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Hans van Scharen, born in Brussels, studied Journalism in The Netherlands and worked as a journalist for newspapers, magazines and television in both Belgium and the Netherlands for over 15 years. For a decade (2009-2019) he worked as parliamentary advisor to Belgian MEP Bart Staes in the European parliament, focusing a lot on agricultural and food policy related issues like pesticides, food waste, fisheries, seeds and trade as well as tobacco, governance and EU budgetary (control) policy. Since the start of 2020 he works as researcher and campaigner for the Brussels based lobby watchdog Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) and works as freelance journalist from time to time.