

Parliamentary Conference on Artificial Intelligence



**UK
Parliament**



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WESTMINSTER PALACE, LONDON

Speakers' and Moderators' Bios



Rt Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP is the 158th Speaker of the House of Commons and has represented Chorley since 1997. He previously served as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Ways and Means from 2010 to 2019. Elected Speaker in November 2019, he pledged impartiality, safety for MPs and staff, and improvements to parliamentary culture. A strong supporter of the Armed Forces, he also prioritises strengthening ties with the Commonwealth and British Overseas Territories. As Speaker, he presides over debates with neutrality, chairs the House of Commons Commission and key committees, and represents the House to the Crown, the Lords and internationally. Born into a political family, he began his public career early, becoming Chorley's youngest councillor at age 22.



The Rt Hon Lord McFall of Alcluith

John McFall was raised in Dumbarton and has lived there all his life. Before his political career, he was a teacher and deputy headteacher for 23 years in the west of Scotland. He was a Labour MP for Dumbarton and West Dumbartonshire between 1987 and 2010. During his time as an MP, he served as a Minister in the Northern Ireland Office and as a Government Whip. He then chaired the Treasury Select Committee between 2001 and 2010.

He entered the House of Lords in 2010 with the title of Lord McFall of Alcluith, and served as Senior Deputy Speaker in the House of Lords between 2016 and 2021. He was elected as Lord Speaker in 2021, and in this role oversees proceedings, chairs the House of Lords Commission, and promotes the House in the UK and abroad.



Theodoros Rousopoulos

Theodoros Rousopoulos has been President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since January 2024. He has also served as Chair of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, as well as Vice-President of the European People's Party in the Assembly. A Greek MP since 2000, he was Minister of State and Government Spokesperson from 2004 to 2008. Before entering politics, he had a 20-year career in journalism, working for major Greek newspapers, radio and television. A pioneer in Greek media, he founded Athens 9.84, Greece's first private radio station, and Mega, its first private television station. He studied journalism, communication, culture, and civilisation, earning a PhD in history from the University of Edinburgh.



Bjørn Berge

Mr. Bjørn Berge has served as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since March 2021.

In this key role, he advises on the Secretary General's reform agenda, helps shape the Programme and Budget, and ensures the Organisation's activities maximize impact in advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. He also oversees staff policy.

Mr. Berge brings over thirty years of international professional experience. Prior to this, he held senior roles within the Council of Europe, including Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers. A former Norwegian diplomat, he was also an International Adviser to the Prime Minister and a speechwriter for three Foreign Ministers. He is a published author and holds an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University.



Michael O'Flaherty

Dr Michael O' Flaherty is Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe since April 2024. An Irish human rights lawyer, he has been Director of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2015-2023), a member of the UN Human Rights Committee (2004-2012), Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (2011-2013), Professor of Human Rights Law at the universities of Nottingham and Galway and held various field and HQ posts with the UN.



Miapetra Kumpula-Natri - Moderator

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, (sd) is member of the Parliament in Finland, first elected 2003. She was elected to the European Parliament as MEP for 2014 - 2024.

In 2024, Kumpula-Natri returned to the Finnish Parliament, where she serves as Vice-chairman of the Grand Committee (EU affairs), Member of the Economic Committee and Head of Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). She serves as Vice Chair of the PACE.

Kumpula-Natri is public figure to discuss AI and new technologies and regulation. In the European Parliament she was rapporteur or shadow rapporteur on many acts and strategies on digitalization, like Roaming, network regulation, AI Act, Data Act and Data government act.



Mario Hernandez Ramos

Mario Hernández Ramos is a Professor of Constitutional Law at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). He obtained his PhD with Extraordinary Doctorate Award and Doctor Europeus Mention.

Between 2018 and 2021 he worked as a legal advisor at the Ministry of Justice of the Government of Spain in the Cabinet of the Minister, in the Secretariat of State, and in the Directorate General of International Legal Cooperation and Human Rights.

Since its creation in 2019, he has been the head of the Spanish delegation of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence of the Council of Europe, where he has coordinated several working groups on Artificial Intelligence, human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. On 18 September 2024 he was elected Chair of the Committee.



Petri Honkonen

Petri Honkonen is Finnish MP (Centre Party) since 19 April 2015. He served as Minister of Science and Culture in Sanna Marin's government from April 2022 to June 2023. Mr Honkonen serving as Vice-Chair of Centre Party from September 2019 to June 2024.

Mr Honkonen represents Finland in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) since 2015. He is Member of the PACE Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons and Full Member on the PACE Committee on the Honouring of Obligations and Commitments by Member States of the Council of Europe (Monitoring Committee). Full Member on the PACE Sub-Committee on Refugee and Migrant Children and Young People and Full Member on the PACE Sub-Committee on Diasporas and Integration.



Lord Murray of Blidworth

Lord Murray was made a life peer in October 2022 and sits on the Conservative benches in the House of Lords. A barrister called to the Bar in 2000, he practises public law at 39 Essex Chambers and has served on the Attorney General's Panels of Counsel. He was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, focusing on migration and borders policy. Lord Murray is currently a member of the Joint Committee on Human Rights.



Prof. Joanna Bryson

Joanna Bryson is Professor of Ethics and Technology at the Hertie School, specializing in technology's impact on human cooperation and AI/ICT governance. She previously taught at the University of Bath and has been affiliated with Harvard, Oxford, Mannheim, and Princeton. Her PhD research on anthropomorphized AI led to her 1998 publication "Just Another Artifact." In 2010, she co-authored the UK's first national AI ethics policy, the Principles of Robotics. Bryson holds degrees in psychology and AI from the University of Chicago, Edinburgh, and MIT. Since 2020, she has been one of nine experts representing Germany in the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence. Her recent work includes the paper "*Polarization under rising inequality and economic decline.*"



Thomas Metzinger

[Thomas Metzinger](#) was Full Professor of Theoretical Philosophy at the Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz until 2019. He is past president of the German Cognitive Science Society (2005-2007) and of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (2009-2011). From 2014 to 2019 he was a Fellow at the [Gutenberg Research College](#); from 2019 to 2021 he was awarded a [Senior-Forschungsprofessur](#) by the Ministry of Science, Education and Culture. From 2018 to 2020 Metzinger worked as a member of the [European Commission's High-Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence](#). In 2021 he was awarded the [Pufendorf-Medal](#), in 2022 he was elected into the [German National Academy of Science](#).



Deborah Bergamini - Moderator

Deborah Bergamini is an Italian deputy for Forza Italia, elected in 2008. She serves on the Foreign Affairs Committee, is Vice-President of the Italian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Vice-President of the EPP Group. She also holds roles as Deputy Secretary of Forza Italia and Vice-President of the International Democracy Union. In the XVIII Legislature, she was Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in the Draghi Government. Her background includes leadership in the Transport Committee, extensive work in communications, foreign policy, and international cooperation. A professional journalist, she held senior posts at RAI and Il Riformista, and studied Foreign Languages at the University of Florence, with a Yale negotiation diploma.



Nusrat Ghani

Nusrat Ghani, Conservative MP for Sussex Weald, made history in 2015 as the party's first female Muslim MP. In 2024, she became the second woman elected Chairman of Ways and Means and the first person of colour to serve as Deputy Speaker. She migrated to the UK with her family and became the first girl in her family to attend school and later university. Before entering Parliament, she worked across the private and public sectors, including the BBC World Service. As an MP and Minister, she has led work on national security, Europe, industry, and critical minerals, and has championed inquiries on antisemitism, child abuse, extremism, and Uyghur forced labour. She is uniquely sanctioned by both China and Russia for her advocacy.



Daniel Milewski

Daniel Milewski is a Member of Parliament in Poland, first elected in 2015, where he sits on the Committee on Digitization, Innovation and New Technologies, and on the Legislative Committee. PACE member since 2016 (Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, and Sub-Committee on AI and Human Rights), where he is currently preparing a report on the Use of AI by parliaments: risks and opportunities. Daniel Milewski holds a PhD in law and a master's degree in economics. He is also an academic teacher and a vice-rector of the Warsaw University of Economics (WUE).



Marco Camisani-Calzolari

Marco Camisani-Calzolari is an Adjunct Professor of Cyber-Humanism at San Raffaele University in Milan and an expert for Italy's Department for Digital Transformation and the National Cybersecurity Agency (ACN). Renowned for his work on digital ethics, AI governance, and emerging tech, he contributed to Italy's AI law and collaborated with the European GPAI Task Force. He advises governments and European institutions on digital transformation and cybersecurity. A media science communicator, he promotes digital literacy on Italian TV. Founder of EthicsProfile.ai, he helps define ethical values for AI. Honoured as Knight of the Italian Republic and other distinctions, he now resides in the U.S. after receiving an EB-1 visa for his contributions to academia, policy, and science communication.



Laura Lazaro Cabrera

Laura Lazaro Cabrera is the Counsel and founding Programme Director for Equity and Data at the Centre for Democracy and Technology Europe. She leads the organisation's work in promoting fundamental rights in artificial intelligence policy and regulation and has closely worked on the implementation of the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act. Laura previously served as a senior legal officer at Privacy International, where she researched data-intensive technologies deployed in the public sector and led interventions before the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Prior to joining the digital rights field, Laura worked in claimant-side strategic human rights litigation globally. Laura was called to the Bar in London and holds undergraduate and master's degrees in law from King's College London.



Dan Aldridge - Moderator

Dan Aldridge MP is the Labour Member of Parliament for Weston-super-Mare, elected in 2024 as the constituency's first Labour representative. Before entering Parliament, he served as Head of Policy at BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, where he worked to strengthen the UK's digital and cyber policy landscape. In Westminster, he sits on the Business and Trade Select Committee, scrutinising government policy on areas such as workers' rights, economic security, small business support and international trade. He also chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Groups on Digital Inclusion and Cyber Innovation, leading cross-party efforts to promote accessible technology and the responsible use of AI to improve digital participation and drive innovation.



Maria Nefeli Chatziioannidou

Maria Nefeli Chatziioannidou is a social entrepreneur and the youngest female Member of the Hellenic Parliament, as well as the youngest member of Greece's delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She serves as Secretary of the Hellenic Parliament, Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, and is involved in committees on Equality, Youth, Human Rights, and Disability Issues. Educated at Bocconi University, she holds a Master's in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship and completed a Cambridge executive course. At 21, she founded Code it Like a Girl and the non-profit Great Women, which has over 200,000 members. Her work has earned her awards including the Greek International Women Award and recognition as a top European young leader.



Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE

A Member of the House of Lords since 2013, Lord Holmes of Richmond focuses on how digital technologies, especially AI and blockchain, can serve the public good, with applications in FinTech, GovTech, RegTech, Assistive Tech and EdTech. He writes regularly on these topics for outlets such as Computer Weekly and Finextra. His parliamentary work also covers social mobility, employment, education, skills, and culture. A strong advocate for diversity and inclusion, he has advised the government on improving access to public appointments and conducted an independent review for the Cabinet Office. Technology and inclusion underpin all his work, guiding his approach across public and private sectors.



Federica Onori

Federica Onori is an Italian MP, elected to the Chamber of Deputies in October 2022. She serves as Secretary of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a member of the Italian delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, where she also holds the role of Vice-Chair of the Young Parliamentarians Network. In September 2025, she was appointed OSCE PA Special Representative on Artificial Intelligence. She is also active in international initiatives, including the IMF–World Bank Global Young MP Initiative and the UNITE Parliamentary Network for Global Health. She holds a PhD in Statistics from Sapienza University of Rome and previously worked as a statistical assistant at the European Commission.



Vinous Ali

Vinous is Deputy Executive Director at Startup Coalition, the policy voice for the UK startup ecosystem. Vinous previously worked at trade association techUK and built out the technology practice and international practice at policy and research consultancy Public First. Vinous started her career in politics working both at the national and EU level.



Martin Wrigley

Martin Wrigley MP grew up in a Royal Navy family, living in Bath, Nova Scotia and Tehran during his father’s service. After an Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree from Birmingham University, he worked in telecoms and software engineering, including roles at GEC Telecomms and IPL Bath. He then spent 20 years at Orange, progressing from network-software development to director-level roles in global technology, innovation, and app-testing programmes, including a secondment in Silicon Valley. From 2012 he ran his own consultancy, supporting tech organisations, standards bodies, and government departments, and served on Ofcom’s Phone-Paid Services Authority Tribunal. He also led digital archiving initiatives. A councillor from 2015–2024, he became MP for Newton Abbot in July 2024 and sits on the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee.



The Rt Hon Lord Jones of Penybont

Lord Carwyn Jones, former First Minister of Wales (2009-2018), represented Bridgend for 22 years, including 18 in government. He left the Welsh Parliament in 2021. Prior to politics, he practised at the Bar for ten years and was a Professional Tutor at Cardiff University. Currently, he is a Professor at Aberystwyth University specialising in constitutional law and a Bencher at Gray's Inn. Since leaving politics, he has been involved in broadcasting, business consultancy, presentation skills training, and charity work. His autobiography was published in 2020. In January 2025, he was appointed to the House of Lords as Lord Jones of Penybont.



Szymon Hołownia

Before entering politics, Szymon Hołownia was a journalist, columnist, writer, television presenter, and social activist. From 1997 to 2019 he published in daily newspapers and weekly magazines, worked with radio stations and the most-watched television stations. He authored numerous articles and dozens of books on social and religious issues, along with hundreds of broadcasts. He received awards such as the Grand Press, Trace Award, MediaTory and TV Audience Victor. He founded the Kasisi and Good Factory Foundations, supporting communities in Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 2020, he finished third in the presidential race and founded the political party Szymon Hołownia's Poland 2050. In 2023, he was elected to Parliament and became Marshal of the Sejm. Currently, he serves as the Deputy Marshal of the Sejm.



Valentina Grippo - Moderator

Valentina Grippo is a Member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and Vice-Chair of its Committee on Culture, Science and Education. She serves at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe as General Rapporteur on the Protection of Journalists. A journalist and university lecturer for over thirty years, Ms. Grippo has specialised in new technologies, privacy law, and the regulation of digital platforms and online content. She has authored several Council of Europe reports on technology governance and freedom of expression. Ms. Grippo has been awarded for her work both as a journalist and a policymaker. Her parliamentary activity focuses on ensuring technological innovation remains consistent with human rights, democratic accountability, and media pluralism.



Jānis Sārts

Jānis Sārts is heading the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Riga, Latvia since 2015. He is a recognized expert and sought-after speaker on topics including disinformation and security aspects of emerging technologies.

He has a profound background in defence sector dating back to 1994. Before his current role, he served as the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Latvia, led Latvia's efforts to boost its security in cyberspace. As Chair of the National Cyber Security Board, he formulated and oversaw Latvia's cyber security policy and the work of CERT.LV.

He has contributed to several publications: Nordic-Baltic-American Cooperation (2012), Securing Digital Natives (2020), and Disinformation as a Threat to National Security (2020).



Edite Estrela

Edite Estrela served as Vice-President of the Assembleia da República from 2019 to 2024 and has been a longstanding Member of Parliament representing Lisbon for the Socialist Party. Currently, she chairs the Committee on European Affairs and leads Portugal's delegation to PACE, where she was Vice-President from 2022 to 2024. She previously chaired committees on Culture and Youth. Estrela was Mayor of Sintra (1993-2001) and an MEP from 2004 to 2014, winning awards in social affairs. A member of the Socialist Party since 1980, she has held key party roles. She holds degrees in Classical Philology and Media Studies, and is an author and recipient of numerous honours, including the Order of Prince Henry.



Federico Menna

Federico Menna has been CEO of 28DIGITAL (formerly EIT Digital) since March 2023. With a passion for innovation and digital tech, he began his career at Vodafone, working over seven years on mobile network development during 3G to 4G transition. He joined 28DIGITAL in 2015, progressing through roles like Head of Staff, COO/CFO, and interim CEO in 2022. Federico holds a Master's in Telecommunications Engineering from the University of Trento, where he mentors students and entrepreneurs. He is a Forbes Technology Council member and participates in European Commission expert groups. As CEO, he leads a strategic transformation to position 28DIGITAL as Europe's premier platform for digital entrepreneurship, talent, and innovation, strengthening digital sovereignty and collaboration across the continent.



Javier Díaz-Noci

Javier Díaz-Noci is a professor of Communication at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. He holds two PhDs—one in History and one in Law—and a degree in Communication (Journalism); he also worked as a journalist for a decade.

In law, his focus is on copyright and authors' rights in the digital world, with emphasis on media, journalists, and news. He is a member of the IAMEDIA project, researching legal aspects of media and artificial intelligence. His latest research stay was at University College Dublin, producing a [report on artificial intelligence, copyright law, and digital news](#). He has been a visiting professor at Oxford, Nevada-Reno, Federal University of Bahia, and East Anglia. More information at [UPF](#) and [ORCID](#).



Mogens Jensen - Moderator

Mogens Jensen has been a Danish MP (Social Democrats) since 13 November 2007 and serves as Spokesman on cultural affairs, media, and sports. He previously held ministerial roles: Trade and Development Cooperation (Feb 2014–Jun 2015), and Food, Fisheries and Equal Opportunities and Nordic Cooperation (Jun 2019–Nov 2020). He chairs the Danish Delegation to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and has been a PACE member since 2008, serving as Vice-Chair of the Socialist, Democrats and Greens Group and General Rapporteur on Governance and Ethics in Sport.

His prior PACE roles include Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy (2016–2018), General Rapporteur on Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists (2022–2024), and rapporteur on modern sports governance.



Stephanie Hankey

Stephanie Hankey is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Tactical Tech, an NGO since 2003 focused on technology's societal impact. She leads initiatives on futures, youth, climate, and tech, and is an expert, strategist, and visiting lecturer for the UK Design Council, the New European Bauhaus, and the University of Applied Sciences, Potsdam. An award-winning creative, she designs public engagement projects showcased in over 90 countries. With 20+ years of experience, she works to enhance decision-makers' understanding of ethics, technology, and society. An Ashoka Fellow, she has also been a Loeb Fellow at Harvard and a 2025 Rockefeller Bellagio resident on Climate and AI. She holds a Bachelor's in Design History and a Master's in Computer Related Design from the Royal College of Art.



Joe O'Reilly

Joe O'Reilly is a Fine Gael politician whose parliamentary career spans both houses of the Irish legislature. He has served multiple terms in the Seanad Éireann and in the Dáil Éireann, and held the role of Leas-Cathaoirleach (Deputy Chair) of the Seanad. His key roles include serving as party spokesperson on Foreign Affairs & Trade and on Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to Ireland's international engagement, children's participation in democracy, and sustainable infrastructure. Locally, he has been active in social wellbeing initiatives, including work in his home county of Cavan-Monaghan to promote community development and youth involvement in public life.



Octavia Field Reid

Octavia Field Reid is Associate Director (Public Participation & Research Practice) at the Ada Lovelace Institute. She leads research aimed at ensuring that people's voices are heard in AI policy, industry, and public services. Her work includes the biennial Attitudes to AI survey, which captures the hopes, concerns, and expectations of the UK public regarding emerging technologies. Octavia holds an MA in Digital Media Culture, an MSc in Social Research, and is in the process of completing a PhD at University College London specialising in technology governance and corporate law. She is the Lead Researcher for the UKRI-funded BRAID programme, a member of the ESRC-funded Digital Good Network, sits on the BBC R&D public engagement advisory board, and reviews for IEEE Technology and Society Magazine.



Francesca Fanucci

Francesca Fanucci is an Italian/British lawyer with over 20 years' experience in international and EU law. She currently serves as Senior Legal Advisor at the European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL), addressing the impact of new and emerging technologies on civic space and fundamental rights. She represents the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe (CINGO) at the Council of Europe Committee on Artificial Intelligence, the Steering Committee on Human Rights – AI Working Group and the Committee of Experts on the Impact of Generative AI for Freedom of Expression. She was also a member of the expert group assisting the OAS Inter-American Juridical Committee to develop their first Declaration on Neuroscience, Neurotechnology and Human Rights, approved in 2021.



Maurizio Cuttin

Maurizio serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe where he leads thematic portfolios focused on revitalising pluralistic democracy and safeguarding the rights of young refugees.

Before being elected to the Advisory Council on Youth, Maurizio represented the British Youth Council as its chief international spokesperson - a role he continues to hold. Across his international youth roles, he has consistently championed efforts to safeguard young people's rights and raise awareness of their access to these rights within an increasingly complex digital and political landscape.



Louise Barton

Louise Barton is Director of Committees (Human Dignity and Sustainable Development) in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. An organisational psychologist by training, her previous role in the Council of Europe was Director of Human Resources during a period of intense crisis management and reform within this international organisation. She has also served as Deputy Director in the Private Office of the previous Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland during his two mandates in office.