



## SUPD Symposium 2015 “Feeding Europe while reducing pesticide dependency”

### *Speakers’ biographies*

**Danny Billens** was the first professional organic fruit producer in Belgium, growing primarily apples and pears. His products carry the organic label already more than 20 years. Apart from working in his orchard, he also sells products like juices, jam in the shop on the farm.

Dr **Jávor Benedek** is a Hungarian environmentalist and a founding member of Dialogue for Hungary party (Párbeszéd Magyarországért). He is also a member of the European Parliament for Together – Dialogue for Hungary Alliance (Együtt – Párbeszéd Magyarországért Választási Szövetség). He is first vice-chair of the Committee for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and is a substitute member of the Committee of Industry, Research and Energy. In the 2010 general elections, he won a seat in the Hungarian National Assembly and was Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee for most of his mandate. Furthermore, Benedek is a founding member of the environmental NGO Védegylet (Protect the Future!) and holds a PhD. in biology. He is the author of several articles and publications on environmental threats, ‘going green’, and the future of the Earth.

**David Cary** is Director of International Biocontrol Manufacturer Association. David was educated in Queensland, Australia as an entomologist. He worked on bringing IPM into cotton in the early 1980s involving pheromone trapping, prediction models, crop rotations, enhancement of natural predators, varietal selection, etc. He was part of the team working towards resistance management of the overused synthetic pyrethroids in that crop and has encouraged the establishment of IPM systems for other crops. His belief in IPM is stronger than ever and he represents IBMA in IPM activities and promotions wherever possible at EU, OECD and FAO forums and expert groups

**Henriette Christensen** works as senior policy officer for Pesticide Action Network Europe mainly focusing on reducing pesticide dependency in agriculture and towns. Henriette holds a university degree in agricultural economics from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University with studies in both Rome and Copenhagen and has been working and living in Brussels since almost 20 years always working on agricultural, trade and environmental matters.

**Anita Conijn** has been working in the field of diplomacy for many years, working in different positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. She is currently seconded to the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, heading the unit dealing with Plant Health and Phytosanitary Market Access. She holds a MSc degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and bachelor degrees in Business Administration and Art History.

**Marco Contiero** works for Greenpeace European Unit since 2004. He spent the last eight years as the EU Policy Director on Agriculture. Author of several reports and briefings on agricultural and environmental policies Contiero helps coordinating Greenpeace's work at European level and provides the organisation with legal and political advice on agricultural and environmental issues. He holds a Master's degree in European Environmental Law from the University of Amsterdam (2004) and a Master's degree in International Trade Law from the University of Padua (2003). Before leading Greenpeace's work on agriculture he coordinated for two years the organisation's policy work on the adoption of the EU Regulation on chemicals (REACH). Previously, Contiero worked for the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) as a legal advisor (2004). After graduation at the Faculty of Law in 1999 Marco Contiero practiced as a lawyer in Padua for more than three years, pleading cases before several national Courts.

**Rosa d'Amato** is a teacher that has been involved for several years in protection of environment and health by taking part, as member and spokesperson, in committees and associations, like "Taranto libera", linked to the fight of pollution and aiming at rising awareness and sensitiveness on environmental crimes and disasters in Italy. Her activities have been focused on the creation of economic alternatives in her city in order to have a better and healthy place to live. By the committee Taranto LIDER she obtained the adoption of a regional law for women affected by endometriosis, a disease caused by environmental factors like the well-known endocrine disruptors. Meanwhile she carried out her activity through press conferences, events, meetings, sit-in and complaints at regional and national level in order to reach more transparency in the environmental management process.

Being aware that it possible to do more, she decided to enter the EU institutions to give her contribution at legislative level for a more sustainable and alternative future applied in several economic fields.

As Member of Agriculture committee she is doing her best, for example by organising high level conferences and by constant exchanges of views with the same Commissioner Andriukaitis, to face a crucial emergency currently affecting Europe, the one regarding *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium, that attacked olives groves in Southern Italy, and that is posing serious concerns on the use of pesticides in those regions and Europe.

**Dr Alessandro Dalpiaz** has served as General Director of Assomela, the Italian Association of Apple Producers since 2004. Since 1998, he is also General Director of APOT, the Association of Horticultural Producers in Trentino. Prior the Horticultural Producers Association, Mr. Dalpiaz was responsible for the Farm at the Agrarian Institute of San Michele all'Adige, today Edmund Mach Foundation, in Trentino. Mr Dalpiaz was President of the World Apple and Pears Association from 2009 to 2011. He received the PhD in Agrarian Sciences from the University of Padua in 1985.

**Herbert Dorfmann** is Member of the European Parliament for the South Tyrolean People's Party since 2009. He is a member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia, and he is a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. In 2014 he was appointed President of the European Parliamentary Association and since 2015 he is chair of the Intergroup Wine, Spirits and Quality Foodstuffs. Before entering in the European Parliament, Dorfmann worked as agronomist and served as mayor of Feldthurns (South Tyrol) from 2005 to 2009.

**Alberto Dorigoni** is an Italian horticulturist working at the Fondazione E. Mach since 1988. He carries out most of his research on apple cultivation in two experiment farms in South Tyrol with the aim of transferring scientific knowledge to fruit growers. After working in the Nineties on plant hormones, in the last decade he shifted the focus of his trials to develop a more sustainable orchard system, by changing tree architecture and replacing the use of chemicals with mechanical and physical tools. During the last five years he presented all over the main fruit-growing areas around the world his vision of a pedestrian fruit-wall system that requires no platforms and reduces input of both chemicals and labour. He invented and patented in 2012 the “window pruning machine”, a device that operates in 3 dimensions, designed for reducing hand pruning in modern plantings.

**Wyn Grant** is Professor of Politics at the University of Warwick and a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences. He is a former chair and president of the UK Political Studies Association and vice-president for Europe and Africa of the International Political Science Association. He has worked on agricultural and environmental policy for over forty years, focusing recently on the interaction between them and in particular on biocontrol.

**Jytte Guteland** is a member of the European Parliament since 2014 for the Swedish Social Democrats. She serves as a member of the environment committee and as a substitute of the legal committee. She is much involved in both agricultural issues as well as animal welfare and is also devoted to the fight against harmful chemicals. Mrs Guteland is an active feminist, has a Master Degree in Economics, was President of the Social Democrat's youth organization 2007-2011 and worked previously as a political advisor at the Ministry of Finance.

**Michael Hamell** is adjunct professor of agriculture at University College Dublin. He worked as a lecturer, farm manager and agricultural advisor for ten years prior to join the European Commission services in 1983, firstly in DG AGRI dealing with beef and sheep market issues and from 1997 in DG ENV principally as head of unit responsible for agriculture, forestry and soil until his retirement in 2013. In this capacity, he was responsible for environmental integration into the CAP and policy related to European forests as well as the preparation of the Commission's proposals on soil protection, the implementation of the nitrates directive and the development of work on the sustainable use of Phosphorus. He holds as M.Agr Sc degree from UCD and has a lifelong interest in hurling.

Dr **Claudio Ioriatti** holds a PhD in “Protection and Quality of Agro-Food Production” at the Molise University, a master in phytopathology at the Bologna University and a degree in Agricultural Sciences at Padova University. He is fellow of the Accademia dei Georgofili (2009), awarded by the USDA with a Certificate of Appreciation (2011) and honoured of the National Full-professorship in Entomology (2014). He currently chairs the Agrofood Chain Department at the Technology Transfer Centre of the Fondazione Edmund Mach (Trento, Italy). Expert in the IPM of apple and grape, his research, past and present, concerns the development of new strategies for the integrated fruit and grape production, biological control of pests, implementation of mating disruption technique and other semiochemicals based tools. His long lasting experience on IPM and his internationally-based research is recognized by IOBC convenorship of the working group “Integrated Protection of Fruit Crops” since 2008.

**Karin Kadenbach**, Member of the European Parliament. Karin (born in Vienna) is an Austrian social democratic politician. She is a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. Within the Parliament, she is member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development as well as the Committee on Budgetary Control. Furthermore Karin is vice-president of the Delegation for the Relation to Japan and vice-president of the Animal Welfare Intergroup. Prior to joining the European Parliament in 2009, Karin served for sixteen years as municipal councilor in her municipality Großmugl and was a member of the Lower Austrian Regional Assembly for seven years. From 2007 to 2008, she was regional minister, holding the portfolio "health and nature protection" in the Lower Austrian Regional Assembly. After graduating in Advertising and Marketing at Vienna University of Economics and Business, she worked at J. W. Thompson advertising agency. Karin lives in Großmugl and Brussels and is a mother of five children.

**Jesper Lund-Larsen** is Political Advisor in United Federation of Danish Workers 3F and Occupational Health Consultant The Danish Industry Working Environment Council Farm to Fork. Jesper has a background as Landscape Gardener, and has for 10 years been worked in that field before in 1987 joining the 3F. Jesper is the author of several publications and scientific papers in the past a lot of these on pesticides and workers exposure, but recently moving to topics like Green jobs in local areas. Jesper represent the Danish Trade Union in a lot of external committee many of them covering experts meetings at both the Danish and the European public administration.

**Ladislav Miko** is Deputy Director-General for the Food Chain of the Directorate for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission, since January 2011. His portfolio covers issues of food safety throughout the whole food chain, including e.g. plant and animal health, pesticides, biotechnology, food hygiene, nutrition, or food sustainability. He was also Acting Director-General in the period November 2014 – August 2015. In the period 2005 – 2010, he was Director for Nature, in the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission. In this position, he held responsibility for the Directorate-General’s work on nature and biodiversity, agriculture, soils and forests. During the Czech Presidency to EU Council in 2009 he was appointed as Minister of Environment of the Czech interim government. Before he started his career in the European Commission, he was Deputy Minister in the Czech Ministry for Environment and prior to this, he worked for 9 years as a professional soil biologist in Slovak Academy of Sciences, specialised in soil zoology and ecology. He holds a doctorate in zoology and ecology and he is Associate Professor of Prague University of Life Sciences and Guest Professor at University of Antwerp, teaching environment and society relations and ecological restoration courses. He was member of Board of Charles University in Prague.

**Patrizia Pitton** is an agronomist graduated from Turin University in Italy. As public officer for the Italian region Piemonte, she has experienced on integrated pest management and agro-environmental measures dating back to the beginning of 1990. She joined the European Commission in 2001 working as inspector at the Food and Veterinary Office. Since 2005 she works as legislative officer in the Unit Pesticides and Biocides of General Direction Health and Food Safety, dealing with EU legislation concerning plant protection products. Since 2011, she is also responsible for the EU Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

RNDr **Pavel POC** is a biologist by education. He has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2009. Mr. Poc is currently the Vice-Chair of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Chair of the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and Vice-Chair of the Members Against Cancer Group. He is also the Head of the Czech Delegation within the SD Group in the European Parliament. Pavel Poc hosted the SUPD Symposium also back in 2012 and considers the sustainable use of pesticides and reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on people's health and the environment as one of his priorities.

Dr **Willem Ravensberg** is the Regulatory and Governmental Affairs Manager and Member of the Management Team of the BU Microbials of Koppert Biological Systems with more than 30 years of experience in research and development of beneficial insects and microorganisms for crop protection products. He has ample experience in registration of microorganism in the European Union as well as in other countries. Willem has a Master's degree in Biology (Entomology) from Leiden University, and he did his PhD in 2010 on "The development of microbial pest control products for control of arthropods" at the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands. Willem has been active for many years in industry associations in the Netherlands, EU and USA. Since 2013 he is President of IBMA (the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association). He was recently re-elected for another term of two years till the end of 2016.

**Alessandro Rossi** is policy officer in the Fruit and Vegetables Team of the unit C2 in DG Agriculture (fruit and vegetables, olive oil, wine, spirits, other specialized crops). After experiences in the NGO and in the public sector in social research, international relations, EU enlargement, he now deals with market analysis, interbranch issues, monitoring and management of support measures for Fruit and Vegetables producers as well as legislative drafting.

**Philippe Rothgerber** grows fruits and vines close to Strasbourg in France. In order to avoid food waste as much as possible, he also transforms nearly everything good into juices you should taste. Philippe studied at the University of Applied Sciences Zürich-Wädenswil in Switzerland to become an environment responsible grower. He believes that all around him belongs to God's creation and love to work with his great Master. For him, being a farmer does not mean to follow the main stream. He is the former president of FREDON Alsace, a crop protection and environment active farmer federation. A few years ago, together with another wine grower and a viticulture technician he managed to register 3 different kind of pheromone dispensers for French vineyards. He is disappointed about the decay of so-called IPM and recently choose to convert his farm to an organic farm. He will always be willing to welcome a visitor on his farm to exchange ideas.

**Rosita Zilli** is Deputy Secretary – General at Euro Coop, the European Community of Consumer Co-operatives. In this capacity, she is in charge of following general co-operative

issues as well as sustainability policy dossiers. In this respect, she co-ordinates the meetings of the Euro Coop Sustainability Working Group, which groups people in charge of the environmental and sustainability portfolio within the different consumer co-operatives. Rosita Zilli holds a degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste (Italy) and prior to her post in Euro Coop she worked in the international co-operation field in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Damiano Zoffoli** is Member of the European Parliament for the Partito Democratico since February 2015. He is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, substitute member of the Regional Development Committee and Vice Chair of the Delegation for relations with Iran. He is a dentist. He has been Mayor of the city of Cesenatico for eight years and member of the Council of Emilia Romagna Region for nine years as chair of the Environmental and Territory Committee.

Dr **Vincent Van Bol** is a PhD agronomist expert in plant protection. He was researcher during a 15 years period. He contributes to develop various sustainable farming systems in close collaboration with farmers on their own farm. He also participates to several researches to develop appropriate pesticide risk indicators for a sustainable development of agriculture. Since 2005, he is coordinator of the Belgian federal plan for reduction of pesticides.

**Marco Zullo** was born in Verona (Italy) in 1978. He now lives in Trieste. He has a degree in Automation Engineering and he used to give courses on informatics. During his professional career he also specialized in market analysis.

In 2014, he has been elected to the European Parliament as a representative of Movimento 5 Stelle for the North East constituency, where he sits in the Europe for Freedom and Direct Democracy group. He is now a full member of the Committee on Agriculture and rural development and of the Committee on Internal market and consumer protection. He is also vice-chair of the Intergroup on wine, spirits and quality food as well as a member of the Sustainable food systems group.

He is rapporteur for his group on the new regulation on Organic farming, on the regulation on "fruit and milk in schools" scheme and on the parliamentary resolution on Expo 2015, as well as many other procedures.