

Board of Directors BIO

Mrs. **Laurence Christians** is Licentiate political sciences and international relations. She is deputy private secretary of the Minister-President of Wallonia and the Wallon-Brussels federation. She has experience as advisor to the Minister President of the Brussels Capital Region and as attaché of the Export Agency of Wallonia. She gained experience as director of the National office DuCroire and as government commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. **Françoise Demeuse** is chemical and agricultural engineer. She is Special Director at the Provincial Centre for Agriculture and Rural management at the Province of Brabant Wallon. She has experience as government commissioner for the Minister of Development Cooperation at BIO. She also gained experience as advisor to the Multilateral think tank on Development Cooperation in charge of the files agriculture, food security, fair and sustainable trade, private sector support in developing countries and strategies of aid, trade and gender.

Mr. **Jean-Claude Fontinoy** is industrial engineer. He is currently advisor at the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Finance. He has experience as director at the companies Eurogare, Belgocontrol, SNCB and SBI.

Mr. **Xavier Godefroid** holds an Ma in Public Law. He is director at the « Centre Permanent pour la Citoyenneté et la Participation ». He has 10 years of experience in humanitarian aid at the Red Cross in Asia and Africa. He has also gained experience as coordinator at the Cabinet of the Minister of Employment and as attaché for Foreign Affairs and Defense to the Senate.

Mr. **Jan Kerremans** is Licentiate political sciences and international relations. He gained experience as government commissioner at the BRT and as director of the companies VRT, VAR, GIMV, PMV and Infrabel. He also gained experience as advisor to different cabinets of Ministers.

Mr. **Carl Michiels** is Licentiate in modern history and Ma. in cultural and social anthropology. He is president of the management committee of the Belgian Technical Cooperation. He has years of experience in development cooperation: he was responsible for projects in Central and South America, attaché, advisor and responsible for missions for different cabinets of Ministers, as well as head of the VLIR secretariat for university cooperation.

Mrs. **Els Schelfhout** is Doctor in social sciences. She is currently working at the social office of Hamme. She has gained experience as Member of the Senate, for the Commission of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Development Cooperation, as well as for the Commission of Social Affairs and president of the task force "Exploitation and trade in natural resources in west DRC". She teaches at several Belgian universities.

Mr. **Christophe Soil** is Doctor in economical sciences. He is deputy private secretary for the strategic cells Social Affairs and Public Health and he teaches General Political Management at the ULB. He has experience as university assistant at Harvard University and ULB.

Mrs. **Florence Thys** is Licentiate in economical sciences. She is deputy private secretary to the Minister of Public Companies and Development Cooperation, in charge of large cities. She has gained experience as Inspector of Finances and advisor in terms of budget for an important study centre.

Mrs. **Annuschka Vandewalle** is Licentiate political sciences and international affairs and Licentiate development economics and planning. She has been General Secretary of the NGO FOS Socialist Solidarity since 1997. She has gained broad experience in development cooperation and is director for 11.11.11.

Mrs. **Hilde Vautmans** is Licentiate social and criminal sciences. She is leader of the Open Vld faction in Parliament. She has gained experience in development cooperation as parliamentary collaborator and attaché in charge of the files foreign affairs, defense and development cooperation for different cabinets of Ministers.

Mr. **Pieter Verhelst** holds an MA in business economics and engineering. He is advisor in international and European politics for the "Boerenbond" and represents the organization at the World Farmers' Organisation. He also realized advanced studies in agricultural economy.