

Speaker biographies

Michele Francioni Senior Vice President - MSC Cruises S.A.

Michele Francioni joined MSC Cruises S.A. in September 2018. Michele has strong background in maritime technology and sustainability related issues. He holds a Master degree in Naval Architecture and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Genoa. He started his career at the Italian Classification Society RINA, as a structural engineer and marine surveyor before being appointed as Asia General Manager and lately he served as CEO of RINA Services S.p.A. for over 6 years.



Guy Bigwood Managing Director & Chief Changemaker, Global Destinations Sustainability Movement

The Global Destinations Sustainability Movement is a transformation platform that inspires, educates and enables destinations to become more regenerative, flourishing and resilient places to visit, meet and live in. For the last 17 years, Guy has been delivering award-winning consulting services focused on helping cities, governments, associations and the hospitality industry step up, scale up and speed up their sustainability programmes and regenerative practices. Today over 80 cities are participating in the www.gds.earth.



Erling Mathiassen Chairman of local citizens' group in old Stavanger, Norway

Erling Mathiassen holds a Bachelor in Mechanical engineering, a Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering and a MBA in Project Management. He worked 36 years in the Oil&Gas industry. As the head of Straen Velforening, a local citizen group for old Stavanger, he participated in the work for a strategic plan for Stavanger Harbour area towards 2030. He represented the local community and contributed with a local view on tourism, specifically from those living close to the port.



Jelka Tepšić Deputy Mayor, City of Dubrovnik

Mrs. Tepšić is the Deputy Mayor City of Dubrovnik as well as honorary consul to the Kingdom of Spain. She is a professor of the Spanish language, literature and Comparative literature and has more than 20 years of experience in communication, media and marketing. In the City of Dubrovnik, Mrs. Tepšić is responsible for tourism, sustainability and culture and while she has been the Deputy Mayor, the city has developed a strategic, long term project called "Respect the City".



Speaker biographies

Wassim Daoud Head of Sustainability & CSR, PONANT

In his role, Dr. Wassim Daoud leads a global team that oversees the PONANT Sustainable Impact strategy and programs that focus on making a positive, lasting impact on the planet, people, and the communities that the company serves. Wassim brings 20 years of experience in a variety of sustainability roles. Under his leadership, PONANT was classified as the most sustainable cruise company by the NGO NABU in 2020.



Charsten Christensen Chairman, Validated, IT Attention A/S and Director in BEC Amba

Charsten Christensen is former CEO in Skandia Denmark & Skandia Nordic. He has 22 years of experience in the financial industry and previous experience from Technical Production, Engineering solutions and wholesale groceries. Charsten is educated in Economic at Copenhagen Business School and holds an Executive MBA.



Søren Rosenkilde Clausen Director Public Affairs, Copenhagen Airports A/S

Søren R. Clausen is, in his role, responsible for stakeholder-management including relations with politicians and interest groups at a local, regional and national level. Copenhagen Airports (CPH) has a strategic aim to take a positive role in society delivering value for Denmark at all levels. One of the ongoing tasks is the implementation of a new development plan for CPH, where local interests must be incorporated in the development of the airport.



Poul Sørensen Senior Project Manager, COWI

Poul Sørensen is an M.Sc. in political Science and has more than 17 years of experience in working with business development, transport and infrastructure, in recent years, with a special focus on green transformation in ports and the maritime sector. He has conducted several studies of shore power projects for cruise ships in the Nordic region, both economic analyzes, market studies and technical analyzes.



Speaker biographies

Henri van der Weide
Strategic Policy Advisor, Harbour Master's Division,
Port of Amsterdam

Henri van der Weide is responsible for innovation and development projects in the areas of sustainability, port optimization, and port safety regulations. In this role, Henri cooperates with organisations and ports nationally and internationally. He is product-owner of Team Clean Shipping of the port and serves as the project lead of the IAPH-WPSP cruise working group of the International Association of Ports and Harbors.



Bo Cerup-Simonsen
CEO, The Maersk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for
Zero Carbon Shipping

With a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and an Executive MBA, Mr. Cerup-Simonsen has held a number of prominent positions within shipping technology and innovation incl. VP, Head of Newbuilding Strategy and Portfolio at RCCL, Director of the Danish Hydrocarbon Research and Technology Centre at the Technical University of Denmark and VP, Head of Maersk Maritime Technology (MMT) where he, among other things was responsible for a large number of engineering and newbuilding projects including the world's most energy efficient containership series, the Triple-E.



Marie-Caroline Laurent
Director General, Cruise Lines International Association

Ms. Laurent leads industry engagement with EU Institutions, European countries, and the wider cruise community in support of policies and practices that foster secure, healthy, and sustainable cruising. She is a transport policy expert who has worked in leadership roles at the International Air Transport Association and as Assistant Director for EU Affairs. Previously, Marie-Caroline worked for the Association of European Airlines and served as a parliamentary adviser at the European Parliament and senior policy officer at the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU.



Alessandro Carollo
Director, Government Relations, Royal Caribbean Group

Before, Alessandro was director of port services where he was responsible for operational excellence in all EMEA ports. In his current capacity he is responsible to engage with international governments on key initiatives and projects focused on maritime, public health, and sustainability regulatory frameworks, as well as destination management matters. Since 2021 also serves as Chair of CLIA Europe's Ports and Destinations Advisory Committee.

