



EURACOAL

European Association
for Coal and Lignite
AISBL

RFCS Summit 2022 – Coal Day

DG Research & Innovation, European Commission, and European Research Executive Agency
CCAB Brussels/ online, 22 March 2022

Draft Agenda

Moderated by Geoff Meade, journalist/ EU affairs commentator

8:30 **Welcome and registration**

9:00 **Introduction**

Paul WEBB, Head of ‘Green Europe’ Department, REA

Rosalinde VAN DER VLIES, Director ‘Clean Planet’, DG Research & Innovation, EC

9:15 **Keynote session**

Nicola DE MICHELIS, Director ‘Smart & Sustainable Growth’, DG Regional & Urban Policy, EC

Vladimír BUDINSKÝ, President, EURACOAL

Oliver THEN, Executive Managing Director, VGB PowerTech

Interactive Q&A

10:15 **RFCS coal projects that have supported and promoted the European Green Deal**

Debo ADAMS, International Centre for Sustainable Carbon (CoalTech2051)

Adolf AUMÜLLER, VGB PowerTech (GreenDEALCO2)

Salvador ORDÓÑEZ, University of Oviedo (METHENERGY PLUS)

Christos ROUMPOS, Public Power Corporation of Greece S.A. (SUMAD)

Alicja KRZEMIEŃ, GIG Research (RECOVERY)

Barbara ROGOSZ, Poltegor-Institut (RAFF)

Juergen KARL, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (i3upgrade)

11:00 **Coffee break**



- 11:30** **Panel**
Not Just one Transition: how can research and innovation help?
Nikolaos KOUKOUZAS, DG Energy, EC
Liam MCHUGH, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, World Coal Association
Tomasz ROGALA, Chair of the Board, Polska Grupa Górnicza S.A., Poland
Tilman BECHTHOLD, Vice President Research & Development, RWE Power AG, Germany
Interactive Q&A
- 12:45** **Lunch break**
Showcase RFCS success stories
- 14:00** **REA Presentation of Big Ticket – Call 2022**
Ludmila SARBU, Project Adviser, REA
- 14:30** **Roundtable discussion**
The way ahead for coal: a journey on a green route toward the future
Chris BOLESTA, Policy Officer, DG ENER, EC
Brian RICKETTS, Secretary General, EURACOAL
Jan BONDARUK, Deputy Director for Environmental Engineering, GIG Research, Poland
Magdalena CHAWULA KOSURI, Adviser on Just Transition, World Bank. Poland
Rumyana GROZEVA, Executive Director, Stara Zagora Regional Economic Development Agency, Bulgaria
Interactive Q&A
- 16:00** **Coffee break**
- 16:30** **Question & Answer on the new RFCS Big Ticket and annual calls**
Representatives from the European Commission and REA
- 17:15** **Conclusion**
Paul WEBB, Head of ‘Green Europe’ Department, REA
Andrea GENTILI, Deputy Head of Unit ‘Low Emission Future Industries’, DG RTD, EC
- 17:30** **Close**



Speakers list – coal session



Moderator
Geoff MEADE
Journalist

Geoff Meade is a journalist with over 40 years' experience of covering EU affairs, and an experienced speaker and moderator of conferences on EU issues. He is the former Europe Editor of the Press Association, the UK and Ireland's national news agency, and regularly broadcasts on radio and television. As well as reporting on every aspect of the EU's activities for 35 years, he is also a well-known columnist who has featured in many Brussels-based publications.



Paul WEBB
Head of Department B 'Green Europe', REA

The Department in the European Research Executive Agency is responsible for the implementation of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel - RFCS, Horizon Europe cluster 6, and the agricultural promotion programme. Previously he held different posts in the European Commission: in DG Research and Innovation, notably as Head of Unit for Budget and for financial management; in DG Budget; and DG Agriculture.



Rosalinde VAN DER VLIES
Director RTD C 'Clean Planet', EC

Before her appointment as Director, she was the Head of Coordination & Interinstitutional Relations Unit, and acting Head of Communication & Citizens Unit. Previously she held positions in Directorate-General Environment, Directorate-General Justice and Home Affairs, and in the private office of Janez Potočnik, the European Commissioner for the environment. Before joining the European Commission, she worked as a competition lawyer in an international law firm in Brussels and was a part-time teacher at the Catholic University in Brussels.



Nicola DE MICHELIS
Director REGIO.G 'Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation', EC

In DG REGIO, he coordinate the Just Transition Fund and is responsible for the development of policy papers and guidance on smart and green growth for regional policy. Previously he has been Principal Advisor on International relations for DG REGIO and Head of Cabinet for Commissioner Corina Crețu. He has been Director for Inclusive growth, urban and territorial development in DG REGIO.



Vladimír BUDINSKÝ
President, EURACOAL

President of Czech Employers' Association of Mining and Oil Industries (ZSDNP). He was Vice Chairman of the Board at ČEZ Distribuce and responsible for foreign affairs at Severočeke doly a.s. (lignite mining subsidiary - ČEZ Group). He has held various managerial positions in energy and transport industries. Since 2014, he has served as Vice Chairman of UNECE Group of Experts for Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. Appointed in 1995 as Transport Minister in the first Czech government. Serving since 2021 as EURACOAL President, in 2020 he was elected Vice President of the Czech Conf. of Employers' and Businesses' Unions (KZPS).



Oliver THEN
Executive Managing Director, VGB PowerTech and VGB Research Foundation

VGB PowerTech e.V. is the International Association of energy asset operators. Under the new brand vgabe energy the association founded in 1920 is covering all aspects of the future energy system with a specific focus on RES and hydrogen. Before joining VGB Oliver has worked for several years at RWE in different expert and management functions around power plant operations and projects. He studied Mechanical Engineering at the Ruhr-University Bochum and the Technical University Aachen.





**Debo
ADAMS**

Studies Manager
International Centre
for Sustainable
Carbon

Debo has more than 30 years' experience of researching and analysing developments in the coal and wider energy sector. She is currently responsible for the selection, management and editing of the ICSC's programme of studies. She has written reports on a range of subjects including energy efficiency, carbon capture and biomass sustainability.



**Adolf
AUMÜLLER**

Consultant
VGBE

Master Industrial Electronics and Control Techniques; PHD Industrial Process Engineering (Technical University Vienna). Start up Engineer Power Plants, Power Plant Manager, Head of Power Generation Division(Fossil Generation, Hydro, Renewables) including International Companies, for 40 years at EVN. Austrian Delegate at IEA-Clean Coal Center (10 years as Chair), Austrian Delegate in EC Expert Committees (eg RFCS Coal Advisory Group);Consultant for Energy Items to different international Companies (VGBE,VPC, World Bank).



**Salvador
ORDOÑEZ**

Full Professor of
Chem. & Environ.
Engineering
University of Oviedo

His research interests are focused on the application of heterogeneous catalysis and chemical reactors technology to different environmental problems, as well as the development of processes based on sustainable or renewable raw materials (biomass and wastes, unconventional methane resources, etc.). He is the author of more than 210 scientific articles published in international journals (JCR-indexed journals) and five patents. From 2019 he is collaborator of the Spanish Research Agency, and Spanish representative in the Board of the European Federation of Catalysis Societies.



**Christos
ROUMPOS**

Director of Mining Engineering
and Closure Planning
Department Public
Power Corporation - Greece

Mining Engineer with an MSc in Energy and Environmental Management and a PhD in mining engineering. Since 1991 he has been working for the Public Power Corporation of Greece in many engineering, environmental, and energy economics fields and research projects. For about 20 years, he has taught mining engineering, mineral economics, and project management courses at Universities. He is the author or co-author of more than 120 papers in scientific journals and international conferences.



**Alicja
KRZEMIEN**

Professor, Central
Mining Institute
(GIG), Katowice,
Poland

A specialist in risk assessment and Occupational Health and Safety in mines, working at the Department of Extraction Technologies, Rockburst and Risk Assessment at GIG. She chairs the EURACOAL's Technical Research Committee and is a member of the EC Advisory Group for Coal (CAG). A lecturer in Risk Management at the University of Oviedo (Spain), has also participated in 12 European funded project, both as a member team and as a coordinator.



**Barbara
ROGOSZ**

Poltegor-Institute

She graduated University of Wrocław and Wrocław University of Technology. Since more than fifteen years associated with "Poltegor-Institute". As part of her professional activity she deals with the issues of post-mining areas reclamation and recultivation as well as renewable energy sources development, energy efficiency improvement and waste heat management. Coordinator of several RFCS and EU founded projects. Author and co-author of several dozen scientific articles. Currently deputy head of "Poltegor-Institute".





**Juergen
KARL**

Friedrich-Alexander
University of Erlangen-
Nürnberg (FAU),
Germany

Professor Jürgen Karl graduated from TU München and was Professor at Graz University of Technology. Since 2011 Prof. Karl holds the Chair of Energy Process Engineering at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany and works mainly on gasification and the synthesis of Second Generation Fuels. In 2007, he founded the start-up company agnion Inc. with investors from California and Munich. He coordinated several RFCS projects and was member of the RFCS Technical Advisory Group TGC3 between 2009 and 2016.



**Nicolas
KOUKOUZAS**

Detached National Expert,
DG Energy, EC

Officer, Detached National Expert in the European Commission, Direction General for Energy and, Director of Research in the Centre for Research and Technology (CERTH). Dr Koukouzas holds a PhD in Industrial Mineralogy from the UK and has over 27 years of experience in energy and the environment. He has over 250 publications 2700 citations and is a member of various Editorial Boards in International Magazines and University Boards. Dr Koukouzas has extensively participated in the RFCS Programme over the last 20 years.



**Liam
McHUGH**

Director of Policy
and Government
Affairs, World Coal
Association

Liam leads the WCA's advocacy work with a particular focus on energy poverty, sustainable development, and climate change. He regularly attends United Nations climate and development negotiations on behalf of the coal industry and has spoken in a number of forums on the importance of low-emission technology in meeting global energy and environmental objectives. In addition, Liam holds advisory roles to the International Energy Agency and Department of Energy (US).



**Tomasz
ROGALA**

Chair of the Board,
Polska Grupa Górnicza
S.A., Poland

Senior Vice President of Euracoal (European Association for Coal and Lignite) and Chairman of the Board at Polska Grupa Górnicza SA (PGG – Polish Mining Group), the largest hard coal producer in Europe, with an annual output of around 30 million tonnes from nine mines. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Silesia where he specialised in financial law. He also completed postgraduate studies in EU law at the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and in business management at the University of Economics in Katowice.



**Tilman
BECHTOLD**

Vice President, Head of
R&D, RWE Power AG

Mr. Bechtold holds degrees in Process Engineering and Business Administration and has been working in the energy industry in Germany, Portugal and South Africa for 30 years. He is member of the Coal Advisory Group of RFCS, member of the Executive Committee of IEAGHG, chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board and member of the Board of VGBE and member of the Board of DGMK (German scientific association for sustainable energy, mobility and carbon cycles).



**Ludmila
SARBU**

Project Adviser & Call
Coordinator
REA

Project Adviser and Call Coordinator of the RFCS annual calls for proposals in European Research Executive Agency since 2021, previously in the European Commission, DG Research & Innovation since 2019. Previous to EU institutions, more than 10 years of professional experience in France mostly in the private sector on Quality Assurance and Quality Management, but also academic research. Degree of Master in Engineering (Institut National des Sciences Appliquées, Lyon) and Master in Quality Management of Organisations (Université Claude Bernard, Lyon).





**Chris
BOLESTA**

Policy Officer, DG
ENER, EC

Chris Bolesta is the CCUS policy team leader at DG Energy (European Commission). He co-authored the CCS Communication advocating for the deployment of large-scale demonstration projects and drafted part of the 2008 European Recovery Package assigning € 1 billion to CCS projects. Between 2012 and 2015 he advised two Polish environment and climate ministers, as well as the COP19 President. He is a co-founder and a former vice-president of the Polish E-mobility Foundation – an NGO. Experienced speaker and moderator.



**Brian
RICKETTS**

Secretary General,
EURACOAL

MIMechE joined Alstom SA in 1987 as responsible for dynamic modelling of power systems. In 1997, he moved to UK Coal plc as a project engineer to work on a new integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC) coal power plant. His work included political lobbying. In 2005, he joined the International Energy Agency as a coal analyst, working in the Energy Markets and Security Directorate, spending time in China to co-author the IEA's Cleaner Coal in China publication. In 2010, he was appointed Secretary-General of EURACOAL – the European Association for Coal and Lignite. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration.



**Jan
BONDARUK**

Deputy Director for
Environmental Engineering,
Główny Instytut Górnictwa
GIG, Poland

Deputy Director for Environmental Engineering in GIG. Expert in the field of environmental engineering, sustainable development, energy transformation, implementation of eco-innovation, environmental protection programming and management, water and wastewater management, development of urban areas and practical implementation of circular economy principles. Expert in the field of regional transition, participated in works related to support to the preparation of national and territorial just transition plans in Poland.



**Magdalena
CHAWULA
KOSURI**

Adviser on Just
Transition, World
Bank. Poland

Senior expert on Energy Transition, Regional Development, Coal Regions in Transition with strong interest in Change Management Process. Extensive experience in international environment, cooperating with experts, senior officials and decision makers. High degree of initiative, proven commitment to achieving goals and appreciation for challenging tasks in designated time frames.



**Romyana
GROZEVA**

Executive Director,
Stara Zagora
Regional Economic

She holds a PhD in Economics from the Institute for Economic Research of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Her doctorate is focused on the sustainable regional development and projects, related with that. She has 7 years of experience in public administration at national level. Since 2008 she has been the Executive Director of SZ REDA. Since 2018 she is a Project Manager of De Carb project. Since 2021 she has been the Coordinating Manager of the European Innovation Hub Zagore. She is a lecturer at Sofia University and Trakia University.



**Andrea
GENTILI**

Deputy Head of the Unit
“Low Emission Future
Industries” DG RTD, EC

The unit is in charge of the European research and innovation activities in aviation, waterborne and coal&steel industries. From 2016 to 2019, he acted as Deputy Head of the Unit “Aviation” in charge of the Clean Sky European research public-private partnership. From 2011 to 2016, he acted as Deputy Head of the Unit “Advanced Manufacturing Systems and Biotechnologies” and he has been strongly involved in the setting up of the contractual Public-Private Partnerships within Horizon 2020.

