

THE ESG JOURNEY - A PULSE-CHECK FOR THE MALTESE ECONOMY

# Meet the Speakers and Moderators





**Mr Kenneth B. Micallef**  
President, ifs Malta

Current President of IFS Malta. Elected on the Committee of IFS Malta in 2003. Occupied a number of roles including responsibility for the Institute's activities, member on the research sub-committee and an active participant on a number of projects. Occupied the role of Education Director of the Institute, prior to being elected President in 2015.

Kenneth currently occupies the role of Executive Head, Business Development (Business Banking) with Bank of Valletta plc where he has performed a number of other roles, both at retail and head office level including those of Head, CEO's Office and Secretary to the Bank's Executive Committee and the Bank's Management Board.

He sits on the Board of the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation.

He is a Fellow of the London Institute of Banking and Finance and sits on the Board of the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation.



**Prof Edward Scicluna**  
Governor of the Central Bank of Malta

Edward Scicluna is Governor of the Central Bank of Malta and Deputy Chairman of the Malta Financial Services Authority, after having served as Malta's Minister for Finance (2013-2020). He also served as an MEP and Vice-Chairman of ECON (2008-2013). His previous appointments included that of Professor and Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Malta (UoM), and Chairman of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development. Edward graduated from the University of Oxford with a Diploma with distinction in politics and economics; from the UoM with a First Class Honours BA degree. He read for his Masters and Doctorate in Economics at the University of Toronto.



**David Eacott**  
Head of Banking Supervision, MFSA

David Eacott is Head of Banking Supervision, responsible for the oversight of credit and financial institutions operating in and from Malta.

David joined the MFSA in February 2020 after 22 years at the Bank of England including the UK's Financial Services Authority. David was most recently responsible for the successful implementation of the UK's ring fencing regime.

During that time, he also helped the Resolution function with its implementation of the UK's Resolvability Assessment Framework and led the Bank of England's effort to improve the quality of internal audit functions within financial firms.

During his supervisory career, David ran a number of teams responsible for oversight of large and medium sized banks, building societies and asset management firms. He was also a UK policy expert on the CRD and worked at the UK's Permanent Representation in Brussels during the last UK EU Presidency negotiating its final legislative stages.

David studied Modern European Studies at Loughborough University prior to joining the Bank of England.



**Grant Ashby**  
Sustainable Finance & Investment Proposition Specialist, London Stock Exchange Group

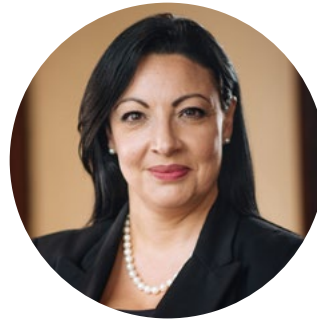
Grant Ashby is Sustainable Finance & Investment Proposition Specialist at LSEG (London Stock Exchange Group), based in London. Grant leads LSEG ESG data & analytics client solutions across EMEA. Grant has a keen interest in environmental, climate and social issues, is CFA ESG qualified and is currently studying for an MBA with a focus in sustainable finance from Imperial College Business School. Prior to LSEG, Grant was head of ESG business development for UK&I Banks, Insurance and Corporates at S&P Global, and held various other roles managing engagements with global financial institutions in both New York and London.



**Marcel Cassar**

Chair, Malta Bankers Association

Marcel Cassar is CEO of APS Bank plc since January 2016. His extensive career started in 1987 with Price Waterhouse Malta, followed by MIBA/MFSC, now the MFSA (1991-1996). He was General Manager at Lombard Bank Malta plc (1996-2004) and First Executive Vice President and CFO at FIMBank plc (2004-2015). As a board member of the Malta Bankers' Association, he served as Deputy Chairman (2017-2018) and Chairman (2018-2020, and currently since June 2022), leading to a seat on the board of the European Banking Federation. Marcel is a CPA, a fellow member of the Malta Institute of Accountants and holds an MBA in Bank Financial Management awarded jointly by the University of Wales and Manchester Business School (1995). He has lectured and examined at the FEMA and in the MA Financial Services course, University of Malta on banking policy and regulation.



**Marthese Portelli**

CEO, Chamber of Commerce

Dr Portelli is a law graduate from the University of Malta specialized in applied business law and IT. Throughout her 27 years of working experience she occupied several managerial posts and spearheaded nationwide projects within the public and the private sector.

In 2013 she contested the general election successfully and was re-elected again in 2017, during which she shadowed challenging portfolios including EU affairs, energy, environment, transport, infrastructure, capital projects, planning and property.

Following her departure from politics, she ventured into the sphere of sectoral representation while working as a management consultant in her professional capacity.

Since 1st May 2021 she took on the role as CEO of The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry. She is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Malta and sits on the Board of Directors of PBS Ltd, Malta Business Bureau (MBB), Education Malta and Tech.MT.



**Massimo Bettanin**

Consultant, Ernst & Young (Malta)

Massimo has joined EY in June 2021 to lead Sustainability & Climate Change practice in Romania. His career summed up more than 25 years of experience in a wide range of sustainability, environmental and health & safety management, compliance and performance related activities and projects. Thanks to a broad field experience, he has built up a wide knowledge of key E&S issues and risks across several industrial sectors including Oil&Gas, Cement, Pulp & Paper, Manufacturing, Mining and Transport. As a Project Manager, Team Leader and Managing Director he has developed comprehensive experience and skills in people management, business planning, budgeting, and control, change management, business strategy and risk management.

He earned a degree in Economic Science at University of Verona and a post-graduate diploma in Environmental Engineering at the Polytechnic of Turin (Italy) and Brooks University of Oxford (UK). Moreover, Massimo successfully completed a program of study designed by the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership in 'Business and Climate Change: Towards Net Zero Emissions' and gained NEBOSH International Certificate on Occupational Health & Safety management

As a consultant, he worked for several multinational companies across Italy, France, Spain, Libya, South Africa, Nigeria, being partner in ERM, partner of ERM Southern Africa, Group Chief HSSE & Sustainability Officer at Dangote Industries Ltd.



**David Xuereb**

Founder, Malta ESG Alliance

Graduated in Architecture and Civil Engineering in Malta in 1991, Structural Engineering in London in 1993 and Zero-Carbon Economics in Cambridge in 2021. David led the largest professional services companies in the industry of the built environment with offices in many parts of the world. His technical experience varies widely. David has been very active in the field of sustainable design and the green building industry during the past 15 years. David was the President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce Enterprise and Industry until March 2021. David has founded the Malta ESG Alliance and is currently a consultant on change and risk management in relation to ESG, Decarbonisation and Climate Change in the private sector.



**Alexandrina Boyanova**

Head of Climate Office European Investment Bank

Boyanova Alexandrina became Head of the Climate Office on 1st July 2022. As the EU's Climate Bank, the EIB through its Climate Bank Roadmap has set itself ambitious targets relating to green financing and policy development in order to support the EU Green Deal. The Climate Office is responsible for coordination and implementation of the Climate Bank Roadmap across its Operations directorate.

She was previously Senior Climate Officer in the Climate office since 2020 and from 2006 was a Senior Loan Officer responsible for lending to the Energy Sector and Banks in Baltic States and Northern Europe.

Before joining the Bank in 2006, Alexandrina held posts as Head of Department and Loan Officer in Bulgaria. She has degrees in Economics and an MBA from the University of National and World Economy.



**Paul Falzon**

Senior Regulatory Advisor, Ganado Advocates

Paul Falzon is a Senior Regulatory Advisor within Ganado Advocates' investment services and funds team, focusing on the setting up, procurement of licences and ongoing servicing of investment service licence holders and collective investment schemes. Paul also regularly assists the firm's clients with other regulatory matters.

Paul also forms part of Ganado Advocates' banking and finance team, assisting banks and financial institutions extensively in regulatory matters. In particular, he advises clients on the licensing regime in Malta applicable to credit institutions and financial institutions, including ongoing compliance with the various legislation applicable to payment services, electronic money and general banking activities. Paul also regularly assists in general corporate matters and also forms part of the firm's blockchain team, mainly assisting service providers to obtain a licence from the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) to operate as a VFA Service Provider.



**Chris Meilak**

Partner, Ernst & Young (Malta)

Chris Meilak is an EY Malta Partner leading sustainability services, as well as valuation, modelling and economic advisory services. Chris is an economist and accountant, and Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Malta. Chris has been involved in various engagements with public and private sector clients, including assistance on sustainability reporting disclosures and calculations, ESG/ sustainability strategy, carbon footprint measurement and recommendations, Malta's Low Carbon Development Strategy, and a pan-European project on circular economy. Chris and his team has also assisted in the setting up of the Malta ESG Alliance, which currently brings together 13 local businesses with a common vision and commitment, and continues to assist the Alliance within EY's role as strategic advisors.



**Norbert Paul Vella**

Partner, PwC (Malta)

Norbert is a Partner at PwC Malta and has over 15 years of experience in matters related to the financial sector including extensive consultation experience in relation to financial services regulation within the local banking sector.

Norbert leads the banking advisory practice of PwC Malta and is well versed with the ongoing developments in respect of the management and supervision of ESG risks for credit institutions and the wider financial services community. He is also leading PwC Malta's ESG Reporting and Assurance initiatives.

"Think long-term, consume responsibly"



**Steven Tedesco**

Non Executive Director / Independent Investment Committee Member of Various Entities

Mr Steven Tedesco (Maltese Nationality) is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment. He started his career in 1995 and served as Director, Deputy Head and Chief Investment Officer (2000-2009) at HSBC Global Asset Management (Malta) Limited where the assets under his management exceeded EUR1 billion. He also engineered and designed various capital protected investment structures, eventually also introducing in Malta the concept of wrapping such structures round Medium Term Notes and engineering the first ever local, hedge fund linked, full capital protected, structure sold in Malta.

Mr Tedesco now runs his own consultancy business, where he serves as non-executive director and independent investment committee member for licensed entities operating in the alternative fund and asset management industry. He also provides consultancy services, including independent valuation of derivatives. Mr Tedesco lectures and delivers talks on various capital markets linked topics and overall portfolio management. Amongst others he is the Chairman of the Board of Western Union Business Solutions Malta Ltd and of HSBC Malta Funds SICAV plc. He also chairs the Investment Committees of various asset management companies operating in the venture capital and private equity space, and in retail and logistic parks whose aggregate assets under management well exceed the EUR 2 billion mark. Mr Steven Tedesco has also been appointed as a Director on the Malta Stock Exchange where he also serves as the Chairman of the Audit Committee.



**Jonathan Spiteri**

Lecturer, Department of Insurance, University of Malta

Dr. Jonathan Spiteri is a Lecturer within the Department of Insurance at the University of Malta. He graduated with Honours in Economics (First Class) from the University of Malta in 2008, a Master of Science in Economics (with Distinction) in 2010 and, as an ESRC Scholar, a PhD in Economics in 2016, both from the University of Edinburgh. Jonathan's research interests include environmental economics and sustainability, macroeconomic analysis, public health, risk and behavioural science, and his academic work has been published in several leading international peer-reviewed journals and books. He also has significant consultancy experience across a number of private and public sector projects, particularly within the fields of environmental valuation, cost-benefit analysis, macroeconomic policy and circular economy. Dr Spiteri has served as an expert on several opinions drafted by the European Economic and Social Committee, and is a co-opted member of the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis.



**Kyle Debattista**

Associate, Camilleri Preziosi

Kyle is an Associate within Camilleri Preziosi's Corporate & Finance practice group with his main areas of practice being banking & finance and dealing with regulatory matters for investment firms, financial institutions and banks. He is also actively involved in advising banks with respect to their regulatory capital requirements and in assisting credit institutions in structuring and raising capital in the local capital markets. Kyle was recruited as a trainee with the firm in 2015. In 2016 he graduated with an LL.B (Hons.) from the University of Malta and in 2017 he graduated from the Masters in Advocacy degree at the same University. In 2018, Kyle was appointed as an Associate in the Corporate & Finance Practice Group and was admitted to the bar. In the following year, Kyle successfully obtained the Masters in Law (LL.M) in International Financial Law degree at King's College London.



**Paul Azzopardi**

CEO, Malta Development Bank

Paul trained and worked as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and then obtained an MBA at first class standing from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, concentrating in finance and investments. During this time Paul worked briefly at a local bank and at the Malta Development Corporation for 10 years.

After MDC, Paul worked in the securities industry in various roles but principally as corporate finance adviser, stockbroker and as a portfolio manager of private client accounts and mutual funds both in Malta and in Toronto, Canada. He set up and ran a group of financial services companies for 16 years. Paul also worked as a proprietary currency trader for a US private fund based in Utah.

Paul has written four published books: "Investment and Finance – A Common Sense Approach" (Progress Press, Malta, 2004); "Behavioural Technical Analysis" (Harriman House, UK, 2010); "Why Financial Markets Rise Slowly but Fall Sharply" (Harriman House, UK, 2012: this book was short-listed as best technical book for 2012 by Technical Analyst Magazine of the UK); and, "Death by Pictures" (a novel published by Kite Publishing, Malta, 2021).

Paul acted as President of the Financial Services Trade Section of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, as Deputy Chairman of the Malta Stock Exchange Committee, as Council Member of the Chamber of Commerce, as Director of government owned companies, Council Member of the Malta Institute of Management. He also founded and presided the Malta Investment Funds Association.

Paul has been involved in financial journalism, broadcasting and lecturing. He wrote the "Market View" column in The Times of Malta for 16 years, published academic papers on interest rate liberalization and short sales, was a lecturer in accounting and investment management at the University of Malta, contributed regularly to Canadian MoneySaver, and delivered a twice-yearly course on income investing at the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto (2012 -2015).

Subsequently, between 2016 and 2020, Paul served as director on the Board of Director of Bank of Valletta plc, BOV Asset Management Ltd., and BOV Funds Services Ltd., in which roles he chaired various board committees.

In 2016 Paul was part of the Working Committee tasked with planning and setting up the Malta Development Bank. Early in 2020 he joined the MDB and now serves as the Bank's Chief Executive Officer, thus returning to development finance work in which he always had a special interest.



**Steve Ellul**

Chartered Financial Analyst, Investment Consultant

Steve Ellul is a Chartered Financial Analyst, an investment consultant and a lecturer at the University of Malta. Steve is an investment manager by profession and has managed discretionary and institutional assets. Steve is today a policy consultant focusing primarily on ESG, green finance and the practical applicability of sustainable investing in the Maltese corporate context



**Kurt Farrugia**

CEO, Malta Enterprise

Kurt Farrugia was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Malta Enterprise on 1st August 2019. Previously, he served as Head of Government Communication and spokesperson for the Prime Minister between 2013 and 2019.

In August 2017, the Prime Minister appointed Mr Farrugia on the Malta-UK Business Promotion Task Force where he actively contributed on matters related to investment promotion in the UK. In April 2019 he was appointed on the New Economic Niches Committee of Malta Enterprise.

Mr Farrugia formed part of the Task Force organising the Valletta Summit on Migration and the Commonwealth Head of Governments Meeting held in 2015, as well as the Informal European Council during Malta's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in February 2017. He accompanied the Prime Minister in most of his international engagements at EU level.

Mr Farrugia's career before his role at the Office of the Prime Minister was in journalism and politics. He graduated in Communications and obtained a Masters Degree in Entrepreneurship at the University of Malta.



**Hon Minister Dr Miriam Dalli**

Minister for Energy, Enterprise, and Sustainable Development

Minister Miriam Dalli is responsible for Energy, Enterprise and Sustainable Development. Minister Dalli has a track record of promoting sustainability and the transition towards clean energy. Her portfolio includes attracting new investments, incentivise sustainability and supporting the green and blue economy. Her mission is to support the government's vision of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.



**Keith Demicoli**

Freelance Communicator

Keith Demicoli is a multi-award-winning presenter known for giving life to corporate events with so much ease and a natural charm borne out of his happy demeanour. He is one of Malta's most popular broadcasters and up until April 2021, he was known for his regular hosting of TVM News, Malta's most-watched TV programme since 2008. During this time, he was a locally based stringer for BBC, France24 and Euronews. Trained at the BBC Academy, London, and alumni of the US international program for journalists. During the past decade, he hosted some of Malta's most remarkable and anticipated national events, and a wide-range of high-level conferences and discussions involving prominent national and European politicians and professionals. In 2022, he hosted the first season of Shark Tank Malta and in October 2022, he started hosting TVM's flagship morning show, TVAM.

He holds a Masters Degree in European Law, politics and Economics from the University of Malta.



**Gabriella Borda**

Sustainability Advisor, Lect. University of Malta

A B.Com. Hons graduate from the University of Malta, with Banking & Finance as area of specialization, Gabriella Borda continued her studies in Green Energy and Climate Finance with the Berlin School of Economics & Law, in collaboration with RENAC, an expert training institution in renewable energies and energy efficiency worldwide. Gabriella holds a certificate of proficiency in Organizational GHG Accounting with the GHG Management Institute and completed a specialization course in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) with the Corporate Finance Institute, as well as an Expert Consultant Programme with the Renewable Energy Institute, of which she is a member, covering green energy topics such as Hydrogen, Energy Efficient Buildings and Electric Vehicles. Gabriella is actively promoting sustainability across different sectors on both national and international levels by supporting businesses and organizations in their sustainability journey, providing in-depth insights and adding value to her partners. She is also a part-time lecturer at the university of Malta where she is currently delivering a course on the fundamentals of ESG.



**Michael Bianchi**

Director – Financial Services Industry, Deloitte Malta

With well over 15 years of working experience, Michael is specialised in Investment Management Services working within Deloitte's Financial Services Practice. During this time Michael worked for two years with Deloitte in London, managing a number of multi-national companies in the Insurance and Investments Management Practice prior to returning to Deloitte Malta in 2009.

Michael services a broad client base both locally and internationally and is responsible for the statutory and non-statutory audits of a number of clients, including Collective Investment Schemes, Investment Management Companies and Fund Administrators as well as other regulated and non-regulated entities.

Michael coordinates various international engagements where he has developed numerous connections within the Deloitte Network. Michael also Chaired the FSI sub-Committee at the Malta Institute of Accountants for two years and is now Chairing the Sustainable Finance sub-Committee at the Institute. Michael is also leading the local Firm's ESG Assurance Strategy.

Michael is conversant with the technical accounting and reporting requirements for a wide-range of financial instruments and derivative products under IFRS.

Michael has a good understanding and appreciation of Information Technology (IT).