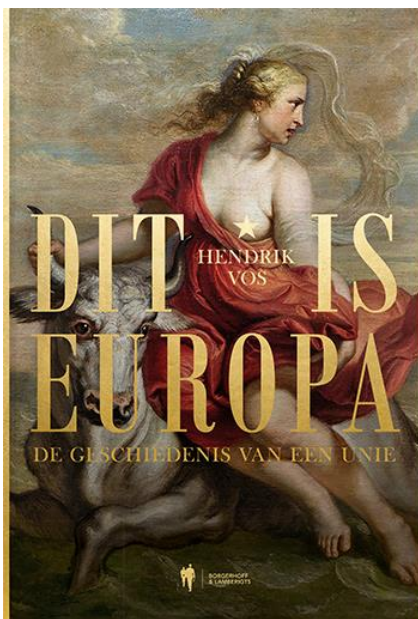


# SANTASADŌ

## Hendrik Vos - This is Europe

The History of a Union

HISTORY



After centuries of division, six European countries joined forces. Borders and barriers disappeared and the continent was united by establishing institutions and signing treaties. Prime ministers, presidents, chancellors, and commissioners decided on the directions and pace of the unification. They became allies or enemies, where some could not stand each other and others became soul mates. They made history in musty conference halls, as well as in beautiful palaces, monastery basements, or castles. They met each other in sleazy hotels, in the mountains, or on boats.

*This is Europe* is about the journey across the European continent, where we follow the main characters and casual passers-by that accidentally entered the stage. The book describes how the

European constitution ended up being stuffed in a roasted chicken, what a blow up doll says about the free economic market, and how cows ended up in the meeting in a conference room on the fourth floor. It is the story of cello-playing ministers, drinking cola with port, or walking the halls in knitted slippers.

The road towards European unity never had a fixed route, there was never a script or widely supported plan, yet still, step by step, the European Union arose. With this book, Hendrik Vos wrote a history of Europe that feels familiar yet still surprises, and tells the big adventure based upon the small stories.

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- Over 10,000 copies sold
- Dutch edition published by Borgerhoff & Lamberigts



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Hendrik Vos** is political scientist for the University of Ghent, Belgium, and the authority on European politics. He has written several books on European politics, was awarded the Come Again?-award with Rob Heirbaut for using clear language, and is a regular contributor to the Flemish newspaper *De Standaard*.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

‘Hendrik Vos is an authority on European politics. His book is a loving ode to compromises.’ – **NRC Handelsblad** \*\*\*\*

‘*This is Europa* by professor Hendrik Vos is a line-up of amazing anecdotes and reads like a novel.’ – **VRT**

‘I have learned a lot and laughed a lot too.’ – **Bart Schols**, presenter of *De Afspraak* (The Meeting)

‘*This is Europe* is a reconstruction of the true foundation of the European integration, and the result of years of research, accidental discoveries, and weird stories, also about the author’s own travels. In his own engaging writing style – more a novelist than an academic writer – the past seventy years flow by in a rapid pace.’ – **Nieuwsblad.be**

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