

## BIOGRAPHY OF PANEL SPEAKERS

### Andrea HARTWIG



**Professor at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany,  
Chair of Food Chemistry and Toxicology  
Member of the “Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits” (SCOEL)**

Andrea Hartwig received her Diploma in Chemistry in 1984, finished 1987 her PhD thesis and 1996 her Habilitation in Biochemistry at the University of Bremen. In 1998, she became Professor for Food Chemistry in Karlsruhe, Germany. Since 2010 she is Full Professor and Chair of Food Chemistry and Toxicology at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

The main research area focuses on the impact of carcinogenic metal compounds as well as essential trace elements on genomic stability, with special emphasis on DNA damage induction and effects on DNA repair, gene expression and cell cycle control.

At present, interactions of toxic metal compounds, essential trace elements and selected food components with so called zinc finger proteins involved in DNA repair, gene expression and tumor suppressor functions are investigated, including their redox regulation. Further research focuses on the toxicological evaluation of nanomaterials, with special attention to metal-based nanoparticles.

In addition, Andrea Hartwig is actively involved in chemical risk assessment. Since 2007 she is president of the „Senatskommission der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft zur Prüfung gesundheitsschädlicher Arbeitsstoffe“ („MAKCommission“), **member of the “Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits” (SCOEL)** and serves as an expert for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). Since 2010, she is the Chair of the German Society of DNA Repair and Member of the “Humanbiomonitoring-Kommission” of the Federal Office for Environment .

She is author of more than 130 scientific publications and member of several boards of international scientific journals.



## **Elke Schneider**

Elke Schneider has been active as a project manager at the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work (EU-OSHA) since 2002, on a variety of topics. She was involved in setting up the Agency's European risk observatory and in charge of the "Occupational Safety and Health in figures" project combining occupational health and safety statistics at the European and national level and occupational safety and health research information, amongst others on an update on the situation of women at work in Europe. Elke Schneider has a degree in technical chemistry/ biochemistry and a doctorate in technical sciences from the Technical University of Vienna, Austria.

Before joining EU-OSHA in 2002, Elke Schneider worked as deputy head of unit for European and International Affairs at the central authority of the Austrian Labour Inspection within the Ministry of Economics and Labour, now Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.

She has been a national delegate to the EU Commission and Council and involved in cooperation with SLIC (the Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee) and many other stakeholders. She has also been a member in the Austrian Association of Toxicologists.



## Laurent Vogel

Organisation: **the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI).**

ETUI is the independent research and training centre of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) which itself affiliates European trade unions into a single European umbrella organisation. The ETUI places its expertise – acquired in particular in the context of its links with universities, academic and expert networks – in the service of workers’ interests at European level and of the strengthening of the social dimension of the European Union.

Department: Research

Unit: Health and Safety, Working Conditions

Position: Senior Researcher

### Background

Laurent has a degree in law from the Free University of Brussels. He gained a doctorate at the University of Nantes after completing a thesis on the role of Community law in the harmonisation of occupational health legislation in Europe. He teaches occupational health law at the Free University of Brussels and the University Paris XIII.

After spending eleven years working in Latin America and Italy, he joined the Institute in 1990 and was responsible for setting up the Trade Union Observatory for implementation of Community directives. He was director of the ETUI Working Conditions, Health and Safety Department from 2008 to 2013.

At the international level, he is involved in the world campaign to eradicate asbestos and in the ‘Women, Health, Work’ network based on cooperation among women’s organisations, trade unions and the scientific community.

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### Areas of activity

- Research on the gender dimension of occupational safety and on how working conditions contribute to social inequalities in health
- Monitoring Community legislation and its implementation in the different European Union countries
- Researcher, unit Working Conditions, Health and Safety

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### Languages

French, English, Italian, Russian

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### Main publications or courses

- Vogel, L., E. Van den Abeele, (2010) [\*Better Regulation: perspectives critiques\*](#), ETUI
- Vogel, L., M. A. Mengeot, (2008) [\*Production and reproduction - Stealing the health of future generations\*](#), ETUI
- Vogel, L., P. Paoli, (2006) [\*New scope for the Community health and safety at work strategy 2007-2012\*](#), ETUI
- Vogel, L. (2003) [\*The gender workplace health gap in Europe\*](#), ETUI
- Vogel, L. (1998) *Prevention at the workplace - The impact of Community Directives on preventive systems in Sweden, Finland, Norway, Austria and Switzerland*, ETUI

## Rebekah Smith



Rebekah Smith is senior adviser responsible for health and safety, corporate social responsibility, pensions, social protection and social inclusion at **BusinessEurope**.

She is a member of the EU Multistakeholder CSR Coordination Committee, the EU Pensions Forum and coordinates employers in the EU Advisory Committee on Safety and Health. Rebekah joined BusinessEurope in 2007 and has worked in the field of EU affairs for over 10 years.

Previously Rebekah worked for smallbusinesseurope - a consultancy specialised in assisting the UK small business community in engaging with the EU, and before that for a UK regional office in Brussels. She graduated from Osnabrück University in Germany with a Master's degree in European studies and from Hull University in the UK with a Bachelor's degree on the same topic.

She specialised in EU institutions, European politics, political theories and interest representation. Rebekah's mother tongue is English and she is fluent in French and German.