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In the former DG DEVCO, Carla was Director for “Planet and Prosperity” from September 2018 to mid-January 2021. Before that (2014-2018) she was the Director for Western and Central Africa. Prior to 2014, Mrs. Montesi was Director at the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

A former lawyer specialised in European affairs at the College of Europe in Bruges, Mrs. Montesi's earlier career encompassed diverse responsibilities in the field of EU external policy for development and cooperation, both at Headquarters and in EU Delegations in Africa, as well as experience in the Cabinet of EU Commissioner Emma Bonino for External Policy and Humanitarian Affairs.