

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele

Vice-chair of IPCC Working Group II

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Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Brussels, 1957) has a Ph. D. in Physics from the Belgian Université catholique de Louvain (UCL, 1986 with highest honours), based on work done at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR, Boulder, Colorado) on the effect of global warming on Antarctic sea ice. He has specialized in climate change modelling and the study of the impact of human activities on climate. He does it in an interdisciplinary perspective, and is also interested by the impacts of climate change on human activities and ecosystems. As professor at UCL (www.climate.be), he teaches, e.g., climatology, climate modelling, astronomy, geophysics, mathematical geography and environmental sciences, and directs the interdisciplinary Master programme in environmental sciences and management (www.cgse.ucl.ac.be). He was a lead author for the Third Assessment Report of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, www.ipcc.ch), and was elected in 2002 Vice-Chair of its Working Group on climate change impacts and adaptation. For the IPCC Fourth assessment, in addition to his responsibilities as member of the IPCC Bureau in charge of structuring and organizing the assessment, he chaired sessions at the Plenaries of the three Working Groups: Paris, Brussels (which he helped organize), and Bangkok.

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele is a member of the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development (www.cfdd.be) since 1993, and he chairs its Working Group on "Energy and Climate". He has also been science advisor in the Belgian delegations to a dozen United Nations conferences including Rio (1992), Berlin (1995), Kyoto (1997), Buenos Aires (1998), Marrakech (2001), Delhi (2002), Milan (2003), Montreal (2005), and Nairobi (2006). The federation of environmental NGOs "Interenvironnement-Wallonie" gave him in 1999 a "Palm for the environment", he was nominated in 2000 by the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) for the « Jean Teghem Prize » for scientific vulgarization, and he received in 2006 from the International Polar Foundation the Special Prize "Energy and Environment Award 2006". In 2007-2008, he will hold a "Francqui Chair" at the ULB (Faculty of Sciences).