



**EuDA  
2017**

**Annual General Meeting  
Conference Programme  
Wednesday 15 November 2017  
Stanhope Hotel Brussels**

***“PROTECTIONISM:  
Medicine to a Right Illness or Poison Pill?”***

***Conference Moderator***

**Eric Van den Eede**  
Special Adviser on Waterborne Transport Infrastructure  
Chairman of Flanders' Maritime Cluster

***Speakers***

**Jonathan Holslag**  
Professor of International Politics  
Free University Brussels (VUB)  
*Is there a Globalisation Illness?  
from Globalisation Illness to Wellness ...*

**Signe Ratso**  
European Commission – DG TRADE  
Director for Trade Strategy and Analysis  
*Protectionism and Realism?  
Fight against Protectionism and Need for Reciprocity*

**Paris Sansoglou**  
Secretary General  
European Dredging Association  
*Dredging against Protectionism*



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### *“PROTECTIONISM: Medicine to a Right Illness or Poison Pill?”*

The recent rise of populism around the world is often accompanied with the rhetoric that protectionism is the “panacea” that will revive economic growth and create more “national” jobs. By hindering or blocking foreign workers or companies from accessing the domestic market, protectionism offers an apparently comfortable cocoon that provides a temporary relief to the domestic economic issues ... but it often proves to be a short-term solution.

Indeed, in the medium or long term, the disconnection from global trade and the “protection” from global competitors provide major disincentives for these protected companies and jobs to further develop, invest or innovate. They will be “frozen in time” and while the quality of their products and services will at best stagnate, their processes will progressively grow obsolete and inefficient with regards to the global market. Their costs and prices will rise and cripple their global competitiveness. By freezing these selected sectors, protectionism progressively transforms them into a liability to their national economic partners.

As global free trade champions, Europeans promote free market access and level playing field worldwide. In the words of Jean-Claude Juncker: **“As far as we [Europe] are concerned, there is no protection in protectionism”**. However, with global sectors, the question of reciprocal treatment is genuine and may be key to a healthy strategy to erode and ultimately eliminate protectionism.

Starting with a short description of what could be the possible illness in Europe, the speakers will reflect on whether protectionism is a medicine to a right illness or poison pill. After the presentation of selected dredging cases, the conference will conclude with an open discussion.



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### **Conference Moderator**



**Eric Van den Eede**  
**Special Adviser on Waterborne Transport Infrastructure**  
**Chairman of Flanders' Maritime Cluster**

Eric Van den Eede is an independent consultant in the field of waterborne transport infrastructure since 2013. In 2013, he was elected chairman of Flanders' Maritime Cluster, a network organisation consisting of over 120 companies, active in the offshore, maritime and port sectors.

He holds a degree in civil engineering from Ghent State University.

Eric Van den Eede started his career in the early seventies of last century as a project engineer at the 1<sup>st</sup> directorate of the Scheldt basin of the administration for waterways in Ghent and supervised the upgrading of the river Upper-Scheldt to a class IV waterway. He was active for more than 40 years in the Flemish waterways administration. His last function was general manager of the agency Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV, a public company created in 2004, responsible for approximately 1000 kilometers of waterways in the Scheldt basin in Belgium. From 1999 until 2011, he was the international president of PIANC, the World Association for Waterborne Transport Infrastructure. In this function, he initiated a thorough reorganisation of this association, that is the oldest and leading association for waterborne transport infrastructure worldwide. From 2011 until 2015, Eric Van den Eede was chairman of the Belgian Section of the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) and as such chairman of the Organising Committee for the 20<sup>th</sup> World Dredging Conference (WODCON) in Brussels in 2013.



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### **Speaker**



**Jonathan Holslag**  
**Professor of International Politics**  
**Free University Brussels (VUB)**  
Is there a Globalisation Illness?  
from Globalisation Illness to Wellness ...

Jonathan Holslag works as a postdoctoral fellow of the Research Foundation Flanders and teaches international politics at the Free University Brussels (VUB). He is also a Rockefeller Fellow of the Trilateral Commission, a member of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, and a Nobel Fellow at the Nobel Institute in Oslo.

His research focuses on the impact of China's rise on global politics, but he is also interested in Europe's position in the changing global order. He has published widely on geopolitics, geoeconomics, Asian powerpolitics and the position of Europe in international affairs.

During his career, Jonathan contributed to various study projects for European and international institutions. He was coordinator of the EU-China Academic Network (ECAN) in 2007-2008. He also worked as leader of a multidisciplinary research group that prepared several reports on China's foreign policy and economic transition for the European Parliament. He also advised Fortune Global 500 companies on their Asia strategy and to exchange views with board members of these firms.

In 2015, I was appointed special advisor to European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans and became part of the wise men panel of the Belgian Minister of Defence.



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**Signe Ratso**  
**European Commission – DG TRADE**  
**Director for Trade Strategy and Analysis**  
*Protectionism and Realism?*  
*Fight against Protectionism and Need for Reciprocity*

Signe Ratso is Director in DG TRADE since 2007. Currently she is responsible for Trade Strategy and Analysis as well as Market Access issues, including implementation issues. Her Directorate is also in charge of the industrial sector aspects of the EU trade policy, including energy and access to raw materials. Previously she was Director, responsible for the following areas: WTO and OECD issues, legal aspects of trade policy including WTO Dispute Settlements, export credits and dual use of exports, food-related sectors.

Before joining the Commission, Signe Ratso worked as Deputy Secretary General (1994-2005) at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Estonia. She was responsible for all EU-related issues in the following policy areas: trade and industrial policy, energy, transport, telecommunications, information society, internal market affairs. During Estonia's accession negotiations to the EU she was responsible for negotiating 6 economic chapters.

She has two University degrees. In 1983 she graduated from Tartu University in Estonia as an English philologist, in 1993 in International Trade and International Economics.



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**Paris Sansoglou**  
**Secretary General**  
**European Dredging Association**  
*Dredging against Protectionism*

Paris Sansoglou holds a degree of Commercial Engineer from the Solvay Business School (ULB) that he has complemented with degrees in Environmental Studies (ULB), Business Informatics (VUB) and Financial Analysis (CIAF).

His professional experience is varied and includes research (in ULB on sustainable development), statistics (Business Statistics for Eurostat), knowledge management, economic, environmental & financial consulting activities (for Ernst & Young). He has spent most of his career on the ‘European’ scene working in the European Commission (Eurostat) and in trade associations (representing successively the European manufacturers of synthetic fibres, the European shipyards and now the European dredgers).

Paris developed his strong kinship with maritime policies and technologies since he joined the Community of European Shipyards’ Associations (CESA) and now he pursues his passion for the sea and related issues with the European Dredging Association (EuDA) where he is Secretary General since April 2009. He has been managing maritime strategic activities covering research projects (coordinator in FP5 & FP6 and partner in H2020), trade issues, social aspects, technical and environmental issues, statistics, market monitoring.

As the representative of EuDA, Paris has been part of various European teams advocating and actively working towards market access worldwide and global level playing field.