

Professor Jaap E. Doek

Chairman, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

Jaap E. Doek (1942) is a Law professor at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam (Family and Juvenile Law). He has been the Dean of the Law Faculty at the Vrije Universiteit (1988 –1992). Currently he is a deputy justice in the Court of Appeal of Amsterdam and he has been a juvenile court judge in the district court of Alkmaar and the Hague (1978-1985).

He is (since May 2001) the Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Prof. Jaap Doek has been founding member of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) and board member 1976 – 1992 (President 1982 – 1984 and Vice President for developing countries 1984 – 1992) and in that capacity involved in the establishment of the African Network for Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN). He was also involved in the creation of Defence for Children International (DCI; 1979) and the Dutch Section of this organisation (1984). He has been a member of an ISPCAN/DCI working group on Child Labour which conducted a large study on Child Labour (1994-1997).

He was a member of the Board of the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates 1982-1986)

In 1993 he was a visiting scholar at Georgetown University Law School in Washington DC (February – July) and at the Michigan University School of Law in Ann Arbor (September – December). In the Spring of 1999 (January – May) he was a visiting professor at the North Western University School of law in Chicago. In 1999 – 2000 he was the president of the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA).

In February 1999 he was elected as a member (Rapporteur since May 1999), re-elected in February 2003, and chairperson since May 2001 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

He published numerous books and articles on various topics in the area of children's rights and family law in national (Dutch) and international (English) journals.

<http://www.jaapedoek.nl/>