

Marc Cools

President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



Born on 1 January 1956 in Etterbeek, Belgium

Married, Father of three daughters

Education

Commercial engineering degree from the Solvay Business School at the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*

Professional experience

- Administrative secretary at the *Fonds Belgo-Congolais d'Amortissement et de Gestion* in 1980 and 1981
- Economic adviser to the Minister for the Brussels Region from 1981 to 1985
- Adviser to the Study Department of the Belgian Ministry of Finance from 1985 to 1989

Political responsibilities

- Member of the Brussels Parliament from 1989 to 2004
- Honorary Vice-President of the Brussels Parliament
- Local councillor for Uccle since 1986
- Deputy mayor of Uccle from 1990 to 2018
- President of Brulocalis (the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region) from 2005 to 2019 and President of the Union of Belgian Towns and Municipalities from 2005 to 2006, from 2010 to 2012 and from 2016 to 2018.
- Leader of the Uccle En Avant group at Uccle Municipal Council since 2018

Congress experience

- Member of the Congress since December 2005
- Rapporteur on local democracy for Austria, Spain, Ukraine, Switzerland, Latvia, Hungary, Cyprus, Moldova and Romania.
- Rapporteur for Congress rules and procedures
- Participated in local election observation missions in Denmark, Ukraine and Moldova.
- Vice-President of the Congress from 2012 to 2014
- Chairman of the Independent and Liberal Democrat Group at the Congress from 2014 to 2023
- Vice-Chairman of the Belgian delegation to the Congress from 2013 to 2015 and Chairman of that delegation from 2015 to 2017
- President of the Congress since October 2024

Other experience and activities

- Board member for several economic development companies
- Board member for several non-profit associations with a social mission
- Author of several books, including "*Le défi bruxellois*"; "*Morale et réalisation de soi*"; "*La politique pourquoi et comment?*" and "*Pensées pour moi-même*".

