

Prof. Dr. Louis Meuleman

Louis Meuleman is an academic and practitioner on sustainability governance and metagovernance, science-society-policy relations, and policy coherence and - integration. He is Chair of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA), guest professor public governance at the University of Antwerp (Belgium), research associate at Wageningen University (Netherlands), and teaching sustainability (meta)governance internationally, e.g., for federal policymakers of the Government of Belgium, and Romanian public servants.



During the last 10 years of his 40 years' public administration experience at subnational, national, European and UN level, he was policy coordinator at the European Commission (2011-2020). Earlier he was among others director of the Dutch science-policy advisory council RMNO. In 2010-11 he led the project 'Science for Sustainable Societal Transformations: Towards Effective Governance (TransGov)', the first research project of Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS, now RIFS) in Potsdam, founded by former UNEP director Prof. Klaus Töpfer.

Louis is passionate about making science, policy and societal stakeholders work together to make sustainable development work, about better understanding long-term challenges, the drivers of change and linkages between them. He is also an experienced moderator and speaker on sustainability and environmental governance.

His first academic degree was an MSc in environmental biology, with extensive field work on the ecology of Irish peat bogs, on the vegetation of the Dutch dunes, and on eco-energetic analysis of farms. He has a PhD in public administration on combining governance styles in different politico-administrative systems ([Public Management and the Metagovernance of Hierarchies, Networks and Markets](#) (Springer, 2008) His latest book is [Metagovernance for Sustainability](#) (Routledge, 2018). His conceptual work on governance of governance (metagovernance) is globally recognised, with his PhD book being cited 800 times meanwhile.

As co-founder of the think tank Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (ps4sd), he has advised among others national governments, the European Commission, UN bodies and the OECD on SDG implementation challenges (e.g., with UNITAR in Cyprus; SDG governance training in Romania), policy coherence for sustainable development (for UNEP, OECD and European Commission) science-policy relations, indicators, and sustainability assessment (JRC, EEA), mainstreaming SDGs in regulatory impact assessments (German BMU, with 20 EU countries, COM and OECD).

His experience in leading organisations includes having been elected for eight consecutive years since 2017 as vice-chair of the high-level UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which advises UN and member states on SDG implementation. In addition, he has over 25 years' experience in leading roles in the Environment Ministry of the Netherlands and the European Commission, and as Chair of the Netherlands Association for Public Management (VOM). Since 2025 he is chair of the international NGO Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future and Board member of the Club of Rome EU-Chapter.

Louis is a Dutch national and lives in Brussels, Belgium.

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