



Prof. Dr. Eric van Walle

Prof. Dr. Eric van Walle was appointed Director-General of SCK CEN in 2006. Since 2001, he became part-time professor at the Faculty of Applied Science of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium (KULeuven) and teaches Nuclear Materials Science within the Belgian Nuclear higher Education Network. In 2011, he was elected to be Member of The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts (KVAB), which promotes the interuniversity cooperation in Belgium.

In 1985, Eric van Walle obtained a PhD in Nuclear Physics at the KULeuven. He resided for 2 years at Princeton University in the USA where he was junior faculty member/research associate. He joined SCK CEN in 1989 to perform research on nuclear material degradation. In 1998 he became the head of Reactor Materials Research (RMR) department (until 2006) of SCK CEN. He is specialized in nuclear reactor pressure vessel issues with national and international experience on long-term-operation of nuclear power plants.

Eric van Walle is Honorary President and active member of the European Atomic Energy Society (EAES) and he is member of the Board of the European Nuclear Society (ENS). He is Honorary Chair of the Belgian Nuclear Society (BNS). He represents Belgium in the Halden Reactor Programme (Norway) of which he was Chairman of the Board in 2008-2009 and 2019-2020. As a 50% shareholder, he represents SCK CEN on the Board of Belgonucleaire. He is member of the Board of the ESV Euridice, a joint venture between SCK CEN and NIRAS/ONDRAF, the Belgian Nuclear Waste Agency. He is a Belgian representative to the Governing Board of Fusion for Energy (F4E), the European Union's Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy. He is a Board member of KMI, KSW and BIRA, three Belgian federal research institutes respectively related to Meteorology, Space Observatory and Aeronomy. Since 2011 he is a member of the Industrial Advisory Board Material Science at the KULeuven, while in 2012 he was appointed as a Member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the University of Ghent. He is currently Vice-President of the Oncidium foundation, a foundation for the development of radiotherapeutics and President of Rad4Med.be, the Belgian Network for Radiation Applications in Healthcare.

In 2018, he became member of the Standing Advisory Group on Technical Assistance and Cooperation (SAGTAC) of the IAEA, that advises the Director-General of IAEA and the Technical Cooperation Programme. Over the years, he took part in several CRP's and was selected for expert missions for the IAEA. Under his leadership SCK CEN voluntary contributes to the IAEA-goals and participates in numerous TC's and IAEA conferences and workshops.

In 2019, he has been elected to be the President of the International Group on Radiation Damage Mechanisms, a restricted expert group contributing to structural safety of reactor pressure vessels worldwide.

He authors and co-authors some 250 international papers. He organized, chaired and spoke at international conferences. He chaired and co-chaired numerous PhD defenses.

CURRICULUM VITAE: datasheet

Personal details

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Born: October 1, 1957, Kalmthout, Belgium
Nationality: Belgian
Married: to Hilde Sagaert, 4 children

Education

1975-1979: Bachelor and Master degree in Physics at the KULeuven, the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium;
1979: Teaching degree, KULeuven, Belgium;
1979-1985: PhD in Nuclear Physics at the KULeuven, the Catholic University of Leuven, Institute of Nuclear Physics (IKS), Belgium, highest distinction;
Subject: On-line low temperature nuclear orientation.

Employment history

1985-1987: Postdoctoral fellow at the KULeuven, the Catholic University of Leuven, Institute of Nuclear Physics, Belgium;
1987-1989: Junior faculty member/research associate at Princeton University, Princeton, USA;
1989-1998: Project leader at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, SCK•CEN, Belgium and head (from 1995) of Reactor Pressure Vessel Steel group;
1998-2006: Head of Reactor Materials Research (RMR) department at SCK•CEN, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, Belgium;
2001-now: Professor in the Faculty of Applied Science of the KULeuven, the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium (part-time).
2006-now: Director-General of SCK•CEN.

Main responsibility

- ✓ Director-General of the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, SCK•CEN;
- ✓ Professor KULeuven within the Belgian Nuclear Higher Education Network, BNEN;
- ✓ Member of The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Sciences and Arts (KVAB), which promotes the interuniversity cooperation in Belgium;
- ✓ Member of the Industrial Advisory Board Material Science at the KULeuven;
- ✓ Member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the University of Ghent;
- ✓ Honorary Chair of the Belgian Nuclear Society, BNS;
- ✓ Member of the Board of Belgonucleaire;
- ✓ Member of the Board ESV Euridice;
- ✓ President of Rad4Med.be, the Belgian Network for Radiation Applications in Healthcare;
- ✓ Member of the Board of the Federal Scientific Institutes, pool "Space" (BIRA, KMI, KSW);
- ✓ Honorary President of the European Atomic Energy Society (EAES);
- ✓ Honorary Chair of the Halden Reactor Programme (Norway);
- ✓ Belgian representative to the Governing Board of Fusion for Energy (F4E);
- ✓ President of the International group on Radiation Damage Mechanisms;
- ✓ Vice-President of the Oncidium foundation, a foundation for the development of radiotherapeutics.