

Harry Spaas

Harry Spaas graduated as a mechanical engineer from the Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands. Specializing in the structural design of nuclear power plants, he obtained his Ph.D. from the same University in 1976.

From 1976 to 2007 he worked in a variety of specialist and managerial functions at the Dow Chemical Company. Initially he worked in the area of the advanced design of chemical process plants for Dow's operations in Europe, and subsequently in leading R&D activities for various product groups.

From 1985 onwards he was responsible for the coordination of Environmental, Health and Safety Affairs for Dow in the Benelux countries and later for Environmental Coordination for Dow Europe.

From 1995 to 2001 he was Director for Environmental Remediation Projects at Dow BSL, a joint venture between Dow and the German government, resulting from the privatization of one of the largest chemical complexes in the former GDR.

From 2001 until his retirement from Dow in 2007 he was based at Dow Europe's headquarters in Switzerland, as the Director for Environmental, Health & Safety (EH&S) for Dow in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India.

Throughout the last 20 years he has been actively involved in various committees covering a broad spectrum of EH&S issues, with various national and international associations of the chemical industry. This included participation in the Product Stewardship Programme Council of the European Chemical Industry (CEFIC), which was heavily focussed on the policy aspects of the preparation, adoption and implementation of the REACH Regulation.

In June 2008 he was nominated (Technically Qualified) Member of the Board of Appeal of the European Chemicals Agency. From December 2010 onwards his position on the Board of Appeal changed from regular to alternate/additional member.