

Speaker Biographies



Karin Riis-Jørgensen is Member of the European Parliament, delegation leader in the Parliament for her party Venstre and Vice Chairwomen of the Liberal and Democratic Party, ALDE. Mrs. Riis-Jørgensen serves on the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Economic and Monetary Affairs Committees. Among other priorities, Mrs. Riis-Jørgensen works on strengthening the internal market in terms of competition matters as well as protection of consumers. She has dedicated herself to empowering people and reinforcing citizens' rights. With her guidance the ALDE Group launched the website www.patients-rights.eu informing patients about their entitlement to treatment in other EU Member States.



Dr. Ivan C. Baines is Scientific Coordinator at the Max Planck Institute in Germany and Board Member of the European Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI). Dr. Baines' professional interests are focused on designing and building infrastructures to maximize the quality and productivity of research or product development at the interface of basic research and commercial application. His experience includes helping to set up and manage a research institute (Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Dresden) and designing, implementing and financing 6 biotech companies as well as advising in the establishment of approximately 100 other biotech and life sciences companies. Dr. Baines is also active in initiating and financing large scale projects such as the High Throughput Technology Development Studio or Screening Facility at the MPI-CBG requiring approx €10mln of public funds and partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.



Prof. Dr. Markwart Kunz has been a Member of the Executive Board of Südzucker AG since 2003 – responsible for production, R & D and innovations, functional food and the BENEIO Group. In 2000, Prof. Dr. Kunz was appointed honorary professor at the Technische Universität Darmstadt.



Paul Tenning holds a PhD in Molecular Biology and has worked in Regulatory Affairs for the last 15 years. He joined Danisco as Regulatory Affairs Manager three years ago. Mr. Tenning is currently primarily working on the Health Claims Legislation and functional foods.



Nigel Baldwin is Senior Scientific & Regulatory Consultant at Cantox, and a recognised expert on functional foods and health claims. Prior to joining Cantox in 2003, Mr. Baldwin worked in technical and regulatory affairs for over 15 years, encompassing nutritional and chemical microbiology, analytical chemistry, food science, quality management and toxicology. He was previously Corporate Regulatory Affairs Manager for a major international food ingredient company working on regulatory strategies for food additives and novel food ingredients. In addition to having been an active participant of the International Life Science Institute (ILSI), he is also a member of the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST), and the Society of Cosmetic Scientists.



Jean-Luc Gal is Head of the Brussels Office of the European Patent Office. His main task is to liaise with EU institutions and NGOs based in Brussels on all questions relating to patents rights concerning research, innovation and IP cooperation with non EU Countries. Previously (2000-2004), Mr. Gal was a national expert seconded by the French National Office of Industrial Property (INPI) to the European Community (DG Internal Market/Industrial Property Unit) and to the French Permanent Representation in Brussels.



Ysbrand Poortman is Secretary General of the International Genetic Alliance. Mr. Poortman has been founder and Board Member of the European Platform for Patients Organisations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI) for which he served as a Chairman from 2000 to 2006. He is Vice President of the World Alliance of Organisations for the Prevention and Treatment of Genetic Conditions. Furthermore, Mr. Poortman is a member of various advisory (e.g. Dutch National Health Council), University curatorial and expert committees on the national, European and global level. Mr. Poortman was knighted by the Dutch Queen for his outstanding work for society.



Jules Maaten is a Dutch Politician and Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the ALDE Group. After having worked as Secretary-General of the world union of liberals, Mr. Maaten was elected to the European Parliament in 1999. Since then Mr. Maaten has been a Member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Within this context, Mr. Maaten has done legislative work on issues ranging from food safety over cross-border healthcare to patients' rights and consumer affairs.