

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE GABY HOSTENS

Born in 1945. I graduated in Germanic languages at the Catholic University of Louvain in 1967. From 1968 till 1970 I worked as an English **teacher** in a teacher training institute in the République démocratique du Congo. After my return to Belgium I worked as a teacher until 1987 when I became the **principal** of a secondary school with a student body consisting mainly of young immigrants.

In 1988 I became an advisor to the Flemish Minister of Education and later on I became deputy chief of staff and **chief of staff**. I held the latter function from 1992 until 1995 when I became **director-general** for secondary education in the Flemish community.

I published articles and held presentations for national and international audiences on a wide variety of issues covering themes such as initial teacher training, constitutional developments in education policies, reform of secondary education, curriculum development, quality assurance, European education policies, trade in education services, PISA 2000, systemic innovation and many others. I have contributed to policy briefs for all education ministers since 1988.

In 1994 I became a member of the **OECD education committee** and I was their chairman from 1997 until 2000. During that period **High quality education and training for all** and **Lifelong learning for all** were the two main substantive mandates implemented by the committee. I have been actively involved in the activity **Schooling for Tomorrow** which has tried to sketch the future of our schools 20 years from now and led to the OECD publication “**What Schools for the Future**”. I was heavily involved in the Thematic review of the first years of tertiary education which led to the publication **Redefining tertiary education**. I was a member of an OECD team that reviewed education and training policies in the **Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and Latvia**.

I chaired education committee meetings and seminars on the transition from initial schooling to working life, tertiary education, review of education policies and a host of other issues.

I was a member of the **INES (Indicators of Education Systems)** steering group from 1997 until 2000. (**Education at a Glance**, editions 1998 and 2000). I am currently the chairman of the **OECD Strategic Management Group (SMG)**, an advisory body to the Education Committee and CERI on education indicators.

On behalf of the Swiss federal research council I did a review of the **Institut Régional pour la Recherche et la documentation Pédagogique (IRDP)**, a pedagogical institute in Switzerland, in 1997.

Amongst other things, I made presentations at OECD-Japan seminars on VOTEC and ICT in 1995 and 2002. I spoke at a conference jointly organised by the Open Society Institute and the World Bank in

Budapest in 2000, **Governance for Quality**, at a World Bank seminar in Brighton on **Trends in secondary education curriculum**, at seminars in Lithuania in 2002, **The role of parliamentary committees in formulating education policy**, etc.

I worked as a **policy expert in Ukraine** for **UNDP** and the **Soros** Foundation.

I chaired a joint OECD-World Bank seminar on **developments in governance** in education and training in Eastern European countries.

In 1997 I was invited by the Rockefeller Foundation and **The National Commission on Teaching and America's Future**, along with experts from many countries to participate in and make a presentation at a conference on initial teacher training and professional development of teachers.

I was a keynote speaker at a conference **Perspectives of Education Changes** in Serbia sponsored by OECD, the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

In November 2002 I was a keynote speaker at the Seminario Internacional Educacion y Competitividad In Mexico City.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Commission for Educational Exchange (Fulbright Foundation) and the Prince Filip Foundation.

Since 1992 I have been a member of the High Level group of **director generals of EU countries** who give strategic guidance to the Commission and the Council.