

FRANCE

Ms Fadela AMARA
Secretary of State for Urban Policy, attached to the
Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs



Fadela Amara was born in 1964 in Clermont-Ferrand (Puy-de-Dôme), France.

Education

Vocational Training Diploma in Office Administration
Honorary Doctorate from the Free University of Brussels

Career

Founder of the Republican French Tour of the “Ni putes ni soumises” (Neither Whores Nor Submissives) Association in 2003

Elective Office

Municipal Councillor in Clermont-Ferrand since 2001

Other offices held

President of the “Ni putes ni soumises” (Neither Whores Nor Submissives) Association (NPNS) since 2003

President of the Fédération nationale des maisons des potes (FNMP) (a national network of community associations) since 2000

Member of the “Haute Autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité” (Halde) (High Authority for the Fight against Discrimination and for Equality) since 2005

Member of the “Observatoire de la parité entre les femmes et les hommes” (Gender Parity Observatory) since 2002

Member of the Sponsorship Committee of the “Coordination française pour la décennie de la culture de paix et de non-violence” (French Coalition for the Decade for the Promotion of Peace and Non-violence)

Activist with SOS Racisme since 1986

Latest published work

La Racaille de la République (The Rabble of the Republic) (with Mohammed Abdi), Le Seuil Publishers, 2006

Ni putes ni soumises (Neither Whores Nor Submissives) (with Sylvia Zappi), La Découverte Publishers, 2003

EUROPEAN UNION

Mr Jacques BARROT
Vice president of the European Commission,
responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security



Born on 3 February 1937, at Yssingeaux, France.

Current responsibilities

- Vice-president of the European Commission in charge of Justice Freedom and Security since May 2008

Former responsibilities within the Commission

- Vice-president of the European Commission in charge of Transports since November 2004
- Member of the European Commission for Regional Policy, from April to November 2004

Ministerial responsibilities

- State Secretary for Housing, 1974-1978
- Minister for Trade and Craft Industries, 1978-1979
- Minister for Health and Social Security, 1979-1981
- Minister for Labour, the Social Dialogue and Participation, May to November 1995
- Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, from October 1995 to June 1997

Parliamentary offices held

- Member for Haute-Loire from 1967 to 2004 (representing the 1st district of Le Puy-Yssingeaux)
- Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on Cultural, Family and Social Affairs from March 1986 to March 1988
- Chairman of the Finance Committee from April 1993 to June 1995
- Finance Committee special rapporteur on vocational training from June 1997 to May 2002

Local and regional government offices held

- Member of the Auvergne Regional Council from 1976 to 1986
- Mayor of Yssingeaux from March 1989 to March 2001
- Chairman of the Haute-Loire Departmental Council from 1976 to 2004

Political responsibilities

General Secretary of the Centre des Démocrates Sociaux from 19683 to 1991

Chairman of the Centre Union Group in the National Assembly from September 1991 to April 1993

First Vice-Chairman of the UDF Group in the National Assembly from April 1993 to May 1995

Chairman of the UMP (Union pour un Mouvement Populaire) Group in the National Assembly from 2002 to 2004

Other responsibilities

National Vice-chairman of the Cercle de l'Industrie, the forum for major French industrial firms

Academic qualifications

Law degree

Advanced diploma in sociology

Diploma from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris

Published works

« *Les Pierres de l'Avenir* » (1978)

« *Notre contrat pour l'alternance* » (together with M. Barnier, D. Perben and J.-P. Raffarin, 2001)

« *L'Europe n'est pas ce que vous croyez* » (2007)

EUROPEAN UNION

Mr Gérard DEPREZ,
President of the Committee on civil liberties, justice and
home affairs
in the European Parliament



Born on 13 August 1943, Noville-Bastogne (Belgium)

Lecturer, Workers' Higher Education Institute (1966-1974)
Associate member, University Association for Research and Administration (1969-1974)
Adviser in the office of the Minister for French Culture (1974-1975)
Political adviser to the President of the PSC (1975-1978)
Head of the Deputy Prime Minister's office (1979-1981)
PSC-CVP general policy secretary (1978-1979)
President of the PSC (1981-1996)
Founder of the MCC party (1988)
Chairman of the MCC executive (1998)
Vice-President of the Reform Movement (1998)

Member of the EPP policy bureau (1981-1996)

Member of the European Parliament (since 1984)
Vice-Chairman of the Delegation to the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee (1994-2004)

Minister of State (1995)

Chairman: Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Vice-Chairman : Delegation for relations with Mercosur

Member :
Conference of Committee Chairmen
Committee on Budgets
Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly

Substitute : Delegation for relations with Canada

GERMANY

Mr Wolfgang SCHÄUBLE, Minister of interior



Born on 18 September 1942 in Freiburg, Mr SCHÄUBLE studied Law and Economics in Freiburg and Hamburg. In 1971, he gained his doctorate in Economic Law and joined the Inland Revenue Service in Bade-Württemberg. From 1978 to 1984, Mr SCHÄUBLE worked as a Barrister at the law courts in Offenburg. He has been a member of the CDU (Christian Democratic Union) since the age of 17 and was elected to the Bundestag for, the Offenburg constituency, in 1972. He has been continuously re-elected to the Bundestag ever since.

His career took a decisive turn in 1981, when Helmut KOHL offered him the post of Parliamentary Secretary to the CDU / CSU group in the Bundestag. He was appointed Minister without portfolio and Head of the Chancellery in Helmut Kohl's government (1984 – 1989), then Federal Minister of the Interior (1989 – 1991). He was the target of an assassination attempt in November 1990, which left him paralysed. In 1991, he was made Chairman of the CDU / CSU parliamentary group. He succeeded Mr Kohl as Chairman of the party between 1998 and February 2000. He resigned from all party posts in February 2000.

At the end of 2002, he began working as foreign and European policy adviser for CDU / CSU Chancellor candidate, Mr Edmund STOIBER. In October 2002, he became spokesman for the CDU in the Bundestag on defence and foreign policy matters. Finally, since November 2005, he has served as Federal Minister of the Interior in the grand coalition government (CDU-SPD) led by Angela MERKEL.

The Committee of the Regions

Set up in 1994 under the Treaty on European Union, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) is an advisory body composed of representatives of Europe's regional and local authorities. The CoR has to be consulted before EU decisions are taken on matters such as regional policy, the environment, education and transport – all of which concern local and regional government.

The Committee has 344 members. The number from each member state approximately reflects its population size, as follows :

Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom :	24
Poland and Spain :	21
Romania :	15
Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Sweden :	12
Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Finland :	9
Estonia, Latvia and Slovenia :	7
Cyprus and Luxembourg :	6
Malta :	5
TOTAL	344

The members of the Committee are elected municipal or regional politicians, often leaders of regional governments or mayors of cities.

They are nominated by the EU governments but they work in complete political independence. The Council of the European Union appoints them for four years, and they may be reappointed. They must also have a mandate from the authorities they represent, or must be politically accountable to them.

The Committee of the Regions chooses a President from among its members, for a term of two years. Luc Van den Brande, from Belgium, was elected President in February 2008.

The role of the Committee of the Regions is to put forward the local and regional points of view on EU legislation. It does so by issuing opinions on Commission proposals.

The Commission and the Council must consult the Committee of the Regions on topics of direct relevance to local and regional authorities, but they can also consult the Committee whenever they wish. For its part, the Committee can adopt opinions on its own initiative and present them to the Commission, Council and Parliament.

Each year the Committee of the Regions holds five plenary sessions, during which its general policy is defined and opinions are adopted.

The members of the Committee are assigned to specialist 'commissions' whose job is to prepare the plenary sessions. There are six commissions:

- Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy (COTER)
- Commission for Economic and Social Policy (ECOS)
- Commission for Sustainable Development (DEVE)
- Commission for Culture and Education (EDUC)
- Commission for Constitutional Affairs and European Governance (CONST)
- Commission for External Relations (RELEX).

The European Economic and Social Committee

Founded in 1957 under the Treaty of Rome, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an advisory body representing employers, trade unions, farmers, consumers and the other interest groups that collectively make up 'organised civil society'. It presents their views and defends their interests in policy discussions with the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

So the EESC is a bridge between the Union and its citizens, promoting a more participatory, more inclusive and therefore more democratic society in Europe.

The Committee is an integral part of the EU's decision-making process: it must be consulted before decisions are taken on economic and social policy. On its own initiative, or at the request of another EU institution, it may also give its opinion on other matters.

The EESC has 344 members – the number from each EU country roughly reflecting the size of its population. The numbers per country are as follows :

Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom :	24
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Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Sweden :	12
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TOTAL	344

The members are nominated by the EU governments but they work in complete political independence. They are appointed for four years, and may be re-appointed.

The Committee meets in Plenary Assembly, and its discussions are prepared by six subcommittees known as 'sections', each dealing with particular policy areas. It elects its President and two Vice-Presidents for a two-year term. Mr. Mario Sepi, from Italy, became President of the EESC in October 2008.

The European Economic and Social Committee has three main roles :

- to advise the Council, Commission and European Parliament, either at their request or on the Committee's own initiative;
- to encourage civil society to become more involved in EU policymaking;
- to bolster the role of civil society in non-EU countries and to help set up advisory structures.

Working mostly in their countries of origin, the members of the Committee form three groups that represent employers, workers and various economic and social interests.

The Employers' Group has members from private and public sectors of industry, small and medium-sized businesses, chambers of commerce, wholesale and retail trade, banking and insurance, transport and agriculture

The Workers' Group represents all categories of employees, from manual to executive. Its members come from national trade union organisations.

The third group represents a wide range of interests: NGOs, farmers' organisations, small businesses, crafts and professions, cooperatives and non-profit associations, consumer and environmental organisations, the scientific and academic communities and associations that represent the family, women, persons with disabilities, etc.