



**FUTURE
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Speaker Profiles

Technical seminar on methane-based fuels

IMO Headquarters, 12 May 2026



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4 Albert Embankment
London, SE1 7SR



Ms. Linden Coppell

Vice President Sustainability & ESG (MSC Cruises)

Moderator

Linden joined MSC Cruises at its Geneva-headquarters in 2018, establishing the MSC Cruises' Sustainable Advisory Board, led by Executive Chairman Pierfrancesco Vago, that approves actions throughout the company to meet its corporate sustainability goals and ensure sustainability is embedded across all business functions.

With the aim of becoming a net zero emissions organization by 2050, Linden is responsible for tracking and reporting on the company's decarbonization strategy and she also has the same responsibility for sister company Explora Journeys, the luxury travel brand of MSC Group.

Linden manages the publication of MSC Cruises' annual Sustainability Report and represents the company on several external programmes and initiatives, including the Sustainability Advisory Committee of the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the Sustainability Taskforce of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

She is a regular panelist and presenter at maritime events around the world and on behalf of MSC Cruises Linden received the 'Sustainability Initiative of the Year - 2023' accolade at the Seatrade Cruise Awards for the world's first net zero emissions cruise operated by the ship MSC Euribia.

Linden joined MSC Cruises after 10 years at the UAE's national airline Etihad Airways where she was Head of Sustainability. Previously she was Manager Environmental Affairs at Hong Kong-based airline Cathay Pacific for six years. Prior to that Linden had been a sustainability and environmental protection consultant for national governments and private companies in Southeast Asia.



Ms. Justine Roure

Vice President Strategy & Policy, Oil and Gas Climate Initiative (OGCI)

As Vice President of Strategy & Policy at OGCI, Justine coordinates actions and commitments from the companies, develops external policy views, manages relations with institutions and external stakeholders and provides strategic direction to drive future development of OGCI.

She has 15 years of experience in climate change and sustainability, working at strategic and operational levels for different consultancy firms where she helped companies set up and implement climate and low-carbon strategies. Justine holds an MSc in Energy & Sustainability from Ecole Centrale de Lyon and an MPhil in Environmental Transition from University Lyon III.



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Mr. Rafik Ammar

Policy Director, e-NG Coalition

Rafik Ammar is Policy Director of the e-NG Coalition, where he leads the Coalition and the global advocacy efforts to accelerate the development and recognition of electric natural gas (e-NG) and e-methane across key markets including Europe, North America, and Asia. He represents the Coalition in high-level engagements with international institutions such as the IMO, IEA, and European Commission, as well as national governments, contributing to the design of regulatory frameworks, certification systems, and decarbonization pathways for synthetic fuels.

Prior to this role, Rafik served as Director of Government, EU and IMO Affairs at the Methanol Institute, where he led strategic advocacy on major climate and energy policies, including Fit for 55 and the IMO Net Zero Framework. He also worked within EU institutions, notably at the European Commission and European Parliament, building strong expertise in European policymaking and international negotiations in the energy and transport sectors.

He graduated from the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in France and holds an Engineer degree.



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Ms. Mariana Tostes

Communications Officer, e-NG Coalition

Mariana Tostes is a Communications Officer driving the global conversation around electric natural gas (e-NG) and e-methane at the e-NG Coalition, where she oversees strategic communications, marketing, and outreach. She is responsible for policy-driven messaging and high-level event coordination, working closely with industry leaders, international institutions, and global partners to position renewable gases at the centre of the energy transition.

Drawing on professional and academic experience across Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and the United States, Mariana brings a distinctly international perspective to her work. Her profile sits at the intersection of advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory affairs, grounded in both policymaking and strategic communications. Before joining the e-NG Coalition, she worked at the European Commission, where she contributed to the implementation of EU legislative processes and the conclusion of international agreements with third countries. She also held research and programme management roles in Spain, serving as Research Assistant and Head of Department over several years. She holds Master's degrees in International Relations from the Barcelona Institute for International Studies and in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation, as well as a Law degree from Fluminense Federal University.



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Prof. Paul Balcombe

Queen Mary University

Paul Balcombe is Professor of Chemical Engineering and Renewable Energy at Queen Mary University of London, where he focuses on methane and other emissions from gaseous supply chains. His research combines improved emissions measurements, techno-environmental systems modelling, and economic and policy insights to develop mitigation pathways.

Paul's particular focus is on measuring and reducing methane emissions from gas-fuelled ships. In 2025 Paul co-founded Methanox Ltd to develop novel catalysts to mitigate methane and NOX emissions from gas engines.

Other projects he is working on include: developing improved drone-based methane measurement methods; enhancing our understanding of methane emissions from biogas supply chains; improving Nigeria's national inventory of methane emissions with direct measurements and better use of ancillary data.

Paul holds an MEng in Chemical Engineering from the University of Manchester (2006), where he also earned his PhD (2014) jointly in chemical engineering and environmental economics. He became a Chartered Engineer in 2011 following several years in industry designing chemical plants in various sectors. Prior to his appointment at QM, Paul spent six years at Imperial College London as a Research Associate and later Research Fellow, leading the Methane and Environment Programme at the Sustainable Gas Institute.



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Ms Giulia Ceccarelli

Head of External Affairs, World Biogas Association (WBA)

Public affairs leader focused on climate and energy transition. As Head of External Affairs at the World Biogas Association, Giulia works with intergovernmental organizations, national and sub-national governments, industry, and international stakeholders to unlock the potential of biogas and biomethane in decarbonizing the hard to decarbonize sectors. Her experience spans policy advocacy, high level stakeholder engagement, and strategic communications.



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Mr. Alessandro Gardemann

Chairman of the Board at Brazilian Biogas Association (ABiogás)

Mr. Gardemann is the Chairman of the Board at Brazilian Biogas Association (ABiogás). He holds a degree in Business Administration from EAESP-FGV and began his career in the financial market, specializing in M&A and public equity. In 2008, driven by a vision to defossilize the planet and advance sustainable development, he founded Geo bio gas&carbon and has since dedicated himself entirely to the biogas sector. He is a co-founder and former President of ABiogás, where he currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Widely recognized as a pioneer in the renewable energy market, Mr. Gardemann is deeply involved in shaping public policy for Brazil's energy transition.

He actively contributes to the formulation of strategic biomethane frameworks at the state and federal levels, playing a key role in landmark national policies such as RenovaBio and the Combustível do Futuro (Fuel of the Future) law. His forward-thinking approach continuously pushes market-ready solutions to defossilize hard-to-abate sectors such as maritime transport.



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Mr. Ryan Harb

Director of New Market Development, Ameresco

Ryan Harb is a 15-year career energy and food systems executive, currently serving as Director of New Market Development at Ameresco where he is responsible for managing the development of biomethane projects and new markets. Ameresco is a leading renewable energy asset developer, owner, and operator in North America and Europe providing over \$15B in energy solution projects including biomethane, solar, battery, fuel cells, microgrids, hydrogen, biogas-to-energy, and bio-LNG.

Prior to his role with Ameresco, Mr. Harb served as Director of Origination at Clean Energy Fuels and as a Senior Manager of Feedstock at Vanguard Renewables. He specializes in commercial organics waste management as well as anaerobic digestion and advancing U.S. Bio-LNG into international maritime markets. Mr. Harb holds an MS in Green Building and BBA in Business Management from the University of Massachusetts Amherst along with a Financing and Deploying Clean Energy Certificate from Yale University. He is also a Board Member of the American Biogas Council and Co-Chair of ABC's Maritime Committee.



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Dr. Alexandra Ebbinghaus

GM Decarbonisation, Marine Sector, Shell

Alexandra has over 30 years of experience in Shell. From the research and development of fuels, Alexandra moved to the business side of commercializing alternative energies, before joining Shipping & Maritime in 2013 in the strategy team, focussing on environmental aspects and policy and advocacy.

Between 2019 and 2021 Alexandra chaired the IMO Low Carbon Industry Alliance. In 2021 she was appointed GM Decarbonisation and is responsible for the roadmap for decarbonization in shipping. Alexandra has a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Sheffield, UK, and a master's degree in business studies from the University of Hagen, Germany.



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Mr. Ian Aitchison

Communications Director, SEA-LNG

Ian Aitchison has been Communications Director at SEA-LNG since 2018, leading the organisation's global campaign to promote LNG and methane-based fuels as the pathway to decarbonising international shipping. In this role he works closely with ship owners, fuel suppliers, port authorities and regulators - including engagement with the IMO - to build the evidence base and stakeholder consensus needed to accelerate the maritime energy transition.

His maritime career spans over thirty years, beginning with the Royal Navy in 1992 where he trained as a helicopter observer before transitioning to the Naval Reserve as a Media Operations Officer. He retired as the Commander responsible for strategic communications at HM Naval Base Clyde, home of the UK's submarine fleet, following his final operational tour as Deputy Chief of Public Affairs at NATO's ISAF Joint Command HQ in Kabul. His civilian shipping career with NYK, one of the world's largest shipping and logistics groups, saw him rise to General Manager for Group Communications across Europe and Africa, and serve as NYK's nominated Director on the World Shipping Council's PR Policy Committee. A Chartered PR Practitioner and Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Ian is based in the Scottish Borders, Scotland.



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Mr. Pannos Mitrou

Senior Vice President, LR and MAMII Chairman

Panos Mitrou has been with LR for more than 20 years where he has recently assumed the position of Senior Vice President – Shipping Strategy. His primary focus is on maritime markets and segments, he oversees the roll out of LR's strategy across the whole maritime space from commercial shipping to Cruise and Yachts, within his remit, he engages with all key alternative fuels and their ecosystems, from LNG to Ammonia, as well as the Nuclear pathway. His key objective, is to engage and co-work with the industry to ensure that the strategy aligns with market challenges maintaining its client-centric lens.

In the past, he has held various commercial and technology positions. Since 2019 he has led the LR Gas Segment in times of unprecedented growth and change. Before that he has held several positions focusing on business and the safe and successful application of innovation and technology. Since 2012 he has been deeply involved in the setup and materialization of several funded projects related to alternative fuels and innovation in the maritime sector. In 2022, he has initiated MAMII (Methane Abatement in Maritime Innovation Initiative) a cross industry alliance to battle against methane emissions and the risks they pose to the maritime sector.

Panos represents LR in a number of associations and fora. He chairs the Methane Abatement in Maritime Alliance and the Global Gas Centre. He is an advisor to the Board at SEA-LNG and a member of the Environmental Committee at SGMF.

Panos holds a Naval Architect and Marine Engineer Diploma from NTUA and an MBA in Shipping from ALBA Business School. He is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. He is also a PhD candidate in Naval Architecture, Ocean and Marine Engineering, at University of Strathclyde with focus on optimizing the shipping transition pathway.



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Dr. Dirk Kadau

Senior Expert in Regulatory Affairs, WinGD

Dirk Kadau is working as senior expert in regulatory affairs, representing WinGD at IMO, typically as member or head of the EUROMOT delegation. In this role he is providing the expertise for low-speed engines to IMO, supporting the regulatory development in several committees and sub-committees, with covered topics ranging from pollutant and GHG emissions to safety aspects associated with the use of alternative/low flashpoint fuels. He is active in a variety of other associations (e.g. CIMAC) and additionally supports work at ISO in relation to emissions measurement and certification.

Before joining WinGD, he was active in research in statistical physics, resulting in numerous scientific publications, with a PhD in computational physics on powders and nano-powders. In the 14 years at WinGD, he has acquired broad experience in many aspects of low-speed engine technology, based on previous roles in emissions and abatement technologies, as well as innovation and project management.



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