

# Tom Vandenkendelaere

Member of the European Parliament



Tom Vandenkendelaere is a Member of the European Parliament since February 2021, as successor to Kris Peeters, who became vice-president at the European Investment Bank. Before his current term, Tom already was a Member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2019, then succeeding to Marianne Thyssen. He studied Latin–Modern Languages in his hometown Roeselare before undertaking translation studies at the Brussels Institut Libre Marie Haps, where he graduated as a certified translator English-German. Tom then acquired a Masters’ degree in International Relations at the University of Kent (UK) and in 2014 obtained a PhD at that same university with a thesis on the influence of Poland’s EU accession on Polish-German bilateral relations. Tom combined his teaching duties as an assistant professor with a job at the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There, he was involved in the preparation of ASEM Summit 8 of Asian and European countries. Tom also was desk officer for the political and economic relations with Vietnam and the Philippines, and was a member of the economic

diplomacy team preparing the Economic Missions led by the then-Prince Philippe of Belgium. In 2012, he was elected as the chairman of the youth wing of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party CD&V, to end his mandate prematurely in November 2014 and become a Member of the European Parliament. After his first term in the European Parliament, Tom took up consulting activities and served as an Elderman from 2019-2021, in replacement of Federal Minister Nathalie Muylle. Tom presides over the European Movement in Belgium, he is secretary of the Royal Belgian Benevolent Society in London, he is also a member of the management committee of the KU Leuven Wilfried Martens Fund and sits on the boards of the AZ Delta hospital and Knack Roeselare Volleyball club. In his spare time, Tom enjoys volleyball, cycling, rally and good food. He is married and has two children.

## Education

Klein Seminarie Roeselare | Latin-Modern Languages | Institut Libre Marie Haps Brussels | Translator | English-German Erasmus | Magdeburg - Germany | Traineeship Belgian Embassy Berlin | International Relations PhD | Polish-German Relations | University of Kent - UK

## First Job

Attaché Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Asia desk | Economic diplomacy

## Politics

Elected Chairman JONGCD&V 2012-2014 | European Parliament | Chair delegation for relations with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly | Internal market and consumer protection | Foreign Affairs & Security and defence subcommittee | Civil liberties, justice and home affairs | Agriculture

## Personal

European Movement in Belgium | Royal Belgian Benevolent Society | KU Leuven Wilfried Martens Fund