The Metaverse: A unique opportunity for innovation and growth - or a dangerous 'parallel reality'?

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Live event via the Webex Events platform

SPEAKERS

Eva KAILI has been a Member of the European Parliament (Greece, S&D) since 2014. In January 2022, she was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament with responsibilities including namely Parliament's ICT Innovation Strategy, Informatics and Telecommunications. She is a Member of the Committees on Industry, Research and Energy; Economic and Monetary Affairs; Budgets; Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age; and the Pegasus Committee of Inquiry. She has worked on promoting innovation as a driving force of the European Digital Single Market. She has been the draftsperson of legislation on blockchain, big data, fintech, AI, and cybersecurity, EFSI2, InvestEU, and FuelEU Maritime. Prior to being elected as MEP, she was a Member of the Greek Parliament, and before that, she worked as a journalist. She has a BA in Architecture and Civil Engineering, and a Postgraduate degree in European Politics.

Alex VOSS has been a Member of the European Parliament (Germany, EPP) since 2014. He is member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, where he became coordinator for his political group in 2017. He is also the Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand. He was the EP Rapporteur on report of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age and on own-initiative report on civil liability regime for artificial intelligence. His parliamentary focal points include digital and data protection issues. From 2009-2014, he was member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, where he is still a substitute member. From 2012-2014 he was member of the Special Committee on Organised Crime, Corruption and Money Laundering. He was lecturer at the Lecturer in European Affairs at the RheinAhrCampus Remagen, University of Applied Sciences of Koblenz from 2000 to 2009. Lawyer by profession, specialised in European Law and International Relations, he holds law degrees of Universities of Trier, Munich and Freiburg.

Rehana SCHWINNINGER-LADAK is Head of the Unit Interactive technologies, Digital for Culture and Education in the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT), European Commission. The Unit 's mission is three folds : to foster the wider use of extended reality technologies (such as AR,VR and MR) in industrial and societal domains; to support the digital transformation of cultural and education institutions by promoting the digitisation, preservation and reuse of cultural heritage assets and the further development of European as the core of the common European Data space for cultural heritage; to support the modernisation of education and training systems in an age of rapid technological changes. In her previous positions at the European Commission, she held responsibilities for Learning, Multilingualism and Accessibility and on European regulatory framework on audio-visual media and the Commission's strategy on Data. She holds a degree in finance and economics and a master in actuarial science.

Verity McINTOSH is a researcher and Senior Lecturer in Virtual and Extended Realities at the University of the West of England, Bristol. Her research focuses on user experience design, the ethics of presence, and the simulation of risk. She also runs a pioneering industry-led, practice-based masters program in Virtual and Extended Realities, offering students the opportunity to develop their craft as immersive storytellers, and critically engaging with the politics, business and culture of this emerging field. She has written and spoken extensively about immersive tech and the metaverse, including BBC World Service, ITV News and The Sunday Times. She recently co-authored an influential report 'Safeguarding the metaverse' which has been discussed in the UK's House of Commons and House of Lords. She is currently supporting policy makers developing the UK's forthcoming Online Safety Bill. She is a member of the Digital Cultures Research Centre, a globally recognised centre for excellence in immersive media research, with a particular focus on the ethics of emerging technologies and societal impact.

Yuval ROOZ is Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Digital Asset. Under his leadership, Digital Asset has grown from a fledgling start up to a leading enterprise blockchain company whose technology is used by top institutions and market infrastructures around the globe. Digital Asset's customer base includes organizations across financial services, healthcare and insurance, such as the Australian Securities Exchange, BNP Paribas, Broadridge, Change Healthcare, and Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Global Blockchain Business Council, a leading global industry association for the blockchain technology ecosystem. Previously, he managed an algorithmic trading desk at DRW Trading and he launched DRW Venture Capital as a member of the firm's investment team. He also worked as a developer at Citadel. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of- Technology.

Frank STEINICKE is Professor in Human-Computer Interaction at the Department of Informatics of the Universität Hamburg. His research is driven by understanding the human perceptual, cognitive and motor abilities and limitations in order to reform the interaction as well as the experience in computer-mediated realities. He is Chair of the steering committee of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Symposium on Spatial User Interaction (SUI), and member of the steering committee of Global Issues Special Interest Group on virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Furthermore, he is a member of the editorial boards of Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG) as well as Frontiers Section on Virtual Reality and Human Behaviour. He published about 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications and served as program chair for several XR and HCI-related conferences. He has a PhD and the Venia Legendi in 2010, both in Computer Science, from the University of Münster.