

# Keynote Speech

## Keynote Speaker

**Topic: The EU Road to UNFCCC Glasgow-COP26: The European Climate Law and the fit for 55 Package**

### ***Kurt Deketelaere***

*Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities, Full Professor of Law - University of Leuven, and Chairman in Sustainability College Bruges (Belgium)*



### **Biography:**

A lawyer by training (bachelor (1986), master (1989), PhD (1995) at KU Leuven, Flanders, Belgium), **Kurt Deketelaere** (° 29 July 1966, Torhout, Flanders, Belgium) is working, in various capacities (director, advisor, entrepreneur, academic, public affairs manager), in the field of EU research, innovation, education, energy, environment, climate change and sustainability policy and law.

As a director, Kurt is presently on the board of MRBB, AIF, Arvesta, VITO, and M-Tech. He also acts as an advisor to Eneco Belgium, Crowdhelix, and Humanitas University. Furthermore, Kurt runs his own consultancy firm, BV KDK, and chairs Sustainability College Bruges. He is still full professor of environmental, energy, climate and construction law at KU Leuven and, last but not least, Secretary-General of the League of European Research Universities (LERU).

For his leadership in EU research, innovation and education policy, Kurt was awarded a doctorate honoris causa by the University of Edinburgh on 6 July 2017, the (first) "Scaliger Medal" by Leiden University on 19 September 2017 and the "Gold Medal" by Charles University (Prague) on 24 September 2021. He received, for LERU, the University Medal of the University of Geneva on 11 October 2019. Furthermore, for his academic work, he was awarded on 21 August 2012 the Hou-De Honorary Chair at the National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan, and has been a visiting and/or honorary professor of law at the Universities of London, Sydney, Macquarie, Singapore, Malta, Dundee, Keio and Chuo.

Earlier in his career, Kurt was the chief legal advisor (2004-2007) and the chief of staff (2007-2009) of the Flemish Minister for Public Works, Energy, Environment and Nature, respectively Mr Kris Peeters (presently Vice-President European Investment Bank) and Mrs Hilde Crevits (presently Deputy Minister-President Flemish Government). He was awarded the title of honorary chief of staff of the Flemish Government on 30 June 2009. Kurt chaired the Flemish Energy Regulator (VREG) from 2012 to 2017, and in the early nineties, he led the environmental law practice