

# 9th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

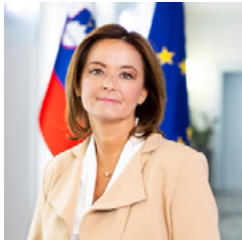
“Circular and Smart Alpine Region”



14 – 15  
November  
2024

## Who's Who

### High-level planery panel: Alpine region - competitive, circular and smart in global world?



#### Tanja FAJON

Born on May 9, 1971, in Ljubljana, Tanja Fajon is a journalism graduate with postgraduate studies in international politics (Paris/Brussels) and management (IEDC Bled).

She began her career at Radio Glas Ljubljane and the newspaper Republika, joining RTV Slovenija in 1995. As RTV Slovenija's Brussels correspondent for eight years, she closely followed Slovenia's EU and NATO accession.

Elected to the European Parliament in 2009, and re-elected in 2014 and 2019, she was active in the LIBE and AFET Committees, playing a key role in Western Balkans visa liberalization. In 2020, she became President of the Social Democrats and held that position until April 13, 2024.



#### Dominique HASLER

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education, and Sport, Liechtenstein

Prior to this role, in 2021, she occupied the position of Minister of Home Affairs and Education. Alongside her ministerial duties, she is a Member of the Board of Management at the Liechtenstein Foundation for the Care of the Elderly and Sick (LAK) and holds the position of Director of Organisation Development and Communications. Since 2017, Madam Hasler has also been the Vice President of the Foundation MINT Initiative Liechtenstein and a Member of the Party Executive Committee of the Vaterländische Union (VU). She has earned a Master of Business Administration (EMBA) with a focus on Entrepreneurial Management from the University of Liechtenstein.



#### Anton MATTLE

Governor of Tyrol

Anton Mattle has been the Governor of Tyrol since 2022 and is a member of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP). He resides in the municipality of Galtür, where he became politically active at an early age, serving as Deputy Mayor from 1986 to 1992. Following that, he served as Mayor for nearly three decades, from 1992 to 2021. In parallel to his work in local politics, he has been a member of the Tyrolean parliament since 2003 and was also Vice President of the Tyrolean parliament from 2013. In 2021, Mattle joined the Tyrolean government as Councillor for Economic Affairs, Digitalization, Youth, Families and Senior Citizens. Anton Mattle is heading the Tyrolean government as Governor of Tyrol since 2022.



#### Fabrice PANNEKOUCKE

President of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, France

Fabrice Pannekoucke began his political career in 2001 as the mayor of Saint-Jean-de-Belleville (Savoie) at only 26 years old, later becoming the mayor of Moûtiers in 2014. He has been the president of the Cœur de Tarentaise community of communes since 2009. Arriving at the Region in 2016 as a regional representative, he became the vice-president in charge of agriculture and valley areas in 2022.

Following the resignation of Laurent Wauquiez from the presidency of the Region, now a deputy of Haute-Loire and regional advisor, the plenary assembly on September 5th elected Fabrice Pannekoucke by an absolute majority to lead the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.



### **Eric BEIßWENGER**

State Minister for European and International Affairs, Bavaria, Germany

Eric Beißwenger has been Bavarian State Minister for European and International Affairs since 8 November 2023. He is responsible for Bavaria's EU policy, fosters Bavaria's external relations and represents Bavarian interests in key policy areas at the international level.

He has been a member of the Bavarian State Parliament since October 2013. Prior to his current position, he served as Vice Chairman of the Bavarian State Parliament Committee on Environment and Consumer Protection. By profession Eric Beißwenger is a banking professional and farmer.



### **Luciano Emilio CAVERI**

Councillor for European Affairs, Innovation, NRRPs and National Policies for Mountains of Valle d'Aosta

M. Caveri began his career as a journalist before making his debut on the political scene in 1987, when he got elected to the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Republic, a position he retained without interruptions until 2001, coming to uphold many significant roles among which that of Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. From 2000 to 2003 he was a member of the European Parliament, of which he became President of the Commission for Regional Affairs, Transports and Tourism in 2002. From 2003 to 2005 he was regional Minister for Tourism, Sports, Commerce, Transports and European affairs of the regional Government of the autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta and member of the European Committee of Regions, a position this last that he held until 2013. From 2005 to 2008 he was President of the autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta and from 2008 to 2013 he was again Councillor to the regional Council of Valle d'Aosta. From 2020 he is again regional Minister of the Government of the autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, currently delegated to European affairs, Innovation, National Recovery and Resilience Plan and National Mountain Policies. From 2021 he is once again member of the European Committee of the Regions.



### **Norman Gobbi**

State Councillor of the Canton Ticino

Born: 1977 in Faido

Languages: Italian, French, German, English

Norman Gobbi is a member of the Lega dei Ticinesi party

#### **Career:**

Since 2011 Member of the Government of Canton Ticino, Head of the Department of Institutions

Since 2011 Member of the steering committee of the Conference of Cantonal Governments 2020-2021/ 2015-2016 President of the Government of Canton Ticino

2010-2011 Member of the Swiss Parliament

2008-2009 President of the Parliament of Canton Ticino

1999-2011 Member of the Parliament of Canton Ticino

#### **Education:**

2007 Studies in Communication (MSc), University of Lugano (Università della Svizzera italiana-USI)

# Youth Vision for Alpine Region



## **Silvia BUZZETTI**

Programme Assistant, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, DG REGIO, European Commission

Silvia Buzzetti is Programme Assistant at the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission, focusing on the EU macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Region and overseeing several Interreg programmes for territorial cooperation. She previously served as Administrative Assistant to the Director in DG REGIO and as European Project Development Officer for several NGOs in France, working on EU projects and partnerships. Silvia holds Master's degrees in European Affairs from Sorbonne University, Paris, and European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe, Natolin.



## **Branislav RAUTER**

Principal, Rudolf Maister and Secondary School Kamnik, Slovenia

Branislav Rauter was born on August 17, 1972 in Maribor. After finishing elementary school, he continued his education at the Kranj Gymnasium, and a year later at the Ljubljana Conservatory of Music and Ballet. He completed his studies in music pedagogy with honors at the Faculty of Education in Maribor, and in 2020 he received his doctorate at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. For several years, he ran a private music school, taught musical instruments and other musical subjects at various levels of music education. Since 2021 he is the principal of Grammar and vocational school Rudolf Maister Kamnik.



## **Lionel CROISSANT**

Associate Expert, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education and Training, and EUSALP Action group 3 (Labour market, education and training) representative, France

As an associate expert at the Institut des Hautes Etudes de l'Education et de la Formation and former vocational school headmaster, he combine education expertise with my passion for music and change management. With 25+ years in education, he deeply convinced that young people and education are key for tackling Alpine Region challenges. He is a part of EUSALP Action Group 3 and CEO of "Creuser le ciel," which train managers and teams through musical creation using my GrooveLead method.



## **Rafaela RABIČ**

EUSALP Youth Council representative

Rafaela Rabič is a student at the Faculty of Public Administration, majoring in EU governance, and a member of the EUSALP Youth Council, representing young people across the Alpine regions. With experience in youth engagement and international policy, she is passionate about fostering sustainable development and ensuring that youth perspectives actively contribute to decision-making processes that shape the future of the EUSALP region.



## **Pauline TREISSAC**

European Affairs Officer, Europe and International Department, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region, France

With a curriculum in political science, Pauline Treissac has worked at the Pôle Universitaire Européen de Nancy-Metz until 2000, then for the regional council of Lorraine in the cross-border cooperation until 2006, and then for the regional council of Burgundy-Franche-Comté in the field of European Affairs. Since 2014 she has worked for the cooperation in the alpine region and since 2020 she is involved in the youth dynamic in the frame of EUSALP.

# Could Alpine region become a circular economy model region?



## **Slobodan ŠEŠUM**

Director-General, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

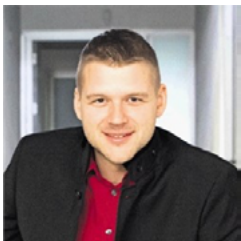
Dr. Slobodan Šešum holds a degree in political science, a master's degree in international economics and a doctorate in international relations at the University of Ljubljana. Since 2023, he has been the Director General of the Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. He has many years of experience working abroad, as he worked as an economic consultant in embassies in Rome, Belgrade and Skopje. He also has experience in the private sector, when he worked as a deputy member of the board of a financial institution. He is a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Diplomacy and Economy.



## **Roland MAYER**

Secretary General, Conference of Cantonal Governments, Switzerland

Obtained a law degree in 1987 from the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland (lic.iur.). 1988/89 postgraduate degree in European Law at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). Acted as legal counsel in Brussels and Zurich from 1990 to 1996. Joined the CCG in 1996, first as representative of the cantons at the Coordination Unit for European matters of the Federal Government and as of 2003 as Deputy Secretary General and Head of Foreign Relations in the Secretariat of the CCG in Bern. Since 2018 he serves as Secretary General of the CCG.



## **Jernej Pintar**

Director, Technology Park Ljubljana, Slovenia

Director of Technology park Ljubljana, community builder, president of the European division of Technology parks, has a PhD in Management and public-private partnerships, author of several best-reader articles, and a long time jury member of the Golden GAZELLE competition. He has pursued education at United World College in Norway, LSE in London, University of Edinburgh and University of Ljubljana.



## **Robin ODDON**

Project manager, Techtera, France

Robin Odon acts as International Projects Manager for Techtera, the French innovation cluster dedicated to the textile industry. His activities focus on European cooperations supporting textile competitiveness, including R&D activities, business development, territorial and cross-border cooperation. Circularity and sustainability in textiles is a major focus of these cooperations, in connection with related sectors, applicative markets and partners both public and private. They include 2 Interreg Alpine Space projects: AlpTextyles and ASTER.



## **Nina MEGLIČ**

Cluster manager at Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership Networks for the Transition to a Circular Economy, Slovenia

Nina Meglič has more than 10 years of experience in R&D project management, focusing on advancing technology transfer in the field of green transition. Currently, she is the Head of Project Management office at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Styria, located in Maribor, Slovenia. The Chamber is involved in several national and European projects in the fields of hydrogen technologies, circular economy, bio-economy, vocational training, women entrepreneurship, etc. Additionally, Nina manages an innovation cluster, national Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership, focusing on the establishment of new value chains to support the transition to a circular economy in Slovenia.



The partnership is a multi-stakeholder connection of companies, academic institutions, research organisations and non-governmental organisations, co-financed by the state. Nina and her team offer support services to the cluster members such as business and project consultancy, internationalisation, marketing, development collaboration with the state & stakeholder engagement. Nina has a bachelor in European Studies as well as a Master in Sustainability and Circular Bioeconomy from the Rome Business School. She is a member of the EIB Women Climate Leaders Network.



### **Denis JAHIC**

General Manager and Board Member, AquafilSLO, Slovenia

Denis Jahić is General Manager of AquafilSLO, a leading European producer of nylon filaments and polymers and part of the Aquafil Group. The company is a pioneer in the green transition and circular economy, operating a unique nylon 6 recycling process to transform waste into regenerated nylon ECONYL®. Jahić has held various leadership roles within AquafilSLO and has been its General Manager since 2021. He is also a board member of AquafilCRO and Aquafil Carpet Recycling USA, and was re-elected president of the Association of Chemical Industries of Slovenia in 2023.



### **Jan-Diederich LÜKEN**

Professor of Business Economics, Faculty of Chemical Technology and Economics, Bavaria, Germany

Jan Lücken studied economics and political science at the University of Heidelberg. He was a research assistant at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, focusing on tax systems and innovations. Later, he worked for five years at the Bavarian Cooperative Association. In 2019, he became a Professor of Business Economics at Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, where he has been developing the master's program "Circular Economy" since 2021. His research interests include circular economy, innovation economics, and economic policy.

## Climate resilient water management in the Alpine region



### **Lidija GLOBEVNIK**

Director-General, Water Directorate, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Former President of Slovenian Society of Water Experts and member of National Council for Water, Ms Globevnik has devoted her life to issues connected to water management. She holds a degree in civil engineering and PhD in comprehensive water management. She is currently Director General of Water Directorate at Slovenian Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning.



### **Blaž MOZETIČ**

Director of Planning Office, Slovenian Water Agency, Slovenia

Blaž Mozetič holds a degree in geodetic sciences. Before his current position as the Head of Planning Office in Slovenian Water Agency, he was engaged in planning of and implementation of projects funded under European Cohesion Policy at the former Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Before that he was an employee of Slovenian Survey and Mapping Authority.

### **Marco LIPIZER**

Referent for the River Contract, Department of Environmental Protection, Energy and Sustainable Development of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy  
Degree in Geophysics at the University of Trieste. PhD on Geomatics.



### **Florian RUDOLF-MIKLAU**

Head of Unit, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria

Dr Florian Rudolf-Miklau is Head of Torrent and Avalanche Control at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in Vienna (Austria) and, as Head of Department, is also responsible for protection forests, forest fire prevention and forest geodata. Aside from his management position, Florian Rudolf-Miklau is a lecturer at University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna and the University of Vienna, Austria. His research focus is mainly on natural hazards' risk management and governance. He is currently Vice-President of Intrapraevent, an international expert network for the protection from natural hazards and co-chair the Action Group 8 "Risk Governance and Climate Adaptation" within EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. He is also the author of numerous specialist books and articles in specialist journals. He was leading organizer of the INTERPRAEVENT conference 2024 in Vienna.



### **Blaž LIPOVŠEK**

Youth Parliament of Sava Commission, Slovenia

Blaž Lipovšek (19 years old) is currently a first-year student in the Forestry and Renewable Resources program at the University of Ljubljana. He is a member of the Sava Youth Parliament, which he represented as president at events including: COP 23 in Portorož, the Sustainable Development Forum in Geneva, and the ESD "GoingGreen" Forum in Cyprus. Most recently, he participated in the 16th European Youth Parliament for Water.

## **EUSALP Energy Conference "Energy Transition in the Economy" & EUSALP Energy Awarding Ceremony**



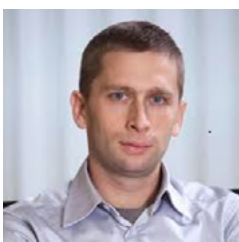
### **Ulrich SANTA**

Director, Energy Agency South Tyrol – CasaClima, EUSALP Action Group 9 Co-Leader  
Managing Director of the Energy Agency South Tyrol – CasaClima, Italy, with focus on sustainable and energy efficient buildings, enterprises and municipalities. EUSALP Action Group 9 Co-Leader.



### **Vlasta KRMELJ**

Director, Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje, Slovenia  
Director of the Energy and Climate Agency ENERGAP with more than 15 years of experience working with companies and helping them on the way towards climate neutrality. Vlasta Krmelj is an EUSALP AG9 member.



### **Tine SELJAK**

Head of the sustainable energy pillar on circular economy cluster & Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia  
PhD in Engineering and Assistant Professor, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Leader of the sustainable energy pillar of the SRIP circular economy cluster.



**Manuel AITA**

EUSALP Youth Council member  
MA Student in Industrial Production Engineering at the Polytechnic of Milan.  
EUSALP Youth Council member.



**Marija ČEBULAR ZAJEC**

Undersecretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, Slovenia  
Secretary at the Slovene Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport. Expert in industrial policy and green transition with a focus on circular economy, renewable technologies, energy efficiency, and digitalization technologies. Marija Čebular Zajec is an EUSALP AG2 member.



**Julia ZOTTER**

Graduated in food and biotechnology. Product developer and second-generation entrepreneur, of the chocolate manufacture “Zotter Schokolade”, BIO and EMAS-certified and Fair-Trade Organization member.



**Matteo MAZZOLINI**

Director, Energy Agency Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy  
Director of the Energy Agency in Friuli Venezia Giulia APE FVG that supports enterprises in their energy transition path to cut CO2 emissions and reduce costs.  
Matteo Mazzolini is an EUSALP AG9 member.