

ARC European Experts

These experts are available in Brussels or by phone for interviews and background information on the ARC and ARC Communication from 17 November to 18 November.

	<p>Michael DOWER is a member of the Core Group of ARC, the Agriculture and Rural Convention. ARC speaks for civil society organisations, at European or national level, which represent rural communities, rural enterprises and environmental and heritage interests and which cooperate through ARC to advocate a sustainable reform of the Common Agricultural and Rural Development policies of the EU. Michael is a Professor of European Rural Development at the University of Gloucestershire, England; a former Coordinator of the PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe; and a former President of ECOVAST, the European Council for the Village and Small Town. He has recently served as lead expert for a Thematic Working Group of the European Network for Rural Development and as adviser to the Ministries of Agriculture in Romania and in Croatia on the formation of National Rural Networks in those countries.</p>
	<p>Nathaniel PAGE is a Zoology graduate, a former British diplomat and a farmer in the UK (60 ha organic livestock). He has been working in rural conservation and development in Romania for over 10 years. He is a founder of the ADEPT Foundation (www.fundatia-adept.org), which is dedicated to promoting the survival of Romania's small-scale farming communities, and of the High Nature Value farmed landscapes in which they live. The ADEPT Foundation offers some success stories in linking landscape conservation with community prosperity. Practical village-level delivery to farmers of a range of RDP and other EU programmes, proper valuation of ecosystem services, and innovative marketing all play a role. ADEPT feeds practical experiences into policy in Romania, works closely with Romania's Ministry of Agriculture and is a member of Romania's RDP Monitoring Committee. ADEPT also works closely with the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, thus allowing the interplay between Romanian and wider European experiences and policy-making.</p>
	<p>Arie VAN DEN BRAND Son of a farmer, studied at Agricultural University of Wageningen, followed by several leading jobs in development of farmers' unions and cooperatives till 1997, creating new farmers' cooperatives for nature and landscape. Member of the Dutch Parliament/GreenLeft Party from 2002 to 2004. President of the independent European-wide think tank for the CAP, Groupe de Bruges, President of the Advisory Board of the Dutch Centre for Agriculture and Environment CLM, President of the board of IATP, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, USA, from 1987 to 2010, now board member. President of the national umbrella organisation for organic agriculture (Biologica,) from 2004 to 2010, President of the Jury of the Sicco Mansholtprize. Part-time farmer (organic fruit).</p>
	<p>Romuald SCHABER, president of European Milk Board, umbrella organisation for dairy farmers with members in 14 different European countries and president of the German dairy farmers' organisation BDM. Self-employed dairy farmer since 1986 in the region Allgäu in Germany, married and father of 5 children he is engaged in the EMB since its beginning in 2006. EMB stands for cost covering producer prices with the objective of sustainable dairy farming in all regions of Europe.</p>



Dorota METERA

President of Bioekspert Ltd. - Certification Body in Organic Agriculture
Dorota Metera works as the Director of Certification in the certification body Bioekspert Ltd. and is a Member of the Board of the Foundation IUCN Poland.

Since 2006 she has been a Secretary - and since 1994 - a member of the Council for Organic Agriculture, advisory body for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. She is also a member of Monitoring Committee of Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 and a member of Accreditation Committee in IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Service). Since 2009 she represents the Polish member organisations in IFOAM EU Group. She studied horticulture at the Warsaw Agriculture University. She has been involved in the development of organic agriculture since the early 80ies. After several years of work as a co-ordinator of the project supporting the development of organic agriculture with the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, she also co-ordinated projects related to nature protection and agriculture by the Foundation IUCN Poland and Euronatur – European Natural Heritage Fund.



Robert PEDERSON, Manager, European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium. He manages the European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium (EPHAC). EPHAC is a Brussels-based alliance of public health organisations advocating a healthier, more sustainable Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Robert holds degrees in Business (USA), Nutrition (Denmark) and more recently a MSc in Food Policy from City University in London, England. Before coming to Brussels, Robert worked for a public health NGO in Denmark, engaged in advocacy and policy development on healthier food environments at national, EU and international levels.

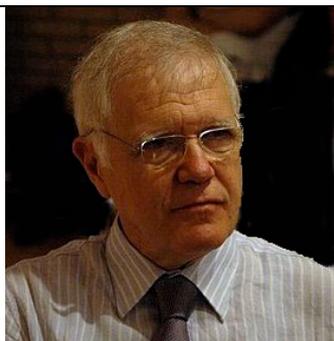


Antje KOELLING is policy coordinator in the IFOAM EU Group since summer 2009. She is responsible to coordinate the work in the areas Common Agriculture Policies, biodiversity, GMOs, climate and environmental aspects of agriculture.

Before working at the IFOAM EU Group, she has worked during five years as political advisor for a Member of the European Parliament in the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development. Being agronomist by education, she worked in different jobs connected to farming before coming to Brussels, gaining experience in agricultural practice, and politics.

The IFOAM EU Group is the European working level within the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. It brings together more than 300 organisations, associations and enterprises from all EU-27, EFTA and candidate countries. IFOAM's goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of Organic Agriculture.

Available for phone interviews



Franco SOTTE

Full Professor of Agricultural Economics and Policy at the Faculty of Economics of the Polytechnic University of Marche - Ancona (Italy);
Liaison Officer for Italy in the European Association of Agricultural Economists, from 1999;

Vice-President of the Groupe di Bruges - Pour une Europe de l'agriculture et des territoires;

President of the Associazione "Alessandro Bartola" – Studies and Research in Agricultural Economics and Policies, since its foundation in 1995;

	<p>Sieta VAN KEIMPEMA Vice-President of European Milk Board President Dutch Dairywomen Board (DDB) Netherlands</p>
	<p>Codrin PAVELIUC-OLARIU Member of Groupe de Bruges and agricultural researcher. PhD(in progress) in Management and marketing in agriculture, MSc in Agricultural management, BSc in Agronomy Faculty of Agriculture of Universitatea De Stiinte Agronomice Si Medicina Veterinara, Iasi, Romania</p>
	<p>Samuel FERET Coordinator of Groupe PAC 2013 Membre of Groupe de Bruges He is an expert in agricultural, rural and environmental policies (member of DG AGRI milk advisory group) and has worked with the sustainable agriculture network in Rennes, France.</p>
	<p>Jacques MARET Organic farmer, he founded an environment training centre in 1981 and the National Federation of Farmers in the 90's. He is a firm defender of the organic agriculture label. Author of "Le naufrage paysan".</p>
	<p>Willem SMEENK Board member of European Milk Board, France and of the Milk Producers Organisation in France (FR/NL)</p>