



# GAIA-X : EU's most important digital aspiration in a generation - 12 October 2020

### \*\* OPENING SPEECH \*\*

**Franz Fayot** 

Minister of the Economy, Government of Luxembourg



Franz Fayot is Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs and Minister of the Economy. Mr. Fayot was born on 28 February 1972 in Luxembourg City. Following secondary school studies at the Athénée de Luxembourg, Franz Fayot pursued a higher education in Luxembourg and Paris, followed by a DEA (post-graduate diploma of advanced studies) in corporate law from the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne in 1996. Following the cabinet reshuffle on 4 February 2020, Franz Fayot joined the coalition government formed by the Demo-cratic Party (DP), the Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party (LSAP) and the Green Party (déi gréng). He was appointed Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs

and Minister of the Economy. From 1997 until his appointment to the government, Franz Fayot worked as a barrister in Luxembourg.

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# \*\* KEYNOTE \*\*

#### **Andreas Weiss**

# Head of Digital Business Models, eco Association of the Internet Industry Director, EuroCloud Germany



Andreas Weiss is responsible for the eco business unit "Digital Business Models" and member of the Executive Board of eco – Association of the Internet Industry. He is active for eco since 1998, initially for the competence group E-Business & Logistics and further on E-Business. Since 2010 he is assigned as Director EuroCloud Germany and since 2019 Board Member of Trusted Cloud Competence Network. In general he is engaged in various projects for Artificial Intelligence, Data Privacy and GDP R as well as security and compliance of digital services.

# \*\* INNOVATION TALK \*\*

#### Nik Scharmann

### Project Director "Economy of Things" Robert Bosch GmbH



Nik Scharmann has been leading Bosch's research activities in the field of the Economy of Things since 2017. Before that, he was a researcher in the energy technology field at Bosch Rexroth, where he began his career as a trainee in 2002.

#### **Federico Milani**

#### Deputy Head of Unit of the Data Policies and Innovation Unit at the European Commission



Federico Milani is the Deputy Head of Unit of the Data Policies and Innovation Unit of CONNECT Directorate General. The unit supports the data economy in the Digital Single Market through policy initiatives addressing new and emerging issues (such as data ownership and brokerage, open data policies by ensuring the correct implementation of the Public Sector Information Directive). The unit steers together with industry the strategic research and innovation agenda.

Federico Milani has previously worked as a project officer for making accessible European digital content since October 2001 and as Deputy Head of Unit the Creativity Unit As responsible for supporting the creative

industry sectors and Europeana project since 2008.

Mr. Milani studies comprise a PhD in neural networks and intelligent systems, and a degree in electronic engineering.

#### \*\* ROUND TABLE \*\*

#### **Paul Timmers**

Research Associate University of Oxford / Department of Politics and International Relations, Professor European University Cyprus / Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Visiting professor Rijeka University CEO iivii BV



at Harvard.

Paul Timmers is research associate at Oxford University for cybersecurity and digital transformation, adjunct professor at European University Cyprus, visiting professor at Rijeka University, senior advisor to EPC Brussels, board member of Digital Enlightenment Forum and of the Estonian eGovernance Academy supervisory board. Previously he was Director at the European Commission dealing with EU legislation and funding for cybersecurity, digital health, smart cities, e-government. He was cabinet member of European Commissioner Liikanen, manager in a large ICT company, and co-founded an ICT start-up. Physics PhD from Nijmegen University, MBA from Warwick University, EU fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill, and cybersecurity qualification

#### **Fabrice Hansen**

#### Head of Digital Transformation at Paul Wurth



Fabrice Hansen, 48 years old, joined Paul Wurth in 2000 as Electrical & Automation Engineer and took the lead of Electrics & Automation department in Luxembourg during 2 years and created Process Automation Department developing process models and expert systems for iron industry.

Since 2017, Fabrice is additionally in charge of Digital Transformation for Paul Wurth Group leading development of digital solutions and services for our customers in the Iron & Steel industry including Big Data, Artificial intelligence, Digital Twin, Predictive Maintenance, Process Optimization & simulation, IIoT sensors, ... Fabrice is Graduated as Electronical and

Automation Engineer in 1995 and Master of Science in IT and Innovation in 2007.

#### Mario Grotz,

#### Director General for Research, Intellectual Property and New Technologies, Ministry of the Economy



Mario Grotz started his career working for the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Craft, where he acted as an advisor to SME in areas concerning business creation and business management. In 2001, he joined the Ministry of Economy where his main focus was on the evaluation of R&D projects implemented by the private sector. From 2009-2012 he was appointed Head of Directorate for Infrastructures and Technology. Since 2012 he is the General Director for Research, Intellectual Property and New Technologies, responsible for the development of the technology based sectors in Luxembourg. Since 2012, he is appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of the

company Creos Luxembourg. In 2018 he become President of Luxinnovation, the national innovation agency, which offers a wide portfolio of services to companies and public research organisations.

# Yves Reding

Président de l'association Cloud Community Europe Luxembourg Vice-Président du Conseil d'Administration d'ICT Luxembourg CEO d'EBRC



Drawing on over 30-year-experience in the ICT and banking sector, Yves Reding launched "European Business Reliance Centre" (EBRC) in 2000 with the aim of developing a European Centre of Excellence in the management and protection of sensitive information.

By positioning the company as a trusted ICT operator in the heart of Europe, Yves and his team elevated EBRC on the international stage. Through their 340 experts based in Luxembourg, in the major French cities and in Morocco, EBRC and its subsidiary Digora offer their clients

a one-stop-shop service portfolio ranging from Data Centre, to Cloud, Managed and Cyber-Resilience services; all of which are highly certified and based on the European values. Deeply committed in promoting the data centre, cloud services and cyber-resilience in Europe, Yves is the Chairman of "Cloud Community Europe Luxembourg" association, the Vice-President of "ICT Luxembourg", and a member of the Board of Directors of the "European Data Centre Association" (EUDCA) as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the French-Luxembourgish Business Club (BCFL).