

Daikin Europe Research and Development Center: Panel discussion “Decarbonising Density” on 14 October 2025

About the speakers

Peter Anderberg – Founder and CEO, HEATNET Global

www.heatnetglobal.com

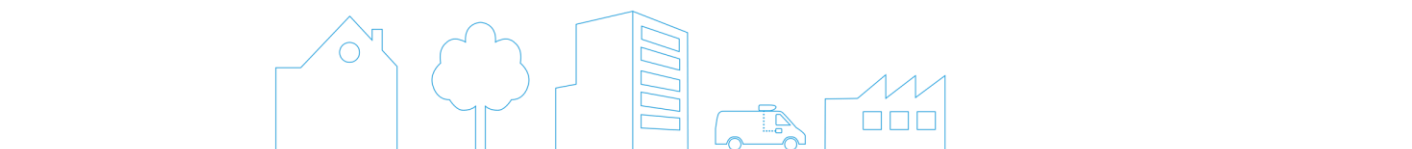


Peter has 30 years of operational management experience in the Swedish and European energy industry, of which 20 in the sector of decarbonising heating and cooling. He is the founder and CEO of Heatnet Global, an international advisory company offering hands-on capacity building services in the sector of decarbonising heating and cooling. The aim is to enable reductions in capex, operational costs, and risks by offering a range of support services to project owners and investors - training, strategic advice, technologies, resource pooling and access to funding solutions. To do so Heatnet Global has established an international network of partners, all with a

long hands-on experience in delivering successful decarbonisation projects, and with a passion to share experience and best-practice.

Peter is also founder of The Heat Academy; an international training platform focused on topics related to decarbonisation of heating and cooling. The mission is to address the competence and capacity gaps in the sector by offering hands-on training and facilitating collaboration and sharing of best practice. The Heat Academy is a fully independent organisation based on a collaborative model involving partnerships with local colleges, universities, public institutions, energy operators, investors and the wider supply chain. Since the start in 2012, some 7000 professionals in 25+ markets have participated in training sessions organised by The Heat Academy in collaboration with local partners. The Heat Academy has been awarded several international assignments, e.g. by the UN, the UK government and Sweden and has recently been awarded a key role in the pan-European DHC Academy initiative which is funded by the EU Commission.

Being dedicated to hands-on initiatives in environmental protection and sustainability, Peter has also started a company facilitating reuse of furniture. The activity, David & Dad, buys, restores, sell and rent furniture to individuals and companies. Recycling is a rapidly growing sector across Europe and is David & Dad aims to expand its model and network approach into other articles and markets in the coming years.



Aurélie Beauvais – Managing Director, Euroheat & Power

www.euroheat.org



Aurélie Beauvais is the Managing Director of Euroheat & Power (EHP), the international network promoting sustainable district heating and cooling solutions across Europe. She assumed this role in April 2022, succeeding Paul Voss.

Aurélie brings over a decade of experience in political strategy, advocacy, and EU energy and climate policies. Before joining EHP, she served as Deputy CEO and Policy Director at SolarPower Europe (2017–2021) and previously headed the European Affairs department at the French Union of Electricity (2012–2017).

Her work focuses on accelerating the decarbonization of Europe's heating sector, advocating for robust policy frameworks, resource efficiency, and tailored strategies to integrate diverse clean energy sources. Aurélie is a frequent speaker at international energy conferences and actively contributes to shaping EU energy transition policies

Filip Watteeuw – Alderman for Climate, Energy, Housing & Environment, City of Ghent

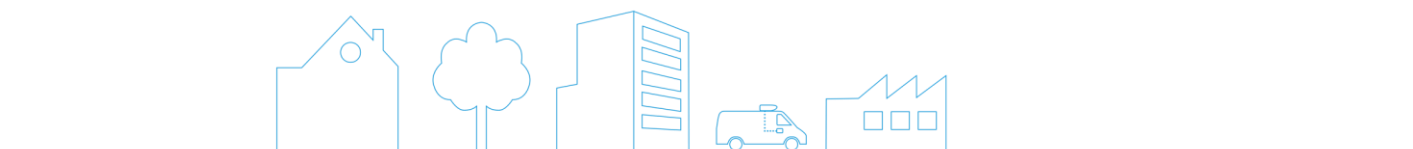
www.filipwatteeuw.be



Filip Watteeuw is a Belgian politician affiliated with the Groen party, serving as Alderman for Climate, Energy, Housing and Environment in Ghent. He has been a driving force behind Ghent's energy transition and sustainable mobility policies, notably the city's ambitious goal of becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

Watteeuw is widely recognized for implementing Ghent's Circulation Plan (2017), which transformed the city into a model for cycling and pedestrian-friendly urban planning, reducing car traffic and improving air quality. His portfolio includes urban planning, public space, and housing, with a strong focus on fossil-free heating systems, social housing upgrades, and partnerships with academia and industry to accelerate innovation.

He advocates for climate justice, community heating solutions, and strategic collaborations—such as Ghent's partnership with Daikin and Ghent University—to integrate renewable energy and smart infrastructure. His work has earned international attention as an example of bold, sustainable urban policy.



Michel De Paepe - Professor of Thermodynamics, Ghent University

<https://www.ugent.be/ea/emsme/en/research/stfes/thermo>

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Michel De Paepe is Professor of Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Ghent University. He holds a Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering (1995) and a PhD in Electromechanical Engineering (1999), with research on steam-injected gas turbines.

He leads the Applied Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer research group, focusing on sustainable energy systems, heat pumps, thermal energy storage, and advanced heat transfer in industrial applications. Prof. De Paepe is President of [EnerGhentIC](#), Ghent University's interdisciplinary energy research community, and collaborates with [Flanders Make](#) on motion products and energy-efficient technologies.

An internationally recognized expert, he has supervised over 19 PhDs and authored more than 120 peer-reviewed journal papers and 350 conference contributions. His work supports innovation in HVAC systems, energy efficiency in buildings and industry, and next-generation thermal cycles.

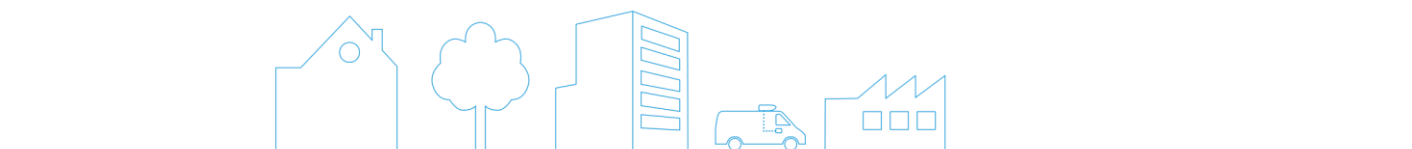
Laurent Van Thournout - Deputy General Manager of Daikin Europe's EMEA Development Center (EDC)



Laurent Van Thournout holds a master's degree in civil engineering and leads the research and development strategy for heating, cooling, and refrigeration technologies across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, driving innovation in heat pump systems and sustainable HVAC solutions.

He fulfilled several senior leadership positions within Daikin Europe's product development teams, focusing on energy-efficient and low-carbon technologies. He has led industry collaborations with diverse external experts such as the Ghent University and contributed to patented innovations in heating systems, demonstrating both leadership and technical expertise in HVAC-R technologies.

Laurent is a strong advocate for sustainability, circular economy principles, and digitalisation, positioning Daikin as a leader in Europe's climate-neutral transition.



Patrick Crombez - Deputy General Manager Environment Readiness Centre at Daikin Europe

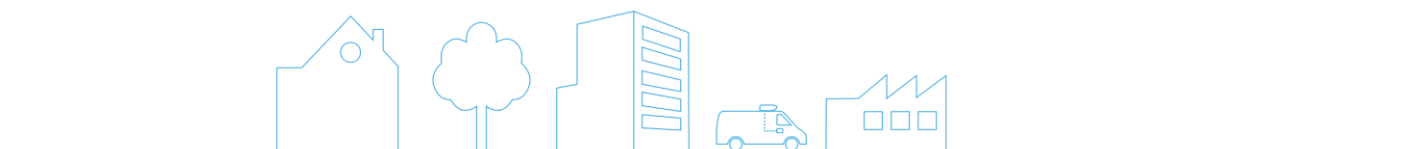
President European Heat Pump Association



Patrick Crombez holds a degree in engineering in Nuclear Sciences from IHR Mol Belgium and an MBA from EHSAL Brussels. He started his career at Daikin Europe in 1991, completing international assignments in France, Russia, the United Kingdom and in the Middle East and Africa region. Crombez returned to the Brussels head office in 2007 to head product strategy and marketing right at the start of Daikin's entry into the heating market and the creation of Daikin's EMEA Development Center in Ostend, Belgium, which laid the

foundations for the new Research and Development Center, in Ghent, Belgium, opened in 2025. From 2016 to 2024, Crombez was Daikin Europe's General Manager and Head of the EMEA heating and renewables business for the Daikin Europe group. In 2024 he took the lead of Daikin Europe's Environment Readiness Center.

In April 2023, he became President of the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA). EHPA is the voice of the European heat pump sector in Brussels. They work to shape EU policy that allows the heat pump sector to leverage the industry's contribution to the energy transition, and heat pumps to become the number one heating and cooling choice by 2030.



About Daikin Europe N.V.

The Daikin Europe Group is a leading provider of heating, cooling, ventilation, air purification and refrigeration (HVAC-R) technology in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Daikin Europe caters to a diverse customer base within this region by designing, manufacturing, and marketing an extensive range of products, maintenance services, and turnkey solutions tailored for residential, commercial, and industrial applications. The company employs over 13,800 employees through 58 subsidiaries and operates 15 manufacturing sites in Europe (12), Turkey (1) and the Middle East (2). Daikin's refrigeration products are available under the Daikin, Tewis, Zanotti, Hubbard, and AHT brands. Headquartered in Ostend, Belgium, for over 50 years, the Daikin Europe group is a subsidiary of the global group Daikin Industries.

About Daikin Industries Ltd.

Daikin Industries (DIL) is a global leader in heat pump, air conditioning and air filtration technology. The company employs over 103,500 employees worldwide. Founded in Osaka in 1924, it is the only manufacturer in the world that develops and manufactures heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration equipment, as well as compressors and refrigerants in-house. Daikin was named one of the world's top 100 innovative companies by Clarivate (UK) and LexisNexis (USA), recognized for its leadership in technology research and intellectual property patents. For its fiscal year 2024 Daikin reported a record sales result of € 28,98 billion sales (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025).

Read more on www.daikin.eu and www.daikin.com.

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