

# Delegations of



**Abdelkhalek Siouda**  
Wali of Algiers, Algeria

Abdelkhalek Siouda has been serving as Wali of Algiers since April 2019. He held the position of Wali for the first time in the Wilaya of Batna after having held several positions in municipal politics, including as Secretary General of the Wilaya of Constantine as well as Director of the local administration of Oran.



**Hazem Ahmad Awad AL Naimat**  
Deputy Mayor of Amman, Jordan

Hazem Ahmad Awad AL Naimat has been Mayor of Amman since 2017. He holds several positions: City Council Member (2013 to present), Chairman of the local committee for the Khalda and Um Al Sumaq Districts (2013 to present), Chairman of the Procurement committee at the Greater Amman Municipality and Chairman of the property and acquisition committee at the Greater Amman Municipality. He has a master's degree in law. Awad AL Naimat has a 7th Dan black belt in Taekwondo, was a member of the Jordan National Team and is still very active in this sport.





**Cathelijne Bouwkamp**  
Vice Mayor of Arnhem, Netherlands

Cathelijne Bouwkamp is alderman and Vice Mayor for the City of Arnhem. In her role as alderman she is responsible for Sustainability and Public and Rural Spacing. Since 2014 she has been the political leader of the local Green Party in Arnhem (GroenLinks). Cathelijne Bouwkamp fulfilled several jobs in the cultural sector and worked as a consultant. Before she started as alderman she was consultant at ArtEZ, a prestigious and well-know university of the Arts (ArtEZ) in Arnhem.



**Adama Sangaré**  
Mayor of Bamako, Mali

Adama Sangaré has been Mayor of Bamako, the capital of Mali, since 2007. He has a Master of Law from Mali's National School of Administration and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the École des Sciences de la Gestion at the Université du Québec à Montréal (ESG-UQAM). From 1998 to 2007, he was assistant and then head of Vital Statistics of the Census and of Administrative and Legal Affairs of Commune III as well as Chair of the District's Twinning and Cooperation Commission. Adama Sangaré also served as a teaching assistant at Mali's National School of Administration, the representative of AFRIDRA-ONG Paris to Bamako, as attorney at Ousmane Dicko and social security inspector for the Directorate General of INPS.



**Hayet Bayouadh**  
Mayor of Carthage, Tunisia

Hayet Bayouadh has been Mayor of Carthage since July 2018.



**Mićo Mičić**  
Mayor of Bijeljina,  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mićo Mičić has been in office as Mayor of Bijeljina since 2012 and President of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Republic of Srpska since 2013. Before, he served as Head of the Department for Veteran Disability Affairs in Bijeljina, Minister of the Government of the Republic of Srpska in the Department for Refugees and Displaced People, Minister of Labor, Veterans and Disability Protection as well as Councilor of the Mayor of Bijeljina. Mićo Mičić started his professional career as teacher at a secondary school in Kalesia and Professor at the technical school „Mihaljo Pupin“ in Bijeljina.



**Barbara Ludwig**  
Mayor of Chemnitz, Germany

Barbara Ludwig took office as Mayor of Chemnitz in 2006. Before, she served as member of the parliament of Saxony and Councilor for Health, Social Affairs and Culture of the City of Chemnitz. Barbara Ludwig is a trained elementary school teacher and was educated at the "Institut für Lehrerbildung in Auerbach/Vogtl".



**Oleksii Kaspruk**  
Mayor of Chernivtsi, Ukraine

Oleksii Kaspruk has been Mayor of Chernivtsi since 2014. He graduated from Chernivtsi Industrial College as Mechanical Engineer in 1996. He also holds a degree as Economist from the Chernivtsi branch of the Kiev Economic University and took part in the Newpoort Business Academy (Netherlands) from 2006 to 2007. Before becoming a politician in 2007, Oleksii Kaspruk held various positions in IT business.



**Atiqul Islam**  
Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh

Atiqul Islam has been serving as Mayor of the Dhaka North City Corporation since 2019. He completed his higher studies with a degree from the University of Dhaka and established a Garment Business (that is today a leading ready-made garment manufacturing company in Bangladesh) together with his brother in 1985. From 2013 to 2104 Atiqul Islam served as president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). Today, he heads up the Centre of Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industry, which is responsible for improving the labor situation and product quality in the garment sector.



**Ulrich Sierau**  
Mayor of Dortmund, Germany

Ulrich Sierau has been Mayor of Dortmund since 2009. After his first term, he was reelected in June 2014. Ulrich Sierau studied spatial planning in Dortmund and Oxford and graduated as an engineer in 1982. He worked at the State Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Transport of North Rhine-Westphalia from 1986 until 1994. From 1994 to 1999 he was director of the Institute for Regional and Urban Development Research of North Rhine-Westphalia (ILS) in Dortmund. In 1999 he became Head of the Environment and Planning Department of the City of Dortmund and was appointed City Manager in 2007.





**Alexandre Cusson**  
Mayor of Drummondville, Canada

Alexandre Cusson took office as Mayor of Drummondville in November 2013 and is president of the Union des municipalités du Québec. He holds a master's degree in education, profile school administration, from the Université de Sherbrooke and also a bachelor's degree in business administration from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Alexandre Cusson was Executive Director and teacher at Collège Saint-Bernard for nearly 25 years.



**Thomas Geisel**  
Mayor of Düsseldorf, Germany

Thomas Geisel took office as Mayor of Düsseldorf in 2014. A lawyer by education with an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School, he also holds a master's degree in government from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. Following his studies in the U.S., Germany and Switzerland Thomas Geisel worked in the energy sector for most of his life. There, he held various positions for Enron (London), Ruhrgas AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG, where he was director for gas procurement. In 2014 Thomas Geisel became the first social-democratic mayor after 15 years of conservative rule in Düsseldorf. His political focus is to create more housing and schooling possibilities for the growing population, to develop sustainable infrastructure and to strengthen socially disadvantaged neighbourhoods.



**Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin**  
Mayor of Gatineau, Canada

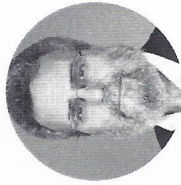
Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin took office as Mayor of Gatineau in 2013 for the first time. He was born in Buckingham and went on to earn a master's degree in regional development from the Université du Québec en Outaouais, where he studied the historical evolution of the relationship between the Outaouais and Ottawa. He spent years working with his community before being elected Municipal Councillor for Buckingham in 2009, and later Mayor of Gatineau in 2013. In 2017, he was re-elected to that position, at which time he also took over as chair of the Caucus des maires des grandes villes de l'Union des municipalités du Québec, a strategic role aimed at influencing the relationship between municipalities and the Government of Quebec.



**David McDonald**  
Deputy Leader of the Glasgow City Council, UK

David McDonald has been a member of the Glasgow City Council since 2007. He is currently serving as the Scottish National Party's business manager and spokesperson on communities, convenor of the council's operation delivery and external governance scrutiny committee and a member of the council's executive committee. After his studies of community education at the University of Strathclyde he worked as national convenor for the Scottish National Party and for a number of voluntary sector charities and local community groups.





### Rabbi Dov Hayun

Vice Mayor of Haifa, Israel

Rabbi Dov (Dubi) Hayun was elected Deputy Mayor of Haifa in November 2018. He worked as youth instructor, tour guide in the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, as editor for the Shadmot magazine and teacher. Rabbi Dov Hayun is one of the founders of Tammuz Municipal Kibbutz. After completing his bachelor's degree in history and bible studies combined with a teaching certificate, he moved to the Galilee and spent 10 years at a high school in the Jezreel Valley. He got his master's degree at the Schechter Rabbinical Seminary. He has been serving as Rabbi of the Moriah conservative community in Haifa since 2008. Rabbi Dov Hayun was President of the Rabbinical Assembly in Israel between 2014 and 2017.



### Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt

State Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Hamburg, Germany

Dorothee Stapelfeldt was appointed Hamburg's State Minister for Urban Development and Housing in 2015. She is responsible for urban land-use planning and housing as well as building regulations and construction issues. This includes a long-term inclusive housing strategy for the city's refugees and major inclusive urban redevelopment projects. During the course of three decades of executive and parliamentary policy-making as a member of the Social Democratic Party, Dorothee Stapelfeldt has held a number of prominent positions in Hamburg, including Speaker of Parliament, Deputy Mayor, and State Minister for Science and Research. She was employed as Head of the Cooperation Division at the Volksfürsorge Insurance Corp, studied Art History, History of German Literature as well as Economic and Social History and holds a doctorate degree.



### Tunç Soyer

Mayor of Izmir, Turkey

Tunç Soyer has been elected Mayor of the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality in March 2019. He graduated from Ankara University's Faculty of Law and also holds a master's degree in International Relations from Webster College in Switzerland and in the "European Union" from Dokuz Eylül University. He started his professional career as a manager in the tourism sector and became a Consultant of the Mayor of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Ahmet Piriştina in 2003. From 2004 to 2006 he served as the Director of Foreign Relations of the Izmir Chamber of Commerce, being appointed General Secretary of EXPO Izmir in 2006. In 2009 Tunç Soyer was elected Mayor of Seferihisar and carried on this task for two terms. He has implemented the international local-scale development model Cittaslow (Slow City) first to Seferihisar and then other areas of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. In 2019, he was elected as a Board Member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).



### Sri Atin Ghosh

Deputy Mayor of Kolkata, India

Sri Atindranath (Atin) Ghosh is the Deputy Mayor of Kolkata, responsible for the Health Department including Vector Control, Disinfectant Schemes, Construction of Night Shelters, Archives, Central Medical Stores and the MTM TB Hospital. Prior to that he worked as Counselor of the Mayor. Atin Ghosh has been City Councilor of Kolkata since 1985 (except during 2000-2005). He was Chairman of the Municipal Accounts Committee of Kolkata from 2005 to 2010. Atin Ghosh has been part of the Kolkata administration since 2010, overseeing several projects in the fields of Health, Slum Development Services, Construction and Engineering. He also worked for the Govt. West Bengal Health Recruitment Board (2013-2016).





**Susana Carillo Aparicio**  
Vice Mayor of Málaga, Spain

Susanna Carillo Aparicio is the Vice Mayor of Málaga. She coordinates sustainability improvement initiatives, innovation projects and the digitalization of the city. She graduated as an industrial engineer and obtained her PhD in Smart Grids from the University of Málaga. Since 1998 Susanna Carillo Aparicio has been with “Endesa distribución” and from the beginning of Endesa’s “Smartcity Málaga Project” she coordinated the Project working in Smart Energy Management, Smart Buildings, Smart and Informed Consumer (AMI), Smart Mobility, Smart Energy Generation and Storage, (DER) and Advanced Distribution Automation, Multi Utility Communication and Information and Communication Technology.



**Awatef Berdai**  
Deputy Mayor for International Relations and Decentralized Cooperation, Marrakesh, Morocco

Awatef Berdai is Deputy Mayor of Marrakesh. In her position she is responsible for International Relations and Decentralized Cooperation.



**Magda Popeanu**  
Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, Responsible for Culture and Diversity, Montreal, Canada

Magda Popeanu is currently Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, responsible for Montreal’s culture and diversity. She is a member of Montreal’s City Council, representing the district of Côte-des-Neiges since 2013. More than half of the population of this district is of immigrant origin, so an awareness and understanding of these diverse realities is essential to its administration. A Canadian immigrant herself from Romania, Magda Popeanu has successfully transformed her training in electronics engineering (Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iași, 1980) into varied professional experiences, such as the management of a professional training centre for computer engineering. These experiences, both personal and professional, have shaped her current vocation in municipal politics.



**Sergey Cheremin**  
Minister of the City Government for External Economic and International Relations, Moscow, Russia

Sergey Cheremin has been Minister of the Moscow City Government and Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations since 2010. He studied International Relations in Moscow and completed study programs for banking specialists at the New York Institute and Fairfield University. From 1991 to 2004 Cheremin headed different banks. In 2004, he was appointed CEO of Moscow Bank of Reconstruction and Development (MBRD). He held various positions at JSFC Sistema. Sergey Cheremin is Chairman of the Board of Business Council for Cooperation with India and member of the Russian-Indian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation.





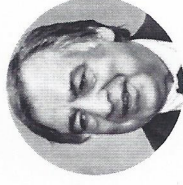
**Marina Deronjić**  
 Head of Urban Planning and  
 Building of the City of Mostar,  
 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Marina Deronjić has been Head of Urban Planning and Building in the City of Mostar since 2010. She graduated from the law faculty of the University Džemal Bijedić in Mostar in 1983 and started her professional career as a journalist for the daily newspaper Oslobođenje. From 1994 until 2000 she served as Head of Housing Affairs of the Municipality of Mostar Jugozapad. From 2000 until 2010 Marina Deronjić was Coordinator in Hercegovačka banka d.d. in Mostar, being responsible for claims collection, legal service and representation in the courts.



**Anita Laremont**  
 Director of Planning,  
 New York City, USA

Anita Laremont serves as Executive Director of the New York City Department of City Planning. Prior to joining City Planning four years ago as General Counsel, she was a partner in the law firm of Harris Beach PLLC, where she had a real estate and land use law and government agency practice. Prior to joining Harris Beach, Anita Laremont served for more than sixteen years as General Counsel of Empire State Development Corporation, New York State's primary economic development entity. Anita Laremont is on the board of Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Gardens in Staten Island, where she resides. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and the New York University School of Law, where she was a Root Tilden Scholar.



**Leoluca Orlando**  
 Mayor of Palermo, Italy

Leoluca Orlando, who is a trained lawyer, was elected Mayor of Palermo in 2012 for the fourth time and had won the mayoral elections in his home city before in 1985, 1993 and 1997. During his years as mayor he successfully fought against corruption and terror and provided the initiative for a cultural renewal (the "Palermitan Renaissance"). Leoluca Orlando has received several national and international awards for his commitment to this cause risking his life. In 1990 Leoluca Orlando founded the democracy movement "La Rete" (The Network) and was elected to the European Parliament in 1994. Since 2014 Leoluca Orlando has also been the President of Anci Sicilia, the National Association of Italian Municipalities.



**Armand Béouindé**  
 Mayor of Ouagadougou,  
 Burkina Faso

Armand Roland Pierre Béouindé was elected mayor of Ouagadougou in June 2016. He is a training manager and has acquired solid experience in management and administration of companies. Armand Béouindé is also very active in city networks and as such is a member of the board of the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF) and the Commission du vivre ensemble, a member of the Executive Committee and the Pan-African Council of United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA-Africa).





**Emmanuel Zossou**  
Mayor of Porto-Novo, Benin

Emmanuel Zossou has served as Mayor of Porto-Novo since 2015. He was elected unanimously by 33 municipal elected officials. He is a trained IT engineer specialized in information systems, telecommunication and strategic management. As such he worked as manager at Benin Télécoms S.A. He was director of the Office of the Minister of Culture and Communications, interim executive director of the Benin Office of Radio and Television Broadcast (BORTB) and chair of the board of directors of the BORTB.



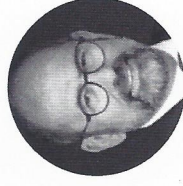
**Mohamed Sadiki**  
Mayor of Rabat, Morocco

As former Councilor of the capital city of Morocco as well as Regional Councilor and Vice President of the Council of Rabat-Salé-Zemmour-Zaër Region, Mohamed Sadiki was elected Mayor of Rabat in September 2015. He was trained as an engineer at the Mohammedia School and later obtained a master in Public Services Management. Correspondingly, Mohamed Sadiki started his early career as an engineer specialized in infrastructures and civil engineering before assuming several leading posts in the private sector. Involved in the political life of his party at regional and national level, Mohamed Sadiki became Chief of Staff of the Minister of Transports and Logistics in 2014.



**Paul Woodward**  
Mayor of Reading, UK

Paul Woodward was elected Mayor of Reading in May 2019. In Reading, he had been working as a Careers Adviser since leaving Bulmershe College in 1990 – for the last few years working with teenagers within the Youth Justice system, working in prisons and running crime diversion projects. Paul Woodward has been Vice Chair of the Reading Borough Council Licensing Committee and a former member of the Planning and Transport Committees. He was also a Group Whip and a non-executive Director of Reading Transport Ltd. Paul Woodward is spending his term in office raising money for three charities: Sport in Mind, Reading Family Aid and South Central Ambulance Charity.



**Philippe Laurent**  
Mayor of Sceaux, France

Mayor of Sceaux since 2001, Philippe Laurent became involved in local political life in the city of Sceaux in 1977 as a municipal councillor and deputy mayor in 1983. He is an engineer from the Ecole Centrale de Paris and a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. From 1991 to 2006, he created and chaired a major management consulting firm for local authorities. Philippe Laurent participates in many local public sector bodies, including the Conseil supérieur de la fonction publique territoriale (CSFPT) and the Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe (AFCCRE), which he chairs. He is the Secretary General of the Association des Maires de France. Philippe Laurent was Vice-Chairman of the Hauts-de-Seine General Council and has been a member of the Ile-de-France Regional Council since 2015.





**Eric Poinot**  
Policy Officer, Strasbourg, France

Eric Poinot is a local coordinator for the Prevention of Radicalisation for the City of Strasbourg, France. He is a regular trainer for the CNFPT and RAN participant. Eric Poinot is also in charge of the post-crisis system, which was activated after the attack on 11th December 2018 in Strasbourg. After graduating from the Institut d'Études Politiques (Political Sciences Institute) in Strasbourg, he has held various positions within the City of Strasbourg.



**Jean-Luc Moudenc**  
Mayor of Toulouse, France

Jean-Luc Moudenc has been the Mayor of Toulouse since 2014, having previously held this position from 2004 to 2008. He was educated at the Toulouse 1 University Capitole and worked as a journalist. In 1977 he joined the CDS (Centre for Social Democrats) which corresponds to his democratic, social and european convictions. From 1991 to 1994, Jean-Luc was the national President of the Young Social Democrats. From 1990 to 2002, he served as departmental chairman of the centrist parties (CDS, Democratic Force, New UDF) and was member of the national political bureau. In 2012 he became Deputy of Haute-Garonne. Since 2015, Jean-Luc Moudenc has been president of the association "France Urbaine", which represents 96 large cities and inter-municipalities.



**Abderrazak Bouziri**  
Deputy Mayor of Tunis, Tunisia

Abderrazak Bouziri has been elected Deputy Mayor of Tunis in 2018, having been member of the Tunis City Council since May 2018. With the advent of the Jasmine Revolution in 2011, he played an important role in the transitional period 2011 - 2018 by serving as Mayor of the Upper Omrane District. Abderrazak Bouziri graduated from ITSEM Belgium as mechanical engineer. He has had a career in the field of vocational training in Tunisia specializing in apprenticeship management.



**Antoin Scholten**  
Mayor of Venlo, Netherlands

Antoin Scholten took office as Mayor of Venlo in 2012. Before, he has held various political functions: In 1986 he became municipal counselor in Deventer and floor leader. In 1991 he was appointed alderman in Deventer. In his position as counselor Antoin Scholten worked in the fields of education, traffic and transport, environment and city planning. He was Deputy Mayor of Deventer from 1999 to 2001. In 2001 he was appointed Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau. Antoin Scholten was Mayor of Zwijndrecht from January 2002 until 2012.





**Jürgen Czernohorsky**  
Executive City Councillor for  
Education, Youth, Integration and  
Personnel, Vienna, Austria

Jürgen Czernohorsky was appointed as Executive City Councillor for Education, Youth, Integration and Personnel in Vienna in January 2017. Since then he has been working for a livable city, where everyone feels welcome and has equal opportunities. He studied sociology and in 2001 became the youngest member of the Vienna City Council and Provincial Parliament. From 2011 to 2015 he served as Federal Chairman of “Österreichische Kinderfreunde” before becoming President of the Vienna School Board.



**Michał Olszewski**  
Deputy Mayor of Warsaw, Poland

Michał Olszewski was appointed Deputy Mayor of Warsaw in 2011. He has been working at the City of Warsaw since 2007. Today he is responsible for EU funds, waste management, economic development and spatial planning. Michał Olszewski started his career in the public administration in 1997 at the Office of the Committee for European Integration, being responsible for strengthening the administrative potential of local authorities for European integration and EU pre-accession and structural funds absorption. He is actively involved with strengthening the cooperation within the Warsaw metropolitan area and is author of several projects supporting functional links between the communes of the metropolis. Since 2012 Michał Olszewski has been Chair of the Steering Committee of Integrated Territorial Investments of the Warsaw Metropolis.



# Guests & Speakers



**Niels Annen**  
Minister of State,  
German Federal Foreign Office

Niels Annen, Member of the German Parliament since 2017, has been Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office since 2018. He studied history at the University of Hamburg and Humbolt University Berlin as well as International Public Policy at the John Hopkins University in Washington. From 2005 to 2009 Niels Annen served his first term in the German Bundestag, being member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Between 2010 and 2011 he worked as Senior Transatlantic Resident at the German Marshall Fund in Washington and from 2011 to 2013 as Advisor at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Berlin.



**Sheikh Khaled Bentounes**  
Initiator of the International Day  
of Living Together in Peace

Spiritual leader of the Sufi Way Alâwiyya, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes is Honorary President of AISA International NGO, the Muslim Scouts of France and Europe and a founding member of the French Council of Muslim Worship. The Sheikh is a writer, teacher and lecturer and travels the world as a messenger of peace. A man of dialogue, his opinions are sought by political decision-makers and spiritual leaders. He was a speaker at the COP 21 Conferences Summit in Paris in 2015. A man of action, he is the initiator of the International Day of Living Together in Peace at the United Nations (2017). He is committed to a Culture of Peace and Fraternity in order to unite all people through common values.





**Francesca Lionetti**  
Policy Officer for the  
Intercultural cities program,  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Francesca Lionetti is in charge of the Intercultural Cities' strand of the Council of Europe cooperation in the southern neighbourhood, focusing on fostering an intercultural approach to local policies in Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco. Within the Intercultural Cities Programme, she led actions in the field of media, refugee inclusion, intercultural citizenship, heritage and urban planning. Francesca Lionetti studied Economics and Management of Cultural Heritage (Università Cattolica di Milano) and holds a master's degree in Public Administration and Policies from Bocconi University, where she also collaborated with the Research Center on Mediterranean Relations and Innovation. Before moving to Strasbourg (France) she has lived and studied in Istanbul (Turkey) and Rabat (Morocco).



**Dr. Mazda Adli**  
Chairman at Fliedner Clinic Berlin  
and Initiator of the Interdisciplinary  
Forum for Neurourbanism

After studying medicine in Bonn, Vienna and Paris and completing his dissertation at the Neurological University Hospital in Vienna, Dr. Mazda Adli began his career as a research assistant and assistant physician at the Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Free University of Berlin. In 2004 he became senior physician at the Clinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy of the Charité, Campus Mitte, where he led his own research group and habilitated in December 2010. Under the title "Stress and the City," Dr. Mazda Adli and the Alfred Herrhausen Society have founded an interdisciplinary forum of neuroscientists, architects, and urban planners to investigate the factors influencing city life on emotions and behavior.



**Henriette Vamberg**  
Partner and Managing Director,  
Gehl Architects

Henriette Vamberg leads the work focused on city transformations at Gehl. Since starting at Gehl in 2000 she has worked with a number of public and private clients and has led many of the major projects that have been developed at Gehl. This work has brought her to different destinations in Europe, the USA, Russia, India, Australia and New Zealand. Henriette Vamberg graduated from Jan Gehl's Urban Design Department. His methodology and knowledge are deeply embedded in her approach, which is constantly evolving through the variety of projects which Gehl undertakes.





**Christoph Inghenhoven**  
Chairman of ingenhoven architects

Christoph Inghenhoven studied architecture and art history at the RWTH University in Aachen and further at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf with Hans Hollein (1980–1983). In 1985, he founded the architectural practice ingenhoven architects. The office received international recognition in 1997 with the RWE Tower in Essen, one of the first ecological high-rise buildings worldwide. Since 1997 ingenhoven architects have been planning the underground central station in Stuttgart as centerpiece of the Stuttgart 21 transport and urban design project and have developed several excellent high-rise projects in Singapore, Japan and Australia. Christoph Inghenhoven is one of the leading international architects committed to sustainable and ecological architecture.



**Esteban Benavides**  
Coordinator of the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together

Esteban Benavides is the Coordinator of the International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together and International Affairs Advisor at the City of Montreal. Esteban Benavides has more than 12 years of experience on partnership development, knowledge management and public policy at the municipal and international level. As a policy analyst, he has conducted a series of technical assistance assignments for cities, government agencies in different countries and international organizations. He holds a master's degree on Urban management/Sociology of the University of Strasbourg (France), and an MBA from HEC-Montréal.



**Jonathan Birdwell**  
Deputy Director - Policy and Research, Strong Cities Network

Jonathan Birdwell is Deputy Director at the London-based counter extremism organisation Institute for Strategic Dialogue. He is responsible for strategic direction on ISD's research on Islamist and Far Right Extremism, Disinformation and Hate and Polarisation. He also oversees ISD's Strong Cities Network, the only global network of cities, municipalities and local practitioners sharing knowledge and expertise on building social cohesion and resilience to violent extremism in all its forms. Since starting at ISD in 2015, Jonathan Birdwell has overseen the launch and expansion of the Strong Cities Network from 25 to over 110 cities from every global region and growing. He holds a master's degree (with distinction) from the London School of Economics and Political Science as well as bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Philosophy from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.



**Aziza Akhmouch**  
Acting Head of the Cities Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (CITY), OECD

Aziza Akhmouch is Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division (CITY) within the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) at the OECD. The division provides the secretariat for the OECD Working Party on Urban Policy as well as for multi-stakeholder and innovative networks such as the OECD Champion Mayors Initiative for Inclusive Growth. Prior to joining the OECD, Aziza Akhmouch was lecturer at the University of Cergy-Pontoise (2004-2008), Programme Manager at ESSEC Business School (2005-2006) and Head of the Refugees desk at Reporters without Borders (2004-2005). She studied Geography and International Business in Paris and Foreign Languages applied to International Trade in Cergy-Pontoise.





**Sven Böll**  
Head of Capital Office,  
WirtschaftsWoche

Since January 2018, Sven Böll has been Head of the Capital Office of WirtschaftsWoche in Berlin. Before, he worked for SPIEGEL-Verlag for more than ten years – i.a. as head of the business department of SPIEGEL ONLINE, capital city office and corporate editor at manager magazin. He studied economics and political science in Bonn, Berlin and Paris. Before attending the German School of Journalism in Munich, Sven Böll worked as a management consultant for several years.