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# FMA VISIT TO BELGIUM

## 8-9 APRIL 2024

*Profile of speakers*

### **FMA SECRETERIAT**

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## **LIST OF SPEAKERS**

### **MONDAY 8 APRIL**

Mr Manu DESUTTER  
Mr Mathieu GROSCH

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H.E. Ambassador Willem VAN DE VOORDE  
Mr Pieter CABOOR  
Mr Gaëtan VAN GOIDSENHOVEN

**MONDAY 8 APRIL**

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**Mr Manu DESUTTER**

*President of the Association of Former Members of Parliament,  
Former Senators and Former Members of the European Parliament*



Emmanuel Desutter (born, 28 November 1938) is a former Belgian MEP, senator and mayor of the CVP in Knokke-Heist. In 1964, he was elected municipal councillor of Heist and in 1967 alderman of this municipality. He continued to hold this office, even after the merger with Knokke, until 1973. He then became mayor of Knokke-Heist and remained so until 1979. He then served as alderman again from 1983 to 1989.

In April 1977, he was elected member of the Chamber of Representatives for the Bruges district and held this office until 1991. In the Chamber, he was quaestor from 1987 to 1991. He was then elected to the Senate as provincial senator for West Flanders and remained so until 1995. In the period May 1977-October 1980, as a result of the double mandate then existing, he also sat on the Cultural Council for the Dutch Cultural Community, which was installed on 7 December 1971. From 21 October 1980 to November 1991, he was a member of the Flemish Council, the successor of the Culture Council and predecessor of the current Flemish Parliament.

In 1985, he became chairman of the Catering and Fishing Committees within the Central Council for Industry.

Since June 2022, Mr Desutter is the president of the Association of Former Members of Parliament, Former Senators and Former Members of the European Parliament, the association is also name *Pro Lege*.

## Mr Mathieu GROSCH

*Belgian FMA Member*

Mathieu Grosch, born on 14 September 1950 in Eupen, is a distinguished Belgian politician and Member of the European Parliament representing the German-speaking Community of Belgium with the CSP-EVP. He also holds key positions within the European People's Party, serving on the Committee on Transport and Tourism and the Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula.



Grosch's career highlights include:

- Teacher of English and German (1974–1981).
- Member of the Council of the Province of Liège (1984-1985)
- Member of the Council of the German-speaking Community (1986-1994)
- Member of the national bureau of the CSP since 1986.
- Member of the EPP bureau since 1994.
- Adviser to the Prime Minister (1981–1984).
- Minister in the Government of the German-speaking Community (1986-1990)
- President of the Council of the German-speaking Community (1990-1994)
- Mayor of Kelmis (1991–2012).
- Member of the European Parliament (1994–2014).
- European Transport Network Coordinator at the European Commission (2014–present).
- Coordinator and President of Euro Carex (2021–present).

His contributions have been recognized with decorations such as the Merit award of the Meuse-Rhine Euregio (1999), Commander of the Order of Leopold (Belgium) in 1999, and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, First Class, in 2004.

**TUESDAY 9 APRIL**

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## **H.E. Ambassador Willem VAN DE VOORDE**

Ambassador van de Voorde will chair Coreper II during the 2024 Belgian Presidency drawing on his experience during the two previous Belgian Presidencies since he started his diplomatic career at the Permanent Representation of Belgium during the 1993 Presidency and was Deputy-Director for European Affairs in 2010.



Ambassador van de Voorde has extensive diplomatic experience, having served in various positions in Brussels and in bilateral and multilateral postings abroad. After the Belgian Presidency of 1993, he joined the Royal Palace in 1994 where he served as the Secretary to Her Majesty Queen Paola of Belgium for six years. From 2000 to 2004, he was Deputy Head of Mission of the Belgian embassy in Berlin, and after that, he held the same position for four years in Tokyo. In 2008, he worked as the Deputy-Director for European Affairs, where he coordinated the 2010 Belgian Presidency. In 2011, he started as Deputy Chief of Cabinet for European Affairs for the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Subsequently, from 2014 to 2018, Ambassador van de Voorde served as Belgian Ambassador to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia, Slovenia, and to the UN institutions in Vienna. Prior to assuming his current role as Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU in 2020, he held the position of Belgian Ambassador to Germany for two years.

The Ambassador holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Leuven (KUL) and Londen School of Economics (LSE), a Master's degree in Political Science from the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University Faculties St Aloysius (UFSAL) in Brussels. He is married and has four children.

Ambassador Van de Voorde speaks fluently Dutch, French, English and German, and has acquired a basic knowledge of Japanese.

## **Mr Pieter CABOOR**

*Director of the Legal Department of the Chamber of  
Representatives of Belgium*



Pieter Dirck G. CABOOR is a parliamentary lawyer and the Director of the Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Documentation Department of the Belgian House of Representatives.

He also serves as the House's ECPRD Correspondent and IPU Parline Correspondent. Pieter is the author of several academic publications in the field of parliamentary practice and procedure, and he regularly lectures on these topics to various audiences both in and out of parliament.

# Mr Gaëtan VAN GOIDSENHOVEN

*Senator and Co-President of the Federal Advisory committee on European affairs*

Gaëtan VAN GOIDSENHOVEN  
Born: October 2nd, 1973  
g.vangoidsenhoven@mrsenat.be



## **Education**

1997: Master in History (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

## **Political career**

Political party: Mouvement réformateur (MR) – Renew

Since 2019: Belgian Senator

- Leader of the MR-group in the Senate
- Chair of the delegation of the Senate to the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs – Co-Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs
- Chair of the Space Platform
- Member of the Committee on Transversal Affairs
- Member of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities between women and men

Since 2016: Member of the Parliament of the French Community

- Leader of the MR-Group in the Parliament of the French Community

2012-2018: First Alderman in the City of Anderlecht

Since 2009: Member of the Parliament of the Brussel-Capital Region

2007-2012: Mayor of the City of Anderlecht

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:** History specialist at the Francophone Liberal Archives  
Clerk at the Culturel Heritage Department of the French Community

**OTHER INFORMATIONS :** Active member and, since 2018, President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals Veeweyde.