



**EuDA
2023**

**Annual General Meeting
Conference Programme**
Tuesday 21 November 2023
Stanhope Hotel Brussels

“Blue Economic Actors and Assets, Critical to deliver Europe’s Open Strategic Autonomy”



30th Anniversary

Keynote Addresses

starting at 10.00



AGM Conference

“Blue Economic Actors and Assets, Critical to deliver Europe’s Open Strategic Autonomy”

until 12.00



AGM Networking

Cocktail & Lunch

from 12.00 to 14.00



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Following the global confinement due to the COVID pandemic and subsequently the war in Ukraine, Europe faced in a three-year period major disruptions of its supply chains and realised that many sectors of its economy, including the strategic ones, were too dependent on only few supplying nations, which do not necessarily share Europe’s core values.

To enable its economic growth, Europe needs to safeguard its supply chains, in particular, its most strategic transport assets and accesses to resources, and to further expand its geopolitical diversification. Within the strategic assets and cornerstones of Europe’s global supply chain, waterborne transport infrastructures play a critical role. This was widely and repeatedly recognised during the recent crises. Therefore, with its **Open Global Gateway**, Europe intends to reinvigorate and secure its main multimodal trade routes, hubs and flows.

Europe still has a global competitive advantage in building, operating and maintaining waterborne transport infrastructures. However, over the past decade, this European leadership has been progressively weakened and is now even under threat by the relentless and determined use of unfair trade practices. Non-EU State-owned Enterprises (non-EU SoEs) are the spearheading instruments used by some nations to fulfil their economic and geopolitical ambitions. This ‘aggressive’ use of economic power and resources to deliberately weaken and progressively eliminate competition in targeted markets is also known as **hybrid warfare**. When the stage of economic dependence is reached, the home country’s influence is significantly increased in the area.

In 2019, Europe realised that its relationship with China was multifaceted:

“China is, simultaneously, in different policy areas, a cooperation partner [...], a negotiating partner [...], an economic competitor [...], and a systemic rival [...].”

The tools and modalities of EU engagement with China should also be differentiated [...].”

When addressing unfair trade practices, there is no silver bullet and the only effective approach is through a **strategic toolbox of “differentiated” but complementary trade instruments**. Since 2019, Europe has built new legislative instruments and equipped itself with trade tools to defend its internal market and its industries against the toxic effects of these practices.

During our 2023 Annual Conference, representatives from the European Commission, Academia and Industry will present their views on these multipronged threats to Europe as well as the corresponding initiatives to adequately counter them: hybrid warfare, Foreign Subsidies Regulation and the Open Global Gateway. They will exchange their views on their respective strategies and the way to fill the remaining gaps. The floor will then be opened for meaningful exchanges with the audience.



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Conference Moderation

Ms Eleonora Catella

Short introduction of the conference theme and speakers.

Conference Opening

⇒ Opening Keynote on
Trade Aspects of Europe’s Open Strategic Autonomy,

Mr Denis Redonnet

*European Commission Deputy Director General for Trade,
European Chief Trade Enforcement Officer*

New Forms of Competition Distortions

⇒ Presentation on
Concept of Hybrid Warfare

Prof. Dr Cind Du Bois

Royal Belgian Military Academy, Head of the Chair of Economics

EU Policy Instruments

⇒ Presentation on
EU Strategy on Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR)

Ms Silvia Selandari

European Dredging Association

⇒ Presentation on
EU’s Global Gateway

Mr Lénaïc Georgelin

*European Commission, DG INTPA Sustainable Transport and Urban
Development*



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Feedback from the Field

- ⇒ Presentation on
European Dredgers’ Challenges Inside and Outside Europe
Mr Paris Sansoglou
EuDA, Secretary General

Way Forward

- ⇒ Closing Keynote on
Way Forward for the Construction Contractors
Mr Karel De Gucht
Former European Commissioner for Trade

Open Floor Discussion



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Conference Moderator



Eleonora Catella

Business Europe

Eleonora Catella joined the International Relations Department of BusinessEurope in September 2012. She is in charge of relations between the EU and the United States, Canada, Latin America and Southeast Asia. Her responsibilities also include trade policy instruments such as anti-dumping and safeguards.

Before joining BusinessEurope, she was a case handler of anti-dumping investigations in DG Trade at the European Commission (2009-2012), worked on a project on inter-parliamentary communications at the European Parliament (2007-2008) and on trade policy at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2005).

She graduated in 2006 from the College of Europe with a Master’s of Arts in European Political and Administrative Studies and from the University of Roma Tre in 2004 with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science, major in International Relations.

Eleonora is Italian and speaks English, French and Spanish fluently.



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Speaker



Denis Redonnet

**European Commission’s Deputy Director General for Trade
European Chief Trade Enforcement Officer**

Denis Redonnet is an economist by training and started his career as a corporate banker for a French bank in the city of London.

Since 1995 he has been a career European Commission official, having held positions in the monetary, international economic affairs and internal market directorate generals of the EU Executive.

He served as advisor to EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and a Deputy chief of staff to EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson.

Afterwards he headed the WTO division and then the Strategy division in the Directorate General for Trade in the European Commission.

Between 2015 and 2020 he acted as Director for "WTO, Legal Affairs and Trade in Goods" in the Directorate General for Trade in the European Commission.

In July 2020 he was appointed Deputy Director General and Chief Trade Enforcement Officer in the Directorate General for Trade in the European Commission.



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Speaker



Dr Cind du Bois
Professor at the Royal Belgian Military Academy,
Head of the Chair of Economics

Cind du Bois obtained a Master in Applied Economic Sciences from the University of Antwerp, a PhD in Applied Economic Sciences from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), a CE on Terrorism and Radicalisation from University of Liège and a Master in Political Sciences from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

Cind is now full Professor at the Royal Belgian Military Academy (RMA) where she is Professor of Economics, Vice-President Faculty Social and Military Sciences (SSMW) and President Commission Education and Pedagogy. As Head of the Chair of Economics at RMA, she leads research on subjects relating to Economic Security, Economic Statecraft, Defence Economics and Political Economy.

Cind is a Member of the Scientific Committee of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence. Additionally, she is a Visiting Professor at the (VUB) and at the Modul University Vienna. She is Associate Researcher at Itinera and Expert at the Hybrid Center of Excellence (Hybrid CoE).



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Silvia Selandari

Director for Trade Affairs
European Dredging Association (EuDA)

Silvia Selandari joined the secretariat of the European Dredging Association as Director for Trade Affairs in May 2022. She is in charge of Trade Affairs, including the Foreign Subsidies Regulation.

She has over 10 years’ experience in European affairs, working for trade associations (Orgalim and KellenEurope), the European Commission (DG CONNECT) and an NGO (Oceana). She was previously Senior Trade and Legal adviser at Orgalim (Association of Europe’s Technology Industries).

Silvia is a trained lawyer. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Law from Padua University and Master of Laws (LLM in European Law) from *Institut d’Études Européennes* (ULB). Silvia is also a qualified barrister (Madrid).

Silvia is Italian and speaks English, French and Spanish fluently.



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Lénaïc Georgelin

*European Commission, DG INTPA Policy Officer
Sustainable Transport and Urban Development*

Lénaïc GEORGELIN is Team leader for Sustainable Transport at the European Commission’s Directorate General for International Partnership (INTPA) since 2023.

He was Head of Infrastructure & Environment at the Delegation of the European Union in Senegal between 2020 and 2022 and held similar post in Rwanda (2016-2020), Togo (2013-2016) and in the South Pacific (2008-2011). He also worked as Programme Manager on energy issues at the European Commission’s Directorate General for Research & Innovation (2011-2013) and for the ACP-EU Water & Energy Facilities at the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (2006-2008).

Prior to the European institutions, he worked as manufacturing manager in the automotive industry. He holds a Msc in Mechanical Engineering.



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Paris Sansoglou

**Secretary General
European Dredging Association**

Paris Sansoglou holds a degree of Commercial Engineer from the Solvay Business School (ULB) that he has complemented with degrees in Environmental Studies (ULB), Business Informatics (VUB) and Financial Analysis (CIAF).

His professional experience is varied and includes research (in ULB on sustainable development), statistics (Business Statistics for Eurostat), knowledge management, economic, environmental & financial consulting activities (for Ernst & Young). He has spent most of his career on the ‘European’ scene working in the European Commission (Eurostat) and in trade associations (representing successively the European manufacturers of synthetic fibres, the European shipyards and now the European dredgers).

Paris developed his strong kinship with maritime policies and technologies since he joined the Community of European Shipyards’ Associations and he now pursues his passion for the sea and related issues with the European Dredging Association (EuDA). He has been managing maritime strategic activities covering research projects (incl. H2020 ThinkNature), trade issues, social aspects, technical and environmental issues, statistics, market monitoring.

Paris joined the European Dredging Association (EuDA) in April 2009 as Secretary General and has been part of various European teams advocating and actively working towards improving market access worldwide, global level playing field and sustainability. As EuDA representative, he has been promoting sustainable approaches like Building with Nature and was involved in the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance (advising on the implementation of the Green Taxonomy).



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Karel De Gucht
Former European Commissioner for Trade
Belgian Minister of State
President of the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije
Universiteit Brussel

Karel De Gucht holds a Master of Laws from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). He is a prominent figure in European, Belgian and Flemish politics where he has spent most of his career: Member of the European Parliament (1980 – 1994), Belgian Senator (1994-1995), Member of the Flemish Parliament (1995-2003), Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004-2009), Mayor of the commune of Berlare (2006-2012), Belgian Vice Prime Minister (2008-2009), European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid (2009-2010), European Commissioner for Trade (2010-2014). He was president of the Flemish Liberals and Democrats (1999-2004). As European Commissioner for Trade, Karel De Gucht negotiated, concluded and managed several European free trade and investment agreements with key partner countries, including South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Japan, Canada as well as the Economic Partnership Agreements with Africa. He also negotiated for four years with the US on the TTIP Agreement which didn't result in an agreement.

Karel De Gucht is a Belgian Minister of State and President of the Institute for European Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), where he teaches EU External Relations Law. He was a Spring Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School in 2015.

Karel De Gucht is also a director at ArcelorMittal, serving on the audit and risk committee; a member to the advisory board of CVC Capital Partners; and a member of the Proximus board of directors where he serves on the transformation and innovation committee.



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ABOUT EuDA

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2023, the European Dredging Association (“EuDA”) was founded in 1993 as a non-profit industry organisation for European dredging companies and related organisations to interface with the various European Union’s (“EU”) Institutions and also some International Organizations (such as IMO, HELCOM, OECD or ILO). EuDA members employ approximately 25,000 European employees directly “on land and on board of the ships” and more than 48,300 people indirectly (through the suppliers and services companies). The combined fleet of EuDA’s members counts approximately 750 seaworthy EU-flagged ships.

Dredging activities are not well known by the wider public, but as a matter of fact, the European dredging companies, members of EuDA, are world market leaders with about 80% share of the worldwide open dredging market and a turnover of 10.6 bn Euro in 2022. Although 70% of operations take place outside Europe, 90% of the returns flow back to Europe.

The Association assists its members with all kinds of requests related to dredging issues, presently strongly focusing on Social, Environmental, Technical, Tax and Trade issues. These issues are coordinated by the Secretariat and executed by its specialised working groups composed of experts from the member companies.

EuDA has registered as Interest Representative Nr. 2492574893-58 under the EU transparency register. The Association will pursue its goals by endorsing policies to create fair and equitable conditions for competition; commits to respecting applicable national, European and international rules and regulations; commits to operating its fleet safely, effectively and responsibly.