

PRESS RELEASE - 15.12.2021

The Board of Directors of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency has a new Chair: Didier Malherbe



On December 14, 2021, the Board of Directors of the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency elected Mr Didier Malherbe as its Chair, on the proposal of HE Mrs Sophie Wilmès, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade, and the Federal Cultural Institutions. He will assume the Chairmanship as of January 1, 2022.

The Board of Directors consists of sixteen members appointed by the Regional governments and the Federal Government, with an equal representation of private and public sectors. The Honorary President is His Majesty the King.

Didier Malherbe has been a member of the Agency's Board of Directors since 2013, as a representative of the private sector. For 15 years he was Managing Director of UCB Belgium and prior to that, he was Director at the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (1996-2006). He is the founder of the European Business Summit (2000) and the Salon de l'Etudiant (1988). Currently, as Chair of the Board of BCI-Pharma and Managing Director of the EU Biotech Campus, he continues to contribute to the strengthening of the Belgian biopharmaceutical sector.

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He succeeds Mrs Annemie Neyts, Minister of State, who has chaired the Agency since its creation in 2003.

Didier Malherbe underlines *"As a participant in many economic missions and State Visits, I have had the opportunity to appreciate the high added value of the Agency. Furthermore, my 8 years on the Board of Directors have enabled me to appreciate the major role played by the Chair, Annemie Neyts. I would like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister, Sophie Wilmès, for her trust and I look forward to contributing to the development of the Agency in the service of its partners: the three regional institutions in charge of foreign trade and the Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs"*.

The Board also elected Mrs Claire Tillekaerts as Vice-Chair, replacing Mr Pierre Rion.

The year 2022 promises to be a busy one for the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency, with the organisation of two State Visits, to Greece and Lithuania, and three economic missions, to the UK, the USA and Japan.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

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