

# The **#EUROat20**

## An extraordinary journey

**3 December 2018**

Solvay Library  
Brussels



YEARS



EUROPEAN UNION

# Introduction



## **Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis**

*“Despite its young age, the euro is already a successful and strong currency. It was born 20 years ago as a symbol of European unity and stability. Today it brings tangible benefits for people, businesses and countries by replacing 19 different currencies with one. Like many things in Europe, it developed and grew stronger by taking gradual steps over the years. The euro is stronger today than ever before, yet we have to press ahead with our work to strengthen Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union even further.”*



## **Commissioner Pierre Moscovici**

*“It is hard to believe that two decades have passed since eleven European countries took the momentous step of merging their currencies. Today, those eleven have become nineteen and more EU Member States are knocking at the door of the euro area. A generation of young people has come of age knowing only the euro as their currency – and three quarters of citizens in euro area countries today support it! We have emerged undeniably stronger from the economic and financial crisis. Yet we have much work still to do to make our Economic and Monetary Union truly resilient and able to generate lasting prosperity for our citizens.”*

# Programme

8:45-9:30 Registration and welcome coffee

9:30-9:45 **The passion trap**

**TED-talk style opening remarks by Beppe Severgnini,**  
Columnist, Corriere della Sera

9:45-10:45 **The first 20 years of the euro:  
an extraordinary journey**

Talk show with Viktoria Dendrinou (Bloomberg)  
interviewing:

**Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President, European Commission  
**Jean-Claude Trichet**, Former President, European Central Bank  
**Danièle Nouy**, Chair, Supervisory Board, SSM, European Central Bank  
**Charles Grant**, Director, Centre for European Reform and  
biographer of Jacques Delors

Questions from the audience

10:45-11:15 **Coffee break**

11:15-12:15 **The future of the euro:  
an exciting prospect**

Talk show with Sasha Vakulina (Euronews)  
interviewing:

**Pierre Moscovici**, Commissioner, European Commission  
**Nadia Calviño**, Minister of Economy and Business, Spain  
**Eva Maydell**, Member of the European Parliament  
**Philipp Kreibohm**, Founder and Co-CEO, home24

Questions from the audience

12:15 **Celebratory buffet lunch**

# The passion trap

## TED-talk style remarks

Columnist,  
Corriere della Sera  
@beppevergnini



## Beppe Severgnini

Beppe Severgnini is the editor-in-chief of *Corriere della Sera's* weekly magazine *7*, a columnist, and the author of seventeen books, including the American bestsellers *Ciao, America! An Italian Discovers the U.S.* and *La Bella Figura: A Field Guide to the Italian Mind*. His most recent book is *Italiani si rimane* (2018), a memoir.

He became a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times* in 2013. His writing has appeared in *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*, where he was the Italy correspondent from 1996 to 2003.

He studied law at the University of Pavia. As a foreign correspondent, he was posted in London, Moscow and Washington; he also covered Eastern Europe, China and the Middle East. He teaches at the School of Journalism of the University of Milan, and he has been a research fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an Isaiah Berlin visiting scholar at Oxford University and a visiting fellow at Ca' Foscari University in Venice.

In 2001, Mr. Severgnini was made an Officer of Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, and in 2011 the president of Italy conferred on him the title of *Commendatore* in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. In 2004, he was voted "European Journalist of the Year" by the readers of the *European Voice*.

# The first 20 years of the euro: an extraordinary journey



Reporter,  
Bloomberg News  
@v\_dendrinou

Talk show with

Viktoria Dendrinou

Viktoria Dendrinou is a government reporter for Bloomberg News in Brussels. She covers EU affairs and specialises in economic issues and the euro area. Previously, she worked for *The Wall Street Journal* as an EU correspondent focusing on the economy, financial regulation and trade. Before moving to Brussels, she spent two years at Reuters Breakingviews in London and was a Nico Colchester Fellow at *The Economist*.

She holds a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University and an MSc in Economics from University College London.



Vice-President,  
European  
Commission  
@VDombrovskis

## Valdis Dombrovskis

Valdis Dombrovskis has been Vice-President of the European Commission for the Euro and Social Dialogue, also in charge of Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union since November 2014.

Before joining the Commission, Mr. Dombrovskis was a Latvian MP and MEP, and served three consecutive terms as Prime Minister of Latvia (from February 2009 until the end of 2013), making him the longest-serving elected head of government in Latvia's history.

He has also been a senior economist and Chief Economist at the bank of Latvia (1998-2002), Minister of Finance (2002-2004), Observer at the Council of the European Union (2003-2004) and a Member of the European Parliament (2004-2009).

Born in 1971, Mr. Dombrovskis graduated with a degree in physics from the University of Latvia (1993) and economics from Riga University of Technology (1995). He received his master's degree in physics in 1995 from the University of Latvia.

He is the author of several books and scientific publications. In November 2014, Valdis Dombrovskis was awarded the Order of the Three Stars (*Triju Zvaigžņu ordenis*), the highest State Decoration of the Republic of Latvia.



Former  
President,  
European  
Central Bank

## Jean-Claude Trichet

Jean-Claude Trichet is currently Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bruegel Institute (Brussels) and European Chairman of The Trilateral Commission. He is a member of the Eminent Persons Group on Global Financial Governance (EPG) set up in 2017 by the G20 Finance Ministers and Governors.

He is a member of the Institut de France (Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques) and honorary chairman of the Group of Thirty (Washington).

Jean-Claude Trichet was President of the European Central Bank (2003-2011). Prior to that, he was Governor of Banque de France (1993-2003) and Undersecretary of the French Treasury (1987-1993). He was President of the Paris Club on debt rescheduling (1985-1993), President of the European Monetary Committee (1992-1993), President of the Group of 10 Central Banks Governors and President of the Global economy meeting in Basel (2002-2011).

Jean-Claude Trichet is an honorary Inspecteur général des Finances and Ingénieur civil des Mines. He is a graduate of the Institut d'études politiques de Paris, of the Université de Paris (in economics) and of the École Nationale d'Administration. Jean-Claude Trichet has been awarded honorary doctorates by several universities.

He was named "Person of the Year" by *The Financial Times* in 2007 and n° 5 of the "World Most Powerful" in the *Newsweek* list (2008).



Chair, Supervisory Board, Single Supervisory Mechanism, European Central Bank

## Danièle Nouy

Danièle Nouy joined the European Central Bank in January 2014 as Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Single Supervisory Mechanism, following a 40-year career in banking supervision.

She began her career as a Supervisor at the Banque de France. During the early years of her career, she was posted to the United States as the Banque de France representative in New York. She returned to her supervisory roots to head the research department and policy group in 1987 and was appointed Director of financial supervision in 1990. In 1993 she became the French member of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. She then served as Deputy Secretary-General of the Basel Committee from 1996 to 1998. She was appointed Secretary-General of the Basel Committee in 1998, a position which she held until 2003.

Returning to France, she became the head of the French supervisory authority, which she held for the next 10 years: first as Secretary-General of the Commission bancaire and, following its merger with the insurance supervisor, as Secretary-General of the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution.

Danièle Nouy holds a degree in Political Science and Public Administration from the Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris, and a postgraduate certificate in Law. She is also the author of numerous papers on international and European financial supervision and regulation.



Director, Centre for European Reform and biographer of Jacques Delors @CER\_Grant

## Charles Grant

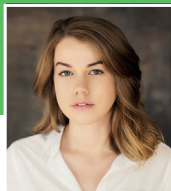
Charles Grant CMG is director of the Centre for European Reform (CER). He works on European Union, foreign and defence policy, Russia, China, the euro and Britain's relationship with the EU. His biography of Commission President Jacques Delors (*Delors: Inside the House that Jacques Built*) was published by Nicolas Brealey in 1994, and he is the author of many CER publications.

Mr. Grant is a member of the international advisory boards of the Moscow School of Civic Education, the Turkish think-tank EDAM and the French think-tank Terra Nova. He is also a member of the council of the Ditchley Foundation, and chairman of the Foundation's programme committee.

He is a regular contributor to *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* international edition and many other publications.

In 2004, he became a chevalier of France's Ordre National du Mérite, and in 2013, a Companion of St Michael and St George (CMG) "for services to European and wider international policy-making". In 2015, he was awarded the *Bene Merito* medal by the Polish government and the Star of Italy medal by the Italian government.

# The future of the euro: an exciting prospect



Business Editor,  
Euronews  
[@sashavakulina](#)

## Talk show with Sasha Vakulina

Sasha Vakulina is Euronews' Business Editor, in charge of the channel's overall global business affairs coverage as well as the channel's representative to various world business events.

She is a daily contributor to Euronews' live news programmes, providing analysis and insight into the world's major headline stories and global business trends.

She also covers a variety of global political and business events on a regular basis, such as the World Economic Forum in Davos or the World Mobile Congress in Barcelona, and she regularly interviews business and world affairs personalities.

She moderates and presents regularly a variety of world business conferences.





Commissioner,  
European  
Commission  
@pierremoscovici

## Pierre Moscovici

Pierre Moscovici has been European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs since November 2014.

Prior to this, he was France's Minister for Economy and Finance from May 2012 until April 2014. Between 2007 and 2014, he was a member of the French National Assembly from the Doubs constituency, where he was re-elected in 2014. From 1998 to 2004, he was a member of the Franche-Comté Regional Council, and served as Minister-delegate for European Affairs between 1997 and 2002. That same year, he served also as representative of the French authorities at the Convention on the Future of Europe.

Mr. Moscovici was twice Vice-President and member of the European Parliament, in 1994-1997 and 2004-2007. He started his public career in 1984 as a member of the Cour des Comptes, the French Court of Audit.

Born in 1957, Mr. Moscovici holds a master's degree in economics and political science and a postgraduate degree in economics and philosophy. He is also a graduate of the École Nationale d'Administration.



Minister of  
Economy and  
Business, Spain  
@NadiaCalvino

## Nadia Calviño

Nadia Calviño was appointed Minister of Economy and Business of Spain in June 2018.

Between 2014 and 2018, Ms. Calviño was Director-General in the Directorate-General for Budget of the European Commission, the top position of the department dealing with the European Union's financial programming, annual budgets, accounting and financial rules.

Previously Ms. Calviño held two senior management positions in the European Commission: Deputy Director-General with a special responsibility for Financial Regulation; and Deputy Director-General in the Directorate-General for Competition, with a special responsibility for Mergers and Antitrust (including cartels).

Before joining the European Commission in September 2006, she was a career civil servant in Spain (Técnico Comercial y Economista del Estado), where she worked in the Ministry of Economy. She held different management positions in the areas of macroeconomic analysis and forecasting, foreign trade, economic policy and competition. Senior roles included Director-General for Competition, Deputy Director-General for Legal Affairs, and Deputy Director-General for Mergers.

An economist and a lawyer by training, Ms. Calviño has also worked as a teacher of Economic Policy and Financial Systems at Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Her performance has been recognized with different awards: 2012 Women Leader (Aliter Business School), 2007 Public Sector Lawyer of the Year (*Iberian Lawyer* magazine) and the Commendation of the Order of Civil Merit in 2015, awarded by King Felipe VI of Spain.



Member of the  
European Parliament  
@EvaMaydell

## Eva Maydell

Eva Maydell is a Member of the European Parliament and President of European Movement International, the largest organisation of associations and civil societies in Europe. She is a co-founder of Education Bulgaria 2030 and the initiator of #Regulation4Innovation series.

Her work focuses on advancing digital skills creation and the use of innovation and new technology, and supporting entrepreneurs and investment in Europe. In the European Parliament, she is a member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee and the key Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, as well as being widely recognised as an expert on the Digital Single Market. She is the EPP Group's rapporteur on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, New Skills Agenda and the FinTech report.

She has been awarded the European Parliament's MEP of the Year Award twice. She has also been included in *The Financial Times's* "New Europe 100" ranking of emerging changemakers in Central and Eastern Europe, and European *Forbes'* "30 Under 30" list.



Founder and  
Co-CEO, home24  
@PhilippKreibohm

## Philipp Kreibohm

Philipp Kreibohm studied law and completed a doctorate at Freie Universität of Berlin. He later worked at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and the Boston Consulting Group.

In 2007, he was one of the founding directors of Rocket Internet, before founding FP Commerce, now home24 SE in 2009. He focuses on business development, HR and legal affairs.

home24 SE is an online furniture retailer based in Berlin. In May 2015, the company was converted into a public limited company. It also operates in Austria, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland.

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