

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, was born in December 1944 in Hoensbroek in the Netherlands. She was educated in Deventer and at Leiden University, where she first studied French language and literature, and later law, specialising in international relations and labour law. She 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, with responsibilities for human rights, legal affairs, social cohesion and the environment. She subsequently took up higher responsibilities in the Secretariat of the European Commission and Registry of the European Court of Human rights, to which she was elected Deputy Registrar in 1998. In this position she assumed both legal and managerial responsibilities.

In June 2002, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio was the first woman to be elected Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe by the Organisation's Parliamentary Assembly. Throughout her mandate she has been focusing her attention on the cause of vulnerable groups in society. She initiated a three-year programme promoting children's rights and protecting them from violence. She has been actively involved, from the outset, 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.

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.