

2025 Parade Grand Marshal

The 2025 Grand Marshal is Frank Schwalba-Hoth, German national based in Brussels for over 30 years.

Frank has been selected for his commitment to having a 'Green environment' and to cycling and well-being. He is also being recognised for his outstanding contribution to integration in Brussels. Frank will help promote our cycling year theme and help to grow the relationship between Ireland and Belgium with emphasis on cycling holidays in Ireland and Belgium.



Frank Schwalba-Hoth (born 12 December 1952 in Hamburg, Germany) is a former politician, founding member of the German Greens, and former MEP. After his graduation from high school (Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium in Geesthacht) and his military service, Frank Schwalba-Hoth studied at the University of Marburg from 1974 to 1981. Frank Schwalba-Hoth has one daughter.

Politics

Frank Schwalba-Hoth started getting involved in politics as a student, founded the Grün-bunt alternative Liste, the first green student union at a German university and became a member and later President (1979/1980) of the student parliament of Marburg University. He became one of the founding members of the German Greens. In 1982 and 1983, Frank Schwalba-Hoth was member of the Landtag of Hesse where his legislative proposal on teacher-training became the first green inspired legislation in a German Parliament ever.

Frank Schwalba-Hoth was an MEP from 1984 to 1987, deputy President of the Petitions Committee, in 1986/87 he was one of two Co-Presidents of his political Group in the EP before stepping down because of the rotation principle ("Rotationsprinzip").

Consulting & networking

Mr Schwalba-Hoth has organised monthly networking events called Soirée Internationale with 60 to 80 participants from different professional, cultural, national and social backgrounds. He is member of the board of directors of the Brussels-based European Quarter Management Fund (EquAMA), the "EU Community Advisory Council" of the web-based newsletter EurActiv, and the Advisory Board of the European Sustainable Cities Summit.



The Parade is organised with the support of Toastmaster Clubs in Brussels.
"Where Leaders are Made"