



Frits Bolkestein

Former Member of the European Commission/Internal Markets



CSA CELEBRITY SPEAKERS

Frits Bolkestein has been a member of the European Commission with overall responsibility for Internal Markets, Taxation and the Customs Union from 1999 - 2004. With his finger firmly on the pulse of current European policy Mr Bolkestein is ideally suited to advise decision makers on the challenges and opportunities facing all businesses in a broader, expanding Europe. After finishing his studies at Barlaeus Gymnasium, Amsterdam he studied Mathematics at Oregon State University in the US. He then studied Mathematics and Physics, Philosophy and Greek at the Gemeentelijke Universiteit Amsterdam, where he received a doctorate. He completed Law at Leiden and in 1965 completed his Master at Law also from Leiden. He began his professional Career at Shell when he worked in East-Africa, Honduras, El Salvador, London, Indonesia and Paris at various functions between 1960 and 1976. During 1973 to 1976 he was a director of Shell Chemical in Paris. His political career began in 1978 with the Dutch VVD (Liberals) party. He remained a member of the Second Chamber until 1999. He was Minister for Foreign Trade from 1982 until 1986. From 1986 until 1988 he served as Chairman Atlantic Commission (in the Netherlands). He was Minister of Defense for almost a year (1988-1989) and in 1990 became the Chairman of the VVD Party. From 1996 until 1999 he was Chairman of Liberale Internationale. He is a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London) and has authored numerous articles on a wide range of subjects. Since November 1st 2004 he is Professor of Intellectual Foundations of Political Developments at the Universities of Leiden and Delft. An experienced and well-informed speaker, Frits Bolkestein is highly sought-after by audiences eager to benefit from his considerable expertise and knowledge of European markets and the processes behind current EU policy making decisions. Mr Bolkestein speaks Dutch and English.