

# “Urban Future” Global Conference

## UNECE sessions

Graz, Austria, 18-19 November 2014

## Speakers

### Opening Session



On 9 July 2014, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Christian Friis Bach of Denmark as the next Executive Secretary of UNECE. Mr. Bach brings to the position a combination of deep knowledge in international economy and development affairs coupled with innovative and results-oriented leadership. Mr Bach came from a position as Member of the Danish Parliament and Head of the Parliamentarian Group for the Danish Social/Liberal Party. He previously served as Denmark’s Minister for Development Cooperation (2011-2013) and Special Advisor to the European Union Commission for the United Nations Global Sustainability Panel (2010-2011). He is Honorary Professor of International Economics and Development at the University of Copenhagen (2009-2014) and has been Associate Professor in International Economics and Development Economics, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (1999-2005).

Mr. Bach has a long history with civil society, notably as the International Director for the DanChurchAid (2005-2010) and as Chairman of the Danish Association for International Cooperation (1997-2001). He also has private sector experience from running a start-up company and has worked as a journalist at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Bach holds a Ph.D. in International Economics (1996), an MSc in Agronomy (1992) from the Royal Danish Agricultural University in Copenhagen and a supplementary degree in Journalism from the Danish School of Media and Journalism.

Born in 1966, Mr. Bach is married and has three children. The family lives on a small farm outside of Copenhagen.

### Session 1: How governments support smart city initiatives

#### 1.1 Western countries



**Mr. Ingolf SCHAEDLER**

Deputy Director General for Innovation  
Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Austria

Since March 2003, Ingolf Schaedler is serving as Deputy Director General for Innovation at the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. In this function he is responsible for the development and implementation of the Ministry’s technology policy strategy, its technology programmes and the related R&D infrastructure. On the level of the European Union Mr. Schaedler is representing Austria in various high level committees related to Research and Technology Policy, Satellite Navigation and Space Policy. In December 2010 he has been elected as chairman of the governing board of the EU-Joint Programming Initiative “Urban Europe”.

Ingolf Schaedler studied Economics at the University Vienna and International Law and Politics at Johns Hopkins University, Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Bologna, Italy.



**Ms. Tanja SIPPOLA-ALHO**

Special Adviser  
Ministry of Environment, Finland

Ms Tanja Sippola-Alho, who graduated from the University of Tampere in 1987 (Master of Administrative Sciences), started working for the Minister of Culture and Housing, Ms. Pia Viitanen at the beginning of June 2014. Her responsibilities include especially political structures in the government. Her fields of work are building, land use, urban planning and housing. Ms Sippola-Alho has been active with various housing companies as president of the Board, chairman of the board or as a member of the board. Before working for the City of Helsinki, as a senior adviser to the deputy mayor, she worked on urban planning issues at the Ministry of the Environment.



**Mr. Ferdi LICHER**

Director  
Knowledge and Exploratory Analysis  
Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands

Mr. Ferdi LICHER held different managing positions at the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science since 1991. In 2011 he started as director Knowledge and Exploratory Analysis for the Directorate of General Housing and Construction for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. In this position he is responsible for policy information, research, prognoses and analyses for the medium-long term and for maintaining relations with knowledge institutes, universities and planning agencies.

Mr. Ferdi Licher is also programming director for a national Urban Agenda which aims at improving the economic growth, innovation and quality of life of cities in The Netherlands. This agenda is closely linked to the development of a European Urban Agenda and the Dutch presidency of the EU in first half of 2016.



**Mr. Tony MULHALL,**

Associate Director  
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, UK

Tony Mulhall is an Associate Director at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), a professional body with over 100,000 members working internationally in the areas of land, property and construction. He is a Chartered Surveyor and Town Planner and has worked in a wide range of areas of planning and property in both the public and private sectors. In his current role he is responsible for the production of a portfolio of knowledge and guidance for practitioners in the planning and development sector. He is actively involved in promoting an understanding of development economics within the planning system and has given evidence to the UK House of Commons Select Committee on Town Centre Planning Policy. He represents RICS in a number of bodies including the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), and the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). He is Chair of the Inter-Institutional Flood Group which brings together the main professional bodies in the built environment in the UK engaged with flood risk. He has also been engaged as an adviser to the United Kingdom India Business Council in connection with programmes being developed in India and as an adviser to UK Department for International Development. He has given occasional lectures at a number of universities including Cardiff University, London School of Economics, Oxford University, Nottingham Trent University, University College London.

## 1.2 In transition countries



**Elena SZOLGAYOVÁ**

Director General

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of Slovakia,  
& Chair of the Committee on Housing and Land Management  
UNECE, Switzerland

Elena Szolgayová, an architect and urban planner with long-standing research experience, has been advising state and municipal housing policy makers since the early 1990s. In 1999 she joined the state administration, where she has been acting in several senior positions, recently as Director General of the DG Housing Policy and Urban Development at the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development. She has been involved in numerous UN ECE and EU housing activities and Working groups targeted at housing and urban development, and has contributed to several UN ECE and research publications related to urban and housing issues. Since 2013 she acts as chair of the UN ECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.



**Ms. Janja KREITMAYER McKENZIE**

Secretary, Spatial Planning Directorate

Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie is an urban development expert and policy advisor at the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning in Slovenia. She is responsible for policy analysis and drafting in the areas of territorial and sustainable urban development, and for coordination of sectoral and EU territorial cohesion and urban development policies. She also has extensive experience working as a research coordinator and a researcher for international and national research projects on urban development issues. From 2009 and 2012 she was the Head of Sector for Strategic Spatial Development, she was also responsible for the urban development dossier for Slovene Presidency of the Council of the EU, Head of Department for National Spatial Planning and Deputy Director for territorial development at the Office for National Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia.

Janja started her career as an architect, and then obtained a Master's degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York.



**Mr. David GIGINEISHVILI**

Head of Spatial Planning and Construction Policy Department

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

David Gigineishvili, Head of Spatial Planning and Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, is responsible for implementing, coordinating, managing and monitoring the policy in the field of spatial planning and construction activities in Georgia. These activities involve defining short, medium and long-term strategies of internal territorial development and spatial planning. David was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and now lives in Tbilisi, Georgia. He is MSc graduate of Engineering from the Faculty of Civil and Industrial Engineering of the Georgian Technical University.



**Ms. Ruzan ALAVERDYAN,**  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Urban Development, Republic of Armenia

After graduating from the Yerevan State Institute of Architecture and Construction, Mrs. Alaverdyan has worked for twenty years at “Yerevanproject” Institute. She is the author of over 40 architectural projects including: the building of Children’s Library after Khnko-Aper in Yerevan; the project of residential complex built by the American Red Cross; new spatial planning documents for Gyumri that were designed after the earthquake in 1988; as well as projects of other residential, public and industrial buildings.

In 1996-2000 she worked as a consultant at the National Assembly, Department of Economic Analysis, Division of Economic Reforms and Social Policy Analysis, later on becoming the head of the division. In 2000-2001 she held the position of the Deputy Minister coordinating Territorial Administration and Urban Development, and since 2001 she has been holding the position of Deputy Minister of Urban Development.

Mrs Alaverdyan was honored a number of state awards for her productive work and services rendered to the Motherland. She is also the coordinator of the European Landscape Convention implementation in Armenia, besides she has participated in the activities related to the development of the *Spatial Planning: Key Instrument for Development and Effective Governance Handbook* initiated by the UNECE. She is the representative of Armenia in the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) of Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT).

## Session 2: How municipalities implement smart city initiatives

### 2.1 Large cities



**Ms. Kristina DELY**  
Head of Office  
Covenant of Mayors, Belgium

Kristina Dely has been heading the Covenant of Mayors Office since its establishment in January 2009. The office – composed of 5 major European network of local authorities – co-ordinates the Covenant of Mayors ([www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)) an initiative by the European Commission, whereby ca. 6 000 local authorities from 48 countries have committed to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 20% by 2020. Formerly, Kristina was in charge of European Affairs of Energy Cities ([www.energy-cities.eu](http://www.energy-cities.eu)), a European association representing 1000 local authorities from 30 countries. Kristina holds a Master's degree in economy and environmental management from Budapest University of Economics and the Ecole de Management de Lyon.



**Mr. Victor CALLISTER,**  
Assistant Director,  
Department of Built Environment, City of London, UK

Victor Callister is the Assistant Director (Environmental Enhancement) for the City of London, where the emphasis is creating the highest possible quality of environment for people in the limited and complex space between buildings. Victor manages a team of professional Town Planners and Project Managers, who deliver projects in partnership with City businesses, usually with complex funding arrangements. Many of these projects are delivering on the security needs of the City, but without compromising environmental quality or movement around the Square Mile. Current work is focusing on integrating tall buildings (including the tallest in Europe) in to the already densely developed districts of the City. Although a Chartered Town Planner, his personal interest is in making projects happen within a complex funding/urban/stakeholder context.



**Ms. Ina HOMEIER**  
Project manager  
Smart City Vienna, Austria

Ina Homeier is an architect and has been working for the urban planning department of the City of Vienna since 1994. She was also responsible for land use and district planning for several years, and made an internship at the City of Vienna's liaison office in Brussels. From 1998 to 2001, she represented the City of Vienna at the Directorate-General for Research of the European Commission, where she was responsible for urban planning issues and research projects. In 2001, she returned to Municipal Department 18 – Urban Development and Planning, where she focussed on EU research projects. Later she moved to Portugal for several years, where she was an acting partner in the company Innovation Point SA that focussed on the development of urban strategies and technologies. Since the summer of 2011, she has again been working for Municipal Department 18. She is the project manager of Smart City Wien and coordinates the Smart City activities of the City of Vienna with regard to strategy and content. Several national and EU-funded projects such as CLUE (INTERREG IVC), TRANSFORM (FP7), and Transform+ (KLIEN4) have been implemented and Smart City project

applications have been supported under her watch. Since early 2013, she supervised the drawing-up of the Smart City Wien Framework Strategy that was adopted by the Vienna City Council on 25 June 2014. She is a member of the Smart City Wien steering group and of the MoU Smart City steering group of the City of Vienna and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology. She is also a member of the Vienna Advisory Council for Green Electricity and of the Finance and Market Uptake Group of the EU Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform. For many years, she has been nominated by the European Commission and national funding bodies as evaluator for project applications and for mid-term and final assessments of research projects.



**Mr. Bram SIEBEN**  
Project manager  
Smart City Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Bram Sieben is active within the program Amsterdam Smart City. In this program we work as a public private partnership on social and technical innovation, through realizing consortia, whom together realize solutions that enhances the city towards a smarter city. Our goal is to connect stakeholders and create a common ground (PPS) from which we can actually start implementing the innovative/smart solutions. Examples of projects include: City-Zen, Vehicle2Grid, Social Innovation, Smart Citizen Kit, and Smart Lightning. Bram previously led a team within the operations department at Alliander NV (Dutch DSO) and studied at the RSM Erasmus University (MSc in Entrepreneurship).



**Ms. Marina JOHANSSON**  
Deputy Mayor  
City of Gothenburg, Sweden

Deputy Mayor Marina Johansson has been politically active since high school and her political interests were awakened while she was a member in the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League. Since 1997 she has held a number of political missions within the City of Gothenburg. She has also been an elected representative of the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union - Kommunal.

Ms Johansson was elected as a city councillor in 2010 and in 2007 she became a Member of the City Executive Board. Her areas of responsibility are issues concerning parks and landscape, water and sewage, recycling and elderly care. Deputy Mayor Johansson is also Chairman of Renova, i.e. a municipally owned company that is one of the leading environmental companies in waste management and recycling in Western Sweden.

## 2.2 Medium size cities



**Ms. Gulnara ROLL**

Head

Housing and Land Management Unit,  
Economic Cooperation, Trade, and Land Management Division  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Switzerland

Ms. Roll is Secretary of the intergovernmental UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Committee for Housing and Land Management and Head of Housing and Land Management Unit at Forestry, Land and Housing Division, UN Economic Commission for Europe. UNECE joins 56 countries from Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia and Northern America. Gulnara's educational background is in Human Geography and Environmental Sciences. Prior to joining UNECE in 2009, Dr. Roll worked in academia and management of international programmes on research, spatial planning and regional development in Brussels, Belgium; Tartu, Estonia; and St. Petersburg, Russia.



**Mr. Andrea GNASSI**

Mayor of Rimini, Italy

Andrea Gnassi was born in Rimini in 1969 and has always been living in Rimini till he attended and graduated at the University of Bologna, Economics Department of Political Science.

Since 1987 he has been actively involved in different associations of Rimini as cultural, sports and voluntary associations, contributing to the realization of projects and events in the cultural field. From 1990 to 1995 he served as Councillor the Municipality of Rimini and from 1995 to 2000 he served as Councillor the Emilia Romagna Region. Upon his re-election in 2000 to the Emilia Romagna Region, he served as President the Commission of Culture, Tourism and Education of the Regional Council. From 2005 to 2007, he served as Councillor the Province of Rimini delegated to Tourism. From 2008 to 2010 he has been Secretary for Rimini Province Democratic Party (PD - Partito Democratico) and has promoted the change and replacement of the executive group in Parliament and in local Administrations (Province, Municipalities). In 2011 he was elected Mayor of Rimini and since 2012 he has been President of the Network of Italian Strategic Cities. Since 2012 he has been President of the Permanent Commission for the Strategic Cities of National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI). Since 2013 he has been President of the Permanent Commission for Tourism of the National Association of Italian Municipalities.



**Mr. Andres JAADLA,**

Former Mayor  
City of Rakvere, Estonia

Andres Jaadla was born on 10 March, 1965. He graduated at Tartu University 1991 and acquired his Master's degree in law. He held the position of Mayor of Rakvere from 2002-2012 and was member of the European Committee of Regions from 2009-2012. Since 1996 he has been the Chairman of the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations and member of the Board and since 2014 he has been a board member of CECODHAS - Housing Europa, the biggest housing organization in Europe. In 2012 he started to work at SA Virumaa Competence Center of Excellence (Estonian Smart city/house Competence Center, in Rakvere ) as Director of development and education.

He has been a member of the Rakvere City Council since 1993 and one of the Covenant of Mayors initiators in Estonia.



**Mr. Vachagan V. ADUNTS**

Mayor of Goris town, Syunik Marz

Mr. Vachagan V. Adunts was born on January 1, 1967, in Goris. In 1983 he entered the Armenian National Agrarian University and in 1988 graduated from the University with excellence, at the faculty of “Automobiles and automobile industry”. He has started his working career since 1988 in Goris Regional Agricultural Union as a senior engineer- economist. Then until 2000 he held the position of head of Goris Center Social Insurance. From 2000 to 2007 Vachagan Adunts worked at “ArmRusgazard” CJSC as the head of Goris district. Since 2007 he has been a director of “Adunts” LLC. From 2009 to 2014 he worked at "Armenian Water and Sewage" CJSC as the head of Goris district. On June 8, 2014 Vachagan Adunts was elected and since January 21 he has been holding the position of Mayor of Goris town.