



Online conference

The role of public procurement in supporting SMEs towards sustainable recovery

23 March 2021
11.00am-12.30pm CET

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHY- *by order of appearance*



Rachel Bleetman, Public Sector Research and Policy Manager, ACCA

Rachel Bleetman is a Research and Policy Manager at ACCA, focusing on issues relevant to the public sector globally. She develops and advises on a range of thought leadership initiatives while working to promote important diversity and inclusion goals in public sector finance research and policy.

She previously worked as a health and social policy analyst at The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and in the UK Civil Service – engaging with a range of different policy areas. She studied at McGill University and the London School of Economics and spent a year working and studying in the Middle East.



Aleksandra Zaronina, Head of SME Professional Insights, ACCA

Aleksandra Zaronina is head of SME professional insights at ACCA. She develops research and advises on policy issues for ACCA related to SME/SMP (Small and Medium Enterprise / Small and Medium Practices). Having previously worked for SMEs in pharmaceutical, transport and hospitality sectors, Aleksandra has hands on understanding of the needs and realities of the SME world. Prior to joining ACCA, Aleksandra dealt with various international organisations including the UN and regional integration projects of E&Y. As part of her work, she represented the sector at high level international events and developed joint research with Oxford Economics, Organisation of American States and UNECE.



Katharina Knapton-Vierlich, acting Head of Unit, Public Procurement, DG GROW, European Commission

Katharina Knapton-Vierlich joined the Commission's Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in 2010, and she currently leads the "Public Procurement" unit. Its mission is to assist public buyers in playing their part in ensuring prosperity and sustainability in a vibrant economy. We support especially sustainable, green, socially responsible and innovation procurement, and are committed to foster SMEs participation in the procurement market. Before joining the European Commission, Katharina practiced law in Berlin, having started her professional career in academia. She holds law degrees from the Free University of Berlin (Ph.D.) and the University of Cambridge (LL.M.).



Gerhard Huemer, Director for Economic and Fiscal Policy, SMEUnited

Gerhard Huemer is Director for Economic and Fiscal Policy at the European Association of Craft, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEUnited). His main dossiers are economic policy coordination, macroeconomic dialogue, monetary policy and tax policy as well as SME finance, R&D and Innovation and State aid. Mr Huemer is also responsible for the UEAPME Study Unit and the Press Office. Before joining SMEUnited, Gerhard was Executive Secretary of the "Economic and Social Council" of the Austrian Social Partners. He holds a diploma in Economics and began his career working in the Economic Policy Department at the Austrian Economic Chamber



Mathieu Cahen, senior policy analyst in the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

Matthieu Cahen currently works as a senior policy analyst in the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division of the OECD. He works on several projects in different regions of the world, including on the effective delivery of large infrastructure, the implementation of a strategic approach to public procurement in EU Members States (an initiative financed by DG REGIO) or the impacts of public procurement on productivity through selected case studies with New Zealand, Finland and Chile. Prior to this, he was heading the Procurement and Advisory Unit in OECD's Central Purchasing Group where he was responsible for managing procurement for the OECD. Between 2003 and 2005, M. Cahen worked in the French law firm Gide-Loyrette-Nouel. Matthieu holds an Executive Master in International Negotiations and Policy-Making from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland and a Master of Laws from the University Panthéon-Assas in Paris, France.



Eliza Niewiadomska, senior counsel in charge of the public procurement sector at the Legal Transition Programme , EBRD

Eliza is responsible for regulatory advice on digital transformation of government commerce and leads technical cooperation activities under the EBRD UNCITRAL Public Procurement Reform Initiative and the EBRD GPA Technical Cooperation Facility.

Lawyer and economist, Eliza holds postgraduate degrees from the Warsaw University, Poland and the University College London and King's College in the United Kingdom. Eliza worked for Polish government during regulatory reforms of Poland's accession to European Union and upon leaving civil service, as a general counsel in the IT industry. Prior to joining the EBRD in 2009, Eliza was head of procurement at power&energy company, PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna SA in Warsaw.



Philippos Katranis, Public Procurement expert, Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus

Philippos Katranis is heading the Change Management Project for the transformation in Public Financial Management put forward by the Treasury of the Republic of Cyprus. The Treasury is the Competent Authority for Public Procurement in Cyprus for the whole public and wider public sector purchasing. From June 2004 and up to June 2015 he was assigned the role of Project Manager for the introduction of an eProcurement System and headed the unit for eProcurement and Framework Agreements in Cyprus. From June 2015 until March 2020 he

was heading the Public Procurement Directorate of the Treasury of the Republic. Prior to joining the Treasury, he worked with PricewaterhouseCoopers where he gained experience as an auditor for local and international companies in the primary production and financial services sectors.

He holds a degree in Public and Business Administration and a Masters degree in Business Administration. He is also a Professional Accountant, Member of the ACCA



Paul Quinn, Government CPO and CEO, Office of Government Procurement of Ireland

Paul Quinn is the Chief Procurement Officer with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP). The OGP is an office of the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform. Paul joined the Civil Service in 2013 as Government's first Chief Procurement Officer overseeing the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), which leads procurement transformation across the public sector. The Irish Government spends approx. €17 billion per annum through public procurement. The OGP is the national authority for public procurement in Ireland providing the policy framework, procurement systems, and supports for stakeholders. It is also a Central Purchasing Body providing a broad range of buying solutions to public service bodies for commonly used goods and services. Paul previously worked in the telecommunications industry, holding senior management roles in shared services, engineering, ICT and change management. He is a Chartered Director with the Institute of Directors and holds an MBA, Degree in Engineering and a Diploma in Accounting and Finance.



Ondřej KOVAŘÍK, MEP

Mr. Ondřej Kovařík was born on August 21, 1980 in Kyjov. He studied international trade, international politics and diplomacy at the University of Economics in Prague and later completed an international program in public administration, regional development and EU programmes at the prestigious school for civil servants, the École nationale d'administration (ENA), in Strasbourg and Paris. Between 2003 and 2010 he worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Prague in the Economic Relations department and as Commercial Counselor at the Embassy of the Czech Republic to Canada in Ottawa. In the years 2007

- 2009 Ondřej worked in the Office of the Government where he dealt with security, transport and coordination with the ministries during the Czech Presidency to the EU. Since 2010 he was the Head of Cabinet of the First Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic. After he was representing the Czech Republic at the European Defence Agency. From May 2013 until June 2019 he has served as Senior Adviser in the European Parliament and as Parliamentary Assistant to MEP Dita Charanzová.

Political Group: Renew Europe. Parliamentary committees: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) - as a substitute Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) - as a substitute. Inter-parliamentary delegations: Delegation for relations with Canada (D-CA); Delegation for Northern cooperation and for relations with Switzerland and Norway and to the EU-Iceland Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Parliamentary Committee - as a substitute