

Ms. Jo Shanmugalingam

Director General for Science, Innovation and Growth at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), London

Ms. Jo Shanmugalingam is the Director General for Science, Innovation and Growth at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Before joining BEIS, Jo was Director of Corporate Effectiveness at the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and was previously Strategy Director at the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) as part of a jobshare with Susannah Storey. Jo started her career at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). She spent 6 years at the Shareholder Executive (now UKGI) where she was responsible for taking the legislation to privatise Royal Mail through Parliament and for the government's shareholder interests in businesses including Post Office Ltd and Ordnance Survey.



H.E. Ms. Aurora Díaz-Rato Revuelta

Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations, Geneva

H.E. Ms. Aurora Diaz-Rato Revuelta is a career diplomat since 1983 who dedicated her career to Ibero-American and European affairs. She has a degree in law from the Universidad Complutense, a diploma in European law from the College of Europe in Bruges and in international relations from the Diplomatic School of Madrid (Spain). In relation with Latin America, she worked at the headquarters in the direction of foreign policy for Latin America (1983-1985), as Director General of cooperation for Latin America in the AECID (2004-2008), and in the field, first as Minister Counselor at the Embassy of Spain in San José de Costa Rica (1987-1991) and later as Ambassador of Spain in Montevideo (2008-2011). Then, straddling both issues, she was responsible for Latin American affairs and human rights in Brussels in the Spanish Representation to the EU (2013-2017). Regarding European affairs, she worked at the secretary of state for European affairs in three periods. She was as a vocal advisor between 1986 and 1987, a deputy director general for political affairs between 1993 and 1996, a deputy director for general EU affairs in 2001-2003 and a head of institutional affairs in 2011. Finally, she was appointed as an Ambassador in Bern from 2017 to 2020 and since this date she has been Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN and other international organizations based in Geneva.



Ms. Patrycja Czubkowska
Deputy President, Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, Warsaw

Lawyer, patent attorney, graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw, as well as postgraduate studies in the field of industrial property protection and European law.

She started her professional career at the Office of the Committee for European Integration, where she worked on the harmonization of Polish law with the law of the European Union. She completed an internship at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. Then she was an expert at the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and at Agencja Rozwoju Przemysłu SA, where she analyzed projects financed from European funds and as part of state aid. She also worked as a lawyer at the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection. She moved from the public sector to business. After obtaining the title of a professional patent attorney, she provided legal assistance in the field of industrial property protection, intellectual property and unfair competition within her own law firm. She was also the Deputy Director of the Legal Department in the second largest company in the rail freight transport industry in Europe, where she coordinated and supervised the work of a team of lawyers and external advisers.



Ms. Ieva Valeškaitė
Vice-Minister, Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius

Ms. Ieva Valeškaitė has 10 years of experience in the fields of economic policy analysis, business regulation and taxation; she has implemented tax projects in the non-governmental sector in Lithuania and abroad. 34 years-old Valeškaitė worked for five years as senior policy expert at the Free Market Institute and was responsible for projects relating to improving business environment, legislative quality, tax system transparency and simplifying tax administration. From 2012 to 2015, she worked at the Department of Foreign and EU Affairs at the Office of the Government. Ms. Ieva Valeškaitė has completed two bachelor's studies in international economics and political sciences and has acquired a master's degree in applied macroeconomics from Vilnius University.



Ms. Borbála Schenk
Chief European Research Funding Advisor, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), Budapest

Ms. Borbála Schenk is the Chief European Research Funding Advisor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. As a Horizon Europe specialist she is leading the pre-award research support services. Ms. Borbála's background is in law, she has been working in research management for more than 15 years, also ran her own EU funding consultancy specializing in supporting institutions in the Widening region. She was Board member of European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) and represented the Association in the Horizon Europe negotiations as the Chair of the Policy and Representation Committee. She is the member of the Hungarian expert committee of the Widening Participation Work programme.

