

P.R.H.M. van der Linden (CDA)



René van der Linden (1943) has been [President of the Senate](#) of the States General since 6 October 2009 and a member of the [Christian Democrat \(CDA\) parliamentary party](#) in the Senate since 8 June 1999. He was previously State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, member of the House of Representatives, chairperson of the EU Committee, chairperson of the Senate's Standing Committee for European Cooperation and president of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.



Personal particulars

- born in Eys, Municipality of Wittem, Limburg, the Netherlands, on 14 December 1943
- married

children

- 3 children

place of residence

- Nuth, the Netherlands
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Education

- economics degree: international public administration studies, Catholic College of Higher Professional (Economics) Education in Tilburg, from 1966 to 1970
- modern grammar school
- study at the seminary of Rolduc

internships etc.

- internship at the European Commission in Brussels (Belgium), 1970
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Career

- President of the Senate of the Netherlands General, since 6 October 2009
- member of the House of Representatives of the States General, from 29 November 1988 to 19 May 1998
- State Secretary for Foreign Affairs (with responsibility for European cooperation), from 14 July 1986 to 9 September 1988
- member of the House of Representatives of the States General, from 8 June 1977 to 14 July 1986
- member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner H. Vredeling in Brussels (Belgium), from January to June 1977

- member of the Cabinet of European Commissioner P.J. Lardinois in Brussels (Belgium), from 1973 to January 1977
 - civil servant, International Economic Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from 1971 to 1973
 - part-time teacher of economics, 1969
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Other posts

currently held

- honorary president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- member of the supervisory board of Floriade 2012
- chairperson of VIGEF (Association for the Fruit and Vegetable Processing Industry)
- advisor to NOVAA (Dutch Association of Accounting Consultants)
- advisor to Otto Uitzend Kracht, since 2004
- chairperson of MSM (Maastricht School of Management)
- Euregem consultancy
- chairperson of Vavi (Dutch Potato Processing Association)
- member of the 'Friends of the Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies' Advisory Council
- member of the United World College Maastricht Advisory Council
- ambassador for the Royal Maastricht Brass Band
- patron of the 'Sint Donatus' Brass Band
- member of the board of 'Pater Sloots' (India)
- advisor to the Dr. Van de Brekel Foundation (Malawi)

previously held

- member of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Western European Union
- President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, from 24 January 2005 to 21 January 2008
- board member of Kerk en Nood (Church and Need)
- delegated representative of the Senate to the Convention on the Future of Europe, from March 2002 to July 2003

- member of the Consultative Interparliamentary Benelux Council
- member of the executive board of the Dutch employers' confederation (VNO/NCW), from 2000
- member of the board of Agroned (aid agency for Romania)
- chairperson of the European Organ Competition Foundation
- member of the board of RVB
- chairperson of Rabobank Maastricht
- advisor to the Limburg Employers' Association
- member of the Arable Farming Principal Commodity Board and the Horticulture Commodity Board
- vice-chairperson of UEITP (Union of the European Potato Processing Industry)
- advisor to the Joint Chambers of Commerce in Limburg/Aken
- advisor to LLTB (Limburg Agricultural and Horticultural Association), from 1977 to July 1986 and from 1988 to 1999 (8-10 meetings a year)
- member of the Consultative Interparliamentary Benelux Council, from 1977 to 1986 and 1989 to 1994
- member of the board of Europahuis in Bemelen
- member of the board of the Netherlands Organisation for International Assistance (NOVIB)
- vice-chairperson of Youth 4 Dialogue
- member of the Advisory Council for Roda JC (Roda Juliana Combinatie) professional football club
- member of the Horticulture Commodity Board
- member of the Kasteel Wijnandsrade Foundation
- advisor to Straet Holding
- chairperson of the Netherlands-Belgium Steering Group



Party political posts

previously held

- member of the EPP Political Bureau
- chairperson of the EPP group in the Council of Europe, from 1999 to 2005

- second vice-chairperson of the CDA (Christian Democrat) party in the House of Representatives of the States General, from November 1982 to 13 July 1986
 - vice-chairperson of the EPP group in the Council of Europe, from 1989 to 1999
 - member of the CDA party executive
 - member of the party executive of the former KVP (Catholic People's Party)
 - chairperson of the KVP youth section
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Honours and decorations

orders of knights

- Commander in the Order of Orange-Nassau, 3 September 2007
- Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau, 18 May 1998
- Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion, 21 December 1988

foreign decorations

- Cavaliere di Gran Croce, Republic of San Marino, 2006
- Commandeur de la Légion d'Honneur, November 2007
- Philippine Congressional Medal of Achievement, 2005
- Knight in the Holy Order of St Gregory the Great, 20 October 2003
- Grosses Deutsches Bundes Verdienstkreuz, 1986

other honours

- Premio Mediterraneo Istituzioni, 30 March 2007

honorary memberships

- ambassador for the Royal Maastricht Brass Band
 - honorary citizen of the city of Liège
 - honorary citizen of Nafplion
 - patron of the 'Sint Donatus' Brass Band
 - patron of the Lisboa Foundation for homeless children in Portugal, around March 1995
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Days in office

3,822 days

(8 June 1999 to date)

