

Speaker biographies

Moderator



Professor Karel Van Hulle

Former head, insurance & pensions unit
European Commission Directorate-General for the
Internal Market & Services

Professor Karel Van Hulle lectures in the economics and business faculty of the Catholic University Leuven in Leuven, Belgium and in the economics faculty of the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, where he is attached to the International Centre for Insurance Regulation.

He served as head of insurance and pensions at the European Commission until March 2013. In that capacity, he represented the EC within the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) and was a member of the technical committee of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS).

He joined the Commission in 1984 after spending eight years with the Belgian Banking Commission. Before becoming the EC's head of insurance and pensions in 2004, he was head of accounting, of accounting and auditing, and of financial reporting and company law.

Van Hulle is a lawyer by training. He studied law at the Catholic University Leuven and at the Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. He is a member of the Jan Ronse Company Law Institute at the law faculty of the Catholic University Leuven and is a member of the executive board of the International Centre for Insurance Regulation at the Goethe University in Frankfurt.

In October 2013 Van Hulle was nominated by EIOPA as an academic member of its Insurance and Reinsurance Stakeholder Group.

Notes

Welcome



Sergio Balbinot

President
Insurance Europe

Group chief insurance officer
Generali Group, Italy

As group chief insurance officer and deputy group CEO within the group management committee of Generali Group, Sergio Balbinot is responsible for the whole group's insurance and reinsurance activities, research and development, and EU and international affairs.

After graduating in economics and completing a scholarship at the European Community, Balbinot joined Generali's Munich, Germany office in 1983. In 1986 he moved to Generali's headquarters in Trieste, Italy, where he joined the insurance operations department. In 1989 Balbinot relocated to Zurich to take responsibility for Generali's Swiss branch. He moved to Paris, France in 1992 to manage the international activities of Europ Assistance.

He returned to Trieste in 1995, becoming the area manager for German-speaking countries and France. He was appointed general manager in 2000 and managing director in 2002. In 2012, following an organisational review, he became group chief insurance officer and deputy group CEO within the group management committee. In 2013 he was also nominated chairman of Generali Italia, the company resulting from the reorganisation of the Generali Group in Italy.

He is chairman, vice-chairman and director of a number of Generali companies in Europe, Asia and the USA.

In 2011 he was elected president of Insurance Europe. He is a member of several international organisations.

Balbinot is president of Bambini del Danubio, a non-profit association to aid children, which he founded in 2004.

Notes

Opening address



Hon. Dr. Joseph Muscat

Prime Minister of Malta

Dr Joseph Muscat has been Prime Minister of Malta since March 2013. Born in Pietà, Malta in 1974, he has a bachelor's degree in public policy and a master's degree in European studies from the University of Malta. In 2007 he was awarded a doctorate of philosophy in management research from the University of Bristol, UK.

From 1992 to 1997 Muscat was a journalist and eventually assistant head of news at a private Maltese radio station. He was elected to the national executive of Malta's Labour Party at the age of 21 and later became the party's education secretary. From 1997 to 1998 he was a member of the National Commission for Fiscal Morality. Muscat was also a market intelligence manager and investment adviser.

He successfully contested the first European Parliament elections in Malta in 2004, serving as an MEP until 2008 with the Party of European Socialists. He served as vice-president of the Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and substitute member of its Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee. He was elected leader of Malta's Labour Party in 2008.

Notes

Keynote speech



Michel Barnier

European Commissioner, Internal Market & Services

Having been active from an early age in the pro-Europe wing of the Gaullist movement in France, and elected in his late twenties as a national parliamentarian, Michel Barnier was appointed in 1993 as France's Minister for the Environment. He went on to become Minister for European Affairs (1995–1997), Minister for Foreign Affairs (2004–2005) and Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (2007–2009).

In 1999 he resigned from national office to take up his post, as part of Romano Prodi's team, as European Commissioner for regional policy and institutional reform. In 2009 he led the French Presidential majority's campaign in the European elections and was the head of the French delegation of the European People's Party (EPP) in the European Parliament.

Barnier was then proposed as European Commissioner by French President Nicolas Sarkozy and took up his post, alongside José Manuel Barroso, as the member of the European Commission responsible for the internal market and services in early 2010.

Industry strategy panel



Gabriel Bernardino

Chairman
European Insurance & Occupational Pensions
Authority

Gabriel Bernardino was appointed chairman of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) on its formation in January 2011, having chaired its predecessor, the Committee of European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Supervisors (CEIOPS), since October 2009.

Bernardino has a degree in maths and a master's degree in statistics and optimisation from the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal.

He had a long career in the regulation and supervision of insurance and pension funds at the Portuguese supervisory authority (ISP), which he joined in 1989 and where he became general director of the directorate for development and institutional relations.

During the Portuguese Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2007, Bernardino chaired the EU Council's working group responsible for the negotiations over the Solvency II proposal.

He chaired the Pillar 3 and accounting expert group of CEIOPS from July 2006 to September 2007 and then its internal governance, supervisory review and reporting expert group until he became CEIOPS chairman in October 2009.

Notes

Industry strategy panel



Jean-Jacques Henchoz

CEO reinsurance EMEA
Swiss Re, Switzerland

Jean-Jacques Henchoz was appointed a member of Swiss Re's group executive committee and regional president EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) with effect from 1 January 2012.

Henchoz joined Swiss Re in 1998, working in the Europe division in Zurich, and assumed several positions in underwriting. In 2003 he became head of strategy for Swiss Re's property and casualty business. From 2005 until 2010 he was chief executive officer of Swiss Re Canada, leading the property and casualty and life and health business in Canada and the British Caribbean markets. He assumed the leadership of the then Europe division and became a member of the group management board in March 2011.

Prior to joining Swiss Re, Henchoz was a business development manager at SGS (Société Générale de Surveillance) between 1995 and 1996 and held various roles at the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development between 1988 and 1995.

Notes

Industry strategy panel



Fernando Solís Soberón

President
Association of Mexican Insurance Companies

CEO, long-term savings
Grupo Financiero Banorte, Mexico

Fernando Solís Soberón has been president of the Mexican Insurance Association for three years and CEO of long-term savings at Grupo Financiero Banorte for seven. He is also president of the board of directors of Afore XXI Banorte.

Previously he held various positions in Mexico, including those of CFO and member of the executive committee of Grupo Nacional Provincial, chairman of the National Commission for the Pension System and development vice-president of the National Commission of Insurance and Surety. He has also been an associate professor in the department of economic theory at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain.

Solís received his doctorate in economics from the University of Virginia, USA, specialising in international finance and monetary theory. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM).

He is an associate professor in the department of economics and teaches finance, macroeconomics and the executive MBA at ITAM. He has published books and articles on various topics including insurance, pensions, personal finance, social security, macroeconomics and finance.

Notes

Keynote speech



Burkhard Balz

Member of the European Parliament (EPP, Germany)

Burkhard Balz has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) since June 2009. He represents the German Christlich-Demokratische Union in the European People's Party (EPP), for which he has been vice-spokesman in the Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. He was the rapporteur for the Omnibus II Directive that amended the Solvency II Framework Directive. He was also the rapporteur on Latvia's accession to the eurozone.

Prior to becoming an MEP, Balz worked in the banking sector as vice-president for the Hannover, Germany branch of Commerzbank, where he managed the bank's relations with institutional clients.

He studied law at the University of Göttingen in Germany.

Notes

Break-out session A

Responding to technological change



Torbjörn Magnusson

Vice-president
Insurance Europe

President & CEO
If P&C Insurance, Sweden

Torbjörn Magnusson was elected vice-president of Insurance Europe in February 2013 with a three-year mandate.

Magnusson, a Swedish national with a licentiate degree in applied mathematics, started his career in the insurance industry as an actuary with Skandia International. In his 24 years in the industry he also worked in the UK, for Mercantile & General Re. He joined If P&C Insurance in 1999 as head of SME products, before becoming head of the company's SME division. He has been If's CEO since 2002. If P&C is the leading general insurer in the Nordic region, with around 3.6 million customers in the Nordic states and the Baltic rim.

Magnusson has been a member of Insurance Europe's strategic board since June 2010. He sits on the board of Insurance Sweden and of the Swedish Insurance Employers' Association, both of which he chaired from 2006 to 2009. He is a board member of Academedia, the leading Swedish education company, and of Les Rendez-vous de Septembre.

Notes

Break-out session A

Responding to technological change



Jacques Amselem

CEO
Allianz Telematics, Italy

Based in Trieste, Italy, Jacques Amselem is the CEO of Allianz Telematics and has an extensive background in automotive electronics engineering. After joining Mondial Assistance Group (now Allianz Global Assistance) in 2002, where he led telematics projects for Mercedes and Volvo, the board of management tasked Amselem in 2006 to develop and implement telematics solutions to serve Allianz entities globally.

Prior to joining Allianz, he was technical director in charge of developing and implementing end-to-end telematics solutions for stolen vehicle tracking and small and medium-sized fleet management in a French start-up company. Projects included working with Daimler Chrysler Services, the French Ministry of the Interior, logistics companies and individual customers seeking personal vehicle protection. At the beginning of his career, Amselem designed and integrated safety and security systems for vehicle accessory manufacturers in Europe and North America.

Over the last decade, he has been a regular participant in several standardisation initiatives on telematics and eCall for the European Commission, the European Committee for Standardization and ERTICO, a network of intelligent transport systems and services stakeholders in Europe.

Notes

Break-out session B

Demographic challenges



Klaus Wiedner

Head, insurance & pensions unit
European Commission Directorate-General for the
Internal Market & Services

Klaus Wiedner has been head of the insurance and pensions unit of the Internal Market and Services Directorate-General of the European Commission since March 2013. Prior to taking up his current position, Wiedner was — from 2004 — first the deputy head and then the head of the unit responsible for the general reform of European procurement rules, defence procurement, the relationship between public procurement and other EC policies, and enforcement of procurement rules in EU member states.

Wiedner began his career in 1993 in the Austrian Ministry for Economic Affairs, dealing in particular with competition policy. In 1996 he joined the legal service of the EC, mainly responsible for competition and public procurement law, and he represented the Commission in over 100 cases at the European Courts in Luxembourg.

Wiedner studied law in Graz, Austria and at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

Notes

Break-out session B

Demographic challenges



Nick Sherry

Senior advisor for superannuation (pensions)
strategy Australia/international
Citi Australia

Former Minister for Superannuation and Corporate
Law, Australia

Since July 2012 Nick Sherry has been the CEO of Sherry and Associates International, a specialist advisory consultancy in pension systems, dealing with all aspects of their design and operation, contributions, governance and regulation, taxation, investment and related legacy issues in Australia and internationally. He is senior advisor on superannuation and pensions to EY Australia and to Citi Australia.

Over the past two years he has been engaged in projects and presented in Ireland, the UK, Greece, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, the US, Colombia and Chile, among others.

A senator for Tasmania in 1990, he chaired Australia's Senate Committee on Superannuation. In that role he oversaw the legislation that laid the foundations of the modern Australian pension system.

In 2007 Sherry was appointed as Australia's first Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law. Among other initiatives, he launched the Cooper Review, which examined the governance, operation, efficiency and structure of Australia's superannuation system, and the Future of Financial Advice reforms, which sought to improve the confidence of Australian retail investors in the financial services sector and improve access to advice.

Sherry also introduced single national regulation of all financial providers, products and advisors in Australia. As Corporate Law Minister he had responsibility for the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and developed policy for stock market competition and introduced oversight of short-selling and credit rating agencies. He was a member of the Cabinet sub-committee that oversaw the response to the global financial crisis.

He retired as a minister in December 2011 and as a senator in 2012.

Notes

Break-out session C

Improving insurers' investment environment



Olav Jones

Deputy director general & director, economics & finance
Insurance Europe

Olav Jones joined Insurance Europe as deputy director general in November 2011. As head of the federation's economics and finance department he is responsible for prudential regulatory issues, accounting and investment, as well as international affairs and reinsurance.

Jones was previously head of group risk strategy at Belgian insurer Ageas, the company created following the break-up of the Fortis banking and insurance group. From 2008 to 2009 he was chief risk officer of Fortis Insurance, having previously been head of insurance risk and strategic risk at Fortis Group since 2002.

He started his career with management consultant Oliver Wyman after gaining a first class honours degree in engineering science from the University of Exeter and a master's degree in finance from Queens' College, Cambridge, both in the UK. He then worked for UK insurer Prudential in a variety of roles for six years before joining Fortis.

Notes

Break-out session C

Improving insurers' investment environment



Laurent Clamagirand

Group chief investment & ALM officer
Axa, France

As Axa's group chief investment officer, Laurent Clamagirand is in charge of a team managing €500bn of assets worldwide. Following a reorganisation in 2011, he is in charge of coordinating the investment decisions of a team of 300.

During his 22-year career at Axa, he has held a variety positions in the different Axa businesses, including chief operating officer of Axa IM (Investment Managers) between 2002 and 2007, where he contributed to the transformation of local support teams into global teams, and chief operating officer of Axa Corporate Solutions, where he was in charge of large corporate risk underwriting in continental Europe from 1998 to 2002.

Clamagirand also held several positions at Axa Finance in Paris and New York, most recently in charge of consolidation and reporting from 2007 to 2011.

Notes

Break-out session D

Predicting & modelling natural catastrophe risk



Eduard Held

Head, products
Perils, Switzerland

Eduard (Eddie) Held has worked for 18 years in the reinsurance industry in finance, risk management, underwriting and natural catastrophe risk assessment.

Held joined Perils four years ago, where he is responsible for products. Perils is an insurance industry initiative aimed at improving the availability of catastrophe insurance market data. It was founded in Zurich, Switzerland in January 2009 by Allianz, Axa, Generali, Groupama, Guy Carpenter, Munich Re, PartnerRe, Swiss Re and Zurich Insurance Group.

Prior to joining Perils, Held spent 14 years at Swiss Re, where his last role was CFO for Swiss Re's Asia division, based in Hong Kong and responsible for all finance functions in the Asia-Pacific region. Other previous functions within Swiss Re included responsibility for external capital models, capital planning, relationship to rating agencies, group-wide accumulation control for natural catastrophe risks and the building of a model for the assessment of European storm risk.

Held has a master's degree in mathematics and a doctorate from ETH Zurich in atmospheric sciences. Over the course of his career he has authored numerous papers on natural catastrophe risk assessment.

Notes

Break-out session D

Predicting & modelling natural catastrophe risk



Robert Tremblay

Director, research
Insurance Bureau of Canada

With a background in research, government and public affairs, Robert Tremblay worked as associate researcher at the Université de Moncton Canadian Institute for Research on Economic Development, as general manager for the North West Industrial Commission in New Brunswick and director of government and public affairs for Mediacom in Quebec. Upon joining the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) in 1997, Tremblay developed and led a number of road safety initiatives. He was promoted to his current role in 2009.

As director, research, Tremblay is responsible for the execution of research activities, including public opinion, market research and major academic projects, as well as policy development of the IBC's severe weather adaptation initiatives. He is leading the development of the Municipal Risk Assessment Tool, an innovative methodology and software package that combines municipal infrastructure, insurance data and climate change model outputs to help identify zones within municipalities at risk of sewer back-up.

Tremblay is the IBC's representative on the board of directors of Canada's Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and a member of the Natural Resources Canada Adaptation Platform Plenary. A former chair of the conference board of Canada's Council on Climate Change Adaptation and former co-chair of the WeatherWise Partnership, he has served on the steering committees for the Atlantic and Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaboratives.

Tremblay serves as a reserve officer, with the rank of major, in the Canadian Army, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Regiment. He recently completed a six-month United Nations tour of duty to the Democratic Republic of Congo. He holds a first degree and a master's degree from the Université de Moncton.

Notes

Keynote speech



Svein Andresen

Secretary general
Financial Stability Board

Svein Andresen is the secretary general of the Financial Stability Board (FSB). The FSB was established in April 2009 as the successor to the Financial Stability Forum. to coordinate at international level the work of national financial authorities and international standard-setting bodies and to develop and promote effective regulatory, supervisory and other financial sector policies. Its secretariat is in Basel, Switzerland, hosted by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Prior to becoming secretary general, Andresen held various positions at the BIS. He was advisor to the general manager of the BIS from 1997 to 2000, and led the secretariat of G-10 central bank governors on financial issues from 1995 until 1997. He was secretary to the Committee on the Global Financial System (CGFS) between 1992 and 1997.

Prior to joining the BIS, Andresen was an assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has a master's degree in economics from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada, and a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

Notes

Keynote speech



Peter Braumüller

Chairman, executive committee
International Association of Insurance Supervisors

Managing director, insurance & pension supervision
Austrian Financial Market Authority

Peter Braumüller has been the managing director responsible for insurance and pension supervision at the Austrian Financial Market Authority (FMA) since it was founded in 2002.

He started his career in insurance supervision in 1983. Between April 1993 and April 1994 he served as officer for financial services in the secretariat of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Brussels. He was appointed director of insurance supervision in the Austrian Ministry of Finance in 1999.

Braumüller studied law at the University of Vienna, Austria and actuarial science at the University of Technology in Vienna. He is a certified actuary with the Austrian Actuarial Association.

Braumüller has been active for many years in international institutions. He currently chairs the executive committee of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) and is a member of the management board of the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA).

Notes

Global standards panel



Michael Consedine

Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner, USA

Michael Consedine was confirmed as Insurance Commissioner for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department by the US Senate in April 2011. Pennsylvania is the fifth largest insurance market in the US, in terms of premium volume, and the 14th largest insurance market in the world.

Consedine was elected vice-president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) in December 2013. He serves on a number of NAIC committees focused on international and domestic matters, including chairing the international insurance relations committee and previously chairing both the reinsurance task force and the health care reform alternatives working group.

He was also named by the US Treasury Department to serve on the federal advisory committee on insurance, which is advising the Federal Insurance Office. Consedine acts as the NAIC's representative to the US-EU insurance dialogue steering committee.

From 1999 to January 2011, Consedine practised with the law firm of Saul Ewing, where he was a partner and vice-chair of the firm's insurance practice group. While in private practice, Consedine counseled insurance companies, reinsurers, producers and commercial policyholders in a wide array of complex insurance regulatory and corporate matters, including landmark demutualisations, mergers and acquisitions, insurance company liquidations and international transactions.

He has written and lectured on a variety of insurance topics, including health insurance reform, international solvency modernisation, insurance insolvencies, corporate governance and market conduct and financial examinations.

Notes

Global standards panel



Makoto Okubo

General manager, international affairs
Nippon Life, Japan

Based in New York as general manager for international affairs for Nippon Life, Makoto (Mack) Okubo is responsible for international accounting and regulatory matters. Among other global activities, he is currently chairing the Asia Pacific Financial Forum's insurance and pension workstream in the Asia-Pacific region. Previously, he reviewed Nippon Life's overseas operations, mergers and acquisitions, and global risk management strategy from July 2006 to January 2008.

From April 2002 to June 2006 he was employed by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and served on the secretariat of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS), sponsored by the Financial Services Agency of Japan. Within the IAIS, he was responsible for standards implementation, including technical assistance to and the training of insurance supervisors in over 150 countries.

Prior to the BIS, he had 14 years of experience in Nippon Life Group, mainly on planning and research on accounting, pensions and financial service laws and regulations. He also spent five years at the NLI Research Institute in New York as a lead researcher on the banking, securities and insurance sectors in the US and Canada, and launched his personal site, Insurance-Finance.Com, a research portal for industry professionals, regulators and researchers used in over 90 countries.

He holds a bachelor's degree in law from Kyoto University and an MBA and MS Finance from HEC School of Management, France.

Notes

Global standards panel



Klaus Wiedner

Head, insurance & pensions unit
European Commission Directorate-General for the
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Wiedner began his career in 1993 in the Austrian Ministry for Economic Affairs, dealing in particular with competition policy. In 1996 he joined the legal service of the EC, mainly responsible for competition and public procurement law, and he represented the Commission in over 100 cases at the European Courts in Luxembourg.

Wiedner studied law in Graz, Austria and at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

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Global standards panel



Thomas Wilson

Chief risk officer
Allianz Group, Germany

As chief risk officer for the Allianz Group, Thomas (Tom) Wilson is responsible for global risk control and risk management policies and guidelines.

Prior to joining Allianz in 2008, Wilson was the chief risk officer for ING's global insurance operations. From 2002 to 2005 he was the global head of the finance and risk practice at Oliver Wyman, a consulting firm specialising in serving financial services firms in risk, strategy and organisation.

Before joining Oliver Wyman, Wilson was the CFO and CRO for Swiss Re New Markets, responsible for the risk management, financial/management reporting, treasury and back-office operations for the alternative risk transfer and capital markets activities of Swiss Re from 1998. Prior to that, he was the global head of the risk management practice at McKinsey & Co.

Wilson has spent most of his professional career in Europe, having lived and worked in Munich, Amsterdam, New York, London and Zurich. Tom earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of California and a doctorate in economics from Stanford University, both in the US. Tom is a dual American/Swiss citizen.

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