



European Parliament  
FORMER MEMBERS  
ASSOCIATION



# FMA VISIT TO HUNGARY

## 23-25 OCTOBER 2024

*Profile of FMA Delegation  
Members*

### **FMA SECRETARIAT**

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# FMA Board Members



## Dr Klaus HÄNSCH FMA President and Delegation leader

Klaus Hänsch (born 1938 in Sprottau) is a German politician. He was a Member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 2009, and a member of the Party of European Socialists group, of which he was Vice-Chairman from 1989 to 1994 and from 1997 to 2009.

Klaus Hänsch was Presidium-Member of the Convention drafting a European Constitution (2002-2003) and Parliament's representative in the Intergovernmental Conference on the Constitutional Treaty for the European Union (2003-2004). He was Member for Germany (SPD) from 1979 to 2009 and President of the European Parliament from 1994 to 1997. Klaus Hänsch is currently President of the Former Members Association.

## Monica BALDI - FMA Vice-President



Monica Baldi, architect and urban planner, is Grand Officer of Merit of the Italian Republic. She is Vice President of the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA) and of ARS PACE. Ambassador of AWomen20. Deputy and Secretary of the Commission for Foreign and Community Affairs at the Chamber of Deputies from 2001 to 2006. MEP and Deputy President of the Committee for Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport from 1994 to 1999.

Baldi was Vice President of the Red Cross of Pistoia and President of the associations: Pinocchio di Carlo Lorenzini, Pinocchiorworld, Laurus and Professional Cycling Groups League. She is speaker and promoter of conferences on: international politics, cooperation and development, culture, urban planning, environment. She has always been committed to the defence of Human Rights and in particular for the Rights of Women. She is the co-author of the FMA publications produced in collaboration with the Historical Archives of the European Union: "Overcoming the Pandemic" and "Present Future of Europe".



## Teresa RIERA MADURELL- Honorary Secretary

Teresa Riera Madurell is a former Member of the European Parliament (2004-2014) known for her contributions to research and innovation. She served as the S&D coordinator of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and was the rapporteur of Horizon 2020, a key research and innovation program. From 2014 to 2019, she was Member of the RISE-Advisory Group of Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science. Ms Riera Madurell is a professor of Computer Sciences and Artificial Intelligence, chairs the Science Policy Advisory Committee at the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC-CNS), and is President of the Balearic Islands-Council of the European Movement and Member of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and of the Balearic Group of the Club of Rome Spanish Chapter.

## Paul RÜBIG - Member of the Board



Paul Rübige (born 6 May 1953) is an Austrian politician who served as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from 1996 until 2019. He is a member of the Austrian People's Party, part of the European People's Party.

Rübige became a Member of the European Parliament on 25 January 1996, and was re-elected in 1996, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. Hence, he was the longest-serving MEP from Austria. On 25 June 2013, Rübige was elected already for the second time in a European-wide vote as MEP of the Year for his outstanding commitment in the field of research and innovation. Today, he is a Member of the EESC, Member of the EIT Governing Board, and Member of the Advisory Board of Rübige Holding GmbH.

# FMA Members



## Jean-Paul BENOIT

Jean-Paul Benoit, born on 28 September 1936 in Marennes, is a French lawyer and politician. Jean-Paul Benoit was Member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1994. He was Member of the Socialist Group and the Group of the Party of European Socialists.

During his term, he was Member of the Committee on External Economic Relations and Member of the Delegation for relations with the United States.

## Lars Patrick BERG



Lars Patrick Berg, born on January 22, 1966, in Frankfurt, is a German politician who served as a Member of the European Parliament from 2019 to 2024.

Elected with the Alternative for Germany (AfD), he later left the party and the Identity and Democracy group in June 2021 to join the European Conservatives and Reformists, and subsequently became a member of the Bündnis Deutschland party in January 2023. Prior to his role in the European Parliament, he was a member of the Baden-Württemberg state parliament from 2016 to 2019, focusing on domestic policy and international affairs. Berg studied Eastern European history and international energy economics and has worked as a PR consultant and press spokesman for various political organizations. Bilingual and raised in a multicultural environment, he is also a lieutenant colonel in the reserve of the German Armed Forces.



## Franc BOGOVIČ

Franc Bogovič was a Member of the European Parliament from Slovenia (mandates: 2014 -2019, 2019 – 2024).

He was a member of the Group of the European People's Party.

As MEP he was in the last mandate of the European Parliament a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Serbia Stabilisation and Association Parliamentary Committee.

He was also a substitute member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), the Committee on Regional Development (REGI), the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China and the Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Related to the issue of the energy transition, he has been rapporteur for the Opinion of the Committee on Regional Development on the Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials (Critical Raw Materials Act). Franc Bogovič was also initiator and draftsman of the INI Report on Small Modular Reactors for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. The European parliament voted on the SMRs report at the plenary session in December 2023. The report received historic support, as it was voted by as many as  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the MEPs who voted. Nuclear energy has never received such support in the EP till now. As a member of the European Parliament, he was also one of the main EU initiators of the concept of Smart Villages. His previous professional career constitutes of several different posts, such as agricultural extension expert, agricultural trade entrepreneur, long time Mayor of Krško Municipality (13 years), member of Slovenian National Assembly and Minister of Agriculture and Environment. On 2 March 2013, Bogovič was elected President of the Slovene People's Party, the position he held until 6th December 2014.

## Georgios EPITIDEIOS



Former MEP Georgios Epitideios is a Retired Army Lieutenant General. In 2014, he became a Greek Member of the European Parliament, with the Party of Popular Association Golden Dawn.

In April 2019 he left this Party and became Independent. Since then, he has not been a member of any political party. He was a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee, on Agriculture and Rural Development, the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary and the EU-Serbia Stabilization and Association Parliamentary Committee.



## Frances FITZGERALD

Frances Fitzgerald is an Irish MEP from Dublin. A parliamentarian for over 20 years, she served as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) from 2016-17, one of only four women to have ever held this position. She has also served as Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation (2017); Minister for Justice & Equality (2014-17) and was the State's first Minister for Children & Youth Affairs (2011-14). Prior to her election to the Dáil (Irish Parliament), Frances served as Chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland (1988-92) and Vice President of the European Women's Lobby.

Frances was elected to the European Parliament in 2019. She is a full member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM) and the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) and a substitute member of the Development Committee (DEVE) and the Committee on the Use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA). Frances was elected Vice Chair of the EPP Group in March 2021, and EPP Coordinator of the FEMM Committee in July 2019.

## Colette GADIOUX



Colette Gadioux (born in 1945 in Bellac) is a French politician. She was a member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1989. During her term, she worked extensively on women's right issues. She was also part of the delegation for relations with the countries of South America.

Apart from her work for the European Parliament, she was representative of France to the United Nations in New York, Commission on the Status of Women (1984-1989). She is also officer of the Legion of Honour.





## Nathalie GRIESBECK

Born in Metz in 1956, she obtained a Master's degree in Public Law from the University of Lorraine, followed by two Diplomas d'Etudes Approfondies from the University of Nancy, from which she graduated with a Major. She was soon appointed lecturer at the University of Lorraine.

At the same time, she was elected Metz's youngest ever municipal councilor in 1983, then Deputy Mayor in 1987 and finally First Deputy Mayor of Metz in 1995, while at the Moselle General Council she succeeded Jean-Marie Rausch by being elected France's youngest ever female General Councillor in 1988, and again in 1994 and 2001. In the 2004 European elections, she led the centrist inter-regional Grand-Est list (nearly 9 million inhabitants), which brought together 18 départements, or 5 former regions, and was thus elected to the European Parliament for the first time. She will be elected again in 2009, and again in 2014. It was during her third and final term as a Member of the European Parliament that she was elected Chair of the parliamentary Special Committee on Combating Terrorism. Secretary General of the Robert Schuman European Center (CERS) since 2015, Chevalier in the National Order of Merit, Nathalie Griesbeck is also a reserve colonel in the French Air Force.

## Zita GURMAI



Former Member of the European Parliament vice-chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in the 2004-2009 term, member of the Committee on Regional Development between 2009-2014 and also substitute in the Committee on Transport and Tourism in the last term.

After finishing the University of Economic Sciences in Budapest, Zita Gurmai worked in the private sphere, in numerous companies. She finally turned to politics in 1995, becoming the chargé d'affaires of the Women's Organisation of the Hungarian Socialist Party, that she has been chairing since 2001. She became vice-chair of the Socialist International in 1999 and 2003 until 2008. She has been member of the Hungarian Parliament between 2002 and 2004 and from April 2018 to date.



**Fiona HALL**

Fiona Hall was a UK Liberal Democrat member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2014, representing North East England. From 2009 to 2014 she was the leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party.

She was a member of the Industry Research and Energy Committee (ITRE) where she focused on legislative dossiers dealing with energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change. She was also active in Election Observation, serving as the EU Chief Observer leading Election Observation Missions in Togo, Mozambique and Timor Leste.



**Edit HERCZOG**

Edit Herczog is a distinguished professional with extensive experience in public policy and education. Since January 2024, she has served as the Chair of the Administrative Board at ACER, having previously held the position of Vice-Chair from 2022 to 2024. She is also the Director-General of Vision & Values SRL, her own consultancy focusing on strategic foresight in public research and education. In addition to her roles in various organizations, she advises GÉANT on European digitalization policies and chairs the Widening Network at Science|Business, promoting collaboration among Central-Eastern and Southern European stakeholders. Herczog's background includes two terms as a Member of the European Parliament and significant involvement in advisory roles with the European Commission and other influential networks. Her academic contributions include teaching positions in International Business Management and EU Public Affairs. She holds degrees in Food Engineering and Portuguese Language and Literature, reflecting her diverse expertise.



## Leslie HUCKFIELD

Leslie Huckfield was a Member of the House of Commons from 1967 till 1983 and a Member of the European Parliament from 1984 till 1989, where he was a member of the Socialists and Democrats Group and Vice Chair of the Parliament's Transport Committee. He is active in the European Parliament Former Members Association.

He was Under Secretary of State (a Government Minister) in the Department of Industry from 1976 till 1979 and a member of the Labour Party National Executive Committee from 1978 till 1982. In 1980 he was chair of the Labour NEC Working Group on Workers' Cooperatives which made recommendations for Labour's 1983 General Election Manifesto.

He is currently a Visiting Fellow and researcher at Glasgow Caledonian University, supervising doctoral students, and an Associate Lecturer and Honorary Research Associate at the Open University, specialising in European Union matters.

His academic qualifications include an Oxford MA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, an MSc with Distinction in Urban and Regional Planning from Heriot Watt University and a PhD from Glasgow Caledonian University.

Alongside his academic qualifications, Leslie Huckfield has a range of UK, European and international policy development and implementation experience.

Since his Membership of the European Parliament he has worked on European Union funding for colleges, universities, the third sector and trade unions in Merseyside, the West Midlands and Scotland.

From 1997 when he moved to the West Midlands, his external activities have included external funding, project management, seminars and conferences in and for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Venezuela, the Caribbean and Ghana. He was also an Associate of West Midlands in Europe Office in Brussels. In 2015 and 2016 he delivered a series of 11 European Funding Masterclass across Scotland, attended by 500 representatives from Scotland's social enterprises and community organisations.

## Gisela KALLENBACH

Gisela Kallenbach (born 28 March 1944) is a German politician. Gisela Kallenbach was Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009. She was Member of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance.

During her term, she was Member of the Committee on Regional Development and Member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of south-east Europe . From 2009 to 2014, she was a member of the Saxon state parliament. In 2001, she was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.





## Fernand LE RACHINEL

Fernand Le Rachinel, born on June 4, 1942, in Gourfaleur, France, is a self-taught master printer and business manager. He married Maria Bernreuther in 1964 and has two children. His professional journey began as an apprentice and led to leadership roles, including founding his printing company in Pont-Hébert. He has received several accolades, such as "Meilleur Ouvrier de France" in 1972 and the "Ordre National du Mérite" in 1979, alongside military decorations for his service in Algeria.

Le Rachinel's political career spans over three decades, starting with his election to the Municipal Council of Canisy in 1977. He became the youngest member of the General Council of Manche and held significant roles on the Regional Council of Basse-Normandie and in the European Parliament, representing Basse-Normandie for ten years.

Beyond politics, he is dedicated to social causes, planning a foundation for youth apprenticeship programs and a printing museum in Saint-Lô. Since 2017, he has remained active in the hospitality industry, expanding his company.

From 1965 to 2017, Le Rachinel established or acquired over 30 companies in graphic arts, hospitality, construction, transportation, and agri-food.



## Robert John MORELAND

Robert Moreland (born in 1981 in Gloucester) is a British politician. He was member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1984.

After his term at the European Parliament, he was a Member of Economic and Social Committee of the EU from 1986 to 1998, and served as Chairman of the Regional Policy and Town and Country Planning Section of the Committee from 1990 to 1998.



## Jan MULDER

Jan Mulder (born in Diver in the Netherlands), is a Dutch politician. He served as a Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2004 and from 2010 to 2014, with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Jan Mulder graduated from the Agricultural University in Wageningen as Agricultural Engineer.

He first worked for the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations in Kenya from 1970 to 1975. From 1975 to 1976, he was a Policy Officer at the Directorate-General for International Cooperation in The Hague, Netherlands. He also worked 18 years for the European Commission where he was responsible for developing and implementing Agricultural Development projects.

## Michel PINTON



Michel Pinton (born in 1937 in Felletin) is a French politician. He served as a Member of the European Parliament from 1993 to 1994 and was a Member of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media. Besides, he worked in the United States for Robert Kennedy and then at Princeton University.

He was one of the collaborators of Valery Giscard D'Estaing, French Minister of Economy and Finance who was then elected President of the Republic. Mr Pinton was Major of Felletin (Creuse) from 1995 to 2008.



## Georgi PIRINSKI

Georgi PIRINSKI was a Member of the 8th European Parliament (2014-2019) as part of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) from Bulgaria. My main activities were as a Member of two Parliamentary Committees – on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and on Budgetary Control (CONT).

In EMPL I was involved in the adoption of priority social legislation, such as the Decision to establish the Platform for tackling undeclared work (as Parliamentary Rapporteur), the Regulation for the setting-up of the European Labour Authority (ELA) (as Co-Rapporteur) and the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Other files I worked on were on the posting of workers, on tackling inequalities as a means of boosting employment and growth and on developing the social economy. In the Committee I was Rapporteur for a number of EMPL Opinions, such as the one on CETA. In CONT I was Rapporteur for a number of Reports, Opinions and Working documents on such subjects as the protection of EU's financial interests and the fight against fraud, the activities of the EIB, the reports of the European Court of Auditors on cohesion funding, the free movement of workers, productive investments in businesses and the functioning of the Stability and Growth Pact. Besides, among other responsibilities and activities, I was a member of the Euronest Parliamentary assembly and as such - Co-Chairman of its Committee on Social Affairs, Education and Employment.

## Peter PRICE



While an MEP for 15 years, Peter served as Chair of the Parliament's Budgetary Control Committee and earlier as spokesperson for his political group on the Legal Affairs and Budgets Committees.

Since then, as European Strategy Counsel, Peter has advised public bodies and major multinational companies on EU strategic issues. One of the earliest such roles was advising the Latvian Government on key steps necessary for its EU accession.

He was a part-time Judge for 12 years and has had a series of non-executive Board roles relating to health, higher education, devolution and public audit. He served on the Board of the UK Food Standards Agency and as Chair of its Welsh Food Advisory Committee until September 2023.

Peter left the Conservative Party in 1997 and joined the Liberal Democrats. He served on the Party's Policy Committee and its Parliamentary International Affairs Committee until 2020. He currently serves on the ALDE (pan-European party) Council.



## Dirk STERCKX

Dirk Sterckx was born in Herent on 25 September 1946. He studied German Filology at the University of Gent. After his studies he taught Dutch, English and German in various secondary schools in the Antwerp region. From 1971 till 1972 Dirk Sterckx fulfilled his military service where he taught English and Dutch at the Sub-Lieutenant Preparatory School in Laken.

In 1975 he started his career as a journalist at the former public Belgian broadcasting company BRT where he became the EU-correspondent in 1980. Since 1986 he was in charge of the final editing of the BRT-news until 1994 when he took up the position of Chief Editor and became the Anchor of the news magazine "Ter Zake". Two years later, he became Head of News of the renamed public broadcasting company VRT.

On 13 June 1999 Dirk Sterckx was elected as a Member of the European Parliament. Up to 13 June 2004 he followed the transport dossiers, environment dossiers and was a member of the Delegation with the United States. He was also vice-president of the European Liberals and Democrats.

From 16 February 2004 until the elections on 13 June 2004 Dirk Sterckx was president of VLD. In the meantime, Dirk Sterckx was re-elected as a member of the European Parliament. He continued his work in the Transport Committee. He also followed the European Fisheries policy and was a substitute member in the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. He also was the Chairman of the Delegation with China. On 7 June 2009, Dirk Sterckx got re-elected as a member of the European Parliament. He started his third parliamentary mandate on 14 July 2009. Again, his lead Committee was the Committee for Transport and Tourism. He was a substitute member of the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Committee Employment and Social Affairs, and a member of the Delegation with Mexico.

On 6 September 2011 Dirk Sterckx retired and gave up his seat in the European Parliament. He remains active in local politics and still is a member of the board of Open Vld

## Hannes SWOBODA

Hannes Swoboda (born 10 November 1946) is an Austrian social democratic politician. Hannes Swoboda was Member of the European Parliament from 1996 to 2014. After studying law and economics at the University of Vienna, Swoboda worked in the Vienna Chamber of Labour (1971–86) and was director of the department for urban policies and housing policy.

He was Chair and Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament. During his last term, he was Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs ; Member of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly ; Member of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia ; Member of the Delegation for relations with the United States and Member of the Conference of Presidents.





## Csaba Sandor TABADJI

Csaba Sándor Tabajdi (born June 26, 1952 in Kiskunfélegyháza) is a Hungarian politician. In 1989-90, he was a deputy minister in the Government of Hungary. He was a member of the Hungarian National Assembly between 1990 and 2004 in the group of the Hungarian Socialist Party.

Csaba Sándor Tabajdi was Member of the European Parliament from 2003 to 2014. He was Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. During his last term, he was Member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development ; Member of the Committee on Petitions and Member of the Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China.

## Bob VAN DEN BOS



Bob van den Bos (born 19 December 1947 in The Hague) is a Dutch political scientist and politician. In 2008, he obtained his doctorate from the University of Leiden with a thesis in political, administrative and historical sciences. He was a member of the Upper House, Lower House and European Parliament for D66. Bob Van Den Bos was Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2004.

He was Member of the Group of the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party. During his term, he was Member of the Committee on Development and Cooperation ; Member of the European Parliament to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union (ACP-EU) and Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy.