

## **BALTIC- ADRIATIC: KURT BODEWIG**

**Kurt Bodewig**, born on 26 April 1954 in Rheinberg.

### **Education**

- Management assistant in real estate and housing industry
- Secondary School of business administration
- Vocational baccalaureat diploma

### **Occupational Activity**

- 1976 to 1981: Real estate developer for the Stadtparkasse Düsseldorf and Housing Projects
- 1981 to 1986: Chief administrator of the Verwaltungsstelle Zivildienst Niederrhein
- 1986 to 1998: Department head of the Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbund Nordrhein-Westfalen (Federation of German Trade Unions - Northrhine-Westphalian division)
- 1998 to 2000: CEU of the Landesversicherungsanstalt Rheinprovinz

### **Political career**

- 1998 to 2009: Member of the German Bundestag
- March 2000 to November 2000: Parliamentary State Secretary for transport, infrastructure and housing
- November 2000 to October 2002: Secretary for transport, infrastructure and housing
- 2001 to 2008: Chairman of the Forum "Sustainability, Energy and Mobility" of the National Committee of the German Social Democrats
- 2002 to 2009: Deputy Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the German Bundestag
- Since 2006: Maritime Ambassador of the European Union

### **Parliamentary Memberships**

- 2003 to 2009 in NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Western European Union and frequent Chairmanship of the German COSAC-Delegation during the Presidency of the European Council

### **Memberships**

- Since 1973: Member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)
- Since 1974: Member of multiple DGB-Unions
- Member of multiple social and societal initiatives and associations

### **Honorary Capacities**

- President of the Deutsche Verkehrswacht e.V.
- Chairman of the Baltic Sea Forum
- Chairman of the board of trustees of the German-Lithuanian Forum
- Member of the Supervisory Board of the Global Panel Foundation
- Member of the scientific advisory board of the Master's degree "Public Transport Management" of the University Duisburg-Essen



## **NORTH SEA-BALTIC: PAVEL TELIČKA**

**Pavel Telička** (born in August 1965) is a Czech lobbyist. Born in Washington, D.C. he is the son of a communist diplomat.



### **European Coordinator**

#### **Priority Project No. 27:**

#### **“Rail Baltica Warsaw-Kaunas-Riga–Tallinn–Helsinki”**

- 1986 - Graduate in law, Charles University, Prague
- 1986 - Unit of public international law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1988 - Unit of private international law; legal adviser within the CSFR delegation for the negotiations on the Europe Association Agreement
- 1991 – 1995 - Different positions at the Czechoslovak/Czech Mission to the European Communities in Brussels, including the ones of Deputy Head and Head of Mission
- 1995 - Director of the European Communities Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague
- 1996 - Director General of the Integration Section (EC, NATO, UN) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1998 - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs; Chief Negotiator for the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union
- 1999 - Deputy Minister and State Secretary for European Affairs
- 2002 - Ambassador and Head of Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the European Communities
- 2004 - Appointed European Commissioner co-responsible for the portfolio of Health and consumer protection with Commissioner David Byrne
- 2004 - Co-founder of BXL Consulting with offices in Prague and Brussels
- 2005 - External senior adviser of the European Policy Centre (EPC)
- 2005 – 2009 - Member of Board of Directors of Notre Europe association, founded by Jacques Delors

Pavel Telička is European Coordinator of PP 27, Rail Baltica, since July 2005. He has been very active as a speaker at various symposiums, conferences and panel discussions. During 1999-2002 he gave lectures at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Charles University on European economic integration and topical issues of European integration. In 2003, he published together with Czech journalist Karel Bartak a book entitled “How we entered...” describing various aspects of the negotiating process with the EU. He has been a member of supervisory board of the Tomas Bata Foundation since 1997. During 1999-2003 he was an honorary member of the managing board of the National Training Fund. In 2001, he became honorary member of the "Centre of Good Will", where he has been personally involved in charity project called “Signed by heart” supporting disabled children throughout.

In 2003, he was awarded a Medal by President Vaclav Havel for significant contribution to the integration of the Czech Republic to the European Union.

## **MEDITERRANEAN: LAURENS JAN BRINKHORST**

**Laurens Jan Brinkhorst** was born in Zwolle, the Netherlands, on 18 March 1937.

**European Coordinator**

**Priority Project No. 6:**

**"Railway axis Lyon-Trieste-Divaca/Koper-Divaca-Ljubljana-Budapest-Ukrainian border"**



- 1959 - Graduated in Law at the University of Leiden
- 1961 - MA in Public law and government from Columbia University, New York
- 1962 - Lecturer at the Europe Institute of Leiden University
- 1965 - Director of the Europe Institute and senior lecturer in law of international organisations
- 1967 – 1973 - Professor of European law at Groningen University
- 1973 – 1977 - State Secretary for Foreign Affairs with the European Affairs portfolio
- 1977 – 1982 - Member of the House of Representatives and leader of the Democrats 66 (D66) parliamentary party in 1981/1982
- 1982 – 1987 - Head of delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Japan
- 1987 – 1993 - Director-General of Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety
- 1994 – 1999 - Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 1999
- 1999 – 2002 - Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries
- 2003 – 2006 - Minister of Economic Affairs

He currently occupies the chair of International law, European law and Governance at Leiden University. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Salzburg Global Seminar, originally an American institution of higher learning located in Austria. He is Senior adviser to the Director General of the European Space Agency

Since July 2008, Mr. Brinkhorst occupies the post of European Coordinator for Priority Project 6 – the railway axis Lyon-Turin-Venice-Trieste-Divaca-Ljubljana-Budapest-Ukrainian border.

## **ERTMS: KAREL VINCK and**

### **ORIENT / EAST –MED: KAREL VINCK (until July 2014)**

**Karel Vinck** is a Belgian businessman born on 19 September 1938. In 1994 the readers of the weekly business magazine Trends chose him to be the Manager of the year. He graduated as a Master in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Leuven, Belgium) and got an MBA from Cornell University (Ithaca, New York, United States).



He started his career at Eternit. Afterwards Karel Vinck was director of Bekaert N.V from 1985 up to 1994. In 1995, he started working for Union Minière, where he led the restructuring of the company.

He is also a member of the Board of Suez-Tractebel, Tessengerlo Group, of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and of the *Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie*. He is Co-ordinator of the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) with the European Commission, and chairman of Cumerio. Karel Vinck is honorary chairman of the Flemish employers association (VEV), and Chairman of the Flemish Science Policy Council.

### **European Coordinator**

#### **ERTMS**

- 1963 - Master's Degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- 1968 – 1971 - Master of Business Administration, Cornell University, USA
- 1971 – 1973 - Consultant in organisations, Eternit S.p.A. – Genua (Italy); Guest Professor at the University of Louvain (Belgium)
- 1973 – 1975 - CEO, Eternit S.p.A. – Genua (Italy)
- 1975 – 1978 - CEO, Eternit N.V. – Brussels (Belgium)
- 1978 – 1983 - CEO of Compagnie Financière Eternit, Belgium and of a number of companies from the Eternit Group
- 1983 – 1985 - Managing Director Bekaert Group, Zwevegem (Belgium)
- 1985 – 1994 - CEO Bekaert Group, Zwevegem (Belgium)
- 1994 – 2000 - CEO Umicore (ex-Union Minière), Brussels (Belgium)
- 2002 - Chairman Board of Directors Umicore, Brussels (Belgium)
- 2002 – 01/2005 - Chief Executive Officer SNCB (Belgian Railways), Brussels
- 04/2005 – Chairman Board of Directors Cumerio, Brussels (Belgium)

Karel Vinck is European Coordinator for ERTMS since July 2005.

Karel Vinck holds numerous other positions, amongst which Chairman of BAM - Management Company Mobility Antwerp, ViA - Vlaanderen in Actie (Flemish Government), VRWB - Flemish Science Policy Council.

**ORIENT / EAST –MED: MATHIEU GROSCH** (from July 2104 onwards)

**Mathieu J.H. Grosch** (born on 14 September 1950 in Eupen) is a Belgian politician and Member of the European Parliament for the German-speaking Community of Belgium with the CSP-EVP, Member of the Bureau of the European People's Party and sits on the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism.



He is a substitute for the Committee on Regional Development, a member of the Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee and a substitute for the Delegation for relations with Japan.

- 1974–1981: teacher of English and German
- 1986–present: Member of the national bureau of the CSP
- 1994–present: Member of the EPP bureau
- 1981–1984: Adviser to the Prime Minister
- 1984–1985: Member of the provincial council
- 1986–1994: Member of Council, German-speaking Community
- 1986–1990: Government minister, German-speaking Community
- 1990–1994: Chairman of Council, German-speaking Community
- 1991–present: Mayor of Kelmis
- 1994–present: Member of the European Parliament
- Member of the Robert Schuman Foundation
- 1996–present: Member of the Board of Bierset-Liège airport
- 1999: Merit award of the Meuse-Rhine Euregio
- 1999: Commander of the Order of Leopold (Belgium)
- 2004: Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, First Class

### **Member**

- TRAN Committee on Transport and Tourism
- DKOR Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula

## SCANDINAVIAN-MEDITERRANEAN: PAT COX

**Pat Cox** (born 28 November 1952) is an Irish politician and former television current affairs presenter. He was President of the European Parliament from 2002 to 2004 and served as a member of the European Parliament from 1989–2004. Before this Cox was a journalist and presenter. He was elected an MEP in 1989 for the constituency of Munster, representing the Progressive Democrats (PDs).



He was elected president of the ELDR group in European Parliament in 1998 and was unanimously re-elected Group President in June 1999. He resigned this post when he became President of the European Parliament on 15 January 2002 in accordance with an agreement between the European People's Party and the ELDR groups at the start of the term (in the customary two-way split of the five-year Presidency of the European Parliament). Cox did not contest the 2004 elections to the European parliament. In 2004 he was awarded the International Charlemagne Prize for his achievements with regard to the enlargement of the European Union and for his work in promoting greater EU democratisation.

Cox is a member of the Comité d'Honneur of the Institute of European Affairs. In 2006 he was elected President of European Movement. In June 2009 Pat Cox temporarily stepped down as President and took over the position of the campaign director for the pro Lisbon treaty initiative Ireland for Europe. Also in 2009, Cox co-founded the European Privacy Association.

On 15 September 2010 Cox supported the new initiative Spinelli Group, which was founded to reinvigorate the strive for federalisation of the European Union (EU). He is a Grand Cross of the Order of the Star of Romania and a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. He received the 2004 Charlemagne Prize for his efforts in the Eastward expansion of the European Union. Since June 2012 Cox and Aleksander Kwaśniewski lead a European Parliament monitoring mission in Ukraine to monitor the criminal cases against Yulia Tymoshenko, Yuriy Lutsenko and Valeriy Ivaschenko.

### **European Coordinator**

#### **Priority Project No. 1:**

#### **"Railway axis Berlin-Verona/Milano-Bologna-Naples-Messina-Palermo"**

- 1974 - Graduated at Trinity College Dublin
- 1974 – 1982 - Economist
- 1982 – 1986 - Television broadcaster
- 1989 – 2004 - Member of the European Parliament
- 1992 – 1994 - Member of Dáil Éireann, Irish Parliament
- 1998 – 2002 - President of the ELDR Group in the European Parliament
- 2002 – 2004 - President European Parliament
- 2005 – present President of the European Movement International

Mr. Cox holds national honours bestowed by the Presidents of Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Honorary Doctorates Trinity College Dublin, National University of Ireland, University of Limerick and the American College Dublin.

## **RHINE-ALPINE: ANA DE PALACIO**

**Ana Isabel de Palacio y del Valle Lersundi**, (born 22 July 1948) in Madrid, daughter of Luis María de Palacio y de Palacio, 4th Marqués de Matonte, and wife Luisa Mariana del Valle-Lersundi y del Valle, was Spain's Minister for Foreign Affairs in the People's Party (PP) government of José María Aznar from July 2002-March 2004. Before this she was a lawyer in Madrid and then a Member of the European Parliament from 1994 to 2002.

Ana Palacio graduated from the Lycée Français (Baccalauréat on Mathematics) with honors granted by the French Government to “the best foreign student who finished studies that year”. She holds degrees in Law, and Political Science and Sociology; her performance in her degree studies merited the Award for Academic Achievement (Premio Extraordinario Fin de Carrera).



### **Legal Career**

As a lawyer she has held the most senior positions in the governing bodies of the Madrid Bar, as well as the European Bar (CCBE). She is an honorary member of the Bar of England and Wales. She also served as a member of the Board of Trustees and former Executive President of the Academy of European Law (ERA); and Distinguished Professor of the European College in Parma. She has worked as a practicing lawyer specializing in EU internal market law.

### **Career as MEP**

She spent eight years (1994–2002) with the European Parliament where she chaired the Legal Affairs and Internal Market Committee and the Justice and Home Affairs Committee, and was elected by her peers to chair in two half legislatures the Conference of Committee Chairmen, the Parliament’s most senior body for the coordination of its legislative work.

### **Career as Minister and Parliamentary Deputy**

She was the first woman to serve as Spain’s Foreign Minister and, at the time, held the most senior post ever filled by a woman in the Spanish government. Prior to her current appointment to the World Bank, she served as member of the Spanish Parliament, where she chaired the Joint Committee of the two Houses for European Union Affairs. As Prime Minister Aznar’s representative to the European Convention and the Convention’s Presidium, Ana Palacio was at the forefront of the debate on the future of the European Union and actively participated in the drafting and legal discussions pertaining the reform of the treaties governing the Union European.

She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and sits on the Advisory Board of institutions including: Council on Foreign Relations, Institut Montaigne, Aspen Institute Italia, Instituto de Empresa –IE-, Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales -FAES-, Foundation pour l’ Innovation Politique, Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales -FRIDE- and CSIS Initiative for a Renewed Transatlantic Partnership. She is member of the Global Advisory Council of “The American Interest” and the Revue de Droit de l’Union européenne. In 2003, she created together with other prominent European personalities the Medbridge Strategy Center, whose goal is to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between Europe and the Middle-East. She also is a senior strategic counsel for Albright Stonebridge Group, an international strategic consulting firm.

## **ATLANTIC: CARLO SECCHI**

### **European Coordinator**

#### **Priority Project No. 3**

**" High-speed railway axis of south-west Europe"**

#### **Priority Project No. 19**

**" High-speed rail interoperability on the Iberian Peninsula"**



Carlo Secchi was born in Italy on the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1944.

#### Previous assignments:

- 1994-1999 - Member of the European Parliament in the IV Legislature and Vice-President of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee
- 1994-1996 - Member of the Italian Senate in the XII Legislature
- February-June 2000 - Member of the High level group of the European Parliament for the reform of the Statute and financial treatment of the Members of the European Parliament
- 2000-2004 - Rector of Bocconi University in Milan

#### Current tasks:

- Member of Mediolanum, Pirelli & C., Mediaset and Italcementi's board of directors
- 1983-2012 - Full Professor of European Economic Policy at Bocconi University in Milan

In July 2009, Mr. Secchi was appointed by the European Commission as European Coordinator for Infrastructural Priority Projects (railways) between France, Spain and Portugal.

Mr. Secchi is author of books and numerous articles on international trade, economic integration, EU policies and economic development; he is currently writing on various Italian newspapers and magazines.

As to his research activities, he was/is a consultant to various national and foreign research institutes and universities, to Italian public Institutions (including CNR – the Italian National Research Council) and to the European Union. He is also member of the Board of scientific Foundations and Institutions and Foundation “Alcide De Gasperi”. Mr. Secchi is vice-president of ISPI (Institute of International Political Studies) in Milan.

Currently Mr Secchi is Director of the Institute on Latin American Studies and on Economies in Transition (ISLA) at Bocconi University in Milan. He is member (as independent director) of the Board of some of the main Italian companies in various sectors; he is Chairman of the Italian Group of the Trilateral Commission.



## **NORTH SEA-MEDITERRANEAN: PETER BALAZS**

**Péter Balázs** born in 1941 in Kecskemét. In addition to his native Hungarian, he also speaks English, French, German and Russian. He worked in the Hungarian government until 1 May 2004 when his country joined the European Union and was appointed to the European Commission with Michel Barnier under Romano Prodi. He became the Hungarian European Commissioner holding the Regional Policy portfolio until the end of the Prodi Commission on 21 November 2004. He was succeeded by László Kovács as the Hungarian Commissioner and Danuta Hübner as Commissioner for regional policy. Balázs became a professor at the International Relations and European Studies Department of the Central European University (CEU), Budapest. In 2005, he established a new research centre for EU Enlargement Studies at the CEU.



### **European Coordinator**

#### **Priority Project**

**"Railway axis Paris-Strasbourg-Stuttgart-Vienna-Bratislava"**

#### **Studies:**

- 1963 - Graduated in Economics at the Budapest School of Economics
- 1992 - PhD at the Budapest School of Economics
- 2000 - Dr. habil of the Budapest School of Economics
- 2003 - Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

#### **Previous assignments:**

- 1963 – 1968 - "Elektroimpex" Hungarian Foreign Trading Co.: Economist
- 1969 – 1982 - Ministry of Foreign Trade: Desk Officer, Director
- 1982 – 1987 - Hungarian Embassy, Brussels: Counselor in charge of the EC
- 1987 – 1988 - Prime Ministers Office: responsible for international economic organisations
- 1988 – 1992 - Ministry of International Economic Relations: Director General for multilateral relations
- 1992 – 1993 - Ministry of Industry and Trade: Permanent State Secretary supervising the sectors of industry, energy, building industry, trade and tourism
- 1994 – 1996 - Hungarian Embassy: Ambassador in Copenhagen
- 1997 – 2000 - Hungarian Embassy: Ambassador in Bonn and Berlin
- 2000 – 2002 - Budapest University of Economics & Public Administration: Professor
- 2002 – 2003 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs: State Secretary for Integration and External Economic Relations. Hungarian Government Representative in the European Convention
- 2003 – 2004 - Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union: Ambassador (Coreper II)
- May – Nov 2004 Member of the European Commission, responsible for regional policy
- 2009 – 2010 - Minister for Foreign Affairs in Hungary

Péter Balázs has been European Coordinator for the TEN-T Priority Project 17 (Paris-Bratislava) from July 2005 until April 2009. He accepted to take up his tasks as European Coordinator again as of 8 June 2010. Péter Balázs is Professor in the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Central European University (CEU) of Budapest.

## **RHINE-DANUBE: KARLA PEIJS**

**Karla Maria Henriëtte Peijs**, born on 1 September 1944 in Tilburg, is a former Dutch politician of the CDA. She was minister of Transport and Waterworks in the second and third Balkenende cabinets. From 1 March 2007 to 1 March 2013, she was Queen's Commissioner for the province of Zeeland; she has been succeeded by Han Polman.

### **European Coordinator**

#### **Priority Project No. 18**

**"Rhin/Meuse-Main-Danube" (inland waterway axis)**

#### **Priority Project No. 30**

**"Inland waterway Seine-Scheldt"**

**Education** - Sociology with Economics, Catholic University Nijmegen & Free University, Amsterdam

- 1982 – 1989 - Member of the Provincial Council of Utrecht; Chairperson for the Christia Democrats (CDA) in Harmelen; Member of Staff with the CDA in the Provincial Assembly, Utrecht; Member of the Provincial Assembly and Secretary for the CDA in the Provincial Assembly, Utrecht
- 1985 – 1989 - Instructor in Economics and Business Organisation, Utrecht Technical College & International Business School, Zeist
- 1988 – 1989 - Head of Internal and External Relations and Member of the Management Team, Utrecht Technical College
- 1989 – 2003 - Member of the European Parliament
- 2003 – 2007 - Minister for Transport and Waterways
- Since 1 March 2007 - Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland

Ms. Peijs is European Coordinator responsible for Inland Waterways, in particular PP 18, Rhine/Meuse-Main-Danube, and PP 30, Seine-Scheldt, since September 2007.

Currently, Ms Peijs is Member of the Board of the Ruyteriana Foundation; she is Chairperson of the Zeeland Branch, Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund, of the Roosevelt Foundation, of the Council for the Schelde Estuary and of the Zeeland Magazine, "Zeeuws Tijdschrift". She is the vice-chairperson of the Dutch delegation of the Committee of the Regions.



**MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA: LUIS VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA**  
(until July 2014)

**European Coordinator**  
**Priority Project**  
**" Motorways of the Sea, since September 2007"**



Luís Valente de Oliveira was born in São João da Madeira, Portugal, in 1937.

- 1961 - Graduate in Civil Engineering, University of Oporto
- 1969 - Diploma in Regional Development Planning, Institute of Social Studies at Hague
- 1971- M.Sc. in Transportation Planning, Imperial College, University of London
- 1973 - Ph.D in Civil Engineering, University of Oporto
- 1980 - Full professor, University of Oporto, Faculty of Engineering (Town and Country Planning: Transportation Planning: Regional Development Planning)
- 1973 - Head of the Technical Office of the Northern Region Planning Commission
- 1975 - Responsible for the management of the Northern Region Planning Commission
- 1978 - Minister of Education and Scientific Research
- 1979 - Chairman of the Northern Region Co-ordination Commission
- 1985 - Minister of Planning and Territorial Administration
- 2002 - Minister of Public Works, Transports and Housing

Luís Valente de Oliveira is European Coordinator for PP 21, Motorways of the Sea, since September 2007.

He is Member of the Academy of Engineering of Portugal, Councillor-member of the Portuguese Institution of Engineers and Vice-President of Entrepreneurial Business Association of Portugal – Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He formerly acted as representative of the Portuguese Government and expert adviser at various technical committees of the O.E.C.D. and the Council of Europe and was President of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of the European Economic Community and currently President of its Academic Board.

Decorations: Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator (Portugal), Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross (Brazil), the Grand-Cross of the Order of Honour (Greece) and Grand Cross of Military Order of Christ (Portugal). In 2009 received the "Legion d'Honneur" (France).

Luís Valente de Oliveira has written numerous articles and books on subjects within the field of his academic expertise or political responsibilities.

**MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA: BRIAN SIMPSON** (from July 2014 onwards)

**Brian Simpson** (born February 6, 1953 in Leigh) is a Member of the European Parliament for the Labour Party for North West England.



He was a member of the European Parliament from 1989 until 1999 representing Cheshire East and from 1999 until 2004 representing the North West Region, when European Elections switched from First Past the Post to the List System. He lost his seat at the 2004 European Parliamentary Elections. He returned to the European Parliament in September 2006 and was re-elected again in 2009.

He is currently the President of the European Parliaments Transport and Tourism Committee after serving as the Socialist Group Spokesperson on that Committee for many years. He is also a substitute member and Labour spokesperson on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. He is also a full member of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand as well as a substitute on the Delegation for relations with the Andean Community.

In the Committee on Transport and Tourism he has worked as the Socialist Group shadow draftsperson on the European Commission proposals on the full accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services, safety on the Community's railways, and is accepted as being one of the senior members of that Committee dealing with Civil Aviation matters. In 2010 and 2012 he was voted Transport MEP of the year by Parliament Magazine.

Before being elected an MEP he worked as a PE teacher in Liverpool and was a County Councillor for Merseyside County Council, a Member of the Merseyside Police Authority, Deputy Chair of the Liverpool Airport and Councillor at Warrington Borough Council. In this last position he held the post of Deputy Chair of Finance and Chair of the Performance and Policy Review Unit. During the brief period from 2004 to 2006 that he was out of Parliament he became Director of the North West Rail Campaign. The son of John Simpson and Freda Simpson (née Mort) he was educated at Golborne Primary School and Golborne Comprehensive School (Wigan Education Authority), before going onto West Midlands College to train as a Physical Education teacher.

Brian Simpson has been actively involved in several organisations outside formal politics holding the positions of Vice-President of the Heritage Railway Association; the presidency of the Warrington, Halton and St. Helens branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; a Life Governorship of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the presidency of Golborne Cricket Club. His love of history is reflected in his considerable knowledge of military history but in particular the American Civil War where that knowledge is considered to be extensive. In 2010 the State of Kentucky in the USA made him an Honorary Colonel.