

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF THE SPEAKERS**



**Michael Roberts** is the Head of the Aid-for-Trade Unit in the Development Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO) - a position he has held since 2009. The Aid for Trade Initiative seeks to assist developing countries connect to the multilateral trading system. Michael recently led preparations for the 6th Global Review of Aid for Trade: "Promoting Trade, Inclusivity and Connectivity for Sustainable Development" held on 11-13 July 2017. Michael joined the WTO in 2001, starting his career in the Agriculture and Commodities Division. Between 2003 and 2009, he established and led the Standards and Trade Development Facility – a multi-donor trust fund assisting developing countries comply with food safety, animal and plant health requirements in international trade. Prior to joining WTO, he worked in the Russian Federation and the UK on agriculture and trade policy issues between 1994 and 2001. Michael is an agricultural and development economist by training and holds degrees from University of Oxford and the University of Kent at Canterbury in the UK.



**Frans Lammersen** is Principal Administrator with the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD) since 1997. In the Development Co-operation Directorate that services the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) he is, *inter alia*, responsible for the committee's work on trade and development. Before joining the OECD, Mr. Lammersen was a Counsellor in the Permanent Delegation of the Netherlands to the OECD, in which capacity he chaired the Working Party of the OECD Trade Committee. From 1985 to 1992, Mr. Lammersen worked for the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Directorate for Foreign Economic Relations on trade policy issues. He holds a Master Degree in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University and a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam.



**Kati Suominen** is Founder and CEO of Nextrade Group, a Los Angeles-based research and data company that helps leading development organizations and governments fuel ecommerce, trade and development; Founder of Business for eTrade Development, a new nonprofit that fuels public-private partnerships in ecommerce development in developing countries; and TradeUp Capital Fund, a growth capital platform for globalization

companies. She also serves as Adjunct Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where she founded a Digital Trade program working with such companies as eBay and Google, as Adjunct Professor at the UCLA Anderson School, where she teaches international business economics and global digital disruption; and as Senior Advisor to the G20-launched World SME Forum that fuels SMEs' access to markets and skills. She is the idea-woman behind such global initiatives as eTrade for All, a global multi-donor initiative to accelerate the adoption of ecommerce worldwide now championed by the United Nations, and RTA Exchange, a new global forum on trade agreements sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). MBA, Wharton School of Business; PhD, University of California, San Diego.



**Marjeta Jager**, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission



**Siegfried Leffler** is the Director of GIZ Representation in Brussels since 2016. He has more than 15 years of international experience, leading major development projects and change initiatives. Mr. Leffler assumed different positions within the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which is providing service and assisting the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation. Before heading the Brussels' seat of GIZ he was the Country Director of GIZ in Accra (Ghana) from 2011 to 2016. He has comprehensive professional experiences in the Middle East, having served as the Regional Director Middle East, North Africa and Turkey in Tripoli, Libya from 2007 to 2011.



**Dr. San Bilal** is a Senior Executive and Head of Programme Economic Transformation: Trade, Investment and Finance, at European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) in Maastricht, the Netherlands and in Brussels, Belgium, where he is based. His expertise relates mainly to economic and trade issues for inclusive growth, regional integration processes and development, with a focus on Africa and the ACP-EU relations (including economic partnership agreements). His current activities focus on the structural

transformation dynamics in Africa, sustainable global value chains, private sector engagement and financing for development. He is the author of numerous publications, as well as the founding editor of the ECDPM magazine *GREAT Insights*.