

Hendrik (Rik) Daems

Mr. Daems is a Commercial Engineer from the Brussels Solvay Business School (1982) and holds a Master in Industrial Location & Development (1983) from the Free University Brussels.

He is a Belgian Citizen, married and father to two daughters.

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Resume in brief

	Professional	National Politics	International Politics
1983/1985	Associate Expert U.N Central America	*	*
1985/1987	Adviser Minister SME NED Participation Fund	*	*
1987/1999	Vice Chairman DEXIA NED Credit Local France International Fine Art Broker	Parliament MEP member of parl. Mayor City of Aarschot	* *
1999/2003	*	Minister & Member Core Government (VPM equivalent) (State Owned Companies, Public Assets, Telecom, SME)	Chair European Telecom Council Member # European Councils
2003/2019	Senior Adviser International Investment Funds SFPI NED Holding Communal Vice Chair & President Inv.Com. China-Belgium Invest Funds Consultant International Business Development & CSR Professional winemaker Vinobelga Belgian Wines	Parliament / Senate Group's leader Chamber Group's leader Senate Committee Chairs (3x) Speaker to the Senate Quaestor Senator co-opted	Council of Europe Belgian Delegation Leader Group's leader Alde Western European Union Delegation Member IPU (Inter Parliamentary Union) Country Chair & Member Chair Foreign Affairs Com. (2x)

- Mother tongue Dutch / Fully proficient in English, French and Spanish / Practice of German

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Rik Daems started his professional career as Associate Expert to the U.N.O. at the Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP, 1983-1985), stationed at San José, Costa Rica.

He instructed financial mathematics and investment analysis at the ICAP Postgraduate Program, and was an on-site operational consultant to Public Companies in the Central American Region (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama).

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In 1985 he was asked to return to Belgium to engage into a political career and became Financial & Economic Adviser to the Belgian Minister of SME (1985-1987).

Mr. Daems was elected to the Belgian Parliament in 1987 at the age of 28 has been reelected up until 2019. In June 2019 he was appointed to the Belgian Senate and designated to the Council of Europe. From 1987 to 2010 he was elected to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, from 2010 to 2014 to the Belgian Senate and as from 2014 to the Flemish Parliament, delegated to the Belgian Senate. He was appointed to the PACE - Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - where he is the Belgian Delegation Leader and Group's leader to ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats of Europe).

From 1989 through 1995 he was Mayor to the City of Aarschot. At present he is Member and Group Leader to the City Council of Leuven, one of the Central Cities in Belgium and home to the Leuven University.

In 1999, during the governmental formation assignment of the Open Vld Party President, Mr. Daems was acting President of the Open Vld Party and headed the negotiation team allowing the entry of his party into power after 12 years of opposition.

From 1999 to 2003 Mr. Daems was appointed Belgian Minister of Telecommunications, Public Enterprises and Public Holdings. He was a full member of the 7-headed "Core Government" composed of the Prime Minister and his Vice-Prime Ministers.

From 2001 to 2003 his portfolio was enlarged with SME-policy.

He was responsible for all State Owned Companies and Assets such as Belgacom Telecom Company, the Belgian Post, the National Lottery, the State Owned Real Estate Company, Brussels International Airport, Belgocontrol Air Control, and others. He handled the Sabena shut-down as well as the Brussels Airlines re-start.

He managed the Public Investment Companies SFI and SFP, SBI, Astrid, Delcredere, privatized several public banks and financial institutions, and laid down the groundwork to the creation of SFPI, the Belgian sovereign wealth fund holding 20 billion € in public assets.

In 2000 he was Chairman to the European Council of Ministers for Telecommunication and successfully reached agreements on the liberalization of postal- and telecommunication markets. He installed the independent telecom market regulator IPBT and opened up both postal and telecom markets to fair competition by unbundling networks and installing universal service standards.

In 2001, while in office as a Minister, Mr. Daems created BIO-invest, an investment company with a capital of over 500 m.€ concentrating on the 109 OECD poorest developing countries. He equally initiated negotiations concerning the setting up of a China-Belgium Investment Fund.

After 2001 within the SME-policy portfolio he designed and implemented the multi-annual plan for the social security of independent workers, introduced the co-worker social security system, pushed major administrative simplifications through and installed the "single entry point for administrative handling" which serves as a "one stop red tape" model throughout the administration.

From 2003 through 2006 Mr. Daems held office as Majority Leader in the Belgian House of Representatives.

From 2006 through 2007 he became Chairman to the Foreign Affairs Committee. From 2007 to 2010 he was appointed Quaestor to the Belgian Parliament.

From 2007 to 2010 Mr. Daems was appointed member to PACE, the Parliamentary Assembly to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg He also was a member to the W.E.U. - Western European Union - where he was Rapporteur to reports on strategy and structure of a global European security policy.

In 2014 he renewed his membership to the Council of Europe where he was appointed Belgian Delegation Leader. In 2017 he was elected Group's leader of ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe - and ex officio Bureau Member of ALDE-party.

Mr. Daems has been Rapporteur to several groundbreaking reports on democracy and electoral systems, and on the relationship between market economy development and democracy.

In June 2010 Mr. Daems became one of the 40 directly elected members to the Belgian Senate. He is the initiator to many laws focusing on administrative simplification, flexible job rules which came into practice as flexi-jobs and flexi-service, community service for long term unemployed, law-actualization systems, zero based budgeting, tax relief on SME and smart taxation systems. He elaborated on guiding private savings into public investment.

In June 2014 he was elected to the Flemish Parliament and designated to the Belgian Senate where he briefly held office as Speaker to the Senate.

Mr. Daems was Chairman to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Flemish Parliament putting into place a comprehensive strategy contributing to the positioning of the Flanders Region on the international scene focusing on ethical foreign investment and trade and equally developing the concept of parliamentary diplomacy.

He also focused on corporate governance issues and smart tax systems, such as tax shelters and tax relief for private citizens investing in public projects. He was able to pass the so called " Daems-Decree " allowing local authorities to cut real estate taxes in order to make housing affordable for young families or elderly people with low pension income.

He was Chairman to the Committee on Alternative Financing of Public Investment (Public Private Partnerships PPS) elaborating strategies and legal changes to increase public investment by attracting private funds and creating innovative financial instruments such as result based bonds and social impact bonds.

In June 2019 Mr. Daems was co-opted as Senator. In the Belgian Senate 10 Senators are co-opted to the Senate on the basis of merit and proven political added value.

Throughout his career Mr. Daems has consistently been recognized as being one of the most creative and "out of the box" thinking politicians in office.

In 2004 Mr. Daems personally finalized the China-Belgium Investment Fund's negotiations and co-created on behalf of the Belgian State the China Belgium Direct Equity Fund - CBDEIF -, a Private Equity Fund investing in mainland China.

Two more China-Belgium investment funds have since been set up by Mr. Daems in 2011 and 2012: the DTC-SFPI Venture Capital Fund, together with the CICT Group, concentrating on greenfield and seed-capital, and the China Belgium Mirror Fund, together with C.I.C. - China Investment Corporation -, guiding Chinese mid-cap investments into Europe and Belgium as well as European mid-cap investments into China..

Mr. Daems is Vice-Chairman to the Board and President of the Investment Supervisory Committee of the China-Belgium Fund CBDEIF. He is Vice Chairman and member of the investment committee to the DTC-SFPI V.C. Fund. And he is member to the Investors Compliance Committee of the China Belgium Mirror Fund.

The setting up of international investment funds are part of a strategic effort of the Belgian Government towards the new emerging markets - BRICS & MINT -. Several Funds have been set up in China, India and Brazil.

Mr. Daems is Senior Adviser for Foreign Investment Funds to the Federal Participation and Investment Company SFPI which is the state owned Belgian sovereign wealth fund managing around 20 billion €. Mr. Daems manages the China-Belgium investment funds.

Mr. Daems has occupied a distinctive role in several Financial and Public Institutions. Amongst others, he was Administrator to the Belgian Participation Fund. From 1997 to 1999 he was Vice-Chairman to DEXIA Holding and Administrator to Crédit Local de France, positions he vacated upon his nomination as Minister. From 2004 to 2011 he served as board member to the Holding Communal.

He has a vast international experience participating in numerous economic missions headed by members of the Belgian Royal Family.

His personal network within the Belgian business community, including the captains of industry, and within the Belgian highest level political and public scene is extensive.

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Mr. Daems is majority shareholder of Proconsult, a company specialized in international business development and corporate social responsibility in emerging and new markets, working with an international team .

Mr. Daems is majority shareholder of the Belgian Wine Company "VINOBELGA" producing Belgian Methode Champenoise and Belgian Brandy. It was his father who restarted the traditional medieval Belgian wine production in the early 1970's. The company is considered to be the founder of the new Belgian wines. Vinobelga is the International Tourism Center of Flanders Wines.

Mr. Daems is a contemporary artist-painter and on occasion an international high level fine art consultant.

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Mr. Daems is fully proficient in English, French and Spanish. His mother tongue is Dutch.

He speaks German and has limited practice of Italian and Portuguese.

He has extensive knowledge of the Eastern Business Culture and is proficient in generally accepted international business practices.

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In 2008 Mr. Daems has been granted Grand Officer to the Order of King Leopold I. .

In 2014 Mr. Daems has been granted the Grand Cross to the Order of King Leopold II.

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In 2011 he has been nominated Honorary Consul to Togo working pro bono on public-benefit projects within the Western African Region.

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Mr. Daems is married to Mme. Sophie Pécriaux, who is an elected member and Bureau member to the Walloon Parliament, and has two lovely daughters, Andrea (22) and Sasha (13).

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Brussels, January 2020 - Hendrik (Rik) Daems - 18.08.1959 –

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