

**MUTAMBA ANNIE***Co founder and CEO of Meridia Partners*

Belgium



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**Annie MUTAMBA** was born in Liege (Belgium) of a housewife and a Congolese (DRC) sociologist father. Passionate about political communication, she holds two Master's degrees in communications (1996) and International Relations (1998) obtained in Belgium and United Kingdom. She also holds an executive master in European Affairs (2005). She devotes herself to lobbying where she can practise her skills in International Relations, political communication, and government communications. Her first steps in the professional world are made in the chemical industry, especially in the European Chemical Industry council (Cefic) in 2002. An enriching experience that lasts ten years but leaves her afro-optimism somewhat dissatisfied.

2014, time to move on to entrepreneurship. Annie is the co-founder of Meridia Partners, the first Brussels consultancy agency specialised in institutional relations between Europe and Africa. From that position, the lobbyist can concretely defend African countries' interests and make them to actively participate in the decision-making process in order to ensure that their points of view are taken into consideration instead of being passive actors and suffer decisions concerning them. In 2016, Annie launches the first edition of the EU-Africa advocacy Day, where European and African Experts meet together on relations between Europe and Africa. An occasion to set out once more on common basis in terms of communication, and mutually understand specificities on both sides. Being in a strong position because of her fifteen years of experience in lobbying and Influence Communication, Annie Mutamba presently works with African enterprises specialised in various fields such as energy, transport, logistics, agriculture and chemicals. As such, she has been an adviser to large companies such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, ExxonMobil or Total, and was responsible for the development and the implementation of lobbying strategies within the framework of European innovation policies, health and environment. Moreover, since 2010 she lectures in European lobbying, European fiscal policies, and political communication at the Executive Master, in communication and European policies at IHECS (Institute for Higher Social Communication Studies) in Brussels. ☺

**2016** - She launches the first edition of the EUAfrica advocacy Day

**2016** - She is among the advisors of Strategicum

**2014** - She founds and manages Meridia Partners

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**Annie MUTAMBA** est née à Liège (Belgique) d'une mère au foyer et d'un père sociologue congolais (RDC). Passionnée de communication politique, Annie est titulaire de deux maîtrises en communication (1996) et relations internationales (1998) obtenues en Belgique et au Royaume-Uni et d'un executive master en communication et affaires européennes (2005). Elle se consacre au lobbying où elle peut mettre en avant ses compétences en relations internationales, communication politique et communication gouvernementale. Elle fait ses gammes au sein de l'industrie chimique, dans le Conseil européen de l'Industrie chimique (Cefic) en 2002. Une expérience enrichissante longue de dix années, mais qui lui laisse un goût d'inachevé à l'afro-optimiste.

2014, place à l'entrepreneuriat. Annie est la co-fondatrice de Meridia Partners, première agence de conseil bruxelloise spécialisée dans les relations institutionnelles entre l'Europe et l'Afrique. Depuis cette chaire, la lobbyiste peut défendre concrètement les intérêts des pays africains et faire en sorte qu'ils soient acteurs en amont des décisions pour mieux les influencer et pas passifs, voire victimes de celles-ci. En 2016, Annie organise la première édition de l'EU-Africa advocacy Day (Journée de Plaidoyer

UE-Afrique) réunissant experts européens et africains sur les relations entre l'Europe et l'Afrique. L'occasion de repartir sur des bases communes en termes de communication, de comprendre les spécificités d'un côté comme de l'autre. Par ailleurs, depuis 2010, elle dispense des cours en lobbying européen, politiques budgétaires européennes et communication politique au sein de l'Executive Master en communication et politiques européennes de l'IHECS (Institut des hautes études des communications sociales) de Bruxelles. ☺