

Biography of Saskia Bricmont

Short version

Saskia Bricmont has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019. She is a member of the LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) and INTA (International Trade) committees. The respect of human rights and more particularly of children's rights are the common thread of her political commitment. Her objective is to make the European Union the first continent of Fair Trade.

Saskia Bricmont wants to be the relay within the European Parliament of those who commit themselves daily to the climate, social justice, democracy and human rights.

Long version

Saskia Bricmont has been a member of the European Parliament since June 2019. This mandate as a Member of the European Parliament owes nothing to chance: it is part of a long-standing commitment to a fairer and more sustainable society. She wants to be the relay of all those who are committed on a daily basis to the climate, social justice, democracy and human rights.

On a daily basis, her work as an MEP revolves around the two committees of the Parliament in which she sits.

In the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), she defends an open, altruistic and tolerant society. *"I do not support injustice, nor those who promote fear, withdrawal, authoritarian and populist logics. Fundamental rights and freedoms are non-negotiable, and it is constantly necessary to remind people of this in the face of the authoritarianism of certain States, the generalized surveillance that is taking hold, and the intolerance carried by certain political movements"*, emphasizes the Green MEP.

She is also a member of the Committee on International Trade (INTA). You may wonder what she is doing in this committee, when she has always fought for the environment, which is regularly harmed by trade practices, and for human rights, which are too often flouted by large companies. In her eyes, another trade policy is possible. It must be based on high environmental and social standards, such as, for example, fair trade standards and the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. *"It is time to make the EU a Fair Trade continent"*, she pleads.

20 years of commitment

These fights led in the European Parliament are the continuity of those led in the field since the beginning of her commitment in politics, as a teenager. It is with Oxfam that she made her first steps as a volunteer. She became aware of the inequalities that undermine our economic system, and of the absolute necessity for everyone to have a decent salary. This naturally led her to political involvement.

In 2007, she got her first job as a political advisor on European, international and development cooperation issues in the Federal Parliament, for the Ecolo-Green deputies. After an experience in the Cabinet of Evelyne Huytebroeck, Brussels Minister in charge of Environment and Poverty Reduction, she became head of the Ecolo Research Department in 2009. Since then, she has also worked for the territorial development of the Walloon region of Picardy (Tournai Region), and accompanied the municipalities of the region in the realization of their Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in the framework of the European Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. This local commitment led her to run for the local elections in Ath in 2012, which resulted in her being elected as a local councillor. She was then a candidate in 2014 for the European elections, without Ecolo obtaining a second seat. Finally elected in 2019, she continues to carry her values at the European level.