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Giacomo BENEDETTO holds a Jean Monnet Chair at Royal Holloway, University of London, where his current project focuses on Europe's crises and recoveries over the last decade. Since his appointment at Royal Holloway in 2006, he has developed research and teaching on the public finances of the EU, publishing in highly ranked scholarly journals. He has provided expertise for the EU institutions, and he has contributed to publications for several EU think-tanks, including FEPS. In 2020, he co-authored an article on the "Rise and Fall of Social

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Mohammed CHAHIM is a Dutch member of the European Parliament for GroenLinks-PvdA, currently serving his second mandate as an MEP. He is the vice-president of the Socialists and Democrats group, responsible for Green Deal on Industry, Energy & Climate and Financing the Just Transition. He is a member of the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. In his previous mandate, he has served as the rapporteur for the regulation establishing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).



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Christos KATSIOLIS studied History and Political Science at the University of Trier and the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. He obtained his MA in International Relations from the Institute for Political Science in Trier, where he also taught international relations and foreign policy from 2003 to 2005. After that, he joined the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, starting as a police officer in the EU Office in Brussels and from 2007 to 2012 as an expert on foreign policy in the International Policy Analysis Unit in Berlin. In 2012, he founded and headed the FES Office in Athens, later he headed FES’s EU Office in Brussels and London Office. Christos has been a regular commentator on European affairs in the German as well as international media and a regular contributor to the journal *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*.



Lucy KINSKI is Postdoc in European Union Politics at the Salzburg Centre of European Union Studies at the University of Salzburg, Austria. Her research focuses on parliamentary representation in the EU multi-level system. She is the principal investigator of the ERC Starting Grant Project Intangible and Invisible Interests, Concealed Constituents and Excluded Electorates: Understanding the Politics of Absence (INCONEX). She has published in journals such as *Environmental Politics*, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *Journal of European Integration*, *Political Studies*, and *Politics and Governance*. Her monograph *European Representation in EU National Parliaments* (Palgrave) was shortlisted for the UACES Best Book Prize 2021.

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Christian KRELL studied politics, sociology, history and economics at the University of Siegen and the University of York. He received his doctorate in 2006 with a comparative study of the European policies of British, German and French social democrats. From 2007 to 2016, Krell headed the Academy for Social Democracy of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. In 2014 he was appointed to the SPD’s Basic Values Commission. In 2018, he became a professor of constitutional law and politics at the Federal University of Germany. Since 2021, he has been

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Gintautas PALUCKAS has been the Prime Minister of Lithuania since December 2024. Paluckas served as Deputy Mayor of Vilnius (2015-2019), as the chairman of the Lithuanian Social Democratic (2017-2021) and has been a member of the Seimas since the 2020 election. He has been a member of LSDP since 2003. Paluckas has been the director of EMUS UAB (2010-2017), director of the Vilnius City Municipality Administration (2007-2009), adviser to an MEP (2005-2007) and a senior specialist at the State Social Insurance Fund Board under the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Insurance Organisation Division (2003-2005). In 2003, he graduated from the Vilnius University Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and from International Business School in 2004.



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Maria João RODRIGUES, President of FEPS and former Portuguese minister to Prime Minister António Guterres, is a European politician with a long track record in all European institutions: EU presidencies; Council; European Council; European Commission; and, more recently, European Parliament. She played a relevant role in several big European initiatives: the EU growth and jobs strategy; the Lisbon Treaty; the Eurozone reform; the European Social Pillar; the interface with EU external strategic partners; and the Roadmap for the EU's future. Recently, she was vice-president of the S&D Group in the European Parliament, where she was in charge of the coordination of parliamentary work and interinstitutional negotiation on the EU agenda. As an academic, she is full professor and was the chair of the European Commission Board for socio-economic research. She has around a hundred publications and, as an expert and politician, has attended more than 2,000 conferences across Europe and the world.



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Kaisa VATANEN is Senior Insights Manager at Datapraxis. Previously she has worked for over 17 years in Finnish and European progressive politics. Most recently, she was Head of Policy and Research of the SDP Finland, running party's policy preparation, programme work and research. Prior to that, she worked as Director of the think tank Kalevi Sorsa Foundation, and in different positions in the Finnish and European social democratic movement, having been involved in elections, ideological work and political research on all levels from local to European-wide campaigns.