

**03-04**  
May 2023 Brussels

CONFERENCE

# Connected and Automated Driving



European Commission

DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE

## Plenary Session 3 - Past, present and future of EU Regulation on Connected and Automated Driving

Maive Rute

As Deputy Director-General in GROW, Maive Rute focusses on green transition of industries, resilience of supply chains, promotion of investments, standardisation and IP rights. In June 2022, European Commission nominated her the first ever Chief Standardisation Officer. Between 2005 – 2019, she has worked as Director for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, and as Director and DDG in the research and innovation field of the European Commission. She has also served as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Estonia and CEO of KredEx, the Estonian business and export financing body.



Richard Damm

Richard Damm is President of the Federal Motor Transport Authority (Kraftfahrt-Bundesamt, KBA) in Germany. He is also chairman of the UNECE Working Party on Automated, Autonomous and Connected Vehicles in Geneva where the globally effective regulations on automation of vehicles are generated.

Before being appointed President of KBA, Mr. Damm served at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure in Bonn and Berlin.

Richard is an internationally recognised expert in the field of the worldwide harmonisation of vehicle regulations. His current focus is on automation, connectivity and digitisation at national and international level.

He graduated from the Technical University of Munich as mechanical engineer in automotive engineering and product development.

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Larisa Wentholt

Larisa Wentholt is manager of the Innovation department of RDW, the Dutch vehicle authority. She is, together with her team, responsible for developing ways of working for the admission of autonomous vehicles. This started in 2015 with Field Operational Tests. Currently the focus is on the implementation of the new regulations for type approval of autonomous vehicles (R157 ALKS, EU ADS Implementing Act). Larisa has a background in ICT and innovation management. She worked at PwC, Ahold, City of Amsterdam, Incotec and CBR (Dutch driving exam authority). Always on transitions to new ways of working with ICT in different roles like project manager, programme manager, IT manager and CIO.



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## Salla SAASTAMOINEN

Salla Saastamoinen is Deputy Director-General in Directorate-General Joint Research Centre (JRC) at the European Commission. Salla Saastamoinen has worked in the European Commission since 1996, first in DG Environment and then in several areas in DG Justice and Consumers. Before joining the Commission, Ms Saastamoinen was a partner in a law office in Helsinki, Finland. She has a licentiate degree in law (post-graduate level) from the University of Helsinki, Finland, and post-graduate studies in law from the universities of Saarbrücken, Germany and Zürich, Switzerland. She is author of several books on environmental law and EU law.



## Dirk Ockel

Dirk Ockel is Senior Manager for Safety Certification and Regulatory Affairs at Mercedes-Benz AG. Dirk and his group provide safety certification services for MB passenger cars and vans, spanning from passive safety to automated driving, entailing the attainment of system type approvals, regulatory consulting to R&D and shaping legislation through international working group engagement and advocacy with authorities. Dirks team of 60 holds the first type approvals for Level 3 and Level 4 (parking) automation systems in industry. Dirk graduated at Munich Technical University with a Dipl.-Ing. (MSc) degree in Aeronautical Engineering and began his career at Mercedes-Benz in 1996, covering several positions in active and passive safety, among them safety communications, accident research, pedestrian protection and restraint system sensor development, requirements engineering, product analysis, driver assistance systems and – as an out-take – business development for off-highway truck automation.

