



**Karel PINXTEN**

Born in Overpelt (Belgium) in 1952.

Doctorandus of Economics, specialising in public finance and monetary economics, from the Catholic University, Leuven. Master's degree in Economics (M. Phil) from Cambridge University and candidate degree in law from Antwerp University.

From 1977 to 1978, he was a research assistant at the Centre for Economic Studies at the Catholic University of Leuven. He was an auditor at the Belgian Court of Auditors from 1980 until entering the Belgian government in 1994.

In 1978 Karel Pinxten completed a six-month study trip to Japan as a laureate of the Prize of the Belgian Foreign Trade Minister.

Karel Pinxten was Mayor of Overpelt from 1983 until 2006. Between 1984 and 1985 he was an adviser in the private office of the Deputy Prime Minister. From 1985 to 1989 he was an adviser in the private office of the Finance Minister.

Member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1991, he was a member of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

Between 1991 and 1994 he was a Member of the Belgian Federal Parliament, and a member of the Finance Committee. Karel Pinxten was appointed Minister of Defence from 1994 to 1995 and Minister of Agriculture and SMUs from 1995 to 1999.

During his mandate as a Member of the Federal Parliament from 1999 to 2005, he was a member of the Finance and Foreign Affairs Committee. In 2004 he was elected Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr Pinxten became a Member of the European Court of Auditors on 1 March 2006 and was appointed to Audit Group III "External actions".

From 22 March 2006 to 18 April 2007, he was an alternate Member of the Court's Administrative Committee.

Since 1 June 2010, following the reorganisation of the Court, Mr Pinxten is a Member of Chamber III "External Actions" and an alternate Member of the Administrative Committee since January 2011.

In April 2011 Mr Pinxten became the Dean of Chamber III "External Actions" and a Member of the Administrative Committee.