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¹ As a European Commissioner, I am prevented by law from occupying this post, and have thus been replaced by someone else (Flemish Municipal Decree of 15 Juy 2005).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