

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt

Energy Security Hub @BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt Pavilion
At Munich Security Conference – 12 to 14 February 2026

2026 Speakers Briefing



Rania Al-Mashat

Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt

H.E Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat has been part of Egypt's cabinet of ministers since 2018, where she currently serves as the Minister of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation, and has previously served as the Minister of International Cooperation (Dec 2019 - July 2024), and also as the first female Minister of Tourism (Jan 2018 - Dec 2019). She worked at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C. as Advisor to the Chief Economist (Aug 2016 - Jan 2018), and Senior Economist (2001 - 2005). She also served at the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), as the Sub-Governor for Monetary Policy (Aug. 2005 - Jun. 2016), where she contributed to modernizing the CBE's monetary policy strategy, underpinned by structural reforms to formally adopt an inflation-targeting regime, a key pillar of the banking sector reform program launched in 2004.



Dmitri Alperovitch

Co-Founder and Chairman, Silverado Policy Accelerator

Dmitri Alperovitch is the Co-Founder and Chairman of Silverado Policy Accelerator, national bestselling author of "World on the Brink: How America Can Beat China in the Race for the 21st Century," founder of the Alperovitch Institute for Cybersecurity Studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and Co-Founder and former CTO of CrowdStrike Inc., one of the world's largest cybersecurity firms. A renowned thought leader on geopolitics, great power competition and cybersecurity strategy, technology visionary and business executive, Alperovitch has served as special advisor to the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Homeland Security (DHS) Advisory Council, and was the founding board member of the US Government's Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB) that conducts reviews of major cyber incidents impacting national security.



Anita Anand

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Anita Anand is Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and a Member of Parliament. She previously served in several senior cabinet roles, including Minister of National Defence and President of the Treasury Board. Anand is a former law professor and is widely recognized for her leadership on national security, governance, and international cooperation.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Rotem Arad

CBO, H2PRO

Rotem Arad is a seasoned entrepreneur and executive with over 25 years of experience working B2B and B2G in the Environmental Services, Energy, Industrial Manufacturing, and Biomed industries. As the Chief Business Officer of H2Pro, Rotem develops and executes region-specific strategies for introducing the novel H2Pro DWE electrolyzer technology to the clean energy market. With a focus on developing long-term strategic partnerships in the MENA and EU regions, he has honed a deep understanding of key players, policies, and milestones necessary for realizing regional clean energy and hydrogen hub aspirations.



Jonathan Barth

Executive Chair, Geostrategic Europe Taskforce; Senior Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute

Jonathan Barth is Executive Chair of the Geostrategic Europe Taskforce and a Visiting Fellow at the Institut Jacques Delors in Paris. He is also a Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge's Institute for Sustainability Leadership and an Affiliate of the Bennett School of Public Policy, where he is currently working on his book *Escaping Collapse: Why Economic Liberalism Died and What Comes Next*. An engineer-turned-economist based between Brussels, Cambridge, and Berlin, he works closely with European political decision-makers on rebuilding European power in a security- and climate-disrupted world.



Nicola Beer

Vice-President and Member of the Management Committee, European Investment Bank (EIB); former Vice-President of the European Parliament

Nicola Beer is Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Luxembourg. From 2019 to 2023 she was Vice President and Member of the European Parliament with a focus on the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, the Industry and Research Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. She was Member of the German Federal Parliament, Bundestag from 2017 to 2019. Previously, Mrs. Beer was 1999 to 2009 and 2014 to 2017 Member of the Hessian state parliament, serving 2012 to 2014 as Hessian Minister for Education and 2009 to 2012 Hessian State Secretary for European Affairs. Her political career started as city councilor in her hometown Frankfurt am Main, where she also worked as a self-employed lawyer, except during the time as a member of the Hessian state government. Before studying law at the University of Frankfurt, she completed training as a bank clerk after graduating from high school with a bilingual German-French diploma.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Katrin Bennhold

Host of "The World", *The New York Times*

Before the launch of *The World*, she served as the Berlin bureau chief, leading the organization's coverage of Germany. In 2021, she hosted *Day X*, an audio series examining far-right infiltration within Germany's security services, expanding on an award-winning print investigation. In 2019, she traveled through four European countries to produce a podcast documentary on nationalism and populism titled *The Battle for Europe*. She has also written about cultural topics, including why Germans enjoy nude recreation and driving at high speeds on the autobahn.

She joined *The Times* in 2004 and has reported from more than a dozen countries. Her writing spans themes such as gender, migration, terrorism, and the repercussions of the 2016 Brexit referendum. She holds a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. Originally from Osnabrück, Germany, she now lives in Wales.



Andreas Berger

CEO, *Swiss Re*

Andreas Berger joined *Swiss Re* in March 2019 as Chief Executive Officer Corporate Solutions and member of the Group Executive Committee, and was appointed as Group Chief Executive Officer effective 1 July 2024. Prior, he operated as global Head of Market Management & Communication for *Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty SE*, where he established an overall market management function for the corporate client segment and served as AGCS spokesperson.



Tim Böltken

Founder and CEO, *INERATEC*

Tim Boeltken is the visionary leader of *INERATEC*, making significant contributions to sustainability through his pioneering building the innovative e-Fuel company. His life goal of driving climate neutrality has been actualized through the establishment and growth of *INERATEC*, positioning the company at the forefront of the shift towards cleaner fueling solutions. An accomplished chemical engineer educated at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), he has significant experience in hydrogen production, catalysis, and petrochemistry.



Jason Bordoff

Founding Director, Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University; Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Energy and Climate Change on the Staff of the National Security Council (U.S.)

Jason Bordoff is the Founding Director of the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, where he is a Professor of Professional Practice. He is also on the faculty of the Columbia Climate School, where he is Co-Founding Dean Emeritus. He previously served as Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and Senior Director for Energy and Climate Change on the Staff of the National Security Council. Prior to that appointment, he held senior policy positions on the White House's National Economic Council and Council on Environmental Quality. Earlier in his career, he was a scholar at the Brookings Institution, served in the Treasury Department during the Clinton Administration, and was a consultant with McKinsey & Company.



Michael Brigl

Head of Central Europe, Boston Consulting Group

Michael Brigl serves as the Head of BCG in Central Europe, overseeing operations across Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. He is deeply committed to leveraging strategy consulting to address the major challenges of our time and believes that technologies, such as Generative AI, play a pivotal role in driving solutions.

Prior to joining BCG, he worked for three years at PwC Consulting in London, U.K. with a focus on cost reduction and performance management projects. Michael holds an MBA from IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain and CEIBS China Europe International Business School, Shanghai, China. He studied business at the University of Regensburg and finance at UMIST, School of Management, in Manchester.



Christian Bruch

Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Energy

Dr Christian Bruch is President and Chief Executive Officer at Siemens Energy AG and at Siemens Energy Management GmbH. Also being Chief Sustainability Officer of Siemens Energy, he defines his purpose and that of his company as "energizing society". In his role, Christian wants to ensure that all people have equal opportunities to sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy – no matter where they are. He sees climate change as the biggest and most urgent challenge facing humankind. Prior to his current position, Dr Christian Bruch was Executive Vice President and CEO at Linde Engineering in Dublin, Ireland. Previously, he held various leadership positions at Linde AG and RWE for more than 18 years.



Jan Ceyskens

Deputy Head of Cabinet of Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a competitive circular economy, European Commission

Jan Ceyskens is Deputy Head of Cabinet of Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a competitive circular economy at the European Commission. He was previously Head of the "Digital Finance" and the "Capital Markets Union" Unit in the Directorate General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union Unit, Member and Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Vice President Dombrovskis and Member of the Cabinet of Vice-President Barnier. He graduated in law from Humboldt University in Berlin and holds a master's degree in European law from King's College London. He has worked at the European Commission since 2006, initially in the Directorate General for Competition's Cartels enforcement Directorate and since 2009 in the Internal Markets and Services Directorate General.



Wendy Chang

Senior Analyst, Mercator Institute for China Studies

Wendy Chang's research interest is on the intersection of technology, politics and the economy. In the age of Artificial Intelligence and increased geopolitical tensions worldwide, she researches how developments in AI, self-driving cars, metaverse, quantum and more can transform China's digital economy and affect its relationship to the world. As a Taiwanese-American, she also watches cross-Strait relations closely. Prior to joining MERICS, Wendy worked as a senior software engineer at companies in Berlin and San Francisco, building systems to ingest and analyze text data. She holds a Master of Engineering in Computer Science from MIT.



William Chueh

Director, Precourt Institute for Energy, Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Stanford University

Dr Will Chueh is an Associate Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Energy Science & Engineering, a Senior Fellow of the Precourt Institute for Energy at Stanford University, and a faculty scientist at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. He leads a group of more than thirty researchers pursuing the following missions: understand reactions and transport involving ions and electrons and decarbonize various energy transformation pathways. Additionally, he directs the SLAC-Stanford Battery Center and Stanford's StorageX Initiative that builds academic-industrial partnerships. Will received his BS in applied physics, and his MS and PhD in materials science from Caltech. Prior to joining Stanford in 2012, he was a Distinguished Truman Fellow at Sandia National Laboratories.



Niclas Davidsson

CEO, MEVA Energy

Niclas Davidsson is a senior business executive focusing on technology based entrepreneurship in the energy- and process industry. Niclas was appointed CEO of Meva Energy in 2016. Under his leadership the company has scaled and transitioned from a small team of technology enthusiasts to an industrial company with a commercially verified plant design, signed multi-million agreements with global blue-chip corporations and with a backing of global impact investors.

In 2011 Niclas switched from roles within strategy- and IPR consultancy to the emerging renewable energy technology industry, making him one of the earliest pioneers in what is now a global sector. Besides working with thermochemical conversion, Niclas has been developing businesses related to anaerobic biogas, landfill gas and combined heat and power applications. Prior to joining Meva Energy, Niclas worked as VP Business Development at Cleanergy AB.



Alexander De Croo

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); former Prime Minister of Belgium

Alexander De Croo (born 1975) served as Prime Minister of Belgium from 2020 to February 2025, steering the country through one of its most challenging periods in recent history. Leading a broad coalition government, he played a crucial role in managing Belgium's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, overseeing large-scale vaccination efforts and economic recovery measures. Prior to his tenure as Prime Minister, De Croo was Belgium's Minister of Finance and Development Cooperation (2014–2020). As Deputy Prime Minister (2012–2020), he played a key role in economic policymaking and Belgium's contributions to the European project.



Siby Diabira

Senior Manager Venture Capital and Private Equity, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Siby Diabira is Senior Manager Western Europe at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), based in Paris, France. In this role, she drives the development of new business opportunities and manages key relationships with Western European shareholders and partners. Additionally, she represents IFC in high-level engagements with policymakers, spearheading strategic initiatives that strengthen ties with key government counterparts and constituencies in Western Europe. A dual national of Mauritania and France, Ms. Diabira brings nearly 20 years of experience in investment banking and development finance, with a focus on both European and emerging markets. Ms. Diabira holds an MSc in Finance from Sorbonne University.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Robin Duggan
Partner, Just Climate

Robin Duggan joined Just Climate in 2023 as Operating Partner on the Investment Team. Previously, he was executive director at Climate Transition Capital and also served as one of the executive directors and board members of the Amsterdam listed Climate SPAC CTCA1. From 2007 to 2019, Robin was a senior member of the Riverstone Renewable Energy investment team. He also served on boards, including Seajacks, Enviva, Pattern II and Velocita. Prior to that, Robin spent 18 years with BP in a variety of senior management positions in the upstream, petrochemicals and refining teams, based in Europe, Australasia, the US and Latin America. He is chairman of Camberwell Energy, an independent business providing transformational development projects for customers in the renewable energy sector. He has previously served as an advisor to TPG and Star Capital Partners.



Stephen Dunbar-Johnson
President, International, The New York Times Company

Stephen Dunbar-Johnson is the president, International of The New York Times Company. Dunbar-Johnson is responsible for the oversight and strategic development of the Times Company's international businesses. Dunbar-Johnson was appointed president, International for The New York Times Company in October 2013 to lead the global expansion of the company. Prior to The Times, Dunbar-Johnson was publisher of the International Herald Tribune (I.H.T.), a position he assumed in January 2008. Before joining the I.H.T. in 1998, he held various business development roles in the United Kingdom, France and the United States over 12 years at The Financial Times. He was educated at Worth School and Kent University in the U.K. and has completed an executive management program at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and the Sulzberger Executive Leadership Program at the Columbia School of Journalism.



Wolfgang Fink
Chief Executive Officer of Goldman Sachs Bank Europe SE

Dr. Wolfgang Fink is the Chief Executive Officer of Goldman Sachs Bank Europe SE and CEO of Goldman Sachs in Germany and Austria. In this role, he has responsibility for the firm's business across the region. Wolfgang is a member of several key committees at Goldman Sachs, including the European Management Committee, Investment Banking Executive Committee, EMEA Inclusion and Diversity Committee, and EMEA Conduct Committee. Wolfgang Fink joined Goldman Sachs in Mergers & Acquisitions in London in 1993 and was named managing director in 2004 and partner in 2008.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Heike Freund

Chief Operating Officer at Marvel Fusion, Germany

Heike Freund is the Chief Operating Officer of Marvel Fusion, a company that develops novel technology for laser-based fusion as a safe, clean, and reliable energy source. She is responsible for the development and scaling of the company, process optimisation and the formation of partnerships with leading industrial companies. Previously, she was a partner at McKinsey & Company and a core member of the Operations Leadership Team, where she focussed on projects in the automotive, machinery and high-tech industries. She has more than 10 years of experience in leading global industrialisation projects.



Sigmar Gabriel

Former Foreign Minister, Former Vice-Chancellor; Chairman, Atlantik-Brücke

Sigmar Gabriel is chairman of Atlantik-Brücke and a Senior Fellow at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (CES). Gabriel brings a wealth of experience at the local, federal and international level. He assumed several leading posts in the German government, most recently as Minister for Foreign Affairs (2017-2018) and Vice-Chancellor of Germany (2013-2018). Prior to that he was Germany's Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy (2013-2017) and Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (2005-2009).



Nils Giese

CEO, Edelman Germany

Nils Giese is Chief Executive Officer of Edelman in Germany. He was appointed CEO after leading Edelman's healthcare division for nearly four years. Since 2024, he has also overseen the agency's healthcare marketing strategy across the EMEA region. Nils joined Edelman after a career at the Lovemarks agency Saatchi & Saatchi within the Publicis Groupe, where he held various national and international roles, including Head of Strategy. During this time, he was part of the "Power of One" team, orchestrating integrated campaigns across marketing, communications, and media.



Arancha González

Dean, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po; former Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain

Arancha González is the third Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) at Sciences Po and the first woman to lead the world's third school for Politics and International Studies. Prior to joining PSIA, she served as Spain's Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (2020-2021). She previously was Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (2013-2020). Between 2005 and 2013 she served as Chief of Staff to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization.



Rafael Grossi
Director General, IAEA

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, who assumed office on 3 December 2019, is a diplomat with 40 years of experience in a wide number of fields, including peace and security, non-proliferation and disarmament, and international development. He works at the intersection of security, science and development, and is frequently an impartial diplomatic broker, mediating during moments of international crisis. Before his election as the IAEA's Director General, Mr Grossi was president-designate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and from 2014 to 2016 served as president of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).



Enno Harks
Director External Affairs, BP

Energy professional with 25 years of energy expertise. Enno has been serving bp throughout various roles for 18 years, now heading the External Affairs/Regulation and Comms departments in DACH countries. Prior to that, he has been serving with the SWP Berlin (Chancellery financed Institute for International Affairs and Security) as Senior Fellow on Energy & Resources. He joined from the IEA (International Energy Agency) where he worked as Energy Analyst on oil and gas supply security. He entered his professional life as a TV journalist/producer. Outside his professional path, Enno is volunteering as Member of the board of Forum Ebenhausen guiding young(er) International Affairs expertise, as head of the SPD Economic Forum's Europe division and in a number of not-for-profit associations. He holds a master's degree in econometrics from LMU Munich (prior: Paris-X) and speaks German, English, French, Spanish.



Reinhard Hüttl
Scientific Director and Managing Partner, EEI Eco-Environment Innovation

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Hüttl has been operating as Scientific Director and Managing Partner of EEI Eco-Environment Innovation eGbR in Berlin since February 2021. He is a German forestry and soil scientist who has held leading roles in science, research, and energy policy. After earning his doctorate and habilitation in Freiburg, he worked in international research at Kali und Salz (BASF Group) and later became Professor of Soil Protection and Recultivation at BTU Cottbus (1993–2021). From 2007 to 2021 he served as Scientific Director and Chairman of the German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ) in Potsdam.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Wolfgang Ischinger
Chairman, Munich Security Conference

Wolfgang Ischinger is Professor Emeritus of Security Policy and Diplomatic Practice. Currently, he is a Senior Fellow at the Hertie School and the Founding Director of the School's Centre for International Security. Prof. Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Ischinger is President of the MSC Foundation Council and serves as Chair of the MSC. Ischinger looks back at a long diplomatic career including his role as State Secretary in the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and posts as German ambassador in Washington, DC and London.



Bogdan-Gruia Ivan
Minister of Energy, Government of Romania

Bogdan-Gruia Ivan is the Minister of Research, Innovation and Digitalization and the youngest minister in the Romanian Government. He was elected to the Romanian Chamber of Deputies in 2020, where he was Vice-President of the Committee for Information and Communications Technology. He was also a member of the parliamentary committees for Public Administration and for Automation and the Future of Work. He was a co-initiator of the laws that laid the foundation for Romania's digital transformation, the most important being the law on the interoperability of public sector databases



Dan Jørgensen
Commissioner for Energy and Housing, European Commission

Dan Jørgensen is the European Commissioner for Energy and Housing within the European Commission in office between 2024-2029. He was Minister for Development Cooperation and Minister for Global Climate Policy between December 2022 – September 2024, and Minister for Climate, Energy, and Utilities between June 2019 – December 2022 in the Danish Government. He was a Member of the Danish Parliament (Folketing) between 2015-2024 where he served as Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Social Democratic Party (2017-2019) and as Vice-Chairman of the Danish Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Dan Jørgensen was also a Member of the European Parliament within the S&D Group between July 2004- November 2013.



Marie Jaroni
CEO, thyssenkrupp Steel

Dr. Marie Jaroni has been Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG since November 1, 2025. She is responsible for strategic business development, sales and innovation, as well as communications and sustainability at the company. She is also responsible for the subsidiaries Packaging Steel and Precision Steel. Marie Jaroni has been a member of the Executive Board of thyssenkrupp Steel Europe AG since October 1, 2024. Prior to her appointment as CEO, she served as Chief Sales Officer and Chief Transformation Officer (CSO & CTO).



Joe Kaeser

Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Siemens Energy AG; Chairman of the Advisory Council, Munich Security Conference

Joe Kaeser is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Siemens Energy AG and Daimler Truck Holding AG. From 2013 until 2021, he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens AG. Joe Kaeser is also Supervisory Board Member at Linde plc. and acts as a Senior Advisor at EIG, a leading institutional investor in the global energy and infrastructure sectors. In addition to his service as the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Munich Security Conference, he is member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum.



Markus Kamieth

Chief Executive Officer, BASF SE

Dr. Markus Kamieth is CEO of BASF SE, the world's largest chemical company based in Ludwigshafen, Germany. Markus Kamieth has been a member of BASF's Board of Executive Directors since 2017. As of 2020, he was based in Hong Kong, where he managed the company's Asia activities before taking on the role as CEO in 2024.



Parag Khanna

Chief Executive Officer, AlphaGeo

Parag Khanna is Founder & CEO of AlphaGeo, the leading AI-powered geospatial analytics platform. He is the internationally bestselling author of seven books. Parag was named one of Esquire's "75 Most Influential People of the 21st Century," and featured in WIRED magazine's "Smart List." He holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, and bachelor's and master's degrees from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.



Carsten Knobel

Chairman of the Management Board, Henkel

Carsten Knobel is the Chairman of the Management Board of Henkel, a role he has held since 2020. After joining Henkel in 1995, he advanced through various leadership positions in finance, controlling, strategy, and marketing. He previously served as Chief Financial Officer from 2012 to 2019. Knobel studied business administration and technical chemistry at TU Berlin and completed an executive program at Harvard Business School. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of Deutsche Lufthansa AG and the Board of Directors of Kühne Holding AG and serves in key industry associations including VCI and BDI.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Bernhard Kotsch

State Secretary, Federal Foreign Office Germany

Since May 2025, Bernhard Kotsch has served as State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, contributing to the strategic direction and coordination of Germany's foreign policy. From 2021 to 2025, he was Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to both the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Holy See, representing Germany in two distinct diplomatic environments with significant humanitarian and cultural relevance. Prior, he headed the Directorate-General for the Federal Intelligence Service and the coordination of Federal Intelligence Services in the Federal Chancellery, overseeing key aspects of Germany's intelligence community and national security structures.



Anne Lamp

Chief Executive Officer, traceless materials

Dr. Anne Lamp is CEO and Co-Founder of traceless materials, a Hamburg-based company on a mission to tackle global plastic pollution and drive the transition to a circular economy. With a PhD in process engineering and deep expertise in biorefinery processes, Anne combines technical know-how with strategic leadership. Her work is driven by a commitment to creating scalable, science-backed solutions that align with environmental and societal goals. traceless materials has developed an innovative, patented technology to transform agricultural residues into a natural, compostable biomaterial.



Olivia Lazard

Planetary Fellow, Berggruen Institute; Nonresident Fellow, Carnegie Europe

Olivia Lazard is a strategic consultant, researcher, and public speaker focused on the intersections between international and planetary security. Her work anticipates the geopolitical, economic, and ecological risks driven by planetary transformations such as climate change. She advises governments, international organizations, and private sector actors on managing transition risks related to energy systems, technological disruption, and ecological collapse. Her research also contributes to shaping public debate and governance on emerging planetary technologies, including geoengineering.



Maria Leptin

President, European Research Council.

Maria Leptin is the President of the European Research Council. After receiving a PhD at the University of Heidelberg, postdoctoral research in the UK and leading a research group in Germany, Maria Leptin became a professor at the Institute of Genetics, University of Cologne and Director of EMBO. She is an elected member of numerous scientific academies and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and an international member of the US National Academy of Sciences.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Ann Mettler
Vice President, Europe, Breakthrough Energy

Ann Mettler is Vice President Europe at Breakthrough Energy & Gates Ventures. She has more than 20 years of experience as a senior level policy and strategy advisor working at the intersection of technology, innovation, foresight, and entrepreneurship. At Breakthrough Energy, Ann works on clean technology innovation to achieve carbon neutrality and a zero emissions future. Previously, she was Director General of the European Policy Strategy Centre (EPSC), the European Commission's in-house think tank, from 2014 to 2019. She started her career at the World Economic Forum, where she headed the Europe Department.



Tim Meyerjürgens
Chief Executive Officer, TenneT

Tim Meyerjürgens is Chief Executive Officer of TenneT Germany and is responsible for the strategic development of the company. His responsibilities include long-term network planning, political and regulatory affairs, legal affairs, as well as the Board Office, which oversees executive and management processes. With his experience in grid operations and offshore infrastructure, he plays a key role in shaping the strategic position of TenneT Germany within the European energy system.



Charles Meyers
Executive Chairman, Equinix

Charles Meyers was appointed to the position of Executive Chairman in June 2024 after serving as President and CEO of Equinix and as a Board Member since 2018. In his role as Equinix CEO, Charles shaped the company's strategy and continued industry leadership, including doubling the number of global IBX data centers, evolving the capabilities of Platform Equinix, building ecosystems with thousands of the world's leading businesses as customers, and quadrupling revenues during his tenure.

While at Equinix, Charles also served as President-Strategy, Services and Innovation, COO, and President, Americas region. Prior to joining Equinix, Charles held executive leadership positions at leading technology and IT companies, including Verisign, Level 3 Communications and BellSouth.



Fiona Murray
Associate Dean of Innovation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Professor Dame Murray is the Associate Dean of Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Management. She is the Faculty Director of MIT's Office of Innovation. Dame Fiona is an associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and serves on British Prime Minister's Council on Science and Technology. She received her BA and MA from the University of Oxford in chemistry and a PhD from Harvard University in engineering and applied sciences.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Claudia Oeking

Head of Public Affairs Germany, Airbus

Claudia Oeking has been responsible for public affairs at Airbus in Germany since September 2023. She is a senior people leader and international business administration professional with over 20 years of experience in strategic management, external affairs and corporate diplomacy. Future and tech enthusiast, passionate about new work, comfortable with challenging environments and constant fast-moving transformation.



Carlos Pascual

Senior Vice President for Geopolitics and International Affairs, S&P Global Commodity Insights; former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and Ukraine

Carlos Pascual leads the integration of geopolitics, energy, and markets for S&P Global Energy. He works with clients globally on the geopolitical challenges of energy security, transition, competitiveness and affordability. Mr. Pascual also leads the coordination of S&P Energy businesses in Latin America, and he is a vice chair of the CERAWEEK conference. Mr. Pascual was previously US Ambassador to both Mexico and Ukraine and was Special Assistant to the US president for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia on the National Security Council. As the former US Energy Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs at the State Department, Mr. Pascual established and directed the Energy Resources Bureau and served as the Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on energy issues.



Falk Paulsen

Sales and Business Development Director, Mondi

Falk Paulsen is a Sales and Business Development Director at Mondi, with more than 15 years of international experience in the packaging industry. He leads Sales and Business Development for Mondi Functional Paper & Films, where he works on advanced functional paper and barrier technologies. A key focus of his work is the replacement of plastic films with paper-based solutions, helping brand owners and converters transition toward more sustainable packaging while maintaining performance and functionality.



Andrew Perry

Director, Energy Transition & Environment, Faculty AI

Andy's experience spans over 15 years at the forefront of innovation in the energy industry. In his current role, Andy leads the Energy Transition and Environment business at Faculty, Europe's leading applied AI firm and a global leader in AI safety. Andy advises boards and leadership teams on their AI strategy and oversees the design and development of bespoke AI systems that help accelerate the energy transition.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Claudia Plattner

President, German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI)

Claudia has more than 20 years of experience in IT roles for companies and institutions. Most recently, she was Director General for Information Systems at the European Central Bank and previously held a senior position as Chief Information Officer (CIO) at DB Systel GmbH, Deutsche Bahn's internal IT service provider. Claudia Plattner holds a degree in mathematics (TU Darmstadt) and a master's degree in applied mathematics from Tulane University (USA).



Adrian Polec

Chief Executive Officer, Prime Batteries

Adrian Polec, CEO and in 2016 co-founder of Prime Batteries, received a 'Green Energy Award - Energie Verde pentru Zile Negre' at the Profit Gala 2024 - Povești cu Profit in Bucharest. Prime Batteries designs, manufactures and markets Lithium-ion batteries and tailor-made battery packs. The company serves a wide variety of industries, including automotive, marine, industrial & material handling, energy storage. In cooperation with strategic partners, Prime Batteries produces batteries for significantly less cost using the concept of smart factory, innovative manufacturing, reduction of waste, and the simple optimization of locating most manufacturing process under one roof.



Julia Prescott

Co-founder, Meridiam

Julia is co-founder of Meridiam, the largest global greenfield infrastructure fund manager and is an acknowledged infrastructure leader. Having worked for much of her career in international private sector environments, Julia has now taken up non-executive roles at the UK's National Infrastructure Commission, and subsequently the Expert Advisory Council of NISTA where she sits as Deputy Chair. She is also Deputy Chair at the Port of Tyne, Chair of IPFA, Chair of Neuconnect (a new energy interconnector between UK and Germany), a non-executive director at Wilton Park and at Allego, an electric car charging company. Julia was awarded a CBE in 2024 and was made an Honorary Fellow of UCL in 2025



Yair Reem

Co-founder & Partner, Extantia Capital

Yair Reem is Co-founder & Partner at Extantia Capital, a venture firm backing pioneers who are forging new paths to unlock growth—for good. Extantia invests in technologies that re-engineer entire industries, making them faster, cheaper, and more sustainable. By focusing on scalable breakthroughs with measurable climate impact, Yair works to accelerate the transition to a decarbonised society. Previously, Yair was Managing Director at Hasso Plattner Ventures.



Katherina Reiche

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany

Katherina Reiche has served as the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy since 6 May 2025. With a long-standing career in both politics and the energy sector, she brings extensive leadership experience and expertise in public administration, infrastructure, and industry transformation.

Before assuming her ministerial role, Reiche was Chair of the Executive Board of Westenergie AG (2020–2025), where she oversaw strategic developments in one of Germany's major energy service providers. From 2015 to 2019, she served as Managing Director and Executive Member of the Management Board of the Association of Local Public Utilities (VKU), advocating for municipal utilities and decentralized energy systems.



Birgitte Ringstad Vartdal

Chief Executive Officer, Statkraft

Birgitte Ringstad Vartdal is the CEO of Statkraft. She was first appointed to Statkraft's Group Management in 2020 as Executive Vice President (EVP) for the business area European Wind and Solar. She later held the position as EVP for the business area Nordics from 2022 until she was appointed CEO of the company. Ringstad Vartdal came to Statkraft from the position as CEO in Golden Ocean. She has also worked as CFO in Golden Ocean, held various management positions in Torvald Klaveness Group and worked for Norsk Hydro's energy division. She currently serves on the board of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO), and has held several board positions, incl. Mowi, Yara, Seadrill and Renewables Norway. She holds a MSc in Physics and Mathematics from The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim and a MSc in Financial Mathematics from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.



Jessika Roswall

European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy

Jessika Roswall is a Swedish politician of the Moderate Party. She serves as European Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy and Swedish European Commissioner since 1 December 2024. She served as Minister for European Union Affairs and Minister for Nordic Cooperation in the cabinet of Ulf Kristersson from 2022 to 2024. She was also a member of parliament from the 2010 general election to 2024, representing Uppsala County.



Michelle Rozo

Vice Chair, National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology

Dr. Michelle Rozo is currently serving as Vice Chair of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology, a U.S. legislative branch advisory entity charged with conducting a thorough review of how advancements in emerging biotechnology and related technologies will shape current and future activities of the Department of Defense. Dr. Rozo is also Vice President of Technical Capabilities at In-Q-Tel, a non-profit strategic investor that accelerates the development and delivery of cutting-edge technologies to enhance the national security of the United States. From 2021 to 2022 she was Director of Technology and National Security at the U.S. National Security Council, where she advised the President and National Security Advisor on biotechnology and national security policy, and was also previously the Principal Director for Biotechnology within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering at the Department of Defense.



Camilla Salthe

Executive Vice President, Safety, Security, and Sustainability, Equinor

Salthe joined Equinor in 2003. She has held several management positions in Equinor. She comes from the position of Senior Vice President UK & Ireland in Exploration & Production International, which she held since September 2024. A key delivery during this time was establishing Adura on 1 December 2025, the new company owned by Shell and Equinor, while ensuring safe and efficient operations of the Mariner field. Prior to this, Salthe was Senior Vice President Field Life Extension, an organisation that develops new ways of working to prolong field lifetime for NCS assets. Between 2003 - 2020 she held a series of business development and petroleum technology positions.



Jörgen Sandström

Head Transforming Industrial Ecosystems, Centre for Energy and Materials, World Economic Forum

Jörgen Sandström Head, Transforming Industrial Ecosystems, Centre for Energy and Materials Head, Industrial and Technology Transformation, Greater China World Economic Forum, Switzerland Jörgen Sandström is the Head of the Transforming Industrial Ecosystem practice at the World Economic Forum. In this role, Jörgen leads multiple teams working at the forefront of industrial transformation, energy transition, sustainability, and decarbonization. These CEO-led initiatives are designed to deliver net-zero material ecosystems, unlock the technologies, financing, and policies required to achieve them, and develop sustainable business models for long-term performance. Current flagship initiatives include: Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative: Accelerating the transition of industrial clusters through a structured approach that integrates financing, policy frameworks, technology deployment, and partnerships. Jörgen previously served as the Head of Mining and Metals Industry at the World Economic Forum. In this capacity, he worked with the world's leading mining and metals companies, representing a broad range of commodities across all regions.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Tore Sandvik

Minister of Defence, Government of the Kingdom of Norway

Tore O. Sandvik was appointed Minister of Defence 4 February 2025. Previously, Mr. Sandvik has served as Minister of Climate and Environment, as well as State Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. He has also served as county mayor of Sør-Trøndelag and Trøndelag from 2003 to 2023.



Wael Sawan

Chief Executive Officer, Shell

Wael began his career at Shell in 1997 as an engineer with Petroleum Development Oman. By the mid-2000s, Wael was Managing Director and Chairman of Shell Qatar, where he oversaw Shell's business in Qatar, including its LNG and GTL divisions. Wael then became Executive Vice President of Deep Water, where he was responsible for driving its transformation into a leading business for Shell. Prior to being appointed CEO at the start of 2023, Wael joined the Executive Committee in 2019 as Upstream Director and in 2021, he became Shell's Director of Integrated Gas, and Renewables and Energy Solutions. Wael was a trustee of Shell Foundation from 2019 to the end of 2022.



Martin Schichtel

Marting Schichtel – Co-Founder & CEO, Kraftblock

Martin Schichtel is co-founder of Kraftblock, developing sustainable high-temperature energy storage solutions to support the energy transition. He holds a doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Saarland, focusing on Nanoparticle Composites and Smart Coatings. Martin has over 20 years of experience in materials development and sales and previously led the Department of Ceramics at the Institute for New Materials.



Robert Schiele

Founder, Carbon Advisory

Robert Schiele is the founder of Carbon Advisory, where he supports industrial companies and climate tech scale-ups in scaling decarbonization, carbon removal and energy transition technologies. His work centers on technology adoption, industrial integration, commercialization and financing across Europe. Previously, Robert served as Managing Director at Siemens, leading the company's Negative Emissions Technologies business with responsibility for strategy, investments and go-to-market execution. He has deep experience at the intersection of industrial systems, advanced technologies and climate solutions, with a strong understanding of the technical, regulatory and economic requirements of industrial decarbonization and energy transformation.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Andreas Schierenbeck

CEO, Hitachi Energy

Andreas Schierenbeck is CEO of Hitachi Energy and co-founder of HH2E AG. Prior to joining Hitachi Energy and HH2E, he served as CEO of Uniper SE from 2019 to March 2021. He began his entrepreneurial career at Siemens in 1992, where he held various management positions in Germany and abroad until 2012, including Head of the Building Technologies North and South America division, before serving as CEO of ThyssenKrupp Elevator from 2013 to 2018.



Gideon Schwich

Co-founder, Cylib

Dr Gideon Schwich co-founded and co-leads cylib GmbH in 2022 alongside Dr Lilian Schwich and Paul Sabarny. He holds a PhD in Production Engineering/Metallurgy from RWTH Aachen University. Before co-founding cylib, he led the Sustainability practice at umlaut/Accenture, managing a team of consultants and advising major European automotive OEMs and aerospace manufacturers on sustainability strategies. His extensive sustainability consulting experience and operational leadership have been instrumental in scaling cylib's operations and driving strategic growth.



Leif Johan Sevland

President and Chief Executive Officer, Offshore Northern Seas (ONS) Foundation

Leif Johan Sevland has been President and CEO at ONS since 2012. He also is a Norwegian politician for the Conservative Party. He served as a deputy representative to the Norwegian Parliament from Rogaland during the terms 1985–1989 and 1993–1997. On the local level, Sevland has been mayor of Stavanger from 1995-2011. From 1987 to 1999 he was also a member of Rogaland county council. He chaired the party chapter in Stavanger from 1989 to 1994 and the county chapter from 1994 to 1998. He graduated from Rogaland University College (now named University of Stavanger) in 1983. Before entering politics he worked at the trotting track Forus, from 1989 to 1994 as manager.



Dubravka Šuica

Commissioner for the Mediterranean, European Commission

Dubravka Šuica is a Croatian politician from the city of Dubrovnik, where she served two terms as its first female mayor. In 2006 she was awarded the World Mayor Award. For ten years she was President of the Croatian Delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Since 2013 Dubravka Šuica has been a Member of the European Parliament, served as Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for democracy and demography before progressing into her role as commissioner for the Mediterranean.

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt



Oliver Sweeney
Principal, Lightrock

Principal, Investment Team at Lightrock. Lightrock is a growth technology investor and is deploying capital into the Energy Transition through its Climate Impact Fund. Prior to Lightrock, Oliver was at bp plc in both the energy trading and low carbon energy business units where he spent time on strategy, investments and operational roles relating to the firm's role in the energy transition.



Narendra Taneja
Energy Expert and Former Chairman, Independent Energy Policy Institute

Narendra Taneja serves as Chairman of the Independent Energy Policy Institute, a new think tank based in New Delhi. He also presides over the World Energy Policy Summit, a reputed conferencing organization. He was the Founder President of the World Oil & Gas Assembly, a meeting place of top CEOs and policymakers, from 2001 to 2011. He sits on several International Advisory Boards, including that of the ONS Foundation of Norway and the Energy Intelligence Group of the United States. He had earlier served as Chairman of the Energy Security Group of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Chairman of the Energy and Green Economy Working Group (India) of the BRICS Business Council.



Harald von Heyden
Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure, Norges Bank Investment Management

Harald von Heyden is leading Norges Bank Investment Management's investments in listed energy companies and unlisted infrastructure for renewable energy. Von Heyden was appointed Global Head of Energy and Infrastructure in January 2025 and joined Norges Bank Investment Management as Global Head of Renewable Infrastructure in March 2024. Prior to joining Norges Bank Investment Management, von Heyden was Head of Energy and Infrastructure at Arctic Securities. He has more than 25 years' experience in the energy sector, including senior positions at Å Energi, Vattenfall, Axpo, and Statkraft, as well as strategic consulting at McKinsey & Company. He also has board experience, including serving as Chairman of the Board of Cleanworld AS and the Norwegian Wind Energy Association, and as a board member of Statkraft.



Stefan Wintels
CEO, KfW Bankengruppe

Stefan Wintels has been CEO of KfW since November 2021. He joined KfW as Co-CEO in October 2021. Prior to joining KfW, Wintels worked at Citigroup for 20 Years (2001 - 2021) in various leadership roles. Most recently, he was the Global Co-Head Financial Institutions Group and a member of the Global Executive Committee of the Banking Capital Markets & Advisory Division. He was also Vice Chairman of Citigroup in Germany, Chief Country Officer for

BMW Foundation

Herbert Quandt

Germany as well as CEO of Citigroup Global Markets Europe AG until March 2020.



Meredith Whittaker

President, Signal Foundation

Meredith Whittaker is Signal's President and a member of the Signal Foundation Board of Directors. She has over 17 years of experience in tech, spanning industry, academia, and government. Before joining Signal as President, she was the Minderero Research Professor at NYU, and served as the Faculty Director of the AI Now Institute which she co-founded. Her research and scholarly work helped shape global AI policy and shift the public narrative on AI to better recognize the surveillance business practices and concentration of industrial resources that modern AI requires.



Heba Aguib

Member of the Board, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

Dr. Heba Aguib has been a Member of the Board of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt since 2023. She holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Technische Universität München and believes that collaboration and impact-driven solutions are crucial for tackling global challenges. Aguib's diverse career encompasses research, development, and implementation of cross-sectoral global projects with a focus on local communities and empowering on the ground innovation. Since 2019, she has been responsible for the RESPOND impact tech accelerator, the Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing work areas, and the overall strategy of the BMW Foundation.



Heike Schneeweis

Member of the Board, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt

Prior to her appointment as member of the board of the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt in 2024, Heike Schneeweis served as Senior Vice President HR Senior Executives at the BMW Group. She has decades of experience working in strategic key positions for the car company both in Germany and abroad. Heike Schneeweis studied business administration at LMU Munich and began her career in the BMW Group's finance and controlling division. From 1991, she worked in various executive positions in the group's HR department, including in marketing and recruitment of best talents.