

Biography of participants

Workshop “Access to Energy - A Basic Social Right! How to abolish Energy Poverty?” European Parliament, 29 May 217, in Brussels



Cornelia Ernst, MEP: Chair of the delegation DIE LINKE. in the European parliament, since June 2009 Member of the European Parliament, since 2014 substitute member in the committee for industry, research and energy in the European Parliament, from 2009 to 2014 substitute member in Committee for Regional Development. 1998 - 2009 Member of the Saxonian Parliament.



Gabriele Zimmer, President of the left group GUE/NGL in the European parliament: Since 2012 President of Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL); since 2004 member of the European parliament; substitute member in the committee on employment and social affairs; shadow rapporteur for the GUE/NGL on the report on the European pillar for social rights. 2000–2003 Chairwoman of PDS.



Martin Schirdewan, Director of Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brussels: Dr. Martin Schirdewan is a political scientist, since 2015 Head of Office, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung Brussels. The work of the RLS focuses on different key topics such as a social-ecological transition, the analysis of the global power regime, and policy approaches for the left. Schirdewan used to work as political advisor of a Member of the German Bundestag and has been elected member of the board of DIE LINKE, responsible for e.g. European matters.



Maxime Benatouil, Programme director transform!europe: Programme director at transform!, member of the board of Espaces Marx. Holds an MA in sociology and political science, is working on transform's productive Transformation programme, as well as for the transform-academia network, co-facilitating projects on energy, labour and European social movements.



Sian Jones: Sian Jones is currently the Policy Coordinator for the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), responsible for coordinating EAPN policy research and advocacy work at EU level and amongst its 31 national networks and 14 European Organisations. Her particular area of expertise is delivering poverty and social inclusion through key EU frameworks including: Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester, the Social Open Method of Coordination, European Employment Strategy, Energy policy and European Structural and Investment Funds. She has led the work on Energy Poverty in EAPN since 2008, working with the European Parliament on the Energy Directives and on the recent opinion, including co-authoring a handbook and good practices. She has worked extensively with the European Commission, including the co-coordination of a key workshop with DG Energy in the 2014 Annual Convention on Poverty prior to the reestablishment of the vulnerable consumers working group. Prior to this, she has worked as Senior Advisor on Social Policy for the Wales European Centre, as a consultant on exclusion for youth in disadvantaged areas for the Council of Europe, and in managing grass-roots employment and inclusion projects in Spain and London funded by ESF. She holds a degree in History from the University of York and a Masters in Social Policy and Administration.



Georgi Medarov: Georgi Medarov is a Bulgarian sociologist. His PhD at the University of Sofia dealt with the transformations of Bulgarian liberalism after 1989. He teaches critical sociology at the University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Georgi is a founding

member of KOI, a Bulgarian NGO that has focused on organizing public debates and producing critical research on social inequalities. Georgi has also been working as a researcher on access to land and food for the Bulgarian environmentalist association *Za Zemiata*. His recent publications include (co-written with Tsoneva, J., Kassabov, O., Hristov, M.) *Entrepreneurial Spirit and Spectral Entrepreneurs: Expert Knowledge, Neoliberal Governance and Social Suffering* (Sofia: KOI Books, 2015); (co-written with Vania Grigorova) *In Focus: Public Water and Sanitation in Bulgaria* (Sofia: KOI Books, 2015); and (co-written with Tsoneva, J.) *Shaping Industry from the Left in Europe: A country report Bulgaria*. (Brussels: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, 2015).



Attila Vajnai, Workers Party 2006, Hungary: member of the Secretariat of the Party of the European Left. Since January 2015 Vajnai is the general director of a company building of solar power systems under 500 kW. Vajnai was born in Szekszárd in 1963. He studied at the Higher Maritime Institute of the Technical University in Odessa and graduated as an electrical engineer in 1987. From June 1988 he worked in the Paks Nuclear Power Plant as a development engineer. In 1997, at the Budapest University of Economics, he was qualified as an R & D Postgraduate economist. From October 2002 to 2014 he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Hungarian Electricity Works.



Maria Campuzano: Alianza contra la pobreza energética (Alliance against energy poverty in Spain) Maria Campuzano works at Engineering without borders and she is the spokesperson of Alliance against energy poverty (Alianza contra la pobreza energética) a social movement led by people affected by energy poverty who fights against the lack of access to basic services for all. Their most significant achievement was reached in the spring of 2015, when by means of a legislative citizenship initiative with more than 140,000 signatures a new law was approved, adopted and implemented by the Catalan Parliament. Until now this law has stopped more than 39.000 of indiscriminate cuts in Catalonia.



Manuela Kropp: Since 2009 policy advisor to MEP Cornelia Ernst in the European Parliament, focus on energy policy, just transition, industrial and regional policy, working for committee on industry, research and energy (ITRE) and regional development (REGI); working groups of DIE LINKE.: ecology and economic policy; Master in political science and economy at the University Leipzig, Germany. Before moving to Brussels worked on different projects on regional development / for SME-support funded by European regional development fund for the city of Leipzig, Germany. Publications on regional policy and support for small and medium enterprises.



Eric Häublein, Berlin Energy Roundtable: studied political science, sociology and public administration in Potsdam, focussing on municipal enterprises. He has worked for the association “petition for a referendum climate protection” (BürgerBegehren Klimaschutz) and for the German Friends of the Earth (BUND), and since 2011 gets involved with local energy- and climate policies, among other things for Attac and as spokesman for the Berlin Energy Roundtable (Berliner Energietisch).



Rie Krabsen: Holds a bachelor degree in Social Science from the University of Roskilde and a master degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from the University of Copenhagen, and she has followed business courses from Copenhagen Business School. She has mainly worked with issues in Social Science, international trust-building, diversity management, cultural, and behavioral differences and change. Rie wrote her thesis for an international company, called Grundfos, where she analyzed the behavior of employees working in different cultural contexts in order to help the leading management team to change the business culture. She has also followed courses in behavioral economics, psychology, and ‘nudging’. Rie has a lot of hands-on experiences working with qualitative and quantitative methods. When studying, Rie worked in EBO Consult, where she has got a lot of

knowledge about energy issues. She has worked 6 months in Spain, where she made a feasibility study of the Spanish biomass market, and she has been involved in the package solution model and the free technical service from the beginning. Today, she works as a fulltime employee in EBO Consult, where she combines her knowledge about human behavior and energy issues. She works with communication, marketing and evaluation of district heating projects, and motivating consumers to become cooperative members, make sustainable and energy saving choices such as the package solution model or the free technical service. Rie has also arranged an energy community gathering where over 200 consumers – children and adults - voluntarily showed up. Rie is project participant in REScoop Plus, and is responsible for delivering the information and data needed to the two universities involved in the project.



Pablo Sanchez Centellas: Born in Barcelona in 1978, studied Political Science at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Sussex University and the Université Libre de Bruxelles. He lives in Brussels since 2008. From August 2010 until September 2015 has been responsible for campaigns European Federation of Public Service Unions and jointly responsible for the first successful European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) on the human right to water (www.right2water.eu). In September 2015 he was appointed Director of International Relations of the City Council until he returned to Brussels in this year. EPSU organizes unions in the electricity, gas, water and waste sectors has recently published a joint paper on the right to energy.



Jan Laurier, Vice President of International Union of Tenants: Johannes Pieter (Jan) Laurier (born 15 November 1949 in Leiden) is a Dutch politician. From 2007 to 2011, he was a member of the Senate for GreenLeft. Laurier studied sociology and during his studies he was active in the Leiden social movements. In 1981 he founded the left wing city paper. Between 1983 and 1993 he worked as a researcher for the research centre on Land Management and Public Housing and the Leiden Institute for Social Science. In 1987 Laurier joined the Leiden City Council for the Left Leiden, an alliance of the communist Communist Party of

the Netherlands, the left-socialist Pacifist Socialist Party and the progressive Christian Political Party of Radicals. Laurier himself was a member of the CPN. In 1990 the three parties merged to form GreenLeft. Between 1990 and 1993 Laurier was fractievoorzitter of GreenLeft in the Leiden city council. Between 1993 and 1998 he was alderman for social affairs, integration and employment. He also was vice-mayor. When he was vice-mayor Laurier was arrested during a clearing of a Leiden squat. He refused to give his identity, because no one had committed a crime. In order to release those who were already detained he gave out his identity as vice-mayor. He also joined a marathon occupation of the Bulderbos by members of Milieudefensie. Between 2002 and 2003 he was member of the city council. When he left he was made Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. In 2002 Laurier became director of the Landelijke Cliëntenraad, the national council for people receiving social security-allowances. In 2003 he also became chair of the Woonbond, which represents people who rent their house. In the 2007 Senate election, Laurier was elected with preference votes by provincial councillors from South Holland.

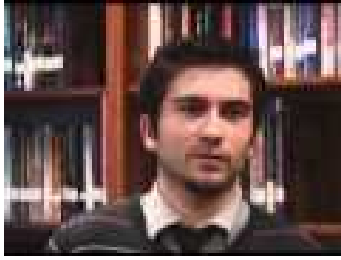


Jean-Claude Simon:

Background in management (MBA) and social/economic history (Ph.D.); Member of various political organisations and associations over the years, including Parti Socialiste Unifié (PSU-France), Amnesty International, Parti Socialiste (France, until 1983), CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament-UK); Currently member of the Parti de Gauche (France) since 2013 (Conseil National and Commission Écologie) and of Enhedslisten (Red-Green Alliance in Denmark). Member of Critical Political Economy Research Network (CPERN) and Euro Memo (Economists for an alternative economic policy in Europe). Researcher with Transform! Europe. Co-editor of e-dossier 'A new energy for Europe'; Guest lecturer, Roskilde University Centre (Denmark).



Clémence Hutin: Clémence Hutin works on energy efficiency and access to energy in Friends of the Earth Europe, and is working to make the link between environmental and social policy.



Genady Kondarev: Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, director of the movie “Bleeding Oil”



Karl Vogt-Nielsen, Red Green Alliance, Denmark
1977- Chemical Engineer, BSc, Technical University of Denmark
1977-1979 - Product Specialist, Radiometer A/S (chemical and medical instruments)
1979-1984 - Grassroots activist and National secretary in Peoples Movement against Hard Drugs
1984-1989 - Project administrator, Danish Industry Ministry – e.g. programs on Renewable Energy
1989-1994 - Head of Research and phd section, Administration, Technical University of Denmark
1994-2001 - Adviser on Environment, Energy and Traffic, Red-Green Alliance Parliament group
2001-2012 - Consultant on environmental issues and administrative head of CASA
2012 - Adviser on Climate, Energy and Environment, Red-Green Alliance Parliament group



Caren Lay: Deputy Chair of the political group DIE LINKE. in the Bundestag (German national parliament), since 2012 deputy chair of the party DIE LINKE., spokesperson for policy of rents, construction and housing, since October 2013 chair of the working group on structural and regional policy, from 2009 - 2015 spokesperson for consumer protection, from 2004 to 2009 member of the regional parliament Saxony, member of BUND, ver.di, Deutscher Mieterbund, attac.

Alejandro García: Alejandro García holds a degree in Political Science and Administration from the Complutense University of Madrid. A Master degree in Health, Safety and Environment and is an expert in the Renewable Energy Business. He has been working in the Energy sector for 10 years. Starting of as a Health & Safety, Quality and Environment manager which gave him the chances of developing into a Photovoltaic Projects Manager in Spain and Italy. He is currently an Energy

Regulation Manager in a medium size Utility of electricity and natural gas. Militates since 18 years ago in Izquierda Unida and the PCE (Spanish Communist Party) in Madrid and has practice responsibility functions in its District Assembly. For the last 4 years he has been a member of the Federal Energy Group of Izquierda Unida and now he is the Secretary of Energy and Ecology of the Communist Party in the Federation of Madrid.



Christiane Maringer: member of board of party KPÖ (Austria), for three years now municipal councillor for energy, environment and transport in Purkersdorf; focus of her work: working group on ecology of KPÖ (social and international ramifications of climate change); focus on basic income and how to implement it; has been working on the concept of a free supply (basic services) of energy to households.