

“FIT FOR A FAIR FUTURE: HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORM YOUR AUTOMOTIVE REGION!”

PRESIDENT AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP (AT/EPP)

CHAIR



Christopher DREXLER

Christopher Drexler has been elected the President of the Committee of the Regions' interregional group on the "Future of the Automotive Industry (CoRAI)" for the new 2020 term. As an active member of the CoR he focuses his work in Brussels on the Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC). Christopher Drexler is a Minister in the government of the Land Steiermark, responsible for Culture, Europe, Sport and Human Resources.

Job and political details:

2000 - 2014	Member of the Styrian Parliament
2003 - 2014	Chairman of the People's Party in the Styrian Parliament
since 24/06/2006	President of the Styrian Employees' Organisation
2014 - 2015	Minister for Health, Nursing and Science
2015 - 2017	Minister for Health, Nursing, Science and Human Resources
2017 - 2019	Minister for Health, Nursing, Culture and Human Resources
since 19/12/2019	Minister for Culture, Europe, Sports and Human Resources

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF REGIONS



European Committee
of the Regions

Apostolos TZTZIKOSTAS

Apostolos Tzitzikostas was born on September 2, 1978. He studied Government and International Relations at Georgetown University, in Washington DC. After graduating in 2000, he had his first working experience at the Office of the President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States Congress. In 2002 he obtained a master's degree on European Public Policy and Economics from the University College of London. Following his studies, he created his own company on the field of production, processing and standardization of dairy products, based on organic standards.

In 2007, he has been elected Member of the Greek Parliament with the Nea Demokratia Party (EPP) in the First District of Thessaloniki. In the regional elections of November 2010 he was elected Vice-Governor of the region of Central Macedonia and Head of the Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki. On the Regional Elections of May 2014 he was elected Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, and on the Regional Elections of May 2019 was re-elected Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia. In November 2019 he has been elected President of the Association of Greek Regions.

Since 2015 he is a Member of the European Committee of the Regions. In July 2017, he has been elected Head of the Greek Delegation and Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions. He fluently speaks English and French and his articles are regularly being published in Greek and foreign newspapers and magazines.



European Committee
of the Regions



COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF REGIONS



Eric-Mark HUITEMA

Eric-Mark Huitema is the Director General of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), a position he has held since October 2019. Prior to his ACEA appointment, Mr Huitema acted as Global Smarter Transportation Leader at IBM, where he focussed on optimised transport solutions for governments and smart cities, as well as the private sector. In this capacity, he was member of the Corporate Partnership Board of the International Transport Forum (ITF), the board of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA) and the supervisory board of ERTICO (ITS Europe). Before joining IBM, Mr Huitema worked in the IT sector, including for Liberty Global's broadband internet start-up Chello Benelux (which he co-founded and led as Global Vice President), EDS International and Philips Electronics.

A Dutch national, Eric-Mark Huitema studied technical chemistry at Delft University of Technology and business and sales administration at INSEAD.

**VICE-PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL MINISTER OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GALICIA**



Francisco CONDE-LÓPEZ

Francisco Conde-López is vice-president and the regional minister for Economy, Industry, and Innovation of the Government of Galicia since 2020. Previously, he was the regional minister for Industry since 2012.

He was an advisor to the president of the Government of Galicia (2009-2012). In addition, he worked as a professor at the San Pablo CEU University of Madrid, where he held other positions such as the Secretariat of the Institute for European Studies. He was also vice-dean of the Faculty of Economics and director of Institutional Relations (1995-2009).

Mr. Conde-López holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Business Administration as well as a PhD in Economics from the Complutense University of Madrid.

He was born in Monforte de Lemos (Lugo, Galicia) in 1968.

MANAGER TRADE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, EUROPEAN TYRE AND RUBBER MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION



Marta Conti

Marta has worked for the tyre and rubber industry for the past ten years and holds for ETRMA the role of Chair of WG4 on Regional Cooperation of the Automotive Skills Alliance. Her work on skills in the automotive ecosystem started back in 2015, when she was directly involved in the Automotive Skills Council. She also closely followed discussions on skills during the GEAR 2030 and continued this work in the DRIVES Project, where ETRMA was a Member of the Steering Board.

In ETRMA, Marta is also responsible for the work of the Association on trade, sustainable supply chain and manages relations with the European Parliament.



European Committee
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COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP

PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CASTILLA Y LEÓN (ES/



Alfonso Fernández Mañueco

Academic Background:

Degree in Law and Diploma from the School of Legal Practice of the University of Salamanca.

Professional experience:

President of the Partido Popular de Castilla y León since 2017.

He was Mayor of Salamanca from 2011 to 2018.

Previously, he held the presidency of the Provincial Council of Salamanca from July 1996 to March 2001.

Positions in the Regional Government of Castilla y León: Minister of the Presidency and Territorial Administration from March 2001 to May 2007; and Minister of the Interior and Justice until April 2011.



European Committee
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COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP

PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NAVARRA (ES/PES)



Gobierno de Navarra  Nafarroako Gobernua

Mikel IRUJO AMEZAGA

Mister Irujo Amezaga has a PhD in European Law, he worked at Thomson Reuters from 1996 to 2015. After two periods of leave to work at the European Parliament (1999-2002 as assistant and 2007-2009 as member of the European Parliament) he went back to the company in 2009. In September 2015, he has been appointed as the Head of the Navarra Delegation in Brussels and Member of the Committee of the Regions. In September 2019 he has been appointed as Director General for Foreign Action of the Government of Navarra and since February 2021, he is appointed as Regional Minister for Economic and Business Development.



European Committee
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CoRAI
COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP

PRESIDENT OF TIMIȘ COUNTY COUNCIL



Alin-Adrian NICA

Alin-Adrian Nica began his career in public administration in 2004 as mayor of Dudeștii Noi commune in Romania, which he led until 2020 when he has been elected president of Timiș County Council. As a member of the European Committee of the Regions since Romania's accession to the EU in 2007, he was elected president of the EDUC Commission (2010-2012), first vice-president of the SEDEC Commission (2017), member in Joint Consultative Committee Serbia and Joint Consultative Committee North Macedonia. He is currently member of the COTER Commission, CIVEX Commission, Enlargement Day, EPP Group, CoRAI.

He was rapporteur on topics of high European interest: the opinion on Enlargement Strategy and candidate countries 2007-2008 (2008), the opinion on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy, in particular the Eastern Partnership Initiative: modernisation, reforms and administrative capacity of the local and regional authorities of the Republic of Moldova (2010), the opinion on trans-European networks of communication (2012) and the opinion on the respective guidelines (2013), the opinion on Digital Single Market: Mid-term review (2018).

He speaks English, French, Italian and Spanish.



European Committee
of the Regions



COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS
AUTOMOTIVE INTERGROUP

THE STATE SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, LABOUR AND TOURISM OF BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG



Patrick RAPP

Dr. Patrick Rapp was born on 28th January 1969 in Stuttgart. After completing his school-leaving examination in Riedlingen/Donau and doing alternative national service at the German Red Cross District Association in Sigmaringen, he studied forestry science at the Albrecht Ludwig University of Freiburg, concluding his studies in 1997 with the degree of graduate forester. Mr. Rapp subsequently completed a doctorate at the Institute for Forestry Policy of the Albert Ludwig University.

After working as a management assistant to the executive board in the food industry and as a personnel manager in the timber industry, Dr. Rapp has been first elected to the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg in 2011. After his re-election in 2016, he became chairman of the Rural Areas and Consumer Protection Working Group and has been the speaker on tourism policies for the CDU state parliamentary group since 2011. In 2021 he has been again elected to the State Parliament of Baden-Württemberg.

Dr. Rapp is a member of the Tourism Advisory Board of Baden-Württemberg, a member of the advisory board of the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, and is honorary president of the Confederation of German Brass Instrument Associations in Staufen.

On May 12th, 2021 Dr. Patrick Rapp was appointed State Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg

MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, FREE STATE OF SAXONY (DE/EPP)



Thomas SCHMIDT

Thomas Schmidt is a Minister in the government of the Free State of Saxony, responsible for Regional Development since 2019. As an active member of the CoR he focuses his work in Brussels on the Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) and Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE).

Job and political details:

Since 2004	Member of the Saxony State Parliament
2009-2014	Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Environment and Agriculture
2011-2014	Deputy Chairman, CDU Parliamentary Group in the Saxon State Parliament
2014-2019	Minister for Environment and Agriculture, Free State of Saxony
since 2019	Minister for Regional Development
since 2020	Member of the European Committee of the Regions

Honorary Posts:

Vice-Chairman of CDU Saxony, Member of the Board of Trustees of the „Fraunhofer Institute for Electronic Nanosystems“ (ENAS) Chemnitz
Vice-Chairman of the Agrarsoziale Gesellschaft e.V. (Agro-Social Society)