



Team EUROPE DIRECT in Ireland

Team EUROPE DIRECT is a network of independent and inspirational speakers and moderators, proficient in EU topics and communication, capable of conveying the activities of the EU to a broad audience and stimulating public debate about Europe.

Speakers pool of
the European Commission



Gerry ARTHURS

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Gerry Arthurs is an academic and commentator with nearly 30 years of experience as a Lecturer in International Relations and Politics. Currently at the South East Technological University, Waterford, he was previously in the Department of Law and Government at Dublin City University and visiting lecturer at NUI Maynooth and the Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at George Washington University in Washington DC, and a Visiting Lecturer at Reims Management School, Reims, France, and at Universidad Loyola Andalucia in Cordoba, Spain.

Gerry is a regular contributor to local radio, on WLRFM, has appeared on RTE radio, and has written for the Irish Examiner. He gives regular public talks and seminars across the South East and serves as Chair of the adjudicating panel for the annual EU Soapbox competition run in conjunction with the Europe Direct and Waterford Libraries. His media contributions range across EU foreign policy, EU institutional affairs, EU enlargement, EU-US relations and Brexit, as well as UK and European national politics, the Middle East, and geopolitical developments.



Emmy COFFEY NGUYEN

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Emmy Coffey Nguyen is a sustainability professional, entrepreneur and athlete from Dublin, Ireland. She currently serves as Senior Commercial Sustainability Manager at climate consultancy, ClimatePartner. She is also founder of early tech start-up, ProudPlanet, and host of upcoming podcast, What in the World. In 2021, she was appointed by the Irish Minister of European Affairs as the Alternate National Citizen Representative to the Conference on The Future of Europe.

A former Board Director and Deputy Chair of the Africa Ireland Centre, Emmy has held impactful roles with Sport Against Racism Ireland and UNICEF. Her experience also extends to the private sector with technology company Salesforce, while her international trade experience is reflected in her role as a former Irish representative to the World Trade Centre Association (WTCA). Ms Coffey Nguyen has a degree in politics and international relations from University College Dublin and qualifications from Cambridge's Institute of Sustainability Leadership (CISL). She is a regular speaker on issues related to human rights and climate justice, with notable contributions made at the United Nations, European Parliament and OSCE.

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Ruth DEASY

Ruth began her career at the former Department of Social Welfare before joining the European Commission in 1990. Moving between Luxembourg, Brussels and Dublin, Ruth held various roles in social affairs policy and communications. She was head of media strategy and services at the European Commission's Representation in Ireland and was its press representative in Ireland.

Now retired from the European Commission, Ruth continues to fill various voluntary roles in Dublin, particularly in health and social housing. An experienced chairperson and moderator, she is also a lively presenter. See LinkedIn for more. Generalist rather than specialist, Dublin and commuter counties.



Timothy HAYES

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Tim recently retired from the European Commission after a career lasting more than 30 years. He last worked in the Representation in Dublin as Head of Communication. In Brussels he worked in a number of positions in the Taxation and Customs Union Directorate-General, lastly in the VAT unit. Before he joined the Commission, he worked with the Irish Revenue Commissioners.

Tim has significant experience in organising and chairing/moderating events in Ireland and in other Member States of the European Union. He understands the workings of the European Commission as well as the relationship between the EU institutions. Whilst based in the South, he is available to speak at events nationwide.



Alison Gilliland

Dr Alison Gilliland has a background in education and training, trade unionism and equality as well as politics at local and European level. A former Lord Mayor of Dublin and member of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), she is passionate about the role of multi-level governance and the interaction between local, national and European institutions. A former Chairperson of the Dublin City Council's Strategic Policy Committee on Housing, Deputy Head of the CoR delegation to both COP 27 and COP28, and co-author of Her Keys to the City: Honouring the Women who made Dublin, Alison's key areas of interest and expertise are climate adaptation and mitigation, housing and gender.

Alison is an experienced chairperson, panelist, panel moderator and presenter. She currently combines leading two small organisations with charitable status in the construction sector with freelance advisory work and studying for a Masters in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society in DCU. She is also a member of the Board of Ruhama, an Irish NGO and registered charity that offers nationwide support to women impacted by prostitution, sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation

Should you wish to book a Team Europe Direct speaker for your event, please send a request to: roman.zdanov@ec.europa.eu

All requests should be received at least 10 working days before the beginning of the event

