

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Joanna DRAKE

Deputy Director General for DG RTD, European Commission

WORK EXPERIENCE

16 March 2016 - Present

Deputy Director-General in charge of Coordination of Resource-efficiency policies and instruments in DG Environment (ENV), chair of a cross-cutting task force spear-heading strategic positions and co-ordinated actions for the DG on, inter-alia, the post-2020 Multi-annual financial framework, the Resilience and Resilience Fund (internal and inter-institutional) upstream work, Brexit, urban policy and the future-proofing of the EU's environmental acquis, European Green Deal, the the 8th Environmental Action Plan, digitalisation as an enabler of environmental law implementation, sustainable finance, and an action plan on working better with business.

Key role in engaging with international partners on the Circular Economy, including Canada, US, Latin American countries, China and Taiwan, with a view to propagating collaboration on the concept and action plan.

High level Commission representation, debator, key note speaker, panellist and chairing high level meetings with governments (ministerial level) business, financial institutions, representative organisations, NGOs, and business advisory services (e.g. UNEA 4, UN meetings, OECD etc), creator of "TellUs project" with College of Europe students on the future priorities of EU environmental policy.

June 2015 - March 2016

Principal Adviser, Chair of Task Force on The Collaborative Economy, New Business Models And SME's - DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (GROW). I connected the various strands of activities inside DG GROW, with a view to developing a set of first-ever recommendations for the Commission to consider its positioning on the collaborative/sharing economy (UBER, AirBnB, Blablacar etc). As Chair, I was the main reference point for DG GROW's interaction with other DG's on this subject and responsible for ensuring the contribution to the chapter on the collaborative economy in the Internal Market strategy launched by DG GROW in autumn 2015.

Jan. 2010 – May 2015

Director, SME's and Entrepreneurship (DG GROW). Managing a team of over 100 personnel and 5 units covering:

- SME policy (including the Small Business Act (SBA), burden reduction and SME test application),
- Entrepreneurship policy and Erasmus for entrepreneurs,
- 2.1 bn Euro of financial instruments under CIP (competitiveness and innovation programme) and 2.3 bn Euro under COSME (competitiveness for SME's programme),
- Clusters policy and programmes,
- Enterprise Europe network (SME support network managed and supported by the Commission in 54 countries with over 600 consortia),
- Internationalisation for SME's (including SME dialogues with China, US, Eastern partnership countries and TTIP negotiations)and Missions for Growth,
- Negotiation and launching of implementation of the 2.3 bn Euro "SME instrument" (in conjunction with DG RTD) as part of Horizon 2020 programme
- Implementation of Late Payments Directive (since March 2013)
- Managing externalisation process to EASME (Executive Agency for SME's) between 2013-2015
- Strengthening and mobilising relations with stakeholders at European, national, regional and local level
- Representing the Commission during high level dialogues and negotiations in China, US, Tunisia, Abu Dhabi, most member states, as well as deliver presentations in numerous major events, panel discussions, addresses to MEPs, European and national parliaments, Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee
- Supported progress of EU legislation and policy in third countries, notably with reference to negotiating aspects on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Business and Human Rights (GROW-led files) under the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapters of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with third countries in close cooperation with TRADE

Oct. 2005 – Jan. 2010

Head of Commission Representation – Valletta – Malta (opening joint EC-EP Dar I-Ewropa in 2009; first-ever structured (post-membership) communication plan with MT government; pro-active reach out with schools mostly on environmental and other political priorities)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE
BEFORE JOINING THE
EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

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- 2000 – 2005 Head of Legal and Regulatory Department. Vodafone Malta Limited
- 1989 – 1994 Senior Legal Officer. EU Directorate Ministry of Foreign Affairs, member of Malta-EU negotiation monitoring team (2000-2003)
- 1988 - 1999 Legal Research Officer – Embassy of Malta in Brussels

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Among other activities:
- 2003 – 2005 Chair – Occupational Health and Safety Authority
- 2001 – 2003 Advisor to Minister for Social Policy on EU issues
- 2001 – 2003 Chair – YES (referendum) Campaign – *Moviment IVA Malta fl-Ewropa*
- 1999 – 2004 Director, EUROPA Research & Consultancy Services Ltd.
- 1999 – 2005 Deputy Umpire, Board of Appeals, Department of Social Services
- 1999 – 2001 Chairperson, Commission for the Advancement of Women
- 1997 – 2004 Associate, Ganado Samut Advocates
- 1997 – 1999 Information Secretary, European Movement (Malta)
- 1994 - 2002 Full-time lecturer and researcher in the Department of European and Comparative Law. University of Malta

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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| Sep. 1989 – May 1990 | Postgraduate Degree in Advanced European Legal Studies.
College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium |
| Feb. 1983-Dec. 1988 | Doctor of Laws. University of Malta |
| Fe. 1986-Nov. 1987 | Diploma Notary Public – University of Malta |

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- Publications
 - Presentations
 - Projects
 - Conferences
 - Seminars
 - Honours and awards
 - Memberships
 - References
 - Citations
 - Courses
 - Certifications
 - Language Skills
 - English, Maltese (mother tongues)
 - French, Italian,(proficient speaker)
 - Greek (basic user), Spanish (level 5)