

Vartkess Knadjian

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Born in Addis Abeba on January 12th 1955

Kingswood School, Bath Uk September 1967 to December 1972 London School of Economics, University of London BSc(Hons) Econ. October 1973 to July 1976

Joined Backes & Strauss August 1st 1976 as trainee diamond buyer.

July 1982 Managing Backes & Strauss Antwerp Office.

January 2000 Group CEO of Backes & Strauss group of companies.

December 2003 Lead a management buy-out of the Backes & Strauss Group.

November 2006 Launched in partnership with Franck Muller Geneve a high end diamond jewellery watch brand under the 'Backes & Strauss' name.

President of the AGBU Belgium 1992 to 2003 Vice President of the BVGD (Diamond Dealers Association of Belgium)

2007-2009

Co-Founder of the AJA together with Pierre Akkelian 1997.

European President of the AJA 1997-1998

Elected Secretary of the AJA at the 1998 Board Meeting in Basel and served as Secretary through till 2005 Elected to the Executive Board of the AJA 2005 Appointed Vice President of the AJA in 2006 on VP Gagik Abrahamian assuming Presidency.

Elected President of the AJA 2009.

Served in the Belgian Armenian Elected Chamber for 3, 4 year terms.

Elected to the Committee of the Armenians of Belgium 1994 for one mandate.

President of the 'Centre Culturel Arpag Mekhitarian' Brussels 1993 to 2005.