

# Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

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**France and the European Union's candidate for the position of FAO Director-General**

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## **In-depth knowledge of food systems, rural development and food security and nutrition**

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle is an engineer in agronomy and a civil, water and forestry engineer. She has dedicated 30 years of her working life to issues surrounding agriculture, food, forestry and rural development. This has given her a strong knowledge about how food systems work as well as the related economic, environmental, health and social issues. She has experience in designing, implementing and evaluating public policies at national, European and international levels.

## **Recognized leadership and experience in managing large-scale and complex organizations**

Over the last 18 years, Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has been at the helm of large organizations in France and Europe (with several hundred to over 4,500 staff) working in a multicultural environment on complex challenges in the fields of agriculture, food, nutrition, rural development and forestry.

In particular, Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has demonstrated her leadership skills as Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), an agency with more than 500 staff and working with a European and international network of scientific organizations of more than 2,000 experts and researchers. She has also held senior positions at the Ministry of Agriculture, playing a key role in driving and implementing agricultural and food policies

She is known for her ability to implement change, and has transformed the organizations she has led and put her teams to work in service of a vision shared with partners and stakeholders. She has implemented transparent, inclusive and effective management methods to ensure successful change and modernization, strengthening a results-driven culture.

She helped create and launch the “4 per 1 000: Soils for Food Security and Climate” platform. Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has also chaired numerous European and international committees including the Codex Committee on General Principles.

### **Ability to communicate and work in an international environment**

In a European and international environment, Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has demonstrated a great capacity for receptiveness and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders including governments, economic actors, non-governmental organizations, scientists and experts. She has established productive working relations with numerous international organizations and forums, particularly the FAO, WHO, WTO, OECD, the G7 and G20 and the Rapid Response Forum of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

She has also demonstrated solid negotiation and crisis management skills, in particular in the health field (foot-and-mouth disease, BSE, etc.).

Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has also initiated and participated directly in many cooperation projects in the agricultural and agrifood fields: creation of a vineyard in China, contribution to the review of the food and agricultural strategy in Saudi Arabia, evaluation of the cereals market and development of the cereals sector in Egypt.

Ms Geslain-Lanéelle speaks several languages. She is bilingual in French and English, speaks Italian fluently and has a solid knowledge of Spanish. ■

# Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

55 years old

## SKILLS

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Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle has solid scientific and technical knowledge of agriculture, rural development, food systems and nutrition as well as in-depth knowledge of public policies and standards in these fields.

She has held senior positions in a European and international environment and has demonstrated strong leadership skills in large and complex organizations, including the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Ms Geslain-Lanéelle has also managed large-scale projects in a multicultural environment and has gained excellent knowledge of European and international institutions (FAO, WHO, WTO, OECD, etc.).

## EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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1986	<b>Engineer in agronomy, AgroParisTech (Paris)</b>
1987	<b>Civil, water and forest engineer (ENGREF, Paris)</b>
2001 / 2002	<b>Chair of the Codex Committee on General Principles (WHO-FAO)</b>
2002 / 2006	<b>Vice-Chair of the Management Board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) President of a NGO providing social assistance to homeless people (Bail pour tous)</b>
Since 2017	<b>Member of the Board of the École Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse (France)</b>

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Currently	<b>Ministerial Delegate to the Minister of Agriculture and Food France and the European Union's candidate to the position of FAO Director-General</b>
September 2013 June 2018	<b>Director-General, appointed by the President of the French Republic, Directorate-General for the Economic and Environmental Performance of enterprises, Ministry of Agriculture and Food</b> <p>In 2015, Ms Geslain-Lanéelle redefined the vision and the mission of this Directorate-General in order to combine the economic, social and environmental performance of the agriculture and agrifood and forestry sectors, and to improve the quality of service rendered to partners. She mobilized her staff and aligned the organization structure with the new priorities and strategic directions. She also worked actively with international partners, bilaterally and multilaterally (FAO, G20 and G7 ministerial meetings, AMIS Rapid Response Forum, OECD ministerial meeting, European Council, etc.).</p> <p>In the context of the COP21 and COP22 (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), she helped create the "4 per 1 000: Soils for Food Security and Climate" platform (more than 150 members including international organizations and countries on every continent) and also rolled-out the inclusive project on agroecology: Producing More and Better. She was responsible for implementing the inclusive project of the États Généraux de l'Alimentation, a project that brought together all those working on the food chain in France to jointly produce commitments over five years and to have a bill passed.</p>

<b>July 2006 to August 2013</b>	<p><b>Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</b></p> <p>Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle headed the EFSA, the headquarters of which are in Parma, Italy. This European agency issues scientific opinions of the risks related to the food chain and provides substance for European policies and legislation in the field of food risks. With support from European institutions and ministers in charge of agriculture and food, she further developed this agency, which produces more than 600 scientific opinions a year, employs more than 500 staff (mainly scientists), works with a network of more than 2,000 scientific experts across Europe and helps to promote cooperation agreements with many countries (United States, Japan, Republic of Korea, Canada, etc.).</p>
<b>April 2003 to June 2006</b>	<p><b>Regional Director of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Ile-de-France Region</b></p>
<b>August 2000 to February 2003</b>	<p><b>Director General of Food, appointed by the President of the French Republic</b></p> <p>Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle was responsible for designing and implementing food safety, and plant and animal health policy. In addition to 200 staff based in Paris, the Directorate has a network of departmental and regional services (4,500 staff). She was involved in the management of several crises (foot-and-mouth disease, BSE, etc.). With her management team, she created a national directive for food safety and plant health policy: "From field to plate". She also actively contributed to the first National Health and Nutrition Plan, which aimed to improve the health of the population through food. She works closely with the European Commission, the Member States and international organizations (FAO, WHO, OIE, IPPC).</p>
<b>November 1998 to July 2000</b>	<p><b>Head of the International Exchanges Department</b></p> <p>As head of France's food aid and international cooperation, she strengthened food security and rural development and worked closely with many international organizations, including FAO, WTO, WHO, Codex Alimentarius, the OECD. She also conducted bilateral cooperation projects (for example, with the People's Republic of China).</p>
<b>June 1997 to November 1998</b>	<p><b>Adviser on animal production and the environment in the Private Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries</b></p>
<b>January 1994 to May 1997</b>	<p><b>Head of Office for Milk and Dairy Products, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries</b></p>
<b>1991 to 1993</b>	<p><b>National Expert – European Commission - Internal Market and Industry Directorate-General</b></p> <p>Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle contributed to the development of European legislation helping to protect consumers (chemicals used in food). She represented the European Commission on the Codex Committee on Food Additives.</p>
<b>1988 to 1990</b>	<p><b>Preparation of Objective 92 (EU Internal Market) in the Directorate-General for Food (DGAL)</b></p>
<b>1987</b>	<p><b>Analysis of the organization of the grain sector and market in Egypt and the key competitiveness factors (Arab Republic of Egypt)</b></p>