

Notice for the press
Confederation of Netherlands' Industry and Employers VNO-NCW
Monday, 18 January 2021

Former VNO-NCW President Hans de Boer suddenly passed away

Former VNO-NCW President Hans de Boer (66) passed away last night following a heavy brain haemorrhage a few days ago. The Boards and employees of VNO-NCW and its sister organisation for SMEs, MKB-Nederland, are shocked and deeply saddened about his sudden death, just four months after he stepped down as President of VNO-NCW.

Cees Oudshoorn, General Director of VNO-NCW: "Our thoughts are with his wife Klaske, his children, grandchildren and loved ones. We wish them all the strength in this emotional and difficult time. Hans' sudden death is a deep shock for the organization of VNO-NCW and MKB-Nederland. Hans was a beloved President, a unique person, disarming, sincere and outspoken and very involved with us. With his sharp mind, intelligence and casual style in interacting with people, he was a great example to all of us. It was a privilege and great pleasure to work with him. "

Ingrid Thijssen, President of VNO-NCW: "With Hans we lose someone who had his heart really in the right place. He was socially involved, straightforward, creative and for years he has committed himself to entrepreneurship in the Netherlands with a great sense of humor and enormous dedication. He also did this abroad during his much favoured trade missions and with a great passion for strong European cooperation. With his death, Hans leaves behind a big hole in our organisation and wider community. We wish his family and friends a lot of strength with this enormous loss. "

Jacco Vonhof, President MKB-Nederland: "Suddenly a man so energetic, full of humor, bubbling with ideas and so many plans is no longer there. Hans was a fantastic colleague, but also a mentor, and with him you always knew exactly where you stood. For many years he has worked with enthusiasm for entrepreneurs, large and small. First as one of my predecessors at MKB-Nederland, later at VNO-NCW. We are going to miss him greatly and our thoughts are with his family and other loved ones. "

Hans de Boer was chairman of VNO-NCW for a total of six years and three months when he retired on September 21 and was appointed an honorary member of VNO-NCW. Upon his departure he was also appointed Commander in the Order of Orange-Nassau by His Majesty the King as a recognition for his great dedication to entrepreneurs and his continuous efforts to put the Netherlands - what he always called 'a cool country' - on the international map, and for the many socially engaged activities during his life, such as chairing the Taskforce on Youth Unemployment. Between 1997 and 2003 Hans was President of the national SME organisation MKB-Nederland. "The knight of small capital," as he often joked.

As President of VNO-NCW, Hans de Boer was able to achieve a lot. In his last year as President alone, agreements were concluded, among other things, on pension reform, promoting women leadership and on disability insurance for self-employed persons. Since

March last year, he also made a major contribution to consultations with the government and the trade union movement on measures to deal with the consequences of the corona crisis.

More information:

For more information you can contact the spokesperson of VNO-NCW. See www.vnoncw.nl/pers



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