

## Interview series with the VCO Advisory Council In conversation with: Robin Baks

Interview by: Angela Stap

## Introduction

The VCO has an Advisory Council; broad and multidisciplinary in composition. The purpose of the Council is to provide solicited and unsolicited advice to the Board, to take the VCO to the next level with suggestions, and to provide sounding boards. Over the next few months, you will be introduced to all five members. This month it's the turn of:

**Robin Baks,** Director of the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Association.



How would you describe your role as a member of the VCO Advisory board?

Looking from the outside in. How to make sure we are visible and in tune with the needs of the target audience.

What are your biggest motivations for serving on the Advisory Council?

Making this important topic more visible within the target group, as well as to the general public.

What is still on your bucket list?

Climbing the Obergabelhorn (4063m) via the Arbengrat.

What is your history with the VCO?

Only fairly recent. An important topic that deserves (much) more attention!

Why would you recommend membership of the VCO?

VCO has great value for compliance officers and organizations. There is an incredible amount of knowledge and experience available.

What is the key to success for the large number of active members at your association, the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Association?

Services and offers tailored to the needs of our members. Among other things, we have set up a member panel with which we can basically be in continuous dialogue with our members.

What could the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountaineering Association learn from the VCO?

As an association, we are also bound by the necessary regulations, also around this topic.

You worked in the financial sector for a long time in commercial roles, do you see a difference between then and now in terms of compliance?

28 years. A lot has changed in that time, fortunately. Especially when you look at the intermediary branch.

What mountain would you still like to climb?

See above. The Obergabelhorn (4063m) in Switzerland via the Arbengrat.



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