

Jan Van Roo, Head of Service, Natural Resources Service,

LNE Flemish Government



Jan graduated from the University KU Leuven as Master in chemical engineering in 1991. He started his career in 1992 at the administration of Economics within the Flemish Government, more specific at the division of Natural Resources and Energy. He made great efforts to develop the long-term sustainable planning of extractive industrial needs of the near-surface mineral resources in Flanders, such as clay, sand, loam and gravel. He prepared and implemented the Flemish Parliament Act on Surface Mineral Resources, resulting in the General Surface Mineral Resources Plans. From 2006 on Jan is head of service of the Natural Resources Service of the Environment, Nature and Energy Department. His service is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the government's policy concerning natural resources in Flanders and consisting of three pillars: surface mineral resources policy, deep subsurface policy and the availability of accurate geological information (DOV-database, maps, modelling,...). He coordinated the development of the Flemish Parliament Act on the Deep Subsurface concerning 3D permit volumes for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons, CO₂ storage and deep geothermal energy. That decree on the Deep Subsurface forms also the legal basis for a subsurface planning of the Flemish underground beneath 500 m TAW (the reference for height measurements in Belgium).