

Romain Cools

Born in Lokeren, Belgium on 18 October 1958

Naastveldstraat 53, B- 9160 Lokeren



After his studies of languages & history, Romain Cools has been active in different sectors (a.o. as spokesman of the Belgian state secretary of Environment) before joining UNIZO, the Belgian SME association.

Since 1991, he has been secretary of the Belgian association of the potato trade, which he turned into **Belgapom**, the Union of the Belgian potato trade & processing industry.

He also became secretary general of **Vegebe**, the Belgian vegetable processing industry.

From 1996 till 2010 he has taken up the (elected) function of secretary general of **Europatat**, the European Union of the Potato Trade and from 2004 till 2012 also as secretary general of **EUPPA**, the European Potato Processors' Association.

He is also a member of the board of directors of the **World Potato Congress inc.** since 2005 and since 2015 vice-president of this non-profit organisation.

Romain Cools has been active in different associations related to the Belgian potato sector, such as the promotion board VLAM (Flanders) – as chairman of the arable crops' section and board member and since 2013 as vice president – and APAQ-W (Walloon area), the biannual international potato event Interpom Primeurs and the Belgian food safety agency (advisory council).

He is also chairman of OVPG/PTMV (the Belgian platform for trade and processors of plants and plant origin products) and one of the founders of Vegaplan, the Belgian quality system for plant origin primary production.

In his European mandate he has represented the European potato trade and processing industry in a number of European advisory committees (plant health, promotion, quality, potato forecast group, ...) and in the UN/ECE commission on international trade standardization.

Since 2012 he is director of FVPHouse, the umbrella organisation of the Belgian potato, fruit and vegetables trade and processing associations.

He is also secretary of the Belgian RUCIP secretariat and a member of the European RUCIP committee. RUCIP contains the European rules of the potato trade and an expertise and arbitration system.

Romain Cools is married and father of 2 children and working and living in Lokeren, Belgium.

More information : www.belgapom.be / www.fvphouse.be

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