



**Dr. Lieve Fransen, Belgium**

Since mid-November 2011, Dr. Lieve Fransen is the Director responsible for Europe 2020: Social Policies in Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. Dr. Fransen has devoted herself to promoting social justice and the values of solidarity. During a distinguished career in international public health, Dr. Fransen has worked as Public Health Advisor to the Ministry of Health, Mozambique, Kenya, Rwanda and Cape Verde Islands; as Task Manager of a research programme on pregnant women and new-borns in Rwanda; and as Director of a research programme on sexual and reproductive health in Kenya and in the Tropical Institute in Antwerpen, Belgium. Dr. Fransen is Medical Doctor with a PhD on Social Policies.



**Dr. Yves Joannette, Canada**

Dr. Yves Joannette is a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montreal and a member of the Ordre des orthophonistes et audiologistes du Québec. From 1997 to 2009, he was Director of the Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM). From 2009 until recently, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec as well as Chair of the agency's Board of Directors.

Following his doctorate in neurosciences from the University of Montreal (1980), Dr. Joannette completed postdoctoral training in neuropsychology and behavioural neurosciences at the Timone University Hospital Centre in Marseille and at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (1980–82). His principal research interests focus on the aging process and cognitive deficits in the elderly. Dr. Joannette contributed to knowledge advances in neurofunctional reorganization, which enables people to maintain their communication abilities while aging, the impact of right-hemispheric cerebral lesions on communication abilities, and the cognitive deficits of Alzheimer's disease. Since the beginning of his career, Dr. Joannette and his research team have contributed significantly to training the next generation of researchers and health professionals through their commitment to knowledge transfer and the introduction of clinical best practices.

Yves Joannette has been a researcher at CRIUGM since 1982. From 1992 to 1997, he was Director of the University of Montreal's School of Speech Therapy and Audiology and Associate Director of Clinical Research at CRIUGM. Since the beginning of his career, Yves Joannette has enjoyed a strong international reputation, with excellence being the hallmark of each of his directorships.

Yves Joannette received research funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research from 1982 to 1992 and has received numerous distinctions, including the André-Dupont Award from the Club de recherches cliniques du Québec in 1990, and the Eve-Kassier Award in 1995 for his exceptional professional accomplishments. Yves Joannette is a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. In 2007, he received an honorary doctorate from Université Lumière in Lyon, France



**Ms. Kasia Jurczak, Belgium**

Kasia Jurczak works as a Policy Analyst in the Social Protection Unit of the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She is part of the team responsible for policy development in the areas of Health and Long-term care, as well as for follow-up to the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012).

Prior to joining the European Commission in August 2012, she worked at the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in Vienna, where, as Programme Manager, she coordinated work on disability rights, focusing on independent living, participation, accessibility and disability mainstreaming. She also played an important role in the process of establishing the Agency as the UN CRPD Article 33 monitoring body at the EU level.

Kasia previously worked for Eurofound, a Dublin-based EU agency, as a Research Officer on working conditions and social dialogue and for EuroHealthNet, a network of public health agencies, coordinating projects on health inequalities, social exclusion and public health capacity building in Central and Eastern Europe. She also consulted for the UNDP and the OSCE in the areas of social development and democratisation.

Kasia studied Social Policy with Social Psychology at the London School of Economics and Political Science (BSc) in the UK and Comparative Social Policy at the Catholic University of Leuven (MA) in Belgium.

Kasia is a Polish national and in addition to her mother tongue, she speaks English, French and some German.



**Mr. Tom Wright**

Prior to joining Age UK, Tom Wright was CEO for nearly 7 years of VisitBritain, the National Tourist Board, promoting Britain around the world.

Previous experience includes the Saga Group, where he was Managing Director of Saga Holidays and a Group Board Director.

Before joining Saga he worked for Scottish and Newcastle plc developing Center Parcs in England and then in Europe. He has a marketing and commercial background having worked on such brands as KP, Anchor and Carlsberg.