

Part 1 PLENARY SESSION

Councillor Ken Taylor, member of the West Midlands Regional Assembly's European & International Affairs Partnership and Leader of Coventry City Council.

Moderator



Councillor Ken Taylor became Leader of Coventry City Council in June 2004. He has been a councillor for the Earlsdon ward in Coventry for 18 years, and Leader of the Conservative Group at the council since 2003. From

2002 to 2003 he was also Lord Mayor of the city.

Cllr Taylor has been working for a number of multi-national companies such as Nestle and ICI in sales management positions. From 1990 until he became Leader of the Council, he was the Conservative party agent for Coventry's three parliamentary constituencies.

As Leader of the Council, Ken chairs the fortnightly meeting of the Council's Cabinet, and leads on policy and governance issues. This includes partnership work with other councils and organisations, speaking out for Coventry on issues that matter to local people and working with people and organisations to ensure Coventry's richly diverse communities develop and prosper.

Mr Anders Borg, Minister of Finance, Sweden

Speech: More people into work; today's challenges for European economies



Anders Borg (born 1968) is the current Swedish Finance Minister.

From 1988 to 1991, Anders Borg studied political science, economic history and philosophy at Uppsala

University. He received a bachelor's degree in economics, studied at graduate level but never finished his doctoral thesis. He completed his postgraduate studies in economics at Stockholm University from 1995 to 1997.

From 1990 to 1991, Borg was an editorial writer for the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet. Following the centre-right parties' victory in the 1991 general election, Borg became a Political Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office and from 1993 to 1994 he served as a Political Adviser to Prime Minister Carl Bildt. From 1994 to 1998, Borg worked in the private Bank with economical and political analysis. He was recruited as Chief Economist and Administrative Director of the Moderate Party in 2003 and was appointed Finance Minister after the centre-right's victory in the 2006 general election.

Ms Anna Ekström, Head of the Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations

Speech: The Lisbon Strategy, what has been done, what is still left to do and how?



Since 2001, Anna Ekström is the head of Swedish white collar trade union SACO (The Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations). She is also a member of the Executive Committee of ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation), president of the SACO Unemployment Insurance Fund (AEA), vice chairwoman of Uppsala University Board and a board member of the Swedish National Labour Market Board.

Between 1998 and 2001, Ms Ekström was the State Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Employment and during Sweden's EU presidency in 2001, she was co-ordination responsible for the employment issues.

Part 1 PLENARY SESSION

In 2003, she was a member of the European Employment Taskforce, led by former Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok. Ms Ekström has also been head of planning and political adviser in the Swedish Cabinet Office and a secretary in the Swedish Labour Court

Dr Flavio Delbono, Vice President Emilia-Romagna, Italy

Speech: Bridging the Lisbon Strategy, cohesion and competitiveness: regions and beyond.



Flavio Delbono was born in Sabbioneta in 1959. In 1982 he finished his studies in business and administration and has a PhD in political economy from the University of Siena and from the University of Oxford.

He is Professor in Political Economy at the University of Bologna and at the John Hopkins University.

Professor Delbono was counsellor in the Municipality of Bologna, He is the Region Emilia-Romagna Government Vice-President since 2003.

Ms Soledad Martínez Reig, General Director of Territorial Planning of the Valencian Regional Government

Speech: Regional Strategies on Land use development.



Ms Soledad Martínez Reig is the General Director of Land Zoning in the Valencian Regional Government. She has an architecture degree from the Polytechnic University of Valencia and a Master degree on environment, land and city planning.

Between 1980 and 1990 Ms. Martínez Reig practiced her profession in an own studio, making construction, redevelopment and town planning projects, in several municipalities of the Valencian Region.

Later she became a government employee at the Regional Ministry of Works, Town Planning and Transports, General Department of Town Planning and Land Zoning, and since 1993, as Head of Department on Land Planning.

From 1999-2003 Ms Martínez Reig was Chief of Cabinet at the Regional Ministry of Environment and later an adviser of the President Cabinet of the Generalitat Valenciana. 2004-2006 her function was General Director of the President Cabinet at the Sub department of Organization.

Ms Irene Svenonius, City Director, Stockholm City.

Speech: Development of metropolitan areas in the light of the Lisbon Strategy.



Irene Svenonius (born 1967) is City Director of Stockholm City. She was appointed in October 2006 and has most recently served as Managing Director of Office of Research and Statistics for the city of Stockholm.

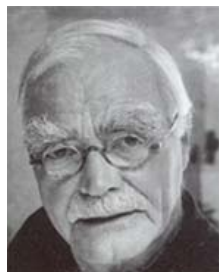
Among other achievements, Ms Svenonius has also served as head of Mayor's Office as well as director of Finance Department for the city of Stockholm.

She holds a BBA in Business and Economics from Växjö University, Sweden

Part 2 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Mr. Nico Wegter, Former Director of Representation of the European Commission in The Hague

Moderator



Mr Nico Wegter started his professional career in the International Secretariat of NATO. In 1972 he started to work for the European Commission, first with the Common Agricultural Policies and later with External Relations.

Mr Wegter has also been Head of the Representation of the European Commission in The Hague and in Stockholm.

He has made numerous interviews for written press, TV and radio. He has held several lectures in Universities around Europe and in the United States.

Mr. Heikki Salmi, Adviser DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission

Speech: Growth and jobs require dynamic and innovative regions.



Mr. Heikki Salmi is an adviser to the Director-General of Enterprise and Industry Directorate-General in the European Commission since autumn 2004. Prior to his current duties he was the Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Erkki Liikanen during years 2002-2004 being

responsible for enterprise policy and information society.

Mr. Salmi joined the European Commission in 1996 as a head of unit dealing with development programmes of statistics in the candidate countries, Balkans and the countries of former USSR. During 1970-1996 he worked in various management positions

in Statistics Finland, as an acting Director General in 1992-1995.

Mr. Salmi holds a M.SC (Economics and Statistics) degree from the University of Helsinki (1968).

Ms. Cecilia Malmström, Minister of EU-Affairs, Sweden

Speech: How can different levels of government interact in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy?



Ms. Cecilia Malmström is the current Swedish minister for EU affairs.

Ms. Malmström was born 15 May, 1968 in Stockholm and has a Ph.D. in political science from Gothenburg University, where she has

also worked as a researcher.

Between 1998 and 2001, she was a member of Västra Götaland regional council. Before she joined the Swedish government, following the general election in September 2006, she had served as a Member of the European Parliament from 1999. In the Parliament, she was member of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and a substitute in the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. She is member of the Swedish Liberal People's Party (Folkpartiet) and since 2001, member of the party's executive.

Ms Malmström has also written numerous publications on topics like regional parties, regionalism, European politics, immigration and terrorism among others.

Part 2 INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Mr. Iñaki Beristain Etxabe, Director of Planning and Economy of the Basque Country

Speech: "Municipal Competitiveness" as an active answer to the Lisbon Strategy in the Basque Country.

Mr Iñaki Beristain Etxabe was born in 1960. He has a degree in Economy and Commerce, specialized in public sector and also a Master in Business and Administration.

Mr Beristain Etxabe started his professional career in the financial areas of the Basque Government in 1984. In 1988 he became head of Department of the bank "Cajas de Ahorros Vasco-Navarras.

During the years Mr Beristain Etxabe has written numerous articles and has also coordinated various studies in the area of economy and finance.

Mr Beristain Etxabe is currently the Director of Planning and Economy of the Basque Government

Mr. Magnus Larsson, Chairman of SME Committee, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise.

Speech: How enterprises perceive the Lisbon Strategy and regional leadership.



Mr. Magnus Larsson was born in Stockholm on March 23, 1954. He has a bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Stockholm.

He is currently the Director of Expander Wireless Nordic AB, of which he is also the founder.

Furthermore he is a member of the board of inWarehouse AB.

Other present representative functions are: Member of the board, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise; Chairman of the SME Committee, Confederation of Swedish

Enterprise; Member of the board, the Association of the Swedish IT and Telecom Industry; Vice chairman, Young Enterprise, Stockholm region

Mr Hans Ekström, Mayor, Eskilstuna Municipality

Speech: "The municipality of growth 2007" results of a strategic political leadership.



Mr Hans Ekström was born in 1958 in Eskilstuna, Sweden.

Mr Ekström is a qualified teacher in history and religion and worked as teacher in Eskilstuna in the nineteen-eighties and early nineteen-nineties.

Since 1995 he is Chairman of the Municipal Executive Board in Eskilstuna. He has successfully managed to change Eskilstuna from a town with high unemployment rate, severe population decrease, and large budget deficit into a town of powerful growth and very good relations to Stockholm and the Mälars region.

Mr Ekström has also taken an active part in strengthening the circumstances concerning the Finnish minority in Eskilstuna. Due to this he was in 2006 awarded a Knight, First Class, of the Order of the Lion of Finland.