

F. BARON VAN DAELE
MINISTER OF STATE
AMBASSADOR (RTD) OF HM THE KING OF THE BELGIANS



Ambassador Franciskus (Frans) van Daele joined the Belgian Foreign Service in 1971. His career has included several bilateral and multilateral assignments. After a first term at his country's Permanent Mission to the European Union (1973-77), he served in Athens as First Secretary (1977-81) and in Rome as Minister-Counselor (1986-89). Between these two postings he served a second time at Belgium's Permanent Mission to the EU (as Antici, i.e. Chief of Staff to the Ambassador) and then in 1984-86 as Press Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry under Minister Tindemans. He was Deputy Permanent Representative of the Belgian Mission to the United Nations in New York between 1989 and 1993, and alternate Representative to the UN Security Council of which Belgium was a non-permanent member in 1991-92. When this tour of duty ended, he was appointed Director General for Political Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Ministry (1994-97). In that capacity he was a member of the Political Committee which ran the foreign policy agenda of the E.U. As his assignment covered not only Belgium's foreign and security policy but also the coordination of its EU-policy, he led Belgium's interagency coordination for the negotiation of the Treaty of Amsterdam. Subsequently, from 1997 to 2002, van Daele was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the European Union in Brussels. During this period, he was Belgium's negotiator for the Treaty of Nice. During Belgium's Presidency of the European Union (July - December 2001), he chaired the Committee of Permanent Representatives. He co-authored the Laeken Declaration which laid the ground for the Treaty of Lisbon. Moreover, during this period he was deeply involved in the negotiation of the many European measures taken to fight terrorism in the wake of 9/11 (European arrest warrant; common criminal law definition of terrorism and minimum sanction rules). Between 2002 and 2006 F. van Daele served as Belgium's Ambassador to the US, where he closely followed American political and economic developments under the first and the second G.W. Bush administrations. After a term as Belgium's Permanent Representative to NATO (2007-2009), he became Chief of Staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Y. Leterme. In November 2009 he joined the President of the European Council, H. Van Rompuy, as Chief of Staff. Between November 2009 and November 2012 F. van Daele was closely involved in economic, financial and monetary matters related to the euro crisis, and in the relations between the EU and its strategic partners. He represented President Van Rompuy and President Barroso as their sherpa in preparing the G8 Summits in Muskoka (2010), in Deauville (2011), and in Camp David (2012), and as their deputy-sherpa for the G20 Summits in Toronto (2010), in Seoul (2010), in Cannes (2011), and in Los Cabos (2012). Under mandatory retirement rules, F. van Daele left his position as Chief of Staff of the President of the European Union. From the 21st of July 2013 till the 20th of October 2017, he served as Chief of Staff to His Majesty de King of the Belgians. On retirement Baron van Daele was appointed Minister of State.

Frans van Daele has a Master Degree in Philosophy and Arts (Romance Philology) from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Throughout his career he has kept up his strong interest both in history and in current economic and political problems. Ambassador van Daele often spoke in public about foreign policy questions, European integration and macro-economic/financial developments. He collaborated in several research projects dealing with contemporary Belgian and EU foreign policy. He gave occasional lectures at the universities of Brussels, Liège, Antwerp and Ghent, and he cooperated on a regular basis with his alma mater, the University of Leuven (post-graduate program in European Studies, and occasional lectures in the faculty of Law and Political Sciences) of which he presides the Alumni Association (Alumni Lovanienses) since 2008, and leads the Steering Committee entrusted with the preparation of the 600th Anniversary (2025). He occasionally lectured at the Universities of Leiden and

Maastricht, and at Stanford University. He has been invited as a Distinguished Fellow of Johns Hopkins' SAIS In Washington, and he taught a special Seminar on the European Council at the Collège d'Europe both in Bruges and in Natolin, the latter of which he is a Fellow.

Baron van Daele is a member of the Board of the University of Leuven, of the Board of the Chapelle musicale Reine Elisabeth, of the advisory Board of Friends of Europe and he is a member of the Fondation Jean Monnet (Lausanne). He is a Board member of AECA. He sits on the Board of the Fondation Inbev – Baillet-Latour, on the Board of the Arenberg Foundation, and on the board of the Belgo-American Educational Foundation (BAEF). Since 2021 Baron van Daele is President of the Royal Association of Belgian Nobility.

Frans van Daele was born October 24, 1947 in Oostburg, the Netherlands.

He speaks and writes Dutch, French, English, German and Italian.

In 2019 Frans van Daele published his memoirs in Dutch ("Schaken met de Macht") and French ("Sur l'Echiquier du Pouvoir").

He is bearer of various Belgian Decoration:

- Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Couronne (151182)
- Officier de l'Ordre de la Couronne (080486)
- Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Couronne (080491)
- Grand Officier de l'Ordre de Leopold II (151197)
- Grand Officier de l'Ordre de la Couronne (070702)
- Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de la Couronne (novembre 2017) reçue des mains de Sa Majesté.

He is bearer of various foreign decorations :

- Grand Officier de l'Ordre du Phénix 1981 (Grèce)
- Commandeur de l'Ordre de l'Aigle Aztèque 1985 (Mexique)
- Officier de l'Ordre du Léopard (Zaire)
- Commandeur de l'Ordre du Mérite de la République italienne 1985 (Italie)
- Chang Chui Medal 1986 (Corée)
- Grand Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite de la République italienne 1990 (Italie)
- Grand Cordon of the Order of Al-Istiqlal (Jordanie)
- Officier de la Légion d'Honneur reçu des mains de Michel Barnier 030512 (France)
- Grosses Verdienstkreuz des Verdienstordens der BR Deutschland 080316
- Gold and Silver Star of the Order of the Rising Sun 2016 (Japan)
- Grootkruis in de Orde van Oranje-Nassau 181116 (Nederland).

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