

# Didier De Buyst

Value Creator in Industry ("ad veram aestimationem creandam")

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## Summary

Didier De Buyst combines his engineering background with a thorough knowledge of corporate finance, a knack for strategic thinking and a clear vision of the technological future. He is able to analyze and decode problems swiftly and accurately, and has the tenacity and courage to subsequently implement the right solutions. This unique combination has been a crucial factor in all of his professional achievements.

For more than 20 years, Didier has served as a board member for various organizations, including large commercial companies, public institutions and research centers. He has guided them through some of the most critical phases of their existence. As a board member of Belgacom (now Proximus), he helped the company successfully tackle several profound challenges, including the liberalization of the telecom market, the advent of broadband and the company's IPO. He focuses on long-term assignments, either as a member of the board itself, or as part of an advisory board or strategic committee.

Based on his experience as a member of various boards, he has developed a clear vision on how a board can best operate. Although he believes that the board should definitely focus on strategic issues such as long-term investments or setting the future direction of the company, it should also closely monitor the operational and financial status of the company. This acts as a reality check, ensuring that board members keep in touch with the realities of the business. He also believes that it is useful for board members and managers to regularly organize a War Game, in order to gain profound insights in the future risks and opportunities within their business.

His own company Veritas per Scientiam resolves industrial disputes. He has built a strong reputation in this field and is particularly known for his ability to look beyond the purely legal perspective. He has been a certified mediator since 2013.

Finally, Didier is active as visiting professor at Hasselt University.

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## Experience

Creating Value during Business Conflict Resolution at Veritas per Scientiam  
January 1993 - Present

Veritas per Scientiam assists industry in avoiding and resolving industrial and technical disputes. Our unique combination of technical and business expertise enables us to look beyond the purely legal perspective and find a timely and economically sound resolution.

#### Focus on technical and industrial disputes

Veritas per Scientiam focuses on avoiding and resolving technical and industrial disputes—typically those related to engineering—which involve property damage or business interruption. We combine a thorough engineering background with long-standing experience in business matters, including Corporate Finance.

We handle disputes between companies and their suppliers, contractors and other business partners, or within the company itself, including disputes between business units, departments, shareholders and other stakeholders.

#### Keeping a keen eye on business

Legal disputes create financial and economic uncertainty for all parties involved. More often than not, they lead to long, drawn-out procedures and large legal fees, with a result that benefits neither party. Considerable time and economic value are wasted. Perhaps more importantly, future collaboration between parties is often severely jeopardized.

Veritas per Scientiam helps to resolve disputes in a more effective manner. We always keep a keen eye on the business side of things and take into account all economic consequences. We provide companies with a solution that is timely, correct and economically sound. Our aim is to create true value during the business conflict resolution: *ad veram aestimationem creandam*.

#### **Board Member Essenscia Vlaanderen (Federation Chemical & Life Sciences Industries) at essenscia September 2017 - Present**

Essenscia vzw/asbl, the Belgian Federation for Chemistry and Life Sciences industries, is a multisectoral umbrella organisation that represents the numerous sectors of activities in the field of chemicals and the life sciences. For more details: [http://www.essenscia.be/en/about\\_essenscia](http://www.essenscia.be/en/about_essenscia)

#### **Certified Mediator at Veritas per Scientiam**

**October 2013 - Present**

Certified mediator in Belgium for civil and commercial matters. See [www.mediation-justice.be/](http://www.mediation-justice.be/) (French and Dutch).

#### **Director (Member of the Board of Governors) at SCK-CEN (Belgian Nuclear Research Centre)**

**March 2009 - Present**

Appointed as Director (Member of the Board of Governors) of SCK-CEN, the Belgian national nuclear research facility, one of the world leaders for material testing, research on Generation IV nuclear reactors, production of radio isotopes (mainly in the BR2 reactor). See: [www.sck.be/en](http://www.sck.be/en)

Member of the MYRRHA Sounding Board (formerly MYRRHA Supervisory Group) at SCK-CEN (Belgian Nuclear Research Centre)

December 2010 - Present

Supervision of the MYRRHA project (> 1 billion € investment) from a financial and strategic point of view. See: <http://myrrha.sckcen.be/>

Member of the Finance Committee at SCK-CEN (Belgian Nuclear Research Centre)

November 2009 - Present

The Financial Committee reviews annual accounts of the company and performs regular audits concerning financial and other risks. The Committee does also preparatory work to assist the Board of Governors in all aspects of Corporate Finance (investments, acquisitions, disposals, write-offs, etc.).

Member of the Board of Directors and Treasurer/Chairman Finance Committee at ie-net Ingenieursvereniging (Society of Engineers)

January 2016 - Present

ie-net Society of Engineers is the community that brings together all engineers and all other people inspired by technology

Visiting Professor at Hasselt University

July 2014 - Present

Visiting professor (10%) at the Faculty of Architecture (affiliated to the Faculty of Business Economics, Department of Accountancy, Finance & Governance) for the course "Introduction to Business Administration (Management 5)" in the second Master of Architecture

Chairman of the Finance Committee of the ie-net group at ie-net ("Inspired by Engineers") NPO

January 2014 - December 2015 (2 years)

The Finance Committee reviews the annual accounts and makes a budget proposal to the Board of Directors

Member of the Board of Directors at ie-net ("Inspired by Engineers") NPO

June 2013 - December 2015 (2 years 7 months)

Professor (lecturer)

September 2007 - June 2014 (6 years 10 months)

Part-time professor (lecturer) at PHL Department of Architecture (since 2013 Faculty of Architecture at Hasselt University), as coordinator of the course "Introduction to Management" in the second Master in Architecture. Founder of the "Business Game for Architects" (2012) in co-operation with

BDO and Matexi (see <http://www.bdo.be/nl/news/bdo-news/2012/eerste-editie-van-de-business-game-for-architects/>).

#### **Guest Speaker at Vlerick Business School**

January 2006 - December 2007 (2 years)

A full session "Understanding the strategic context of an organization (how industry evolution drives strategy)" is presented to students of the international full-time MBA and of the part-time MBA training courses at the Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School, allowing for an interactive and in-depth discussion, based on the case "Belgacom & Telindus: a One Way Love Affair?" published on the ECCH (authors: K. Verweire, G. Greef and D. De Buyst see: [http://www.ecch.com/casesearch/product\\_details.cfm?id=87208](http://www.ecch.com/casesearch/product_details.cfm?id=87208)).

#### **Professor (lecturer)**

November 2002 - August 2007 (4 years 10 months)

Part-time professor (lecturer) at PHL Department of Architecture (now Faculty of Architecture at Hasselt University) for the course "facilities in buildings taking into account energy, ecology and economy" in the first Master in Architecture.

#### **Board Member at Belgacom**

March 1996 - December 2006 (10 years 10 months)

Belgacom is the incumbent Belgian telecom operator (fixed, mobile and broadband). The company was successfully transformed from a monopolistic situation into a high-performance enterprise within a highly competitive market. On March 22, 2004, the company was introduced on Euronext Brussels. See: [www.belgacom.com](http://www.belgacom.com)

#### **Chairman & CEO**

March 1996 - June 2003 (7 years 4 months)

Foundation and further development of a multidisciplinary consultancy business with offices in four major cities, structured in departments (Civil Engineering, Assessment & Loss Adjusting, Corporate Finance, Process & Structure Management and Environment).

#### **Board Member at Belgian Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC - Federaal Agentschap voor Nucleaire Controle)**

April 1997 - March 2003 (6 years)

The FANC is to be compared to the NRC; it is the regulator for the civilian nuclear sector in Belgium.

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## **Education**

INSEAD

Advanced Management Program, 2016 - 2016

Harvard Business School

Certificate, Negotiation, 2006 - 2006

Brussels Diplomatic Academy (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Certificate Master Class in Investment Arbitration, Investment Arbitration, 2014 - 2014

Vlerick Business School

Certificate, Master Class in Corporate Finance, 2005 - 2006

Vlerick Business School

Certificate, Advanced Management Programme, 2004 - 2005

Essenscia-KU Leuven Delta Process Academy

Advanced Master Class on Process Safety, Chemical Process Technology, 2015 - 2015

Universiteit Gent

Ph.D. in Engineering, Engineering, 1989 - 1993

Universiteit Gent

M.Sc. in Engineering, Engineering, 1984 - 1989

INSEAD

Advanced Management Program (AMP108), 2016 - 2016

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## Honors and Awards

Member of the Audit Committee Institute, Member of the Cercle de Lorraine - Club van Lotharingen

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[Contact Didier on LinkedIn](#)