

Biography MS. Dijkma

Sharon Dijkma (1971) is a Dutch politician and member of the 'Partij van de Arbeid'. (Labour party). She studied law at the University of Groningen and public administration at the University of Twente.

Ms. Dijkma began her political career in 1991 with the Young Socialists, where she started as a general secretary and later became chairwoman. In this period Ms. Dijkma was also one of the youth representatives in the Dutch government's delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

At the age of twenty-three she became member of Dutch parliament. (1994-2007). She was the youngest member to be elected at that time. She was responsible for economic policy and spatial planning & infrastructure.

On 22 February 2007 she was appointed secretary of state for Education, Culture & Science in the fourth Balkenende government. In 2012 she was asked again to become the secretary of state for Economic affairs in the 'Rutte-Asscher government. She joined the Dutch government for a third time in 2015 as secretary of State Infrastructure and Environmental affairs.

Meanwhile Ms. Dijkma served on several boards for example that of BNN media, Twente Education Centre and the supervisory board of Rijksmuseum Twente.

In 2018 she was asked to join the Amsterdam city council as deputy mayor; an opportunity for her and her family to live in Amsterdam, but also to help the city with its challenges regarding traffic, transport and air quality. One of the main focus therein is the transition to an emission free Amsterdam by 2025.

Education

Public Administration, Universiteit Twente (university of Twente)

Law, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (state university of Groningen)

Career

2018 - now: Deputy Mayor, Aldermen Traffic and Transport, Water and Air Quality
2017 - 2018: House of representatives member for PvdA
2015 - 2017: Minister for environmental affairs
2012 - 2015: Minister for Agriculture, cabinet Rutte - Asscher
Sept - dec 2012: Freelance Consultant in the field of strategy and management
2010 - 2012: Member Tweede Kamer (House of representatives) for PvdA
2007 - 2010: Secretary of State for Education, Culture and Science, 4th cabinet Balkenende
1994 - 2007: Member Tweede Kamer (House of representatives) for PvdA

Other positions

On occasion ambassador for the development organisation Care International.

Committee of recommendation member of the Nationale Haringpartij (National Herring Party).

Several board memberships: among others on the founding board of BNN-mediagroup and on the board of the partnership between the Stichting Expertis Onderwijsadviseurs (Expertis educational advisors foundation) and the Hogeschool Edith Stein/Onderwijs Centrum Twente (Edith Stein university of applied sciences/educational centre Twente).

2010 - 2012: Supervisory board member, Rijksmuseum Twente (state museum Twente)
1996 - 1999: Board member, Evert Vermeer Foundation
1996 -1999: Vice-president, Socialist International Women
1991 -1994: General secretary and chairperson, Jonge Socialisten (Young Socialists)
1991 - 1992: One of the Dutch government delegates to the general meeting of the United Nations in New York