

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Vanya Veras



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Sex Female | Date of birth 23/10/1971 | Nationality British

WORK EXPERIENCE

Mar. 2012 - current

Secretary General

Municipal Waste Europe, Rue d'Arlon 63, 1040, Brussels, <https://www.municipalwasteurope.eu>

Responsibility for the management of the organisation: budget, human resources, growing the membership, planning. Principle activities are: ensuring there is a clear mandate from members on the key issues of interest to them and to communicate these to the European Institutions and civil society, building common opinions where possible and keeping members up to date and in contact with the European legislative process.

European Association of municipalities (Public sector)

Jan. 2011 - Sep. 2012

Director Advisor to the Mayor of Piraeus, Mr Vassilis Michaloliakos

Municipality of Piraeus, Athens, Greece

Advisor on Environment and Waste Management. Implementation required a close working relationship with the waste management department and daily negotiations to achieve a clean city by the close of the new mayor's first 60 days in office (2 March 2011), identification of needs and procurement of new equipment (vehicle fleet), organisation and training of staff and the various waste generators to increase recycling and begin a composting programme, drafting of a leaflet on recycling for citizens, organization of a team of educators on recycling to visit each school in Piraeus over one calendar year (over 200 schools), drafting of a business plan for optimal waste management (to be implemented over five years). Guidance towards the replacement of polluting cleaning products with environmentally sound products, up to and including their procurement. Selection and management of external projects which work towards the goal of a clean, environmentally sound and economically strong Piraeus.

Municipality (Public sector)

Jan. 2010 - Jun. 2010

Senior Project Manager

PostBank Green Institute, Athens, Greece

As an external consultant to the Institute, designed and launched a carbon emission reduction scheme for the greater Athens area, aimed at leading large companies through the carbon footprinting process with an ensuing action plan to reduce their energy consumption, thereby reducing their costs and emissions. The scheme also provides an opportunity for non-members to invest in carbon reduction projects and claim reduced emissions as their offsets. Brainstorming on the way ahead, toward green banking, promotion of renewable energies and creating ecological urban settlements led to the start of designing such products and programmes.

Sep. 2009 - Jun. 2012 **Environmental and CSR Adviser**
Athens, Greece

- Public relations, business development and implementation of environmental programmes for small businesses (2009/2010)
- Advice and training for the municipality of Monemvasia, Laconia, Greece, on recycling and other environmental issues (2009)
- Project with CRES (Centre for Renewable Energies/ΚΑΠΕ) (2009)

Jan. 2007 - Sep. 2009 **Environmental Affairs Manager, Public Affairs and Communications Department**
Coca-Cola Hellenic, Athens, Greece

Responsibilities extend to packaging waste management, coordination of projects: negotiation of contract and commissioning of Combined Heat and Power plants within a team, liaison with European associations on relevant environmental, health and wellness issues, co-drafting of CSR Report, co-drafting of company CSR policies. Representation of the company at European policy-forming meetings; representation of company CSR strategy and approach in third party conferences.

Company, Private Sector

Jun. 2005 - Dec. 2006 **Consultant, Brussels, Belgium**

Expertise in EU Public Affairs in sustainable resources, energy efficiency, renewable energies, sustainable energy for Europe, IPPC, REACH and waste, Waste shipments, Waste management, Public procurement, Environmental Liability. _

Projects included:

Plastics Europe: Advised and devised strategy to improve image of energy from waste (EfW)
Plastics Europe: Suggested company become a member of the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign; created presentation which was put before the board by the DG; approved and association joined.

Coca-Cola HBC: Advised company on the development of recycling in their countries and possibilities to progress bottle to bottle recycling; drafted strategy paper to increase quantities collected.
Coca-Cola HBC: Drafted paper on CO2 status quo and advised policy and action based on EU requirements.

Translations into English from French, Greek, German

Jan. 2000 - Jun. 2005 **Secretary General**
European Federation for Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD), Brussels, Belgium

Rue Philippe Le Bon 15, 1000, Brussels

Principal responsibilities extended to leading public affairs activities toward the European institutions and civil society network, making contact with MEPs and Commission officials to pass key messages; identification and relationship-building with prospective members; co-drafting, review, editing of position papers and presentation to the board for adoption; organisation of the Annual International Conference; representation of the Federation at Conferences, forums and to the media. Management of Federation Budget; management of 3 direct subordinates.

Jan. 1999 - Jan. 2000

Assistant to the Secretary General

European Federation for Waste Management and Environmental Services (FEAD), Brussels, Belgium

Rue Philippe Le Bon 15, 1000, Brussels

Responsible for coordination of the 7 working groups, informing them of changes in the legislation they were dealing with and helping them decide whether to react and draft a position paper.

Successfully guided the drafting of position papers which had been 'stagnating' for 2 or more years by facilitating communication and encouraging members to understand their interests.

Sep. 1997 - Dec. 1998

▪ EPOCH sprl,

Own consulting company, Brussels Belgium

Expertise in EMAS Regulation (Environmental Management and Audit Scheme); provision of expert knowledge on the application of the Regulation to companies, government bodies, interested parties; provision of information on evolution of the scheme to the European Commission services.

- Contracted as expert by the EMAS Helpdesk, to answer questions addressed to the Commission

Aug. 1996 - Jul. 1997

Project Manager, EMAS Regulation

European Commission – DG Environment, Brussels, Belgium

Management of ongoing projects and preparation of new tenders. Representation of the Commission at Conferences to promote the EMAS scheme.

- Successfully managed on-going 3-year projects, guiding them to completion of the various stages
- Successfully launched a call for tender for projects to test the extension of EMAS to services (i.e. banking, etc.); offers received and 10 projects selected.
- Set up a helpdesk within an existing framework contract to handle questions regarding EMAS and its application addressed to the Commission; helpdesk was launched within 3 months.

[European Institution](#)

Feb. 1996 - Jul. 1996

Junior Consultant, Euro Info Centre Project (Information to SMEs)

Coppers and Lybrand Europe, Brussels, Belgium

Information management on subjects: public procurement, information technology, environment; preparation of publications.

- Compiled database on EU public procurement modalities and legislation for the Euro Info Centre
- Successfully completed an information project on EMAS (Environmental Management and Audit Scheme) towards SMEs, organised presentation to DG Environment of the European Commission; project received full funding, as applied for.

Sep. 1995 - Jan. 1996

Trainee

ECA (Euro Citizens' Action Service)

- Organized 'Clean Air for Europe' Conference within context of an NGO coalition campaign, in 2 weeks ensured participation of 60 key players, achieving first profit made from such an event by the organisation.
- Coordinated different parties of the Campaign - European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Transport and the Environment (T&E) and BEUC (Consumers) - to achieve input to the law under revision: leaded petrol was banned; limits on the level of aromatics in unleaded petrol were included.
- Organised a successful press conference resulting in several articles supporting the campaign. (Professional conference training ensured for the remainder of the traineeship) European Commission (DG Budget), Trainee Mar 1995 - Aug 1995 § Successfully completed a research project on the original reason and calculation of the UK correction for which records were elusive.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1990-1994 BA (Honours) in Contemporary European Studies with German

(History of the European Union, Fiscal Policy, Politics and German; 3rd academic year at Heidelberg University)

Dissertation (distinction): "Treuhandanstalt" - the company used for the privatisation of East German companies; researched and written in German

Dissertation (Final year): "Accession of the EFTA countries to the EU: advantages and disadvantages to both sides"

Schools:

- A-Levels at De La Salle, Cottonera, Malta (Chemistry, Biology, Physics)
- O-Levels at Campion International, Athens, Greece
- Primary: British Embassy School, Athens, Greece

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) English

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Greek	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
French	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
German	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
Italian	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
Spanish	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2

[Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user](#)
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Fully Internet and PC Literate. Preference for the Apple Environment.

Digital competence

- Other skills** Excellent knowledge of the EU Public Affairs environment with an extensive Brussels network and proven lobbying skills. Successful Campaign and Event Organizer. A multi-lingual individual with international exposure and multi-cultural understanding.
- Quick thinker, ardent brain-stormer and problem solver. Works well under pressure with a keen eye for detail and a goal-oriented approach.
- Key competences include professional presentation, strong communication and negotiation ability, strong leadership and teambuilding skills and excellent networking skills.

Driving licence B

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

- **Publication 2011: Eco-diary (re-print in a different format)**
- **Publication 2010: 52 easy steps to being Green in 2011**

Ecological desk diary published with Militos Publishing House, in Greek and English. A tool for companies to raise environmental awareness one week at a time and work towards changing behaviour and achieving more sustainable lifestyles and business practices. Purchased as part of company CSR policies for staff and as end of year gifts. 1500 copies sold.

Memberships

Currently:

- Global Sustain
- SEAP - The Society of European Affairs Professionals
- ESGN – European Secretary Generals Network

Previously also a member of:

- the American Chamber of Commerce (Athens)
- SEAP - The Society of European Affairs Professionals
- EUROOPEN – European Federation of Packaging for the Environment (2000-2009)
- UNESDA – European Soft Drinks Association (2007-2009)
- CSR Europe
- The Packaging Chain Forum (PCF)
- Business Europe