

## GUY VERHOFSTADT



**Former Belgian Prime Minister  
Member of the European Parliament 2009-2024**

Guy Verhofstadt won the 1999 Belgian elections becoming their first liberal Prime Minister in more than 60 years, forming the first Belgian government without Christian-Democrats in 40 years.

He presided over two Governments with the Belgian socialist parties, partly including the Green parties, and an interim third government in the early months of 2008, following the longest formation crisis in Belgium's political history.

In 2007, his party lost the federal elections. However, his party joined the new government of Prime Minister Leterme, but Guy took responsibility for the defeat, and took a sabbatical year and left the Belgian political scene after 25 years of activity.

Confirming his European beliefs, he wrote 'The United States of Europe' in 2005, which was translated into a dozen European languages and won 2007 European Book of The Year.

Since 2009 until 2024 he has served as a Member of the European Parliament where he was the leader of the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and founded the inter-parliamentarian federalist Spinelli Group. Guy is also a member of the Club de Madrid, an independent organisation of more than 80 former democratic statesmen.

The group works to promote democratic governance and leadership worldwide. Since 2012 is guy an independent Board Member of the Brussels-based, Brussels-quoted Sofina holding.

### **Publications (Selection):**

- Europe's Last Chance, 2017
- For Europe! (with Daniel Cohn-Bendit), 2012
- The United States of Europe, 2005