

Karel DE GUCHT

Personal details

- Belgian
- Born January 27, 1954 in Overmere, Belgium
- Married to Mireille Schreurs
- Two children : Frédéric and Jean-Jacques

Current duties

- Since February 2010 : European Commissioner for Trade

Political career

- 2009 - 2010 : European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid
- 2008 – 2009 : Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium
- 2006 – 2009 : Mayor of Berlare and Chairman of the Municipal Council¹
- 2004 – 2009 : Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs
- 2007 – 2009 : Minister for International Trade
- 2003 – 2009 : Member of the Belgian House of Representatives
- 1999 – 2004 : National President of the VLD (Flemish Liberal and Democratic Party)
- 1995 – 2003 : Member of the Flemish Parliament
- 1994 – 1995 : Senator
- 1989 – 2009 : Municipal Councillor at Berlare²
- 1985 – 1988 : National Vice-President of the PVV (Flemish Party for Freedom and Progress)
- 1983 – 1988 : Alderman responsible for Finance at Lebbeke
- 1980 – 1994 : Member of the European Parliament
- 1977 – 1979 : National President of the Young Flemish Liberal Movement
- Since 1977 : Member of the Bureau of the PVV/VLD political party
- 1975 – 1977 : National President of the Flemish Association of Liberal Students
- 1974 – 1975 : President of the Flemish Association of Liberal Students in Brussels

Professional career

- 1976 – 2001 : Lawyer
- 1991 – 2009 : Professor in European law at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
- Currently gives several hours of lectures in European law (free of charge) at the VUB

Education

- 1976 : Law degree, VUB
- 1971 : Secondary school certificate (Latin-Maths), Koninklijk Atheneum Aalst

¹ As a European Commissioner, I am prevented by law from occupying this post, and have thus been replaced by someone else (Flemish Municipal Decree of 15 July 2005).

² Idem

Honorary title

- Minister of State since 2002

Publications

- Pluche – Over de banalisering van extreem rechts [*"Pluche - On the banalisation of the extreme right"*], Houtekiet, 2007, 174 p.
- De toekomst is vrij : over het liberalisme in de 21ste eeuw [*"The future is free – On liberalism in the 21st century"*], Houtekiet, 2002, 204 p.
- Het einde der pilaren : een Toscaans gesprek [*"The end of religious and philosophical pillars in society – Tuscany conversations"*]- with MEP Johan Van Hecke , Houtekiet, 2001, 205 p.
- Er zijn geen eilanden meer : over de democratie, vrijheid en de mensenrechten [*"No man is an island - On democracy, liberty and human rights"*], - with Dirk Sterckx MEP, Houtekiet, 1999, 159 p.
- Time and tide wait for no man : the changing European geopolitical landscape, Praeger Publishers, 1991, 256 p.

Languages

- Flemish : mother tongue
- French and English : excellent
- Italian : basic knowledge
- German : basic knowledge