



## GUY VERHOFSTADT

President European Movement International, former Member of the European Parliament and Former Prime Minister of Belgium. Assembly Speakers is the booking agent of Guy Verhofstadt. Contact Guy Verhofstadt as keynote speaker at your next event directly through Assembly Speakers!

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### Categorie

Politics, Economy & Finance

### Type

Expert | Thought leader, Politician

### Inzetbaarheid

Keynote speaker

### Talen

English, Dutch, French

### Afkomstig van

Belgium

## Biografie

Guy Verhofstadt is President of the European Movement International, former Member of the European Parliament, former Co-Chair of the Conference on the Future of Europe, and and Former Prime Minister of Belgium.

Born in 1953, he quickly rose through the ranks of Belgian politics. He became liberal party president in 1982 at the age of just 29. By 1985 he was Deputy Prime Minister and he served as Prime Minister of Belgium from 1999 until 2008. After he left office, Guy Verhofstadt was elected to the European Parliament, where he was group leader of the Liberals and Democrats from 2009 until 2019. He also made a name for

himself as Brexit coordinator and as a passionate champion of more European integration to tackle the multiple crises the EU faces at the moment. His latest book is entitled "Europe's Last Chance".

Guy Verhofstadt was prime minister of Belgium from 1999 to 2008 and since 2009 the leader of the liberals in the European Parliament. He was top candidate for the European liberals during the 2014 elections. Under his premiership, the world's 'most complex country' underwent a drastic evolution. He introduced gay marriage and gay adoption, depenalized the use of cannabis, lowered taxes for individuals and businesses and introduced progressive euthanasia legislation.

Verhofstadt is known for his enthusiasm, rhetorical talent and voluntarism. He was repeatedly elected by the press as the best debater and orator in Belgian politics. This liberal can provide a unique insight into what is going on in European politics. Although he is a staunch supporter of the European project, he can be particularly tough on the EU institutions. He considers them slow, conservative and lacking ambition. Verhofstadt wants to turn Europe into a strong federation, the very same political structure the Americans chose two hundred years ago.

## French

Guy Verhofstadt a été Premier ministre du Royaume de Belgique de 1999 à 2008 et depuis 2009, il préside le groupe de l'Alliance des démocrates et des libéraux pour l'Europe au Parlement européen. Il a été le champion des démocrates et libéraux européens lors des élections de 2014. Sous son mandat de Premier ministre, «le pays le plus complexe» du monde a connu une évolution radicale. Il a introduit le mariage pour tous et l'adoption pour les couples homosexuels, dépenalisé l'usage du cannabis,

initié une législation progressiste de l'euthanasie et réduit les impôts pour les particuliers et les entreprises.

M. Verhofstadt est connu pour son enthousiasme, son talent rhétorique et son volontarisme. Il a été désigné à plusieurs reprises par la presse comme le meilleur débatteur et orateur de la politique belge. Son ancien directeur de campagne l'avait baptisé «Peter Pan», parce que celui qui veut faire avancer les choses en politique doit être en mesure d'effectuer des merveilles.

Il éclaire d'une manière unique les coulisses de la politique européenne. Bien que fervent partisan du projet européen, il est particulièrement critique contre les institutions de l'UE. Il les considère passives, conservatrices et sans ambition. Guy Verhofstadt veut faire de l'Europe une fédération forte, calquée sur la structure politique que les Américains ont choisie il y a deux cents ans.