

METREX Symposium 14-15 November 2024, The Hague

SPEAKERS' OVERVIEW



Arco TIMMERMANS, Leiden University

Arco Timmermans is public affairs analyst, writer, and speaker and works at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He obtained his PhD in the Social and Political Sciences at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and has worked at several universities in the Netherlands as a visiting professor abroad. He was Research Director of the Montesquieu Institute in The Hague and has held a Chair by Special Appointment in Public Affairs. His research and writing are on public affairs, coalition politics, the nexus between science and practice, and agenda-setting in a comparative perspective. He also gives courses on these topics at the graduate and postgraduate level. He designed and coordinated a Public Affairs Master Track at Leiden University. Next to his academic work Arco Timmermans also is a professional trainer and commentator on news items. He has some 200 academic and professional publications, among which four books, and has over 300 media appearances.



Bart BOMAS, BVR adviseurs ruimtelijke ontwikkeling

Ir. (MSc) Bart Bomas is a spatial development advisor at BVR. Being a landscape architect and senior project leader, he loves to work with multidisciplinary teams in search for meaningful and economic vital landscapes. As an illustrator he works on different projects, from children's picture books to landscape paintings.

Insightful links:

www.bvr.nl

South-Holland: <https://circulair.zuid-holland.nl/activiteit/ruimtelijke-strategie/>

Article: <https://openjournals.ugent.be/renm/article/id/89650/>



Chandar VAN DER ZANDE, City of Amsterdam

Chandar works for the City of Amsterdam as Team coordinator for a biobased and circular construction sector. He has been working on the transition to a just and circular society for well over 10 years. He has been shaping real world examples with Living Lab De Ceuvel and his own circular and biobased housing cooperative De Warren. And has worked and advised on systemic change in the public sector. He now works for the city of Amsterdam where he focusses his effort on the built environment, trying to bring the activities of this sector within planetary boundaries.

Insightful links: [Policy: Circular economy - City of Amsterdam](#)



Eveline BAKKER, CircuLaw

Eveline has extensive experience as a lawyer. The last couple of years she has shifted her focus towards intertwining sustainability & circular economy with legal expertise. Eveline enjoys working complex projects with a focus on collaboration and governance and area development.

Eveline is a legal advisor leading the team writing the position paper on EU legislation for circular construction.

Insightful links: www.circulaw.nl



Fanauw HOPPER, CircuLaw

Fanauw is an experienced legal advisor. His specialisations are strategy, procurement and contracting, specifically for sustainable, climate neutral/positive and circular development. Fanauw wants to contribute to a more sustainable living environment, one where the planet remains inhabitable for nature and people, now and in the future.

Insightful links: www.circulaw.nl



Henk BOUWMAN, METREX Secretary General

Henk Bouwman is Secretary-General of METREX and, in this role, he has positioned METREX at the centre of debate on the metropolitan dimension in the major European agglomerations and EU institutions. As an urbanist, Bouwman has specialised on studying the impact of (high-speed) rail infrastructure and operations on city-regions and developing ways to better benefit from the huge investments and the opportunities the new infrastructure connections may bring.



Jurre BAIJARDS, City of The Hague

Ing. Jurre Baijards works at the Province of South-Holland & the Municipality of The Hague. He is a trainee in Spatial Development.



Mariia CHERNOVA, City of Amsterdam

Urban Planning student at Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands, with a passion for sustainable and inclusive urban development. Mariia is experienced in diverse development projects, interested in project management, research, and concept creation. Dedicated to addressing societal issues such as housing market inequality, economic prosperity, and participatory governance. Seeking opportunities to contribute to efficient urban resource management and a sustainable future.

Insightful links:|

www.linkedin.com/in/maria-chernova1 - LinkedIn

[ASSET - openresearch.amsterdam](https://openresearch.amsterdam) – ASSET Project



Menno RUBBENS, cepezed projects b.v.

Menno Rubbens, property developer, architect, and director of cepezedprojects since 2000, is a driving force behind the sustainability of the construction sector. As the founder of lcp circulair – an innovative joint venture between the developing architect cepezedprojects and demolition company Lagemaat – he has made an unprecedented impact by reusing building materials and even entire buildings. With his forward-thinking vision, Rubbens integrates new elements of circular architecture into each project. His approach goes beyond his own company: he

collaborates with various parties and actively works to transform the sector. Menno takes on risk-bearing participation in projects he believes in, repeatedly proving that collaboration and innovation go hand in hand. In addition to his practical contributions, he shares his knowledge on numerous international platforms. He gives lectures and participates in research projects to further disseminate and validate circular knowledge. His efforts were recognised in 2022 when he was awarded the title of 'Circular Hero' for his ability to break down barriers between developers, architects, and builders, thereby accelerating the transition to a circular construction economy.

Over the past five years, Rubbens has been a member of the Transition Team for a Circular Construction Economy and has initiated several groundbreaking circular projects. Examples include The Green House in Utrecht, Bouwdeel D(emontabel) in Delft, and the Temporary Courthouse in Amsterdam. Recently, he has played a crucial role in pioneering projects such as the relocation of the Zuiderstrand Theatre to Oss and the dismantling of the Circl pavilion at the Zuidas. These projects represent important steps towards a sustainable and circular future. Menno Rubbens is not only a visionary but also a decisive leader who dares to take risks to make the construction sector more sustainable and future-proof. His relentless commitment to integrating circular solutions into construction makes him an indispensable force in the journey towards a circular economy.

Insightful links:

www.cepezeprojects.nl; www.cepezed.nl; www.lcp-circulair.nl



Michiel BOSCH, Municipality of Leiden

Michiel Bosch works at the Municipality of Leiden. He is advisor for the circular construction and future-proof design. Michiel feels a strong urge to work on a sustainable and more balanced environment. Having a background in architecture and engineering, circular construction is a field where he has acquired experience and could develop his skills.



Richard KOEK, Municipality of The Hague

Richard is an expert in urban design and planning at the City of The Hague. In relation to the topic of the Symposium he highlights three retrofit scenarios used in The Hague. Each scenario is explained in terms of key aims, scope and specification, and the measurable outcomes that result. The **first scenario** is a light retrofit with an explicit focus on meeting Dutch decarbonisation targets - principally through a transition from fossil fuels to low carbon (electric) sources of heat. Constraining capital cost and disruption for occupants are key concerns. The **second scenario** applies the approach to retrofit which requires that decarbonisation is delivered with due consideration for energy costs, so as not to increase fuel poverty. It requires deep retrofit with a fabric first approach alongside a shift to low carbon heat, and probably a renewable energy source. The **third scenario** treats retrofit for decarbonisation as an opportunity to holistically improve the quality of the home in line with Dutch building regulations. This scenario considers organisation of the home, the space standards it meets (including opportunities for expansion), and other improvements that could have wider benefits to quality of life, health or wellbeing.

Insightful links: [Cirkelstad Den Haag - Cirkelstad](#)



Willem VAN WINDEN, former EU Commissioner

Willem van Winden (PhD) is a professor of Urban Innovation at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and founder of [Regenalyze](#), a consultancy for sustainable cities. He is an expert in the field of urban/regional innovation management and economic development. Recent research and advisory work covers a variety of topics, including the management of urban sustainability transitions, knowledge-based economic development, university-city relations, regional clusters&innovation, innovative procurement, and smart cities. He has published [seven books and many peer-reviewed scientific articles](#), serves as reviewer for a range of journals and funding agencies internationally, and acts as adviser for cities, city networks and other organisations, including URBACT, the European Urban Initiative (EUI), and Interreg. He frequently delivers speeches and lectures, and designs/moderates workshops for inter-city learning.