



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation



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- ▶ **Herman Van Rompuy**  
first permanent  
President of the  
European Council

***nr 7 / November - December 2009***

# Belgium on the international stage



**H. Van Rompuy**



## Herman Van Rompuy first permanent President of the European Council.

At an extraordinary summit of the heads of state or government of the European Union, on 19 November 2009, the Belgian Prime Minister, Herman Van Rompuy, was appointed by consensus as the first permanent President of the European Council of heads of state and government leaders. This most recent highest office is enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty, which came into effect on 1 December 2009.

Herman Van Rompuy's mandate is for 2.5 years and can be renewed once. His duties include:

- leading and promoting the activities of the European Council;
- ensuring the preparation and continuity of European Council affairs, in cooperation with the President of the Commission and based on the work of the General Affairs and External Relations Council;
- promoting coherence and consensus within the European Council;
- presenting a report to the European Parliament at the conclusion of every meeting of the European Council.

In particular the President of the European Council will represent the European Union at his level and in his capacity as the external representative of the Union in matters concerning the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Read the speech Herman van Rompuy made after his appointment below:

[http://www.belgium.be/en/news/2009/news\\_herman\\_van\\_rompuy\\_president\\_europa.jsp](http://www.belgium.be/en/news/2009/news_herman_van_rompuy_president_europa.jsp)  
[http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings\\_news/2009/11/19/top\\_posts\\_filled](http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/11/19/top_posts_filled)



**K. De Gucht**



## Karel De Gucht gets important Trade portfolio in the European Commission.

The Belgian Karel De Gucht has been given the Trade portfolio in the new European Commission. He succeeds Baroness Catherine Ashton, who was appointed as the new High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission.

In addition, De Gucht will be the coordinator of the industrial relations with other world powers.

De Gucht will also take over part of the Industry portfolio and will coordinate the Trans-Atlantic Economic Council.

As European Commissioner for Trade Karel De Gucht will be responsible for the EU's foreign trade policy and will be the spokesperson of the biggest trading partner in the world. This will include:

- promoting economic development and solidarity in the world
- negotiating and concluding trade agreements on behalf of the 27 EU Member States
- cooperation with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other multilateral organisations to break down international trade barriers
- monitoring compliance with the existing (international) trade policy

In principle the European Parliament will give the new Commission a vote of confidence on 26 January 2010.

<http://europa.eu>



**D. Reynders**



**S. Vanackere**



## **Financial Times declares Didier Reynders third best Minister of Finance in Europe.**

The British newspaper the *Financial Times* (FT) has declared the Belgian Didier Reynders the third best Minister of Finance in Europe after the French Minister, Christine Lagarde, and the German Minister, Peer Steinbrück.

A jury from the FT assessed 19 ministers. Besides a general ranking the newspaper also drew up a list based on political and economic criteria and a credibility score.

Didier Reynders gets third place in the general ranking. For economic affairs he is second. Incidentally, according to the paper the Belgian economy is doing better than its neighbours. Politically he shares eighth place with his Italian colleague, Giulio Tremonti. For credibility Reynders ends up ninth.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3f36c9c4-d2d0-11de-af63-00144feabdc0.html>

## **Steven Vanackere succeeds Yves Leterme as Minister of Foreign Affairs.**

Yves Leterme has succeeded Herman Van Rompuy as Prime Minister. Steven Vanackere is the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. Steven Vanackere will also continue to fill the offices of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Institutional Reform. Minister Vanackere has taken up his new job on the eve of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union - in the second half of 2010 - and at a time when a new treaty has radically changed the way European diplomacy functions.

Minister Vanackere was born in 1964, obtained degrees in Law and Economics, and studied Political Sciences too. He started his professional life in the financial sector. Then he became an advisor to Herman Van Rompuy (who was still President of the Christian Democratic Party at the time - 1990/1991) and later Chief of Cabinet of Jos Chabert (then Minister of the Brussels Capital Region - 1991/1993 and 1995/1999). He has also been Director General of the Brussels public transport company, MIVB/STIB -2000/2005.

Steven Vanackere was elected to the Flemish Parliament in 2004 and started his ministerial career in the Flemish government with the portfolio for Welfare, Public Health and the Family in 2007. On 30 December 2008 Steven Vanackere joined the Belgian Federal Government as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Civil Service, Public Enterprise and Institutional Reform.

<http://www.belgium.be>  
<http://www.diplomatie.be>



► **Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Harmel, founder of the Harmel doctrine, died.**

Pierre Harmel, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1966 to 1973, died on 15 November 2009 at the age of 98. He left his mark on Belgian political life for more than a quarter of a century, with his sense for dialogue, his respect for others, his international and European commitment and his great intellectual integrity.

Pierre Harmel made a huge contribution to Belgium's international image. His name continues to be associated with the Harmel Report, which was presented in 1967 and continued to be the official NATO doctrine till the end of the Cold War. The Harmel doctrine foresaw a two-pronged political path for NATO: the maintenance of a credible military power with respect to the Warsaw Pact and at the same time a political dialogue with the Soviet bloc in order to guarantee European stability and achieve a thaw in relations.

[http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/0\\_1518\\_661558\\_00.html](http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/0_1518_661558_00.html)  
[%20en](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/18/world/europe/18harmel.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=Harmel&st=cse)  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/17/AR2009111703902.html>



► **Belgian Ambassador in Bagdad again after 18 years.**

In the wake of the First Gulf War in 1991 our then Ambassador was evacuated out of Bagdad. After the invasion in 2003 an attempt was made to open the Embassy again but mounting sectarian violence put an end to it.

In 2006 the decision was taken to pick up the thread again with the appointment of a Chargé d'Affaires, Jeroen Vergeylen, who as deputy in Amman was also given responsibility for the Iraq portfolio.



In line with Iraq's repeated demand to upgrade diplomatic relations, the decision was made recently to appoint an ambassador again, though he will not take up residence there.

The choice fell on Jo Indekeu, Ambassador of Belgium in Amman. He presented his Credentials to President Talabani on 10 November 2009.





## ► Belgium ratifies the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

On 22 December 2009 Belgium handed over the ratification instrument of the Convention on Cluster Munitions to the United Nations in New York. This treaty was signed by one hundred countries in Oslo one year earlier. The ratification by Belgium brings the entry into force of this treaty closer. A further four countries have to follow the Belgian example before the required 30 ratifications are reached.

Belgium was the first country in the world to have a national law that bans such cluster munitions. Belgian diplomacy made active efforts to obtain a worldwide ban.

Belgium's commitment to a ban on cluster munitions fits in with a broader action to promote international security on a human scale, with respect for the dignity of the individual. The civilian population in zones of conflict must be protected to a maximum extent, and this certainly applies to the most vulnerable segments of the population such as children. This is why Belgium wishes to help prevent the use of weapons that cause disproportionate suffering. Just as with anti-personnel mines there are types of cluster munitions which leave their destructive footprint behind in conflict zones lone after the termination of hostilities. As a result they also form a serious obstacle to the resumption of social and economic life.

Belgium will play an active role in monitoring this new contract and will primarily pay attention here to rapid signing and ratification by as many countries as possible. Minister for Foreign Affairs Steven Vanackere also wishes to work on implementation of the commitments in the area of help to victims.

What continues to drive Belgium in this campaign is the realisation that such suffering must and often can be prevented. Every large or small step that we take in this direction will contribute to greater human dignity in the world. Belgium also attaches the utmost importance to other priority actions in this field: the fight against landmines, illegal trade in small weapons and the use of child soldiers.

<http://www.diplomatie.be>



## ► Belgian scientists demonstrate Darwin's laws with unique evolutionary experiment.

Bruno Gryseels and Tine Huyse, from the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and the K.U.Leuven, have demonstrated a unique evolutionary experiment in the television programme "*Beagle – In Darwin's wake*" ("*Beagle - In het kielzog van Darwin*"). In the 16th century African slaves brought a parasitic worm to South America, the genetic consequences of which Gryseels and Huyse are studying now, 500 years later.

The two researchers went on board the clipper, *Stad Amsterdam*, from Salvador de Bahia to Rio de Janeiro. This historic sailing ship is redoing Charles Darwin's historic voyage for the Dutch broadcasting company VPRO and the Flemish Canvas and has taken on board scientists whose work deals with evolution. Gryseels and Huyse have already been to Brazil to hunt for the snails that transmit the parasitic schistosoma worm to people when they go into the water. These worms live in the blood vessels around the intestines or bladder and infect more than 100 million people in Africa, Asia and South America. In many tropical areas the disease, known as bilharzia, stunts the development of tens of millions of children. Years of infection by the worm cause serious liver or kidney damage.

The researchers compared DNA from schistosoma worms in Africa and South America to be able to work out the parasite's family tree. The result conclusively confirms that the South American worms have their origins in West Africa. They crossed the Atlantic Ocean with their end-hosts, people, in the slave trade between 1550 and 1880, and spread further via local snails.

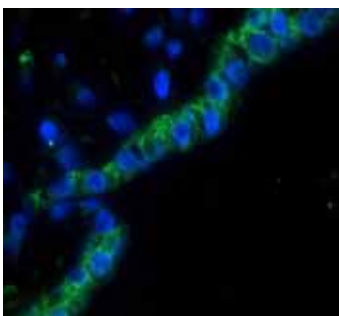
The research also points strongly to an evolutionary bottleneck between African and South American schistosoma. For example, Gryseels and Huyse found more genetic variation in one district in Senegal than has so far been described in the whole of Brazil. So it looks as if all the South American parasites are descended from a limited number of worms that survived the crossing. This probably has consequences for the clinical and epidemiological characteristics and therefore also for treatment and prevention. So modern genetic techniques make it possible not only to study the evolutionary processes more precisely than ever, but also to tackle serious health problems much more directly.

<http://www.itg.be/itg/Uploads/Nieuws/03112009%20Beagle.pdf>  
<http://beagle.vpro.nl/#/blog/item/2446/>  
<http://beagle.vpro.nl/#/blog/item/2393/>



© ITG

## ► World first at the VUB: scientists convert stem cells into lung tissue.



Scientists at the VUB (*Vrije Universiteit Brussel*), from the research group Embryology and Genetics, have succeeded in converting human embryonic stem cells into lung epithelial cells. This is a world first.

A new technique, developed by Lindsey Van Haute and her colleagues at the VUB, may in the future form an alternative to major interventions such as lung transplants in people with chronic lung diseases or hereditary disorders like cystic fibrosis. Pharmacological researchers can also use cultivated diseased lung cells to develop in vitro models for particular lung diseases.

<http://www.vub.ac.be>

## ► Brussels University Hospital and Royal Hayat Hospital join forces in Kuwait's first centre for reproductive health.

*UZ Brussels* inaugurated its first centre for reproductive health abroad in Kuwait, on 27 October 2009. *UZ Brussels'* CEO, Dr. Marc Noppen, and Professor Paul Devroey, who is world renowned in this speciality, were present at the ceremony.

This partnership between a Belgian university hospital and a private Kuwaiti clinic is a first in Kuwait. The centre for reproductive health at the *Royal Hayat Hospital* is an exact copy of the centre led by Professor Devroey at *UZ Brussels*, with the same equipment. In accordance with the agreement concluded between the two institutes a Belgian medical team consisting of (at least) a doctor, an embryologist and a medical assistant will be permanently based in Kuwait.

Once the centre is completely operational approximately 1000 patients will be able to be treated annually, with an expected rate of 40% successful fertilisations, one of the highest percentages in the world.

Another characteristic of this partnership is the encouragement and training of local scientists.

This medical and scientific partnership has already aroused interest in the opening of other centres in fields in which Belgium excels, including the treatment of diabetes.

[http://www.brusselsivf.be/default.aspx?page\\_id=1453](http://www.brusselsivf.be/default.aspx?page_id=1453)



## ► Belgian scientists unravel cells' defence mechanism against aggressive oxygen – new perspectives in the battle against cell aging.

A team of scientists led by Professor Jean-François Collet of the *de Duve Institute* (at the *Université catholique de Louvain*), in partnership with researchers from the *VUB (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)* and the Flemish Institute for Biotechnology, *VIB*, have carried out research into proteins' defence mechanisms against oxygen. The discovery of anti-oxidizing mechanisms opens up interesting perspectives in the battle against cell aging. The results of the research have been published in the prestigious scientific journal *Science*.



The proteins in our bodies, our cells' most important building blocks, are particularly sensitive to damage from certain oxygen derivatives (oxidation). That is certainly the case with proteins containing sulphurous components based on the amino acid cysteine.

To protect themselves better against the oxygen certain cysteines unite to form a duo linked to each other via a "sulphur bridge". Together they can overcome oxygen attacks.

But certain proteins in our cells also contain cysteines which occur alone and which are therefore more susceptible to oxygen damage. How they are protected against oxygen has remained uncertain for a long time.



Professor Collet's team has identified how in the case of the intestinal bacteria *Escherichia coli* two proteins form the basis of an ingenious repair mechanism. If a protein's cysteine building block is damaged by oxygen, one of the proteins ensures the damage is repaired. All the evidence points to there being a similar antioxidant mechanism in people.

<http://www.uclouvain.be/304695.html>

<http://www.deduveinstitute.be>

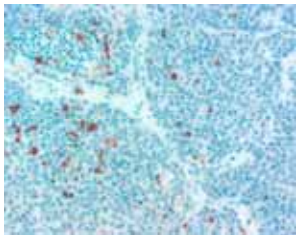
[http://www.vib.be/NR/rdonlyres/8D36D5BE-D1B3-4233-94BC-1A621E91D1DD/2982/20091119\\_NED\\_Messens.pdf](http://www.vib.be/NR/rdonlyres/8D36D5BE-D1B3-4233-94BC-1A621E91D1DD/2982/20091119_NED_Messens.pdf)

<http://redox.vub.ac.be/BCRB/home.html>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091120094743.htm>

## ► Ghent university hospital works on new treatment for neuroblastoma, an aggressive cancer in young children.

Recent research at the Centre for Medical Genetics at *UZ Gent* (CMGG) has opened up perspectives for a new molecular treatment for neuroblastoma, a malignant tumour that occurs mainly in young children. In neuroblastoma tumour cells are often no longer susceptible to classic chemotherapy.



*This figure represents a cross-section of a chemoresistant tumour (blue cells) in a mouse treated with nutlin-3.*

*The red cells point to cancerous cells that are dying off thanks to the treatment.*

The scientists discovered that a new molecule, nutlin-3, can in some cases directly activate p53. On condition that there is no mutation present in the p53 protein it ensures that neuroblastoma cells stop dividing and die off massively.

When mice with chemoresistant neuroblastoma are treated with nutlin-3, growth of the primary tumour is slowed down sharply and metastasis in the liver and lungs is reduced.

This indicates that the molecule can play an important role in the future treatment of the disease.

<http://medgen.ugent.be>  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/170538.php>  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091110171643.htm>

## ► UZ Brussels first hospital in the world to use revolutionary cancer therapy.

*University Hospital Brussels* is the first hospital in the world to introduce the Vero system for high-precision radiotherapy. This is the pinnacle of 20 years research into a combination of intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) and real time detection of tumours in one treatment system. It was developed by *UZ Brussels* in cooperation with *Mitsubishi Heavy Industries* and *BrainLAB*.

The system should make radiotherapy more effective as well as less toxic. It means better treatment results with fewer side-effects compared to other cancer treatments.

Thanks to new developments like the Vero system it is at last possible to personalise treatment, adjusting it to suit the specific condition of the patient.

The system will be brought into use as of 2010.

<http://www.uzbrussel.be>



## ► Team from ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles) discovers molecule in ticks' saliva which can prevent deep-vein thrombosis.

When ticks bite they discharge molecules via their saliva which block the host's defence mechanisms. These molecules or proteins form a powerful anaesthetic, an effective anticoagulant and an anti-inflammatory. With the support of the Walloon Region the team of Dr. Edmond Godfroid (Faculty of Sciences, *ULB*) has been studying the relationship between ticks and their hosts at the level of the molecule for about ten years. On the basis of ticks' saliva, the team led by Dr. Godfroid has identified isolated and described molecules that have an anticoagulant and anti-inflammatory effect.

One of these molecules has marked anti-thrombotic characteristics, namely the protein Ir-CPI. In animals Ir-CPI prevents the formation of blood clots in deep-vein thrombosis, lung embolism or vessel thrombosis - and all of that without disturbing the blood-clotting balance or causing bleeding. The results of this research were published in the prestigious *American Journal of Experimental Medicine*.

In terms of developing a medicine for patients the Ir-CPI molecule still needs clinical evaluation. With a view to this the spin-off *Bioxodes* is being set up in the *Biopark Charleroi Brussels South*.

The aim is to develop applications for Ir-CPI: prevention of deep-vein thrombosis, embolism, cerebral ischemia and disorders of the coronary artery, as well as a series of other diseases. Researchers will also continue to examine the proteins in ticks' saliva in order to develop applications in the area of clotting and inflammation.

[http://www.dev.ulb.ac.be/db/revue/articles/19112009/19112009REF\\_601.pdf](http://www.dev.ulb.ac.be/db/revue/articles/19112009/19112009REF_601.pdf)



## ► University of Ghent in top 10 of the journal *The Scientist's* "Best Places to Work in Academia 2009".

According to a ranking by the American scientific journal *The Scientist*, the University of Ghent (*UGent*) offers one of the best scientific work environments outside the United States. *UGent* is in 8th place in the list of Best Places to Work in Academia 2009 - Top 10 International Academic Institutions".

The ranking is the result of a large-scale poll of scientists from the so-called life sciences, including the biomedical sciences, biotechnology and medical biology. Respondents evaluated their work environment on the basis of 38 criteria in eight different areas, such as job satisfaction, infrastructure, salary, research resources and policy. One of the criteria is also how often publications from a particular institute are cited.

<http://www.the-scientist.com/bptw/>



## ► Various Belgian films and actors win prizes at international film festivals.

The film **Les Barons**, by the Belgian director Nabil Ben Yadir, shared the jury prize at the ninth edition of the International Film Festival of Marrakech (FIFM), the number one film festival in Morocco.

At the second edition of *CinémaScience*, a film festival in Bordeaux organised by the CNRS (the French *Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique*), **Dirty mind**, a film by the Belgian director Peter Van Hees, also won an award. **Dirty Mind** shared first prize with **Skin**, a British-South African coproduction.

Of the 25 countries represented at the 28<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Canada, Belgium carried off the main prize with the film **The Over The Hill Band**, by director Geoffrey Enthoven.

At the international film festival « Cinéma tous écrans » (2-8 November 2009) in Geneva, **Lost Persons Area**, by the Belgian Caroline Strubbe, won the *Reflet d'Or* prize for best film.

The Belgian animation film **A Town Called Panic**, made by the Brussels studio *Beast Animations*, is one of the 20 films selected to compete for an Oscar nomination in the category "Best Animated Feature". The five nominees will be announced on 2 February 2010, the Oscars themselves will be awarded on 7 March.

The film **Moscow, Belgium** by Christophe Van Rompaey reached the top ten of the renowned American newspaper the *LA Times'* non-English language films. This is a list of recommendations drawn up by the paper's film editors. The film came out in Belgium in 2008, but was not shown in American cinemas till 2009. The film had already won awards at various other festivals. The *New York Times'* critics tipped the film last year.

The Belgian actress **Yolande Moreau** won the prize for best female leading role at the *Los Angeles Film Critics Awards*. She won the award for her role in **Séraphine**, a film by Martin Provost about the French artist Séraphine de Senlis. Earlier in 2009 Moreau also won a *César* for this role.

## El Greco exhibition (4 February – 9 May 2010)

Brussels, Bozar



*El Greco, San Juan Evangelista © Toledo, Museo del Greco*

The *El Greco* exhibition illustrates the history of El Greco's exceptional European career. This artist, who came originally from Crete, in Greece, was active from Toledo in Spain to Italy. All his experiences and travels left indelible traces in his development as an artist, so that he became one of the most important figures in Western art.

<http://www.bozar.be>



## James Ensor

(February 2010 – March 2011) *Ostend, Brussels and Ghent*

One of Belgium's best known artists, James Ensor, was born 150 years ago. To commemorate this three museums are organising exhibitions to illuminate the various facets of this world-famous artist. Mu.ZEE in Ostend, Ensor's home port, will present a world art historical view of Ensor and Ostend. The Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels will take a look at his oeuvre with the Flemish Art Collection. And finally, in Ghent, the Fine Arts Museum (Museum voor Schone Kunsten) and the S.M.A.K. will examine the relationship between Ensor and contemporary art in one joint exhibition.

### **"Visiting Ensor" exhibition.** **13 February – 29 August 2010** *Ostend, MU.ZEE*

"Visiting Ensor" is an exhibition with and about James Ensor, seen from the eyes of his many guests. For the very first time mu.ZEE will bring together all the visual artists, writers, cineastes, museum directors and collectors that visited James Ensor.

Besides his friends and fellow citizens there are visitors who travelled to Ostend especially for Ensor including, for example, Kandinsky, Nolde and Vuillard. They discuss politics, literature and art in the master's studio and living room. In addition there are around 150 different activities planned both at mu.ZEE and elsewhere, including processions, productions and the opening of the very first centre for research into the life and work of James Ensor.

<http://www.muze.be>

### **"Ensor and contemporary art" ("Ensor en hedendaagse kunst").** **16 October 2010 - 13 February 2011** *Ghent, M.S.K (Fine Arts Museum) and S.M.A.K., the municipal museum for contemporary art*

The S.M.A.K. and MSK Ghent are organising an exhibition in which they examine relationships between Ensor and the work of contemporary artists. Some fifteen works by Ensor will function as anchor points. These will be linked to other Ensors on the one hand and to works of art by contemporary artists on the other. It will begin in 1949, the year Ensor died and the start of Cobra, and finish with topical art. The exhibition will look into which contemporary artists have allowed themselves to be inspired by Ensor, and which aspects of Ensor's oeuvre play a role in the work of contemporary artists. The two museums will also present a catalogue to mark the exhibition.

<http://www.mskgent.be>  
<http://www.smak.be>



*The Intrigue,*  
KMSKA © SABAM



### **"Ensor" Exhibition.** **14 October 2010 – 13 February 2011** *Brussels, Bozar*

The Centre for Fine Arts will take a look at the work of James Ensor through the Flemish Art Collection. He was a brilliant, extremely productive artist and a complex personality, a kindred spirit of Bruegel and Bosch who was fascinated by light and death. The Bozar's exhibition "Prince of Painters" is a fitting complement to this celebratory year.

<http://www.bozar.be>



## Frida Kahlo y su mundo exhibition.

(16 January – 18 April 2010) Brussels, Bozar

For three whole months Mexico will be on show with a multidisciplinary festival in the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. There are 5 different exhibitions on the programme, which provide a nice sample of both historical and contemporary Mexican culture. Besides the exhibitions the performing arts form the beating heart of the ¡Mexico! Festival. There's music and literature, too, and in the CINEMATEK the festival focuses on contemporary Mexican cinema.

One of the highlights of the festival is the exhibition devoted to Frida Kahlo. This Mexican artist (1907-1954) became famous for her many symbolic and surrealistic-looking paintings. Her life was extremely testing. A bus accident when she was 17, a miscarriage and her turbulent marriage to the artist Diego Rivera – she dealt with it all in her haunting pictures. Her resistance and the will to survive are reflected in her art.

The whole *Collection Museo Olmedo*, the largest collection of Kahlo's work in the world, is to travel to Belgium for the first time: 19 paintings, an etching and 5 drawings. Photos will complete the picture. An intimate exhibition about Kahlo's inexhaustible imaginative power and the cultural scene in Mexico in the first half of the 20th century, with contributions from contemporaries like Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco and Rufino Tamayo.

<http://www.bozar.be>



Kahlo - Autorretrato con changuito (Self-Portrait with Small Monkey), 1945. © Collection Museo Dolores Olmedo, Xochimilco, México

## ► Whales and dolphins exhibition.

14 October 2009 – 29 August 2010

Brussels, Museum of Natural Sciences

Fancy a great adventure?

Then dive into the deep blue sea in search of the inhabitants of this fascinating world. Follow the whales and dolphins and marvel at these divers in full swim. Experience the story of their origins. Learn all about their gastronomic menu and the young whales' greediness. Gaze at their seductive arts and the birth of a calf. Listen to the song of the whales... Try holding your breath as long as the sperm whale, before you surface again. Or what about finding your way with the dolphin's sonar?

Back with your feet on the ground, are you aware of the dangers threatening these animals? Hunting, pollution, fishing nets ... Listen to what the experts have to say and participate in the debate! Meet the North Sea whales and dolphins at the Belgian coast. What should we do when sea mammals are stranded on our coast? The museum's scientists tell you all about it.

"Whales and dolphins" - a fun underwater journey where you discover the fascinating world of the sea mammals. Diving permitted from 6 years of age! Get your goggles on!

<http://www.natuurwetenschappen.be>



© Museum voor Natuurwetenschappen/  
Muséum des Sciences naturelles



## ► Belgian conducts “Star Wars” concert in Chicago.

The Belgian Dirk Brossé was chosen by John Williams to conduct the “Star Wars” concert during its world tour. “Star Wars in concert” is on the billboard at theatres in the United States now. In November 2009 the show was performed in the *United Center* in Chicago.

In a two hour long multimedia show the *Royal Philharmonic Orchestra* played pieces of the film music by John Williams, while scenes from the six parts of the “Star Wars” epic by George Lucas were projected on a big screen behind the musicians.

The concert opened with the instantly recognisable theme from “Star Wars”. Conducted by our fellow countryman, the orchestra performed a musical bonanza for fans of Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Han Solo, Chewbacca, R2D2, 3CPO, Yoda and many other weird and wonderful creatures.



Dirk Brossé is a multifaceted composer and conductor. He is currently a professor at the Royal Conservatory of Ghent and conducts numerous orchestras in Belgium and abroad. As a composer he has written more than 200 works that have been performed all over the world and recorded in around 40 countries. For four years, starting in September 2010, Dirk Brossé will be the musical director and chief conductor of *The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia*.

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/music/chi-1208-star-wars-ovndec08\\_0\\_2006595\\_story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/music/chi-1208-star-wars-ovndec08_0_2006595_story)  
<http://www.dirkbrosse.be>

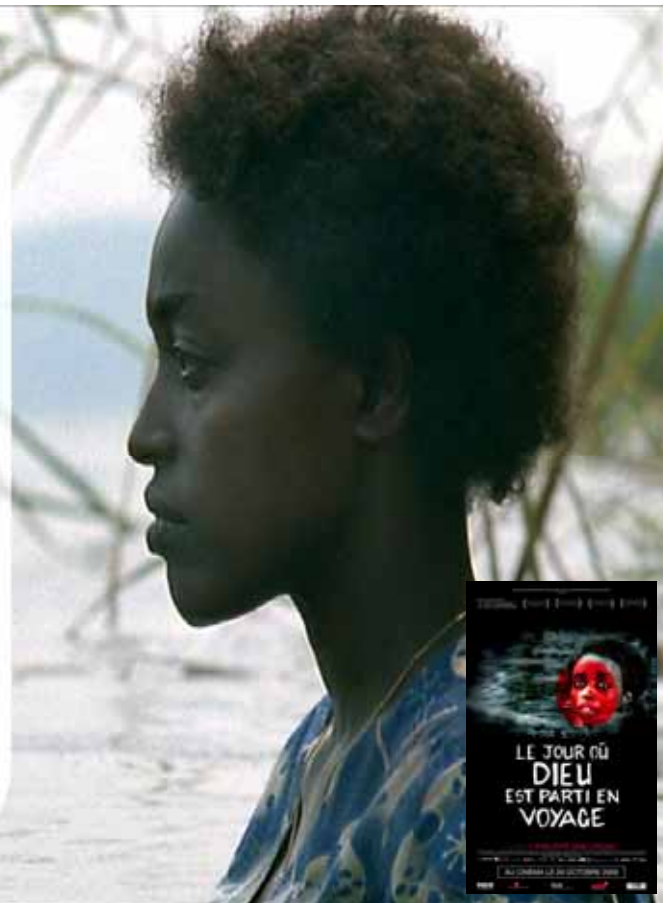
## ► Belgian film “The Day God Went Away” comes first at the International Film Festival of Bratislava.

From 27 November to 4 December 2009 the International Film Festival of Bratislava took place in Slovakia. The Belgian film “The Day God Went Away”, by Philippe Van Leeuw, went off with the first prize. Ruth Nirere, who played the leading role in the film, won the award for best actress.

The film, which deals with the Rwandan drama, got the prize “for the way it takes the tragic, horrific events of the Rwandan massacre and transforms them into a powerful, primordial story of a woman suspended between life and death”.

The film had previously won the *Prix Kutxa-New Director* for Best First Work at the International Film Festival of San Sebastián (Spain), the *Prix découverte* at the Festival International du film francophone de Namur (Belgium) and the *Prize for Best Actress* at the Festival of Thessaloniki (Greece). “The Day God Went Away” was shown in world premiere at the Toronto Festival, TIFF, at the beginning of September 2009.

<http://www.iffbratislava.sk/index.php?id=232&L=1>



# The economy & Business



## ► Belgium world champion in chemical and plastics industry.

The government, *essenscia* (the federation of the chemical industry and life sciences) and companies have joined forces to promote the Belgian chemical industry to foreign investors. The project is called “*Belgium, a world champion for chemicals and plastics today and tomorrow*”.

In addition, the government, *essenscia* and the industry are also setting up a *High Level Group* with the objective of strengthening the investment climate in the chemicals sector.

The Belgian chemical cluster is the second largest in the world after Houston and is also highly integrated and diversified, which provides major opportunities for synergies. Eleven of the top 15 of the global chemical concerns have production plants in Belgium. In terms of its contribution to the total economy the chemical industry in Belgium is twice as large as in the average European Union country, bigger even than in Germany, which is traditionally the chemicals country.

Belgian enterprises directly target investment in research and development in order to find innovative solutions for the world's major challenges, such as food supplies, water, health, climate change, economical use of energy and natural raw materials.

With the world population continuing to grow, the demands on the chemicals sector for sustainable products will only increase in the coming decades.

<http://www.essenscia.be>

See also the campaign, “Belgium, the place to be for biopharmaceutical R&D and manufacturing”:

<http://www.investinbiopharma.be>



## ► Belgian teaches the rest of the world the Belgian tradition of making and eating fries.

The Belgian Mario Vleugels and his *BelFrit* chain already has various *friteries*, or fry shops, in Hungary and Spain and he is soon to open the first in Italy – in Milan, in the spring. The Belgian entrepreneur is in negotiations with Hungarian candidates to open an additional seven *friteries* in 2010. He is looking at other markets in the Balkans and Poland, too.



*BelFrit* doesn't just blindly copy the traditional Belgian concept of a *friterie* abroad, but adapts it to suit the habits and expectations of local consumers. *BelFrit* helps managers start up *friteries* locally. It provides support in financing and provides the equipment for getting started, like illuminated signs, packaging materials, menus and so on.

*BelFrit* also ensures regular supplies of fresh produce. In Hungary a Belgian provided guidance for Hungarian *friterie* managers until last year. Now Mario Vleugels himself goes over every six weeks.

<http://www.belfrit.com>  
<http://www.bestfrit.be>  
<http://belgianfries.com>






## ► Belgian economic mission to Morocco.

Prince Philip led a big economic mission to Morocco from 23 to 26 November 2009, in which around 180 Belgian companies participated. It was the next to largest foreign economic mission ever, second only to the one to China a few years ago.

Several Belgian ministers took part in the mission as well: Paul Magnette (Energy), Charles Michel (Development Cooperation), Jean-Claude Marcourt (Foreign Trade Walloon Region) and Benoît Cerexhe (his counterpart in the Brussels Capital Region).

The aim of such missions is to introduce Belgian companies to the host country, establish contacts, find partners and conclude contracts.



## ► Belgian best young entrepreneur in the world

At the world Junior Chamber International (JCI) congress in Tunisia on 19 November 2009, Patrick Decuyper, CEO of the sun and wind energy company *Enfinity*, in Waregem in the province of West Flanders, received the Creative Young Entrepreneur Award (CYEA), an annual international award for entrepreneurs organised by the JCI and Flanders DC, an organisation of the Flemish authority which aims to promote creative enterprise.

The prize is awarded to the best young entrepreneur selected from more than 100 candidates from more than 20 countries.

The criteria include creativity and innovation on the one hand and socially responsible enterprise on the other.



<http://www.express.be>  
<http://www.enfinity.be>  
<http://www.jci.cc>  
<http://www.jciwc-hammamet2009.com>  
<http://www.flandersdc.be>



## ► Ford factory in Genk is the next to best in Europe.

A poll shows that of all seven *Ford* factories in Europe, the *Ford* factory in Genk, in the Province of Limburg, is the best after the one in Cologne, Germany. It scores 9.4 in the "*Ford Production System-audit*".

Decisive elements are productivity, quality, teamwork and safety. In 2003, the year restructuring was announced, Genk was ranked in first place.

<http://www.ford.com>  
<http://www.fordgenk.be>



## ► Belgian architecture firm charged with design of tourist centres in Morocco

*L'ATELIER*—*SOCIETE D'ARCHITECTES SC-S.A.* is active in the design and realisation of projects in Belgium, Europe (Poland, Slovakia and Italy) and North Africa (Tunisia and Morocco).

The architecture firm, which is based in Liege, was founded some 20 years ago and is regarded very highly both in Belgium and abroad for its record of achievements in the field of logistical infrastructure (*L'Oréal*, *Janssen Logistics*, *Trilogis*), commercial centres (*IKEA*, *Galerie St-Lambert* in Liege), recreational infrastructure (concert halls, *Standard Liege's* training centre for young footballers etc.) and many others.

*L'ATELIER* set up a subsidiary in Marrakech in 2007. In the same year a technical study bureau was set up in Tunis, too. As part of the *Plan Azur 2010* competition, which the Moroccan government launched with the aim of attracting ten million tourists by 2010 and building six seaside resorts, *L'ATELIER* was commissioned to design the architectural and town planning concept for three of the six resorts:

ESSAOUIRA – MOGADOR  
MANSOUR LAKE CITY – OUARZAZATE  
PORT LIXUS – LARACHE

The projects comprise touristic infrastructure: resorts with golf courses, hotels, villas, yacht marinas, etc.

Other projects are underway in Fès, Tangier, Marrakech, Martil and Tétouan, as well as in Tunisia (Tunis Radès, Tunis Hamam Lif, Bizerte ...)

<http://www.latelier.be>



- Villa Port-Lixus Larache
- Villa Mogador Essaouira
- Hôtel du golf Port-Lixus Larache
- Amsa Village

© L'Atelier

# Unlimited



## ► Port of Antwerp organises “Antwerp Port Promotion Days” in various cities.

On 1 December 2009 the Antwerp Port Authority, *Gemeentelijk Havenbedrijf Antwerpen*, organised an *Antwerp Port Promotion Day* in Budapest, Hungary, and on 2 December another in Vienna, Austria. The aim of this type of event is to establish contacts, share experiences and strengthen cooperation. Amongst others, representatives from the logistics and industrial sector, private companies from Antwerp and the port authorities were present.

Antwerp is the second port in Europe and the sixth in the world for international maritime traffic. In 2008 the port handled almost 190 million tons of maritime goods traffic. A good 16,000 sea-going ships and another 61,000 river vessels call in at Antwerp annually. Antwerp is the market leader for steel, project cargo, fruit and forestry products and is an important Ro-Ro port, but it also plays a crucial role for dry bulk, like coffee and tobacco, and liquid bulk.

Antwerp is the largest chemicals and petrochemicals centre in Europe (and the second in the world) and is the most important provider of storage space of all the European ports.

The many logistics companies in and around the port - there are over 350 European distribution centres in the Antwerp region - not only offer storage space but also carry out countless added value activities for all sorts of goods, including steel, cars, tobacco, coffee and fruit, and take care of distribution for the Western European market and overseas destinations.



The Port of Antwerp was also chosen by the trade's *International Bulk Journal* as **Best dry bulk port**. The nominated ports were judged amongst other things on the efforts they have made to handle bulk goods in an efficient, safe and environment-friendly manner, the quality of their logistical follow-up, customer service, investments in port infrastructure and management approach towards generating local and international business. The Port of Antwerp was judged best for these parameters.

<http://www.portofantwerp.com>

## ► Belgian arms manufacturer FN Herstal produces a black box for firearms.

The Belgian arms manufacturer FN, in Herstal (Province of Liege), has designed and developed a black box for firearms. This innovative appliance was presented at MILIPOL, the international trade fair for internal state security, in Paris.

The FN black box detects, identifies and counts shots, measures burst rates and burst lengths, records firing sequences and detects stoppages due to failure of cycle. Storing such information facilitates maintenance, which greatly increases weapon reliability and availability.

The device can also transmit useful information to the chain of command during a mission. It includes the weapon's identification number and can therefore indirectly identify the soldier. When it is linked to a GPS it can transmit its identification and location data to the highest command levels via the soldier's communications apparatus.

The FN black box is a moulded appliance that fits in any weapon type. It is provided with a non-exchangeable battery that lasts 10 years and has a recording capacity of 100,000 rounds.



© FN HERSTAL

<http://www.fnherstal.com/index.php?id=573>  
[http://news.cnet.com/8301-13639\\_3-10398967-42.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-13639_3-10398967-42.html)

## ► Belgian company rakes in contracts for the construction of bowling alleys in Morocco and Senegal

The Belgian company *Valcke Bowling Service*, in Wevelgem in the Province of West Flanders, has pocketed contracts in Senegal and Morocco for the construction of bowling alleys and is in negotiations in other North and West African countries.

Until recently this family company was active only in Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and France. During the Belgian economic mission to Morocco, in November 2009, the company signed an agreement for the construction of twelve bowling alleys in the *Tamaris Aquapark* near Casablanca. The owners of the amusement park intend the investment to increase the attraction of the park and to keep it open in the winter.

In 2010 a bowling alley will also be built in the magnificent *Sea Plaza* project in Dakar, Senegal (<http://www.seaplaza.sn>).



© 2009 www.boa-inc.be  
<http://www.valckebowling.com>



© 2009 www.boa-inc.be

## ► Company from Antwerp wins European Best Event Award in Milan.

Twins|Events & PR, a company from Antwerp, is specialised in the organisation of events from concept development to realisation. On 26 November 2009 Twins|Events & PR went off with the *European Best Event Award* in Milan for the "Happy Smurfday Euro Tour".

The 50th birthday of the Smurfs, the brainchild of the Belgian artist Peyo, was celebrated in no less than 15 European countries under the name "Happy Smurfday". The concept was produced in cooperation with UNICEF Europe and consisted of nightly Smurf invasions, happening press conferences, a special birthday exhibition, an online public competition and cooperation with 15 European celebrities. All of which was backed up by a custom-made website. In addition to that, this project made more than 250,000 euros in aid of UNICEF's educational projects.

Besides the *European Best Event Award* the "Happy Smurfday Euro Tour" also bagged the silver *ERMIS PR Award* in Athens a few weeks earlier for the organisation of the event in Athens.



© Peyo

<http://www.twins.be>  
<http://www.besteventawards.com>  
<http://www.smurf.com>

## ► American investor Warren Buffett's wife's fund invests in Belgian company.

The American foundation *Medicines360*, in San Francisco, and *Uteron Pharma Operations S.A.* in Liege have signed an important strategic partnership agreement for the development and commercialisation of a hormonal IUD for long-term contraception. This IUD was developed by *Uteron Pharma*, a spin-off of the biomedical group *Mithra Pharmaceuticals*, which in its turn is a spin-off of the University of Liege and specialises exclusively in women's health.

In the framework of this partnership *Uteron Pharma Operations*, which is a 100% subsidiary and commercial branch of *Uteron Pharma*, will ensure the final development and production of this new hormonal IUD. This will take place at the group's new production site in Liege, *Odyssea Pharma*. For its part *Medicines360* will be responsible for the clinical tests in the United States and Europe.



The end-goal of the partnership is to have the hormonal IUD, which is based on Levonorgestrel, registered with the American (FDA) and European authorities as a reversible long-term contraceptive, and subsequently to commercialise it all over the world, including in developing countries.

The partnership involves an investment of tens of millions of euros. The market for this sort of product in 2009 is estimated at about 500 million euro and is growing annually by 20 to 30%.

<http://www.uteron-operations.com>  
<http://www.mithra.be>



# Miscellaneous

## ► Belgium gets digital copy of International Tracing Service's archives relating to the Second World War.

The *International Tracing Service (ITS)* is an organisation based in Bad Arolsen in Germany, which was set up in 1955 to trace people who were uprooted or disappeared during the Second World War. The *ITS* is also charged with collecting, classifying and storing archives and documentation relating to persons who were in death, concentration or forced labour camps during World War II and making these archives available to governments and other interested parties.

In 2007 access was extended to include historical research, too. Management and administration of the *ITS* are in the hands of the *ICRC* (the International Red Cross); an International Commission acts as the controlling body.

In recent years the archives of the *ITS* have been digitalised. Each of the eleven countries that belong to the International Commission is entitled to a digital copy of these documents. As part of this, at the request of the Belgian government, the Belgian State Archives in Brussels received a digital copy of the *ITS*'s extensive documentation relating to persecution by the Nazis. Bearing in mind the sheer volume of material received it will take a few months before these valuable documents are made available to the public.

Apart from that, Belgium will also take over the presidency of the International Commission for a period of one year starting in May 2010.

The fact that Belgium requested and got a copy from the archives service of the *ITS* and the upcoming Belgian presidency of the organisation show our country's unremitting commitment to remembrance of the Holocaust. In the years to come we will also see the expansion of the Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance in Mechelen and the Belgian presidency, in 2012-2013, of the *ITF (International Task Force for Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research)*.

<http://www.its-arolsen.org>  
<http://www.arch.be>



(c) International Tracing Service

## ► Belgian astronaut Frank De Winne back on Earth.

On 1 December 2009 the *Soyuz TMA-15*, with Roman Romanenko, Frank De Winne and Robert Thirsk on board, landed safely in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

The astronauts had just notched up a mission of 189 days to the International Space Station. In the final weeks the Belgian, Frank De Winne, took command of the ISS. He was the first European commander there ever.



© ESA



## ▶ Belgian doctor gets prestigious prize in South Korea.

On 25 November 2009 the Belgian doctor Marie-Hélène Brasseur received the prestigious first prize of the Korean ASAN Foundation for her dedication to the socially underprivileged in Seoul since 1972.

The ASAN Foundation was set up in 1977 by the founder of the *Hyundai* group, Joo-Young Chung. It supports a number of permanent institutions and actions (eight hospitals spread across the country, as well as activities of a social nature) and awards bursaries and prizes based on proposals made by a selection committee.

One of the initiatives that were proposed to the selection committee this year was the social medical centre run by the organisation to which Marie-Hélène Brasseur belongs. This centre takes care of underprivileged patients.

Marie-Hélène Brasseur certainly serves the poorest strata of the population. It is estimated that 350,000 patients have been helped by Doctor Brasseur in all the years she has worked there. Marie-Hélène Brasseur has never received any remuneration and lives amongst the poor and sick. Nowadays Dr Brasseur concentrates more and more on palliative care, a sector which is still at an embryonic stage in Korea.



At a time when donations are scarcer because of the economic crisis, the prize from the ASAN foundation is a real boost for Dr Brasseur's team.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/special/2009/11/139\\_55822.html?bcsi\\_scan\\_22DC9279E1547BF6=NNI5PdYp9vr7UrJmOypBaex9N/AMAAAkwaFBQ==&bcsi\\_scan\\_filename=139\\_55822.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/special/2009/11/139_55822.html?bcsi_scan_22DC9279E1547BF6=NNI5PdYp9vr7UrJmOypBaex9N/AMAAAkwaFBQ==&bcsi_scan_filename=139_55822.html)

## ▶ White House website runs on Belgian software.



American President Barack Obama uses Belgian software. In fact the White House website runs on Drupal, a creation of the Belgian Dries Buytaert (31). According to Buytaert half a million websites worldwide run on this open source software.

Drupal is an open source content management system (CMS). That is web server software that makes it easy to build and display web pages. Many modern CMSs, including Drupal, offer a "back-end" interface with which managers can adapt the content and design of their website without any programme knowledge.

Drupal's popularity has grown over the years. From July 2007 to June 2008 Drupal was downloaded more than 1.4 million times from the website <http://drupal.org>. In the meantime a large community has contributed to Drupal's development, since the software can be downloaded for free and anyone who wants to can work on it in order to improve it.

In 2007 Drupal won the "2007 Overall Open Source CMS Award". It ended second in other categories like "Best PHP Open Source CMS" and "Best Open Source Social Networking CMS". In 2008 Drupal got the "Open Source CMS Award Winner" and "Best PHP Based Open Source CMS". In 2009 it carried off a "Webware 100 Award" in the *Social & Publishing* category for the third year in a row.

Two years ago Buytaert set up *Acquia*, a company that maintains Drupal websites. The firm periodically checks whether the website is still safe and whether it could work faster.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>  
<http://drupal.org>  
[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33463174/ns/technology\\_and\\_science-internet/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33463174/ns/technology_and_science-internet/)  
<http://techpresident.com/blog-entry/whitehousegov-goes-drupal>  
<http://buytaert.net/whitehouse-gov-using-drupal>  
<http://buytaert.net/gartner-puts-drupal-in-visionaries-quadrant>

## ► Belgian architecture firm wins prize in Barcelona.

The *Mero Beach Resort* project by the *BURO II* architecture firm, which has branches in Roeselare, Ghent and Brussels, has won a prize at the *World Architecture Festival* in Barcelona, more specifically in the "Future projects – Residential" category. Last year *BURO II* won the "public buildings" category at the same festival for the *Baiyun International Convention Center* in China.

The project involves an exclusive 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> holiday resort on the island of Dominica, in the Caribbean. It consists of a mix of villas, bungalows and apartments, shops, a hotel, conference facilities and a car park. Sustainable relationships with the local economy and the cultural and natural heritage are central to the design.

The jury praised the ecological holiday resort for its many different layers and its qualities at various levels. The manner in which this ecotouristic project came about is also unique. The client was persuaded to reduce the originally large-scale project to one suited to the size of the local community.

Both the local government and the local population were involved in the design process.

<http://www.worldarchitecturefestival.com>  
<http://www.buro2.be>  
<http://www.archi.be>



## ► Belgian chemicals company Solvay works on Solar Impulse, the first long-distance plane to fly on solar energy.

The *Solar Impulse* is the first long-distance plane that will be 100% powered by solar energy, which will be picked up by solar cells on the wings of the plane and loaded into batteries. What is revolutionary is that the plane will be able to continue to fly by night as well as by day.

The Belgian chemicals company *Solvay* has contributed to the construction of this airplane. More than 6,000 components of the *Solar Impulse* contain materials from *Solvay*, such as *Polyamide-imide Torlon®*, *polyetheretherketone KetaSpire®* PEEK, *Primospire® SPR*, *Solef®*, *F1EC* en *Halar® ECTFE*.

The airplane, which has the wingspan of an Airbus A340 (63.40 meter) but weighs only 1,600 kilograms, made its first real test flight early in December. It is hoped that the *Solar Impulse* will be able to fly around the world by 2012.

[http://www.solvay.com/strategynew/solarimpulse/0..44242-2-0\\_00.htm](http://www.solvay.com/strategynew/solarimpulse/0..44242-2-0_00.htm)  
<http://www.solarimpulse.com/>



## ► The Belgian company Electrawinds fuels private cars with waste animal fat - a world first.

*Electrawinds*, the Belgian renewable energy producer, has succeeded in running a private car with a converted engine on waste animal fats for 24 hours at its biofuel power station in Mouscron in the Province of Hainaut. The fat was sourced from slaughterhouses and fat rendering plants. The same biomass is purified in the *Electrawinds* power stations in Mouscron and Ostend, in the Province of West Flanders, to produce a clean fuel that generates electricity. This provides 85,000 families with green electricity.

For this fun experiment, which was baptised "Biofuel Racing Challenge", *Electrawinds* staff used their free time to completely convert an Audi A4 into a sustainable racing car. Despite this world first, *Electrawinds* does not intend to commercialise the initiative. The company only wanted to show that renewable energy is more than just wind turbines and solar panels and that green electrical power can also be produced from waste products.



<http://www.electrawinds.be>

# Agenda

## ▶ EVENTS IN BELGIUM

For general touristic information about Belgium:

<http://www.visitbelgium.com/>  
<http://www.agenda.be>  
<http://www.opt.be/accueil/fr/index.html>  
[http://www.wallonie-tourisme.be/contenus/agenda\\_culturel/fr/181.html](http://www.wallonie-tourisme.be/contenus/agenda_culturel/fr/181.html)  
[http://www.cfwb.be/index.php?id=portail\\_theme\\_culture](http://www.cfwb.be/index.php?id=portail_theme_culture)  
<http://www.visitflanders.com>  
<http://www.cultuurweb.be/CNETPortal/Home2.aspx>  
<http://www.opbrussel.be/>

### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

#### Delvaux and the Ancient World.

23 October 2009 - 31 January 2010  
Brussels, Royal Museums for Fine Arts Belgium  
<http://www.fine-arts-museum.be>

#### Max Beckmann. The collection of the von der Heydt museum Wuppertal.

17 October 2009 - 7 February 2010  
Ghent, Museum of Fine Arts  
<http://www.mskgent.be>

#### Europalia China.

October 2009 - February 2010  
Brussels and other Belgian cities  
<http://www.europalia.be>

#### Let's talk stones.

30 October 2009 - 16 February 2010  
Antwerp, Diamond Museum  
<http://www.diamantmuseum.be>  
<http://www.alsstenenspreken.be>

#### Delvaux 1829-2009: 180 years of Belgian luxury.

17 September 2009 - 21 February 2010  
Antwerp, MoMu Fashion Museum  
<http://www.momu.be>

#### Room for art in 17th century Antwerp.

28 November 2009 - 28 February 2010  
Antwerp, Rubens House  
<http://www.rubenshuis.be>

#### It's our Earth II. From Kyoto to Copenhagen.

10 September 2009 - 28 March 2010  
Brussels, Tour & Taxis  
<http://www.expo-terra.be>

#### I Medici: a renaissance in paper, an exhibition by Isabelle de Borchgrave.

20 November 2009 - 18 April 2010  
Brussels, Royal Museums for Art and History, Cinquantenaire Park  
<http://www.isabelledeborchgrave.com>

#### Ambiorix, king of the Eburones.

5 December 2009 - 13 June 2010  
Tongeren, Gallo-Roman museum  
<http://www.galloromeinsmuseum.be/index.php>

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

#### Bruges Central. City festival 2010.

28 September 2010 - 31 January 2011  
With, inter alia:

#### Van Eyck to Dürer.

29 October 2010 - 30 January 2011  
Groeningemuseum

#### Luc Taeymans. A vision of Central Europe.

22 October 2010 - 23 January 2011  
Arentshuis, Belfort, Hallen, Memling in Sint-Jan Hospitaal museum, Forum+ (Concertgebouw), Grootseminarie

#### Wim Delvoye. Knockin' on Heaven's Door.

14 October 2010 - 23 January 2011  
Brussels, Bozar

#### Congo – several exhibitions and activities on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the independence of the DRC.

Different cities in Belgium With, inter alia:

**Congo River** (Tervuren, R.M.C.A.).

**The Congo: 50 years of independence** (Tervuren, R.M.C.A.).

**Sacred Kings in Africa** (Brussels, Bozar).

**Africa Festival** (Brussels, Bozar).

**Congo@Leuven** (Leuven, M).

#### Asia-Europe: Faith and Trade.

25 June - 10 October 2010  
Brussels, Bozar

#### Lucas Cranach and his time.

20 October 2010 - 23 January 2011  
Brussels, Bozar

#### L'Europe des Alternatifs.

5 October 2010 - 16 January 2011  
Brussels, Belgian Comic Strip Centre

### MUSIC

#### Boccherini in Primetime.

19 - 21 February 2010  
Antwerp, AMUZ (Augustinus Music Centre)  
<http://www.amuz.be>

#### Ars Musica (Festival for Contemporary Music).

2 March - 2 April 2010  
Brussels, different locations  
<http://www.arsmusica.be>

#### International Organ Festival.

25 April - 9 May 2010  
Leuven, different locations  
<http://www.leuven.org>

#### Queen Elisabeth international music competition - piano.

3 - 29 May 2010  
Brussels, Conservatoire Royal & Palais des Beaux-Arts  
<http://www.cmireb.be>  
<http://www.festivals.be>  
<http://www.a-z.be/muziekfestivals.html>

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Ghent Flower Show / Floralties (takes place every five years).

17 - 25 April 2010  
Ghent, Flanders Expo  
<http://www.floralien.be>

#### Ros Beiaard procession (takes place every ten years).

30 May 2010  
Dendermonde  
<http://www.rosbeiaard.be>

#### Virga Jesse festivities (take place every seven years).

13 - 29 August 2010  
Hasselt  
<http://www.virga-jessefeesten.be>

### FAIRS

<http://www.beurskalender.be>  
[http://mineco.fgov.be/enterprises/fairs/home\\_nl.htm](http://mineco.fgov.be/enterprises/fairs/home_nl.htm)

### CONFERENCES

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/belgium.htm>  
<http://www.conference-service.com/conferences/be/index.html>  
<http://www.epsilonevents.com>

### FILM FESTIVALS

<http://www.insidefilm.com/europe.html>



**Belgium Unlimited**

**FPS Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation**



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[www.diplomatie.be](http://www.diplomatie.be)  
[www.dgcd.be](http://www.dgcd.be)  
[www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be)  
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