# Board of Directors BIO (06/08/2026)

**Pieter Verhelst (CD&V) – Chair**

Pieter Verhelst is a commercial engineer and member of the executive leadership of Boerenbond, the Flemish farmers' association. He has extensive experience in European and international policy, agriculture, rural development, and governance, and serves on several boards in the agri-food and development finance sectors.

**Vanessa Issi (MR) – Vice Chair**

Vanessa Issi combines senior experience in both the public and private sectors. She currently serves as chief of staff to the president of the CPAS/OCMW (Public Centre for Social Welfare) of the City of Brussels.

She has held leadership positions in real estate (SFPIM Real Estate, AG Real Estate) and public affairs and served as Chief of Cabinet, giving her strong expertise in leadership, strategic communication, stakeholder management, and navigating complex institutional environments.

**Géraldine Georges (Vooruit)**

Géraldine Georges is a communications and public policy specialist with a strong focus on international relations and development cooperation. She served as Chair of BIO's board of directors and has worked extensively in NGO advocacy, parliamentary affairs, and global citizenship initiatives. She has an extensive knowledge and a large experience in terms of international development and development cooperation as well as communications, advocacy, human resources and organisational management. She worked at the NGO Solsoc as department head and coordinator for thirteen years, and in the context of her work she has executed several missions in the intervention countries of BIO.

**Jade Salhab (Vooruit)**

Jade Salhab has twenty years of experience in inclusive and green economic development in the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America, and Europe. Jade is currently a Senior Private Sector Specialist at the World Bank where he leads multi-sectoral investment projects aimed at boosting private sector growth, industry competitiveness, trade, and innovation in emerging economies. Before joining the World Bank, Jade was a partner in an urban planning firm in Belgium, where he led the design of public spaces, mobility plans, and urban renovation projects aimed at revitalizing cities and neighbourhoods. Jade holds a Master in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, a Master in Urban Environment and Sustainable Development form the Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, and a Bachelor in Architecture form the American University of Beirut.

**Constance d'Aspremont (MR)**

Constance d'Aspremont has more than 25 years of experience across banking, asset management, strategy consulting, and mergers and acquisitions. She is currently an administrator at Banque Transatlantique Belgium, Aremis, and the Koninklijke Schenking /Donation Royale, among others and

her career includes roles at BNP Paribas, a strategy consultancy, and ING Investment Management. She brings expertise in finance, investments, international markets, corporate strategy, ESG, and regulatory governance.

Hannelore Beerlandt (N-VA)
Hannelore Beerlandt is currently Head of Operations at ICO and previously served for five years as CEO of Agricord. She also spent 15 years as a researcher specializing in agricultural and development economics. Her expertise spans strategy, international development, blended finance, access to capital, de-risking, and agronomy. She currently serves as Chairwoman of Enabel's board of directors and is a director of the invesment fund Kampani.

Charles Bernard (MR)

Charles Bernard has served as an advisor to the presidency of MR, focusing on international law, justice, and criminal law. He brings expertise in legal and policy affairs, particularly in the areas of international governance and public institutions. He previously worked as a project manager for a European cooperation program.

Emeline Huvelle (Les Engagés) Emeline Huvelle is a corporate lawyer with ten years of experience specializing in insolvency and restructuring matters. She currently serves as spokesperson in the office of the federal minister responsible for mobility, climate, and sustainable development. Her expertise lies in corporate law, insolvency, legal risk management, and public communication.

Joris Nachtergaele (N-VA)
Joris Nachtergaele combines political leadership with public affairs consulting experience. He is the Mayor of Maarkedal (since 2015) and a former member of the Flemish Parliament. His expertise includes public affairs, political strategy, government relations, and institutional governance. He has board experience as director of Farys, Europe, and Creat.

Grégoire Peeters (MR)
Grégoire Peeters has experience in mergers and acquisitions, investment management, and economic policy advisory. His career includes work as an M&A analyst, investment associate for a holding company, and advisor to the presidency of MR on economic and financial matters. His strengths include financial analysis, investment sourcing, market research, and economic policy.

Didier Tshidimba (Les Engagés)
Didier Tshidimba brings over 26 years of international executive experience from Roland Berger, where he served as Managing Partner. He is a recognized expert in international cooperation and development cooperation, international investment, financial analysis, business management, and organizational management. He has extensive board experience, including roles with the King Baudouin Foundation, Brussels-Africa Hub, Cliniques Saint-Luc, and governance bodies within Roland Berger.

Aurélie Vermeir (N-VA)

Aurélie Vermeir has accumulated over ten years of experience advising ministers and government cabinets at both federal and Flemish levels. Her expertise includes multilateral affairs, public policy coordination, intergovernmental relations, and political strategy. She currently serves as Advisor on foreign policy, multilateral financial institutions, and ECOFIN in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Pensions.