



Professor Luuk van Middelaar,
Professor at Université
Catholique de Louvain

Wednesday 07 March 2018, 18h – 19h
Auditorium B, Universiteitstraat 6

The lecture is followed by a reception in
the Faculty Boardroom (Voldersstraat 3)

In his lecture, drawing on his behind-the-scenes experience at the European Council, Prof. Luuk van Middelaar will focus on the transformation of European politics in the last decade. Under the pressure of the crises around the Euro, Ukraine and refugees, the EU needs a new capacity to act and decide rapidly. This has not only had a deep impact on the public experience of EU politics (in short: Europe matters), but also on inter-institutional relations. Prof. Van Middelaar will focus on the European Council—Commission dynamic in this respect and on what to expect from Chancellor Merkel and President Macron.



Professor Van Middelaar is a historian and political philosopher. From December 2009 to 2014, Van Middelaar was a member of the cabinet of Herman Van Rompuy, the first President of the European Council.

He is best known for his book “The Passage to Europe” (originally published in 2009; widely translated). Van Middelaar studied history and philosophy at the University of Groningen and the Centre Raymond Aron of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. In 1999 his master thesis “Politicide” was published and awarded the Prix de Paris. He became for a time the political adviser and speechwriter for prominent Dutch politicians. In 2009 he got his Ph.D from the University of Amsterdam.

In December 2012 he was awarded the European Book Prize for “The Passage to Europe”. In 2015 Van Middelaar was appointed as a professor of “Foundations and Practice of the European Union and its Institutions” at Leiden University in the Netherlands. He also holds a chair at the Université catholique de Louvain.