



# **EuDA** | **Annual General Meeting** **2019** | **Conference Programme** Thursday 14 November 2019 Stanhope Hotel Brussels

*“Sustainable Public Procurement  
of Waterborne Infrastructures”*

## **Conference Moderator**

**Paris Sansoglou**  
European Dredging Association  
Secretary General

## **Speakers**

**Anna Lupi**  
European Commission – DG GROW  
Policy Officer in Public Procurement Strategy Unit  
*European Commission’s Strategy for Sustainable Public Procurement*

**Oshani Perera**  
International Institute for Sustainable Development  
Director, Public Procurement and Infrastructure Finance Programme  
*IISD’s Strategy for Sustainable Public Procurement*

**Maarten Neelis**  
Rijkswaterstaat (The Netherlands)  
Directeur Markt in Transitie  
*Dutch Strategy for Sustainable Public Procurement*

## **Closing Address Keynote Speaker**

**Karel De Gucht**  
Former European Commissioner for Trade  
Belgian Minister of State and  
President of the VUB Institute for European Studies  
*Call for Action*





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## *“Sustainable Public Procurement of Waterborne Infrastructures”*

Public procurement is the process by which public authorities, national, regional and local, purchase from companies work, goods or services at all stages of a project. In total, public procurement accounts for 15-20% of global GDP and represents a substantial portion of the EU economy and of many other economies around the world.

Transport infrastructures, including waterborne infrastructures represent a significant portion of public procurement. The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), for instance, which is a key EU funding instrument for investing in infrastructures, has allocated €23.7 billion out of €30.4 billion for Transport infrastructures.

Progressively, in addition to the primary function to be procured, public authorities introduce in their public tenders specific requirements that aim at reducing environmental impact throughout the life-cycle of their procured goods, services and works. This process can be qualified as Sustainable Public Procurement, when additionally to purchasing work, goods or services, it also seeks to achieve the appropriate balance between the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental).

Moreover, a key dimension in this approach is the sustainable financing of the public authority, which, if overlooked, opens the gates to a debt trap. There is more and more evidence that the unfair tied financing practices by State-owned Enterprises (SoEs) from third countries are closing down dredging markets around the world, closer and closer to Europe. In Europe, non-EU heavily subsidised SoEs have unchallenged access to European public procurement markets.

Well-designed requirements for Sustainable Public Procurement provide opportunities to effectively improve the level playing field inside and outside Europe as well as focus on the quality of the infrastructures, long-term value for money and lifecycle costs (rather than price only). With their long-term investment in technology and novel approaches, such as Building with Nature, European Dredgers can provide significant added value to the European and Global economy, ecology and society when executing waterborne infrastructure projects and would like to jointly reflect on how to possibly shape requirements on sustainability in public tenders to provide a better level playing field and long-term added value.

Speakers from the European Commission, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Dutch administration will share their respective strategies on sustainable public procurement from the policy, funding and implementation points of view. Karel De Gucht will give a closing keynote address that will open the floor for discussions.





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## **Conference Moderator**



**Paris Sansoglou**

**European Dredging Association  
Secretary General**

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 now he 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 (coordinator in FP5 & FP6 and partner in 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 market access worldwide and global level playing field. Moreover, as EuDA representative, he is also promoting sustainable approaches like Building with Nature and co-wrote two EuDA papers on Blue Carbon opportunities and strategies for the European Dredgers.





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## **Speaker**



**Anna Lupi**  
**European Commission – DG GROW**  
**Policy Officer in Public Procurement Strategy Unit**

European Commission’s Strategy  
for Sustainable Public Procurement

Ms Anna Lupi holds a law degree from the University of Pisa and an LL.M. in Public International Law from the George Washington University.

She has been working for nearly 5 years on public procurement law and policy in the Directorate General on Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). She is in charge of the Commission’s policy on socially responsible public procurement, coordinating awareness-raising initiatives and support tools for public buyers for the integration of social considerations in public tenders.

She has also dealt with several EU Member States as a desk officer. Prior to joining the Commission, she worked in Brussels on issues related to the EU internal market and to fundamental rights.



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## **Speaker**



**Oshani Perera**  
**International Institute for Sustainable Development**  
**Director, Public Procurement**  
**and Infrastructure Finance Programme**  
IISD's Strategy  
for Sustainable Public Procurement

Oshani Perera holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in business administration from Cornell University, United States, and the University of St Gallen, Switzerland. She also holds a Master of Science (MSc) in natural resource management from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, as well as an MSc in environment technology from the Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine, United Kingdom. She is an Associate of Trinity College London in Music and Drama.

Oshani Perera leads the work of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on public procurement and infrastructure finance. She advises policymakers on planning, procuring and financing sustainable infrastructure. She also works with them to develop innovative solutions to share risks between public and private counterparts. She serves on the OECD Expert Groups on Public Procurement, Green Finance and Long-Term Finance, and on the B20 Task Force on Infrastructure Finance.

Oshani also works on expanding the use and scope of the Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi) tool developed by IISD and the MAVA Foundation.

Before joining IISD, Oshani worked with McKinsey & Company on foreign direct investment and with KMPG Sustainability Services on sustainability reporting and the advancement of corporate social responsibility.





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## **Speaker**



**Maarten Neelis**  
**Rijkswaterstaat (The Netherlands)**  
**Director Market in Transition**  
*Dutch Strategy  
for Sustainable Public Procurement*

Maarten Neelis holds a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Delft University of Technology and a PhD in Sustainable Development from Utrecht University. He has spent over a decade of his career at Ecofys (now Navigant consulting). At Ecofys, he supported various trade organisations with their energy and climate strategies. He advised the European Commission on the benchmark-based allocation of emission allowances in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. He also had several management roles, including leading Ecofys' China office for two years and managing the international Industrial Processes and Market Based Mechanisms units.

Early 2018 he moved to Rijkswaterstaat, the part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management responsible for the design, construction, management and maintenance of the main infrastructure facilities in the Netherlands. In his role as Principal Sustainability Advisor, he advised the board of directors on strategic decisions in the field of sustainable development.

Since September 2019, he is Director for Market in Transition. In this role, he coordinates and drives Rijkswaterstaat's efforts in the transition to a vital market situation where Rijkswaterstaat, together with a healthy civil engineering and wider infra sector, continues to be able to meet societal needs. Proudly working towards a safe, liveable and accessible Netherlands for this as well as for future generations.





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## **Keynote Speaker**



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

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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