

BART RYMEN

Date of birth: 14/06/1981 (Lier, Belgium)

Nationality: Belgian

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Civil status: Married

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Profile

Belgian science-policy expert with extensive experience in international research environments and policy engagement. Skilled in negotiation, diplomacy, and interdisciplinary coordination, with a strong track record in representing Belgium in global science-policy panels such as IPCC, IPBES, and ISP-CWP.

Professional experience

Employment

- 2023 – present **Attaché**
 Belspo • Brussels • Belgium • Ref.: Marc.VanHolsbeeck@belspo.be
- 2021 – 2023 **Manager KU Leuven Plant Institute**
 KU Leuven • Leuven • Belgium • Ref.: Filip.Rolland@kuleuven.be
- 2018 – 2021 **Senior postdoc**
 CNRS • Strasbourg • France • Ref.: Todd.Blevins@cnrs.fr
- 2016 – 2018 **Research Scientist**
 RIKEN • Yokohama • Japan • Ref.: Keiko.Sugimoto@riken.jp
- 2013 – 2016 **Postdoc**
 RIKEN • Yokohama • Japan • Ref.: Keiko.Sugimoto@riken.jp
- 2011 – 2013 **JSPS postdoc**
 RIKEN • Yokohama • Japan • Ref.: Keiko.Sugimoto@riken.jp
- 2011 - 2011 **Postdoc**
 VIB • Gent • Belgium • Ref.: Gerrit.Beerster@uantwerpen.be

Positions

- 2023 – Present • IPCC Belgian National Focal Point
- 2023 – Present • IPBES Belgian National Focal Point
- 2025 – Present • ISP-CWP Belgian National Focal Point
- 2024 – 2025 • SPP- OEWG Belgian National Focal Point
- 2025 – Present • Co-Chair Belgian coordination committee for ISP-CWP
- 2023 – Present • Chair Belgian coordination committee for IPCC
- 2024 – 2025 • Co-Chair Belgian coordination committee for SPP-OEWG



2025 – Present • Belspo's Point of Contact for the Belgian federal taskforce on Climate and Energy

2024 – Present • Member of the scientific Board of the Belgian Climate Center

2023 – 2024 • Programme Committee Expert for Horizon Europe Programme Committee - configuration 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'

2023 – 2024 • Programme Committee Expert for Horizon Europe Programme Committee - configuration 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'

2023 – 2024 • Programme committee Expert group for Working group of the strategic configuration of the Horizon Europe Programme Committee on mission adaptation to Climate change

2018 – 2019 • Reviewer Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity start-up (Kakenhi)

2016 – 2018 • Coordinator Grant-in-Aid for Research Activity start-up (Kakenhi)

2014 – 2022 • Reviewer Plant Physiology, Plant Cell, PNAS, ...

Education

2005 - 2010 **PhD in Sciences**, • UGent • Gent • Belgium

1999 - 2004 **Bio-engineer** • KU Leuven • Leuven • Belgium

Relevant Competence and Expertise

- Head of Belgian delegation to SPP-OEWG2, SPP-OEWG3.1, SPP-OEWG3.2 and SPP-Intergovernmental meeting
- Negotiator for the EU at SPP-OEWG3.1
- Head of Belgian delegation and lead negotiator for Belgium to IPCC-58 to IPCC-63
- Head of Belgian delegation and lead negotiator to IPBES-11; Member of the Belgian delegation and negotiator on agenda item 'Engagement with the IPCC' to IPBES-10
- Belgian delegate to EU's Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) Biodiversity (Belgian representative for IPBES-related agenda items) and WPIEI International Chemicals and Synergies (Belgian representative for ISP-CWP-related agenda items)
- Proven leadership and diplomatic skills in complex negotiation settings
- Creative thinker and problem-solver to develop innovative approaches to science-policy challenges
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal, tailored to diverse audiences, including policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders
- Advocate for science-policy panels in Belgium through outreach and engagement



- Extensive experience in international research environments (Belgium, France, Japan), with a strong sense for cultural differences and cross-cultural collaboration
- Interdisciplinary mindset and coordination experience, acting as a bridge-builder between scientific disciplines and policy domains
- Project management experience across international scientific collaborations, with a hands-on and solution-oriented approach

Relevant Outreach activities

- Co-organizer of the Virtual Informal Community of IPBES and IPCC National Focal Points – in collaboration with Switzerland, France, and with support from the European Commission
- Organizer of the session “*How to Better Communicate Climate Science to Policy*” at the Biannual Belgian Climate Center Conference (2026)
- Co-organizer of Belgian IPBES Day 2025 – *Uptake from the Transformative Change and Nexus Assessments* – with the Belgian Biodiversity Platform
- Co-Organizer of webinars on science-policy interface and stakeholder engagement
 - *Introduction to ISP-CWP: Testimonies from Experts Engaged with Science-Policy Panels* (Oct 2025) with VITO
 - *Information Session – Call for AR7 Experts (April 2024)* with Belgian Climate Center
- Co-organizer of the *Third Forum of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change* – with the European Commission, under the auspices of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU (2024)
- Organizer of the session “*Navigating the Climate Research Funding Landscape: Finding Creative Opportunities*” at the Biannual Belgian Climate Center Conference (2024)
- Contributor to the course *Human & Political Ecology – International Aspects* by Prof. Sander Jacobs (UGent) (2024–2025)
- Co-organizer of the workshop “*Climate Research in Belgium: Fostering Collaboration for More Impact on Policy-Making*” – with the Belgian Climate Center (2023)

Languages

- Dutch Native proficiency
- English Fluent professional working proficiency (C2)
- French Working proficiency (B1)

