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Stéphane Ouaki is the head of unit for Financial Instruments in DG Research and Innovation at the European Commission. In his role, he is responsible for the design and implementation of the InnovFin Programme and the EIC Fund under the European Innovation Council. Before joining DG R&I, he was the head of unit for the Connecting Europe Facility and investment strategies in DG MOVE. Beforehand, he was Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Vladimír Špidla, responsible for employment, social affairs, and equal opportunities (2004-2010). Previously, he was part of the Commission's team negotiating with the Czech Republic its terms of accession to the EU (2001-03), and then moved on to be part of the team coordinating the enlargement strategy (2003-04).