Petra De Sutter is a medical doctor specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology and holding a PhD in biomedical sciences; areas in which she has produced numerous publications and lectures. She has been Professor in Reproductive Medicine at Gent University since 2000 and Head of the Department for Reproductive Medicine of Gent University Hospital since 2006.

Next to her medical practice and scientific activities, Petra has been a member of the Belgian Senate and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2014, where she is particularly interested in the legal regimes of parenthood and new health applications.

Petra regularly follows the activity of the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) on behalf of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly and its Sub-Committee on Public Health and Sustainable Development. She was rapporteur on children's rights related to surrogacy in 2016, and will present her report on the use of new technologies in human beings to the Assembly in October 2017.