

Bio Dr. Hans Plets



Dr. Hans Plets
Chair ET EMR Task Force
CEO ET-Vlaanderen
Member of the Board of Governmental
Representatives
Member of the EGO Council

Hans Plets (1968) studied Physics, Philosophy and Business Management at KU Leuven, where he obtained a PhD degree in Astrophysics in 1997. He held a postdoc position at the Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium where he did research on the ozone layer and introduced the UV index in the meteorological bulletins in Belgium. Hans Plets published in peer-reviewed scientific journals in the fields of astronomy, astrophysics, meteorology, geophysics and climate science.

From 2003 onwards, Hans Plets pursued an international management career in aviation. He managed an international programme to harmonise the airspace as part of the EC's Single European Sky programme. In 2021, Hans Plets was appointed as Managing Director of an international training company in aviation.

In 2022, he joined the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) to develop the Einstein Telescope project in Flanders. This led to the establishment of ET-Flanders, of which he is the CEO.

From 2024 to 2025 he served as Director of the international EMR ET Project Office in Maastricht. In 2026 he became Chair of the policy group Einstein Telescope Euregio Meuse-Rhine (ET EMR) Task Force.

At a broader international level, he is also Member of the Board of Governmental Representatives, that prepares the decision-making about the Einstein Telescope and of the EGO Council, which manages the gravitational wave detector Virgo (close to Pisa).

Hans Plets lectured at the University of Ghent in the period 2007-2015, wrote over 60 articles in popular scientific magazines, gave 200+ interviews and public lectures and published his first book ('Verdwaald in de werkelijkheid') in 2021.