

A lunch talk with... Jef Wintermans

On January 13th, at 1 p.m., in the living room of the Library of the School of Economics, the students of the B.A. in Global Governance of the University of Tor Vergata met Jef Wintermans for a Lunch Talk.

Jef Wintermans is a man who has never been fixed into one background, but has always tried to



discover as much contexts as he could. He is an expert of trade and director of MODINT, one of the best known Dutch trade association in interior design and textiles. Born in 1960, his deep passion for sailing let him join the Dutch Navil Academy immediately after graduation, and served as Naval Officer for few years. Motivated to make a profound change in his life, he then decided to graduate in “Political Science” because of his strong interest in Europe history and in the issue of European integration. His first occupation was that of policy advisor in European Affairs within the second chamber of Dutch Parliament; he also worked in Brussels for the Dutch central employers organizations.

Since 1995, Wintermans’ professional life became much more open to an international scenario; indeed he worked as international secretary for the Dutch textile manufacturing industry association, which included planning and basic program management related to Research & Development.

In 2002 he finally joined MODINT, a neo-industry that was making its first steps in the Dutch textile world; Wintermans’ primary task is lobbying national and international governments, especially in the fields of technological innovation and Research&Development for textile industry. His daily involvement in an international context perfectly mirrors Wintermans’ care about the matter of European security; in fact he confessed that he would be willing to become a member of European Parliament and he stressed the fact that one of the most important achievements of our generation is that of reaching and protecting the goal of 70 years without any conflict.

At the end of his speech, Wintermans underlined the importance to become a teacher of something at least once in our life; since 2013, he is instructor at the most famous Dutch sea sailing school “Zeezeilers van Marken”. Some of us asked him about his constantly-changing career, and he was proud to answer that he deeply enjoys everyday the role he covers which produces a lot of personal satisfaction.

His words became source of inspiration for many of us, because his life experience can help us to understand that we have not to follow just one single path, but we can change our direction if we are really willing to do so.

Sara Di Fabio, Lorenzo Fontanelli