

Hans Leijtens

Executive Director

Hans Leijtens serves as Frontex's Executive Director, since 1 March 2023.

However, he had already been involved with Frontex before, as he was a member of the Agency's Management Board from 2011 to 2015 and 2019 to 2022.

Before that, since 2 September 2019, Lieutenant General Dr Hans Leijtens has been Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, as well as the Governor of the Residency (The Hague). He held these roles before, from May 2012 until the end of 2015.

Lieutenant General Leijtens attended a sociology and psychology course at the Royal Military Academy in Breda from 1981 to 1985. He took his Royal Netherlands Marechaussee officer training course at the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee Training Centre in Apeldoorn from 1988 to 1989. In 2004, he completed master's degree in public administration at Leiden University. In 2008, he obtained the doctorate degree at the same university.

From 1985 to 1987 he was a platoon commander of 13 Armoured Air Defence Artillery Battery of the Royal Netherlands Army, where he was later responsible for training reserve officers and NCOs. In 1989, he joined the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, where he held several positions. Among others, he was Head of Operations of the Schiphol District Police Service from 1992 to 1996. From 1996 to 2003 he worked in the private sector and was active as a reserve officer.

On returning to the Marechaussee in 2003, he became university lecturer in Law and Police Sciences at the Netherlands Military Academy. Between 2004 and 2007, he worked at the Ministry of Defence as a policy adviser in the Office of the Secretary General. Among his other positions were Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee South District, Commander of Contingent Command in Afghanistan and, from 2011, Deputy Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee.

On 31 May 2012, Lieutenant General Leijtens became Commander of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, as well as the Governor of the Residency.

At the end of 2015, Mr Leijtens left the Defence organisation and held a number of positions in the highest management group of the Senior Civil Service of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

His positions included those of Director-General of the Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration and Quartermaster of the Integrity Chamber in Sint Maarten. From 2017 onwards, he was the Programme Director General of the reconstruction of the Windward Islands after hurricane Irma.

He then became a member of the International Board of Auditors (NATO), the independent, external supervisory authority that reports directly to the North Atlantic Council, providing the Council and the NATO Member States with assurance regarding expenditure from joint funds. He was elected as chairperson in 2019.

