

## Short bios of the speakers and panelists

**UN Ocean Conference Side Event on 30 June 2022:** Delivering global commitments in the Baltic Sea Region

### **Lilian Busse – moderator**

Dr. Lilian Busse is the HELCOM Chair (until 30 June 2022) and she is currently the Vice President of the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA). Dr. Busse is also a member of the scientific advisory board of the Helmholtz Center of Environmental Research in Leipzig, Germany.

From 2006 until 2015, Dr. Busse was a lead scientist at the California Environmental Protection Agency, USA, working on California's freshwater and marine ecosystems. She worked as a scientist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego (2002-2006) focusing on harmful algal blooms. Dr. Busse has also researched eutrophication in freshwater and coastal ecosystems at the University of California. She received her Ph.D. in Freshwater Ecology and holds a M.S. in Biology from Berlin and Munich Technical Universities. Throughout her career, Dr. Busse has focused her work on the protection of freshwater and marine ecosystems. For over a decade, she has been working on the interface between science and policy in this field.

### **Mikhail Durkin**

Mikhail Durkin is the Executive Secretary of Coalition Clean Baltic (CCB) since 2015, leading a network of 26 environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO's). Mr. Durkin has an extensive career in marine environment protection, and he has previously worked, among others, as the Professional Secretary of HELCOM; in the Kaliningrad Maritime Port Administration; and in the Committee for Protection of the Environment of Kaliningrad Region. Mikhail Durkin holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Management and Policy and, another M.Sc. in Biology (Water biological resources and aquaculture).

### **Jannica Haldin**

A marine biologist with a back in ecology and evolution, Jannica Haldin has been a Professional Secretary at HELCOM since 2017 and Deputy Executive Secretary since 2021. She looks back on many years of experience in environmental policy and diplomacy at the international level, with a particular focus on marine biodiversity, conservation, status assessment and climate change. She engages closely with the implementation of international frameworks on a global, EU and regional level. Ms Haldin is the author and editor of a number of scientific and policy publications. She held a central guiding and coordinating role in the updating of the Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and as well as several multinational projects.

### **Imèn Meliane**

Ms. Imèn Meliane is a Councillor and Vice President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Marine OECM Lead with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). She is an international expert with 20 years of experience in environmental management and international policy. Her areas of expertise include marine conservation, climate change and nature-based solutions. Ms. Meliane worked for several organizations, bridging science and policy and advising governments, development organizations, foundations and NGOs on best practices for conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development planning. She previously worked for

IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and the Adaptation Fund, among others. Her experience spans working with over 60 countries from all continents, both at grassroot level as well as at high levels of policymaking. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

### **Dominic Pattinson**

Dominic Pattinson is the Executive Secretary of the OSPAR Commission. His role is to support OSPAR's 16 Contracting Parties to help protect and conserve the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. This includes delivery of biologically diverse and healthy seas through the protection of key species and habitats and establishing a network of ecologically coherent network of MPAs. Dominic's previous experience was focussed on marine environment protection policies at a national, European, and international level.

### **Rüdiger Stempel**

An international lawyer by training, Rüdiger Stempel has been the Executive Secretary of HELCOM since August 2019. He looks back on many years of experience in environmental law, policy, and diplomacy at the national and international levels, with a particular focus on international marine conservation. He has previously held the posts of Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North-East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP/ASCOBANS) and of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and has also worked for a number of other United Nations agencies. Moreover, Rüdiger has a background as a journalist and professional communicator and he is the author or co-author of numerous articles and several books.

### **Sebastian Unger**

Sebastian Unger leads the Ocean Governance Research Group at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS, Potsdam). He has a background in biology and over 15 years of experience in international ocean policy. His research focuses on governance processes for ocean sustainability, including the development of a new international agreement for marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the ocean and climate nexus, implementation of SDG 14, and the governance of deep seabed mining. He joined IASS in 2011 as science coordinator for founding director Professor Klaus Töpfer. 2007-2011 Sebastian was appointed Deputy Secretary to the OSPAR Commission with responsibility for the work programme on marine biodiversity, impacts of human activities, and the offshore oil and gas industry. Previously he also served at the German Federal Foreign Office, where he coordinated international maritime affairs.