



## EU-Canada Free Webinar

28th of January 2021 15:00-16:30 (Brussels time)



### **Sam Ayoub – Canada-Europe Economic Chamber - EU**



Sam Ayoub is the founding President of the Canada-Europe Economic Chamber whose mission is to promote economic trades between Canada and the European Union.

Sam is also a businessman owning a Direct Marketing company, INFAX Inc. Since more than 25 years. INFAX Inc. is a fax and email broadcasting service provider with offices across Canada from Quebec City to Vancouver. INFAX Inc. has clients mainly in Canada but also in France, Switzerland, Australia, Japan, the United States, Mexico and Brazil.

Having both citizenships, Canadian and French, Sam was also deeply involved with various international Chamber of Commerce in Quebec City, Montreal, Vancouver and Paris before founding the Canada-Europe Economic Chamber in Canada and Europe.

## **Robert J. Brant – *McCarthy Tétrault***



Robert Brant is the Managing Partner of McCarthy Tétrault's London office where he has been based since 1998. He is an experienced corporate/commercial lawyer, focusing his practice on transatlantic M&A and capital markets work.

Rob regularly advises a wide range of Canadian and international companies in connection with European M&A and corporate finance transactions as well as significant commercial contracts. Mr. Brant's experience extends to a number of different sectors with a focus on all forms of energy and natural resources. Clients which Mr. Brant has recently represented include Asanko Gold, CGI, CIBC, Duke Royalty, Enbridge, First Quantum Minerals, Helios Investors, Heritage Oil, Mercuria Energy Trading, National Bank, Sundial Growers, TD Bank and Vitol.

Rob received his LLB from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto and his BA (Economics) from the University of Western Ontario. He is the past President of the Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce and the Chair of the Maple Leaf Trust which supports Canadian veterans and students living in the United Kingdom.

## **Mickaël Laurans – *Law Society of England and Wales***



Mickaël Laurans is the Head of International at the Law Society of England and Wales since 2017. He has worked on EU and International matters for the Law Society since 2003, both in London and Brussels, specialising in international trade in legal services and EU internal market matters.

Mickaël was the Information Officer of the UK Delegation to the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) between 2005 and 2017, sat on the UK Department for International Trade Expert Trade Advisory Group (DIT – ETAG) for the Professional and Business Services Sector and is currently an Executive Committee Member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Mickaël graduated from the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* of Rennes (France) in Law, Economics and Public Policy. He also holds an MA in Post-Communist Studies from Exeter University, a *Diplôme D'Etudes Europeennes* from I.E.P. Rennes and an MRes in EU Politics and Public Policies from Birkbeck College, University of London.

## **Melina Howard - Lexfield**



Melina's journey with Canada started in 1995 when she was selected to study two years near Victoria, Vancouver Island. This left her with a true imprint of Canadian culture and friends for life. Then throughout her professional journey when working for a private bank, she had the pleasure of working with Canadian companies and intermediaries for worldwide clients with local interests.

More recently, through LexField an independent Luxembourg law firm and FideField a corporate services provider, as well as well thought out networks such as the Canada-Europe Economic Chamber, her connections with Canada grew stronger. This growth was thanks to local contacts needing advice and assistance to develop their businesses in Europe and more specifically those wishing to use Luxembourg as a platform for their investments across Europe.

## **Olga Vovk - EDC**



Olga has over 17 years of global experience in strategy and business development, investment and corporate banking, private equity and Board advisory gained with such companies as Citigroup, Intel Capital, Simmons & Company International and Bank of Montreal. She advised multinationals, investment and sovereign wealth funds on strategic issues, major M&A, capital raising and project finance transactions. She also advised governments and corporates on FDI, privatizations and policy issues. Her sector focus has been power, energy and renewables, metals & mining, ICT, transportation, infrastructure, agrifood and life sciences across geographies in both developed and emerging markets. Olga joined EDC's International Business Development group in January 2016. As Senior Regional manager based in London, UK, she is focused on developing regions' and countries' strategies, originating strategic and financing solutions for customers across Europe to support their global projects and Canadian trade and investment in the region.

She holds Masters in Finance from London Business School, an MBA from Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada, and an MSc in Physics.

She is a dual national of Canada and the United Kingdom.

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