



## **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio** **Deputy Secretary General**

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### **Biography**

- **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, was born in December 1944 in Hoensbroek in the Netherlands. She studied French language and literature and later law at Leiden University. She specialised in international relations and labour law and obtained her degree with a thesis on *the equality of treatment between women and men* under European Community law.
- She joined the Council of Europe in 1969 and began her career at the European Commission of Human Rights. Between 1972 and 1977 she was an adviser in the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. She continued her career in the Secretariat of the European Commission and was elected Deputy Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights in 1998.
- In June 2002, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio was elected Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe by the Organisation's Parliamentary Assembly. It was the first time a woman was elected to this post. Since her election she has been focusing her attention on the cause of vulnerable groups in society. She has been instrumental in launching programme "Building a Europe for and with children" and made the fight against violence against children her priority. She has been actively involved in promoting the Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings and the Council of Europe campaign to combat violence against women, including domestic violence. She also actively

contributes to developing co-operation and coordination between the Council of Europe and other international institutions.

In June 2007, she was re-elected for a second mandate.

Her focus on human rights is also reflected in her action to protect human rights, especially the rights of children, on the internet.

- Maud de Boer-Buquicchio has been a steady and determined advocate of equal opportunities, and has worked to put this value into practice both inside and outside the Council of Europe.
- Maud de Boer-Buquicchio is a fluent speaker of Dutch, English, French, Italian and German.
- She is married and has two sons.