

Catherine GESLAIN-LANÉEELLE

55 years old

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SKILLS AND ASSETS

Scientific and technical knowledge of agriculture, rural development, food systems and nutrition
Thorough knowledge of public policies and standards (agriculture, rural development, food and nutrition)
Senior management in a European and International environment
Leadership and management of large and complex organizations
Project management in a multicultural environment
Excellent knowledge of the EU and international institutions (FAO, WHO, WTO, OECD)
Fluent English
Spanish and Italian : good level

EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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| 1986 | Master of Science from AgroParisTech (Agronomy) |
| 1987 | Engineer, graduate from the National School of Rural Engineering, Water Resources and Forests (ENGREF, Paris) |
| 2001 2002 | Chair of the Codex Committee on General Principles (WHO-FAO) |
| 2002 2006 | Vice-Chair of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Management Board Chair of an NGO delivering social support to homeless people (Bail Pour Tous) |
| Since 2017 | Member of the Management Board of the National Veterinary School in Toulouse (France) |

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since July 2018

Ministerial Delegate to the Minister of Agriculture and Food, Candidate of France for the position of DG of FAO

September 2013 to June 2018

Under Secretary of State, General Directorate for the Economic and Environmental Performance of Enterprises (DGPE), French Ministry of Agriculture and Food

In 2015, I redefined the vision and the mission of this Directorate-General in order to combine economic, social and environmental performance of the agriculture, agri-food and forestry sectors, and to improve the quality of service provided to stakeholders. Engaging with staff, I aligned the organisational chart with the new priorities and strategic objectives. I actively engaged with international partners, either during bilateral meetings or multilateral sessions (FAO, G20 and G7 ministerial meetings, Rapid Response Forum, OECD Ministerial meeting and European Council).

In the context of COP 21 and COP 22 (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), I contributed to the creation of the Global Platform “4 per 1000: Soils for Food Security and Climate” (over 150 members including international organisations and countries from all continents). I implemented of the inclusive project on agroecology entitled “Produce More and Better”. I was responsible for rolling out the inclusive “Etats généraux de l’alimentation” (National Food Conference) project bringing together all stakeholders of the food chain. We delivered 5 year commitments and a new draft bill on food.

July 2006 to August 2013

Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

Based in Parma (Italy), EFSA is the European agency that delivers scientific advice on the risks associated with the food chain, provides a sound foundation for European policies and legislation in the field of food risks. With the support of the EU institutions and Ministers in charge of agriculture and food, I developed the Agency that annually produces over 600 scientific opinions, employs 500 staff members (mainly scientists) and relies on a network of more than 2,000 scientists in Europe. I have developed several cooperation agreements (USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, Canada...)

April 2003 to June 2006

Director of Agriculture and Forestry (Ile de France region)

August 2000 to February 2003

**Under Secretary of State, Directorate General for Food (DGAL),
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**

I was in charge of defining and implementing food safety policy and policies for the protection of plant health, animal health and welfare. In addition to 200 staff in Paris, DGAL has departments in all regions and counties (4,500 individuals). I was involved in the management of several crises (BSE, foot-and-mouth disease). With my executive committee, I designed a national directive on sanitary and phytosanitary policy “From the Field to the Plate” and contributed to the first French national nutrition and health program (PNNS) with the main objective of improving people’s health status via nutrition. I worked closely with the European Commission and Member States as well as with international organisations (WHO, FAO, OIE and IPCC).

November 1998 to July 2000

Deputy Director of the Department of international trade

I was responsible for French food aid and international cooperation. In order to improve food security and strengthen rural development, I worked closely with the Commission and several international bodies, namely the WTO, FAO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius and OECD. I was Project leader for several bilateral cooperation projects (ie People’s Republic of China).

June 1997 to November 1998

Counsellor in the Cabinet of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, responsible for animal productions and environment.

January 1994 to May 1997

Head of the Department for Milk and Dairy Products in the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

1991 to 1993

National Expert - European Commission

Directorate General Industry and Internal Market (DG III, foodstuffs)

I helped to develop EU regulations to protect consumers (chemicals added to food) and represented the EU Commission in the Codex Alimentarius Commission on food additives.

1988 to 1990

Preparation of Objective 92 (EU internal market) in the Directorate of Food (DGAL)

1987

Analysis of the organization of the Egyptian sector and market of cereals and description of the key drivers for competitiveness (Arab Republic of Egypt)