local self-government, he specialises in spatial planning, air quality, energy efficiency, renewable energy

and climate policy. He currently supervises the City's activities in the field of energy efficiency. He supervised the city's anti-smog policy, the Warsaw Climate Panel, Warsaw Green City and Climate Action Plan, the Warsaw Green Building Standard and energy poverty projects. He is particularly interested in innovative and integrated projects that combine mitigation with climate change adaptation.



### Alberto Gonzalez Ortiz

After working for several years for the Spanish Ministry of Environment, focusing on air quality and the implementation of air quality laws, Alberto Gonzalez Ortiz has been working at the European Environment Agency (EEA) as

Project Manager on air quality data and policy assessments since 2011. For this role, he worked on several European assessments of air quality, the production of air quality indicators and air pollution country factsheets, as well as the implementation provisions of the Air Quality Directive.



### Renaud Leemans

Throughout his sociology studies at UCLouvain, Renaud directed his attention towards citizen involvement and the effective utilisation of urban spaces. This paved the way for his engagement in youth advocacy, before taking on

the role of campaign coordinator for Les chercheurs d'air. Driven by a steadfast commitment to fostering a healthier and safer urban environment, Renaud now channels his efforts into the promotion of better air quality for children, safer streets, and more active mobility, particularly through his focus on school streets.



### Christian Horemans

Christian Horemans works as International Affairs Expert at the Mutualités Libres (Independent Health Insurance Funds). Christian has a law degree from the University of Leuven (KU Leuven), and he specialised in European Law at

the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL). Today, he follows European and international policy on cross-border healthcare, digitisation of healthcare, impact of climate and environment on health, etc. Within his organisation, he coordinates a Taskforce working on Climate, Environment and Health. Christian is member of the Executive Committee of the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL).



### Alain Maron

Alain Maron is Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, in charge of the Climate Transition, Environment, Energy, Social Affairs and Health. He is strongly dedicated to improving the quality of life in his city, which drove

him to become a member of the Belgian Green Party and to be elected as a member of the Brussels regional Parliament from 2009 to 2019. As Minister for the Environment and Health, he is particularly aware of the strong interlinkages between the environmental and health issues, which is a dimension that he tries to integrate into the ambitious policies that the Brussels Government is implementing.



### Zorana Jovanovic Andersen

Zorana Jovanovic Andersen is a Professor in Environmental Epidemiology at the Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, and Chair of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Environment and Health Committee.

She has studied links between air pollution and health including cardiometabolic and respiratory diseases, cancer, and most recently with dementia and mental health. Zorana is passionate about advocacy on clean air and translation of knowledge from research on health effects of air pollution to policy makers at local, national, European and global level.



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### Dorthe Nielsen

Dorthe Nielsen is executive director at Eurocities, the network of more than 200 larger European cities. Leading on strategy development and implementation, she coordinates the political positioning of the network to the EU and works

for a greater recognition of the role of cities at EU level in the green, digital, and just transformation. She holds a seat at the European Commission's Fit for Future Platform and is member of the board of the Institute for European Environmental Policy.



### Anne Stauffer

Anne Stauffer is Deputy Director, Strategic Lead at the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), an alliance of over 80 member organisations working for better health through a healthier environment. Anne Stauffer leads

the organisation's activities on climate change, energy and air quality, and contributes to EU funded research projects (UBDPolicy, CATALYSE). She has 15+ years experience on environmental, climate and health issues and has led HEAL's members and partners advocacy on key policy files.



### Mark Nieuwenhuijsen

Mark J. Nieuwenhuijsen is a world leading expert in environmental exposure assessment, epidemiology, and health risk/impact assessment with a strong focus and interest on healthy urban living. Currently working for the Barcelona Institute

for Global Health (ISGlobal), he is the Director of the Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative, and Head of the Climate, Air Pollution, Nature and Urban Health Programme. He has edited several books on Integrating human health into Urban and Transport planning, Transportation and Health, as well as on Traffic Related Air pollution. He also has co-authored more than 450 papers published in peer reviewed journals and 35 book chapters.



### Julia Poliscanova

Julia Poliscanova is a Senior Director at Transport&Environment. She joined T&E in June 2015 and now leads the organisation's vehicles, electrification and supply chains work across Europe. This includes policies regulating vehicle emissions,

such as the EU car CO<sup>2</sup> standards, sustainable batteries and critical raw materials. Julia also represents T&E on the board of the Global Battery Alliance, and is an unpaid advisor to the board of Vulcan Energy Resources. Julia previously worked as senior EU environment expert for the Mayor of London and, as an advisor to an MEP, followed legislation on renewables, energy efficiency and sustainable transport.



### Patricia Palacios

Patricia Palcaios is a general practitioner who is active in the movement to create the first school streets in Brussels. She is a member of the environmental branch of the SSMG (Société Scientifique de Médecine Générale) and creator of

the e-learning tool "pollution de l'air" which targets health professionals.



### Sonja van Rensen

Sonja van Rensen is an experienced freelance climate, energy and environment journalist, and former editor-in-chief of Energy Monitor, a digital publication dedicated to data-driven stories about the global energy transition. Based in Brussels,

Sonja has written for leading titles including S&P Global Platts, Nature Climate Change and ENDS Europe. Sonja has an MSc in Science Communication from Imperial College London and a BA in Biological Sciences from the University of Oxford. She speaks fluent English and Dutch, with a good command of German and French.



### Anya Schneider

Anya Schneider oversees Bloomberg Philanthropies' European environment initiatives with a focus on energy transition and air pollution. She has advanced partnerships with major European cities including Brussels to support

the city's efforts to tackle air pollution. Prior to joining Bloomberg Philanthropies, she worked as an advocacy and communications advisor for the Global CCS Institute, a think tank specialized in carbon capture technologies. Before that, she spent five years at the Thomson Reuters Foundation where she started in the communications team and then joined the development and fundraising team.



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