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Christel Schaldemose is a long-standing member of the Social Democratic Party in Denmark. From 1983-1984 she was Chairman of the Social Democratic Youth of Denmark (DSU) in Sønderø and later Chairman of DSU in Fyn's County and member of DSU's Executive Committee. Before election to the European Parliament she was Head of Secretariat at The Danish Adult Education Council. She holds a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Southern Denmark.