



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation



# ***Belgium Unlimited***

*News from Belgium*



# Belgium on the international stage

## ► **An assessment of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union** (1 July - 31 December 2010)

On 31 December 2010 Belgium's term as President of the Council of the European Union came to an end and the torch was passed to Hungary. Belgium opted for a pragmatic and targeted approach: the programme of the Presidency aimed to achieve the greatest possible concrete results. An overview of the most salient results of the past semester is provided below.

### ➤ **Implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon**

The Belgian Presidency ensured that the innovations of the Treaty of Lisbon were subject to full implementation and compliance and put to maximum use.

An important issue was the approval of the budget for the Union for 2011 according to the new budgetary rules of the Treaty.

The Belgian Presidency also managed to reach an agreement about the elaboration of the European Citizens' Initiative.

### ➤ **Fighting the economic crisis – working on sustainable economic growth**

In light of the increasing pressure on the euro zone, a reinforcement of the economic governance of the Union was the leading priority. Under the Belgian Presidency the Council took a first, far-reaching step in the direction of a better coordination of economic policy with the introduction of a 'European semester'.

In the wake of the worldwide banking crisis, the approval of the creation of a new European supervisory architecture for banks, insurance companies and the financial sector was a milestone, and progress was also made in the stricter regulation of financial services.

The Presidency gave priority attention to the implementation of the 'Europe 2020' strategy for growth and jobs which was launched by the European Council of June 2010.

The Presidency also worked on a number of concrete issues on behalf of corporations, employment opportunities and consumers. For example, there is finally new momentum providing a perspective on an affordable linguistic arrangement for the EU-patent. Another breakthrough was the directive on late payments.

### ➤ **Towards a more coherent European external policy - EU enlargement and common trade policy**

The Belgian Presidency wanted to contribute to a more coherent external European policy by demonstrating the full application of the Treaty of Lisbon in the area of foreign policy as well.

In this regard, the transition towards the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) was an absolute priority. The service was formally launched on 1 December 2010.

In December the Council expressed the will to further improve European action in the area of disaster response. With regard to the enlargement dossiers for Croatia, Turkey and Iceland, a number of important results were achieved, and the status of candidate Member State was awarded to Montenegro.

The Belgian Presidency was inventive in searching for ways to improve the external representation of the Union. Under the Belgian Presidency, important steps were made in the field of free-trade agreements; the deal signed with South Korea is the EU's most ambitious trade agreement ever. Regarding Pakistan, the Presidency succeeded in concluding an agreement on preferential measures for Pakistan, which was hard-hit by devastating floods.

Progress was made at the multilateral level as well, such as the completion of the negotiations on an Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and an agreement between the EU and Russia on the Russian accession to the World Trade Organization.



## ➤ *Climate, environment and energy*

Under the impulse of the Presidency, the Union managed to establish a unanimous and coherent European position for the biodiversity conference in Nagoya and the climate conference in Cancún, which contributed to their successful results.

In addition, work was also carried out on the propagation of the climate theme in other sectors including greener transport and energy. An important result was an agreement among the Member States on the revision of the Eurovignette-directive.

The Presidency also reached agreement on the revision of the directive on the restriction of the use of hazardous substances in certain electrical and electronic devices. With regard to the regulation on the ban of the use of biocides, an initial agreement was reached within the Council.



## ➤ *A more social Europe*

The European year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion was highlighted through numerous debates and conferences; ultimately, a declaration of the Council was also approved.

The Council also placed clear social and employment opportunity accents in the management of the 'Europe 2020' Strategy and the reinforcement of the economic governance of the Union.

Finally, the Belgian Presidency was able to reach an agreement on the directives on combating counterfeit medicines and regarding transborder health care.

## ➤ *Justice, home affairs, asylum and migration*

The Presidency achieved a legislative breakthrough which forms part of the asylum package, in accordance with the target of realising a Common European Asylum System by 2012.

With regard to the fight against human trafficking a significant framework directive was approved.

With regard to the fight against terrorism, the Council approved the mandates for the renegotiation by the Commission of agreements with the United States, Canada and Australia on providing passenger data. In response to current events, the Council also devoted attention to an integrated approach to air freight security and to a better exchange of information between member states on the announcement of threats levels.

In the area of Justice, the Belgian Presidency was successful in the field of closer collaboration regarding legislation on divorce, with regard to the right to information in the context of criminal procedures and regarding the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography.

The Belgian Presidency was also able to achieve tangible progress in a number of **other matters**, equally groundbreaking in their own area.



## ➤ **The main events of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Several thousands of official meetings – of ministers, functionaries, experts, etc – as well as hundreds of cultural and scientific activities and events in Belgium and all over the world marked the six months of the Belgian Presidency. These included:

### **8th ASEM Summit**

On 4 and 5 October 2010 the eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8) took place in the prestigious setting of the Royal Palace in the heart of Brussels. The purpose of this biennial international meeting between Heads of State and Government of the 27 Member States of the European Union and 16 Asian countries, the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat, was to feed the dialogue about major political, economic, financial and social-cultural issues and to encourage the rapprochement between these international partners. The summit adopted a declaration entitled *Towards a more effective global economic governance*.



A Chair's Statement was also approved, which reflects the important consensus that was reached on essential aspects of sustainable development and a number of sensitive political issues. The dialogue and cooperation between partners was obviously strengthened.

<http://www.asem8.be>

### **Gymnich (Informal Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers)**

During the Belgian Presidency, 16 informal Meetings were held at the ministerial level. As per tradition, Foreign Affairs Ministers from throughout the EU also gathered for their semi-annual informal meeting. This time, the event, referred to as the Gymnich, was presided over for the first time by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Lady Catherine Ashton, which was a premiere. Following an intense day of consultation, the Ministers had the chance to sample Belgian hospitality and artistic talent at the magnificent Gaasbeek Castle.

<http://www.eutrio.be>

### **The European Development Days**

The European Development Days in Brussels on 6 and 7 December 2010 were a unique two-day forum for politicians, NGOs, aid agencies, international organisations and representatives of civil society to exchange ideas on development issues. Five thousand participants from far and wide came to Brussels to debate the most pressing issues in international cooperation. The Crown Prince and Princess took part in the opening ceremony and also paid a visit to the *Development Village*.

<http://www.eudevdays.eu>

### **And also:**

- 41 Councils of Ministers or Heads of State/Government from the EU;
- 1,943 meetings of EU Council working groups;
- Over 800 seminars and cultural events in Belgium have allowed the general public and civil society to become involved in the issues and challenges of the Presidency;
- Over 80 seminars and cultural events organised by the Embassies of Belgium – within the EU and beyond – have contributed to the prestige of the Presidency and of Belgium.

<http://www.eutrio.be>

## ► **European Development Days, Brussels, 6-7 December 2010**

### **Background**

Launched at the initiative of Louis Michel, then European Commissioner, in Brussels in November 2006, the European Development Days (EDD) were created to raise public awareness and strengthen the European consensus on development cooperation. In light of the initiative's success, the EDD have been held each year since then in partnership with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and have gained an increasingly high profile. Today the EDD are the leading European forum for debating issues and questions related to international development cooperation.

### **Dignitaries in attendance**

Numerous dignitaries were in attendance: several presidents and prime ministers, the former French president Jacques Chirac and the Managing Director of the IMF, Dominique Strauss-Khan. The European institutions were also well represented and European ministers were on hand as well. On behalf of Belgium, Prince Philippe and Princess Mathilde, Prime Minister Yves Leterme and Minister for Development Cooperation Charles Michel took part in the event along with many other Belgian figures.

### **The events organised by the Belgian Presidency**

Beyond being a partner in organising the EDD, Belgium held four large-scale events on topics of particular importance and concern:

- The high-level panel entitled '**The Post-Lisbon Landscape: Development at a Crossroads**' focused on the post-Lisbon reforms in the EU, their added value and their impact for the countries undergoing development.
- The second political panel was devoted to the challenges faced by **Least Developed Countries (LDC)** in the run-up to the 4th United Nations conference on LDC to be held in Istanbul in May 2011.

Two seminars of a more technical nature were also organised: the first concerned the issue of child labour in the cacao sector, fostering the exchange of good practices on this topic whilst the second concerned the topics of domestic accountability and the effectiveness of aid.

### **The OFF programme**

The EDD also appealed to Belgian and European citizens by offering them the OFF programme, featuring sociocultural activities and events centred around awareness raising on the Millennium Development Goals. A fashion show on the theme of the MDG, a show for children, special exhibitions, debates and concerts were organised in Brussels between 27 November and 12 December.

<http://www.eudevdays.eu>



# The economy & Business

## ► Exporting the Belgian frites culture to China

Kevin Vanlancker, Managing Director of the restaurant *Chez Léon* in Brussels, announced that he will soon be opening a hundred *Fritkots* (chip shops) in China. The first *Fritkot* will be opened in Shanghai in mid-January.



Kevin Vanlancker came up with the idea of bringing Belgian frites (fries) to China during the recent World Expo in Shanghai, where the Chinese visitors apparently couldn't get enough of the Belgian frites.

A version of frites has been known for some time already in the People's Republic but according to Kevin Vanlancker these hardly compare with real Belgian frites served in a paper cone and topped with mayonnaise.

<http://fr.chezleon.be/index.asp?ID=855>

## ► Audi invests €270 million in manufacturing plant in Belgium

Recently the 7-millionth car left the former Volkswagen plant – now a successful Audi plant – in Vorst, near Brussels. At the event's celebration, German car maker Audi announced its investment of an additional €270 million in the manufacturing plant.

This investment will go towards expanding the productive capacity for the A1 model, which is exclusively produced in our country. More specifically, it will be directed to build and launch the new five-door model which is to be expected to hit the market in the next few years. Part of the money will also be used to provide the Audi employees with improved ergonomic working conditions.

The goal of Audi Brussels is to produce 50,000 A1 models in 2010. In 2011 the aim is 120,000.

Audi has invested €300 million until now in the plant in Vorst for its conversion from Volkswagen to Audi cars. Currently, the plant provides work for approximately 2,200 staff.

<http://www.audi.com/com/brand/en/company.html>



## ► According to a European report, the Belgian labour market has successfully weathered the crisis

On 25 November 2010, László Andor, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, presented the half-yearly report on employment in Europe (*Employment in Europe 2010*). This report is drawn up by the European Commission in collaboration with Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

According to the European Commissioner, the Belgian labour market has successfully weathered the crisis. A contributing factor has been its flexibility. Together with Germany and Austria, Belgium is one of the countries that are best positioned to launch the phase of economic recovery.

László Andor lauded the capacity of these three countries to anticipate, as well as their consultation with the social partners.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=593>



## ► **Belgium among top 10 pharmaceutical countries worldwide**

According to the scientific journal *Nature Reviews (Drug Discovery)* Belgium, with its 200 biotech and pharmaceutical companies is a (bio) pharmaceutical concentration zone. Belgium is also one of the 10 most innovative (bio) pharmaceutical valleys in the entire world. A study on the origins of the patents on drugs that have been licensed on the American market in the past decade indicates a remarkable contribution from the researchers from Belgian laboratories: with 26 patents, our country ranks 8th worldwide.

The good collaboration and synergy present in our country between the medical and academic worlds and the (bio) pharmaceutical research companies generates a favourable climate for Research & Development of therapeutic innovations. In addition to academic and other knowledge institutions, the pharmaceutical sector in this country also performs basic research on drugs for blood disease, analgesics, neurological conditions, cardiovascular disease, gastro-intestinal disease, infections, gynaecological needs, cancer, respiratory problems, allergies, etc. Our country has a long-standing reputation for having developed 5 of the 100 essential medicines in Belgian laboratories, specifically those used to treat mental illness, colon cancer, fungal and worm infections.



The innovative drug companies invest heavily in R&D-staff in Belgium: nearly 5,000 employees are dedicated full-time to R&D, of which 3,400 are scientific researchers, representing 19 % of the researchers in the private sector. Also the amount that is spent on R&D in the sector (€1.8 billion each year) and investment in infrastructure in this country reinforce the strong establishment of the sector in Belgium. In 2009 the innovative (bio) pharmaceutical sector invested €610 million in infrastructure. In 2010 this is expected to rise to €670 million. In the course of the year, a number of pharmaceutical companies, such as *Pfizer*, *Janssen Pharmaceutica*, *GSK*, *Baxter* and *UCB*, have invested in research and production facilities here.

<http://www.nature.com/nrd/journal/v9/n11/full/nrd3298.html>  
<http://www.pharma.be>

*Nature Reviews (Drug Discovery)*, volume 9, November 2010, Yali Friedman, 'Location of pharmaceutical innovation: 2000-2009'.

## ► **Kraft assigns production of new Prince biscuits to Herentals plant**

At the *LU* biscuits factory in the town of Herentals (Antwerp province), daughter of *Kraft Foods* concern, a new production line was opened for the production of *Prince* biscuits. The factory in Herentals is the largest biscuits plant in Europe. It employs 1,250 staff. Apart from *Prince* biscuits, the plant also produces other brands, such as *Tuc*, *Cent wafers* and *Pim's* for example, a total of 80,000 tonnes of biscuits every year.

The new production line is a €6 million investment. It will raise the production capacity of *Prince* biscuits by 40% to 52,000 tonnes per year or over 2,288 biscuits per minute.

<http://www.kraftfoodscompany.com>  
<http://www.kraftfoods.be>

## ► Brussels is Europe's most commercially attractive city

At *Mapic*, the European trade fair for commercial real estate in Cannes (France), Brussels was voted 'most commercial attractive city in Europe'.

Indeed, commercial real estate gets rented out quickly in the Belgian capital and it is the only city where vacancy levels have dropped.



© OPT - J.P Remy

Moreover, Brussels recently succeeded in bringing in two international store chains and is now searching for a fitting location for another nine store chains. Plans to build a covering dome over Brussels' most famous shopping street, the rue Neuve/Nieuwstraat, impressed the jury at *Mapic*.

Finally, thanks to the *Afterwork Shopping* created early 2010, Brussels is among the international cities with shopping opportunities in the evening.

The West Flemish city of Kortrijk came second in the *Mapic* ranking. The Polish city of Lodz was third.

<http://www.brusselnieuws.be/artikel/brussel-commercieel-aantrekkelijkste-stad-van-europa>  
<http://www.brucity.be>  
<http://www.investinbrussels.com/content/News/>

## ► The Walt Disney Company to open Disney Store in Antwerp in 2011

The American media and entertainment concern *The Walt Disney Company* has announced that it will open a Disney Store in Antwerp 2011, a first in Belgium. *Disney Stores* sell exclusive articles such as toys, clothes, films and other gadgets. There are around 350 Disney Stores worldwide.

<http://corporate.disney.go.com/>



## ► Solutia invests in Ghent facility

*Solutia* is a market-leading performance materials and specialty chemicals company. With its headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, the company operates globally with approximately 3,400 employees in more than 50 worldwide locations. *Solutia* produces Saflex® brand polyvinyl butyral (PVB) interlayer which is used in the production of laminated glass for automotive and architectural applications. Saflex interlayer brings safety, security and UV protection to laminated glass as well as the potential for noise and heat reduction. Saflex interlayer is also used as an encapsulant for enhancing the reliability and durability of photovoltaic modules.

*Solutia's* Ghent plant is the largest PVB interlayer manufacturing facility in the world. The company recently announced that it will upgrade the facility to produce Saflex Q series advanced acoustic interlayer for the automotive market, which features multi-layer technology. Windscreens made with Saflex Q series can reduce vehicle interior noise levels by up to 3 decibels.



The upgrade is designed to serve growing global demand for automotive acoustic glazing and will allow for more than 25 million vehicles each year to be fitted with acoustic windscreens. Saflex Q series advanced acoustic interlayer also allows automotive manufacturers to reduce the thickness of the windscreen glass for vehicle weight reduction without compromising passenger safety or cabin comfort.

The new acoustic interlayer production capabilities will be deployed within the current boundaries of the Ghent plant, leveraging existing infrastructure and the plant's 40-plus years of experience in manufacturing Saflex products. This new investment also follows the company's recent expansion in Ghent to produce 3.2-meter width advanced acoustic interlayer product for the growing European architectural market.

<http://www.solutia.com/en/AboutSolutia.aspx>  
<http://investor.solutia.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=88803&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1505975&highlight>

## ► A record year for Liege Airport

2010 will be a record year for Liege Airport. The airport specialises in freight and over 630,000 tonnes of goods landed on its runways in 2010. This is an increase of more than 30% over 2009. The previous record – 518,000 tonnes in 2008 – will be exceeded by far.

The outlook is also very encouraging. TNT increased the number of long-range flights between Liege and Asia in 2010. The company will add three new high-capacity Boeing 777-300ERs next year.

The lengthening of the airport's main runway (from 3,300 to 3,700 metres) will create opportunities for flights longer than eight hours and open new markets.

<http://www.liegeairport.com>

Get the latest news online: visit

<http://www.belgium-unlimited.be>



## ► **Belgian playing card manufacturer Cartamundi now also market leader in India**

The Belgian *Cartamundi* group from Turnhout (Province of Antwerp), world leader in the production and sale of playing cards and game cards, has factories in Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland, the United States, Brazil and Mexico and sales offices in The Netherlands, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Chile and Singapore. *Cartamundi* manufactures playing cards and cards for games such as Uno®, Monopoly®, etc.

In addition *Cartamundi* has its own retail collection with licensed cards (including Disney®, James Bond®, Harry Potter®, Fifa®, ...), and the company also provides promotional card collections (e.g. the Pixar and WWF collector cards for the *Delhaize* chain stores), casino cards, collectors' cards (e.g. Yu-Gi-Oh!®) and so on. Thanks to its many years of experience and craftsmanship innovative games and card games continue to be developed to extend the *Cartamundi* range.



*Cartamundi* is now also expanding its business in Asia. Recently the Belgian company entered into a strategic alliance with *Parksons Games & Sports*, market leader in playing cards and game cards in India, by acquiring a 50% interest in that company's share capital. With this operation, *Cartamundi* strengthens its international market position and enters new Asian markets.

The new company created by this joint venture will be given the new name *Parksons Cartamundi Pvt. Ltd.* The construction of a new factory is planned and will be carried out in the short term.

<http://www.cartamundi.com>

## ► **Brazilian group invests in Port of Ghent**

Brazilian company *Companhia Brasileira de Logística - CBL* invests €70 million in a bulk storage terminal for biodiesel, petrol, ethanol, vegetable oils and pharmaceuticals in the Ghent port. With the deal, Ghent boosts itself as the leading bio-energy hub in Europe.



© Havenbedrijf Gent - Tom D'haenens

The investment concerns a concession of over 8 hectares at the 'Kluizen' dock on which the new terminal will be built. Along a quay length of 350 meters, 35 storage tanks of between 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be installed, representing a total storage capacity of ca. 294,000 m<sup>3</sup>. The new terminal will generate an annual extra transshipment of 875,000 tonnes for the port and create 30 to 35 new jobs. The investment also includes a factory for waste water processing, offices, a lab and a fire protection system by means of water tanks, amongst other things.

With CBL, Ghent welcomes a specialist in biofuel from sugar cane, and will further consolidate its position as Europe's leading biofuel port. Currently, Ghent handles 1.3 million tonnes of biofuel per year. The aim is to raise the transshipment in that sector to 5 million tonnes by 2020. Ghent is one of the few ports in Europe with empty quay space available.

<http://www.portofghent.be>  
<http://www.interalli.com.br/grupo/cbl.php>



## ► Purchasing power in Belgium above European average

Figures from Eurostat, the European Union's statistical office, indicate that purchasing power in Belgium is higher than the European average.

While the gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant, expressed in purchasing power standard (PPS), in the European Union was on average 100 in 2009, Belgium did much better with 116. In the country ranking, this puts us in joint seventh position with Germany. The average for the euro area was 109.

The purchasing power standard is an artificial currency that enables taking price differences between countries into account, so the same volume of goods and services can be bought in all countries with PPS. Meaningful comparisons between the economic indicators of countries are possible because of PPS.



Compared to the European average, Belgium did one percentage point better in 2009 than the previous year, which can't be said of most other countries in the top ranking.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/10/195&format=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=fr>

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=STAT/10/195&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=fr>

## ► IMF confirms Belgium's positive economic figures

The International Monetary Fund carries out a so-called Article IV Consultation for our country every year. In the report which was presented on 13 December, the IMF concludes that the Belgian economy is recovering from the financial-economic crisis. Our country did better economically in 2010 than anticipated. Growth will be 2%, which is higher than average in the euro zone. This growth is due to a major increase of export and stock-building. The external balance of trade has also improved. The IMF also stated that employment has started to increase much faster than unemployment.



The IMF confirmed that Belgium has reduced its government's deficit from 6% of GDP in 2009 to 4.8%, and noted that public debt increased much less than expected. For 2011, in the case of unchanged policy, the deficit will drop to 4.7% with an economic growth of 1.7%.

The IMF also noted that we have good economic fundamentals, pointing out the high ratio of savings and the strong external position. Belgium's previous track record in cutting back public debt was also taken into account. The IMF did indicate that it foresees a certain risk of market downturn: the financial markets are restless and despite the right fundamentals, high public debt and the relatively large financial sector involve risks.

The IMF recommends all government levels to limit the overall deficit to 4% of GDP in 2011. Structural reform is also required to increase the level of employment and to reinforce economic growth.

<http://www.yvesleterme.be/sites/leterme/files/Article%201V%20Concluding%20Statement.pdf>  
<http://www.premier.be/nieuws/imf-concluding-statement-mission>

# Culture

## ► 'Illuminations' or the adventure of the book in Western culture

Exhibition, Morlanwelz, Musée Royal de Mariemont - Galerie de la Réserve Précieuse. 15 January - 29 May 2011

The history of books in Western culture, which is at the heart of this exhibition, is an extraordinary adventure through which we discover how the imagination of modern man is formalised and how we imagine today's world.

From the first writings to virtual pages, books are both an object of knowledge and know-how: a *high tech* instrument which in every stage of its development has been touched by the main technical innovations, but was also influenced by artistic, political or cultural revolutions.

Through the history of books, visitors to the exhibition are invited to reflect on today's revolution, which might influence the future of paper books!

<http://www.musee-mariemont.be>



© Musée Royal de Mariemont – M. Lechien

## ► The Etruscans in Europe

Exhibition, Brussels, Royal Museum for Art and History (Cinquantenaire Museum)  
9 October 2010 - 24 April 2011



Kouros (young man)  
South of Italy (?)  
Second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century  
– beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C J.-C.  
Bronze . Inv. A 1321  
© MRAH - KMG

*The Etruscans in Europe* is mainly a didactic exhibition focusing on a young audience, thanks to the use of the language of youth and the contemporary museography, which is bound to appeal to them. At the end of the visit they will discover authentic works of art of the museums accommodating this travelling exhibition.

The Etruscans began to conquer Middle Italy in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. Originating from this region or from far-away places, their culture evolved during a period of five centuries, from villages with huts to a powerful confederation of twelve city-states that controlled the whole of Middle Italy and the coasts of the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Sea. The visitor will travel through time and enter the homes of the Etruscans, their temples and their necropoles, thanks to a multimedia route with reconstructions, animations and atmospheric images evoked by lighting, music and sound.

The three-dimensional presentation of objects, people and sites provides a window on ancient times that lets you discover the extraordinary world of the Etruscans. After Brussels, the exhibition will be travelling across Europe. At each stop, a selection of original museum pieces will be exhibited. In the Cinquantenaire Museum, you can view top pieces of the Etruscan collection at the end of the route.

<http://www.kmkg-mrah.be>

Get the latest news online: visit <http://www.belgium-unlimited.be>

## ► Tintin, Hergé and trains

Exhibition, Musée Hergé, Louvain-la-Neuve  
13 October 2010 - 28 February 2011

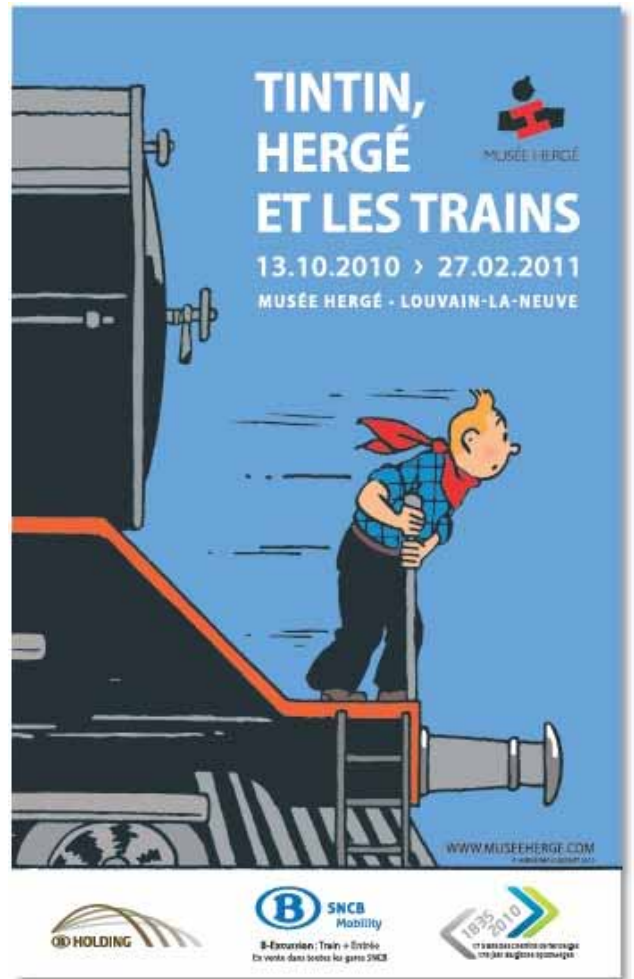
To mark the 175th anniversary of the National Railway Company of Belgium, known as the *Nationale Maatschappij der Belgische Spoorwegen* (NMBS) in Dutch or *Société Nationale des Chemins de fer Belges* (SNCB) in French, an exhibition in the Musée Hergé in Louvain-la-Neuve dedicated to the trains in Hergé's work, Tintin's spiritual father, is being held.

The exhibition was organised together with Musée Hergé and the SNCB Holding, which is responsible for the preservation and promotion of the Belgian railways' historic heritage.

In the first picture of the very first Tintin album, *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*, Tintin and his loyal companion Snowy take the train to Berlin. At the end of their Russian adventure the duo is given a warm welcome in Brussels' *Gare du Nord*. Since then trains have been a regular fixture in Tintin albums. There is therefore clearly a connection between Hergé and the railways. In fact, did you know that the spiritual father of Tintin illustrated brochures of the SNCB in the 1930s?

High time in other words to put this special relationship between Hergé and Belgian trains in the spotlight. In an interesting exhibition visitors are able to marvel at train replicas, archives and objects from the collection of the Belgian Railways as well as drawings of Hergé, which bear witness to the impressive way in which Hergé documented himself to create his albums.

<http://www.museeherge.com>



© Hergé – Moulinsart 2010



© Hergé



© Hergé

## ► Tintin now also translated into Hindi

Tintin was already available in India in English and in Bengali. From now on, the adventures of Tintin can also be read in Hindi, the most widely spoken language in India. Worldwide, Hindi is spoken by over 500 million people.

The Hindi version is published by *Om Books International India* in New Delhi; the translator is Puneet Gupta. So far, eight of the comic books have been translated. The rest are planned for release in the course of the coming year. Captain Haddock's colourful sailor's curses proved particularly challenging to translate as there is no Hindi equivalent for some of the maritime terms.

The Tintin comic books in Hindi were officially presented to the public at the residence of the Belgian Ambassador to India, on 29 November. To celebrate the books' launch, a reception was held at the Ambassador's residence.

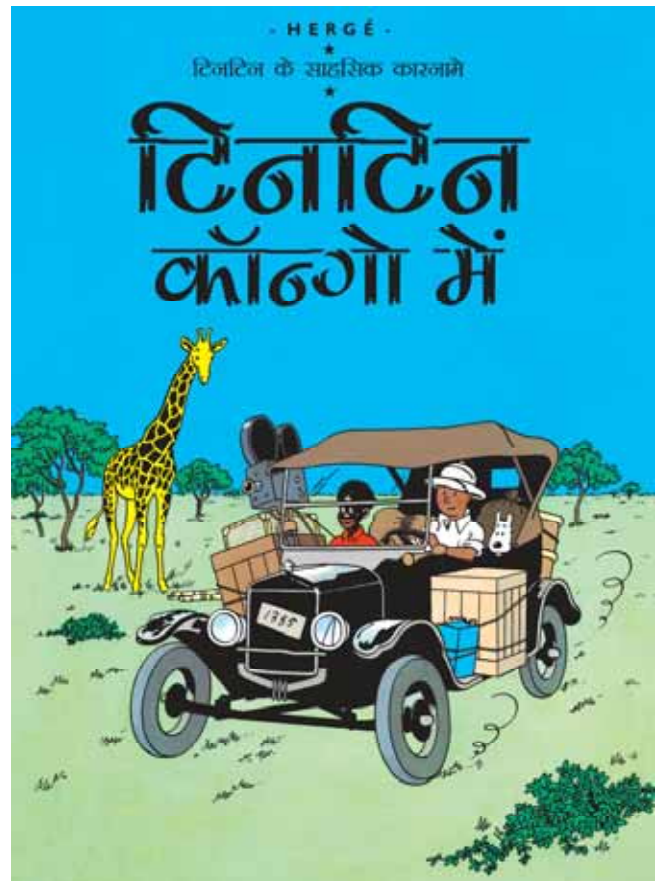
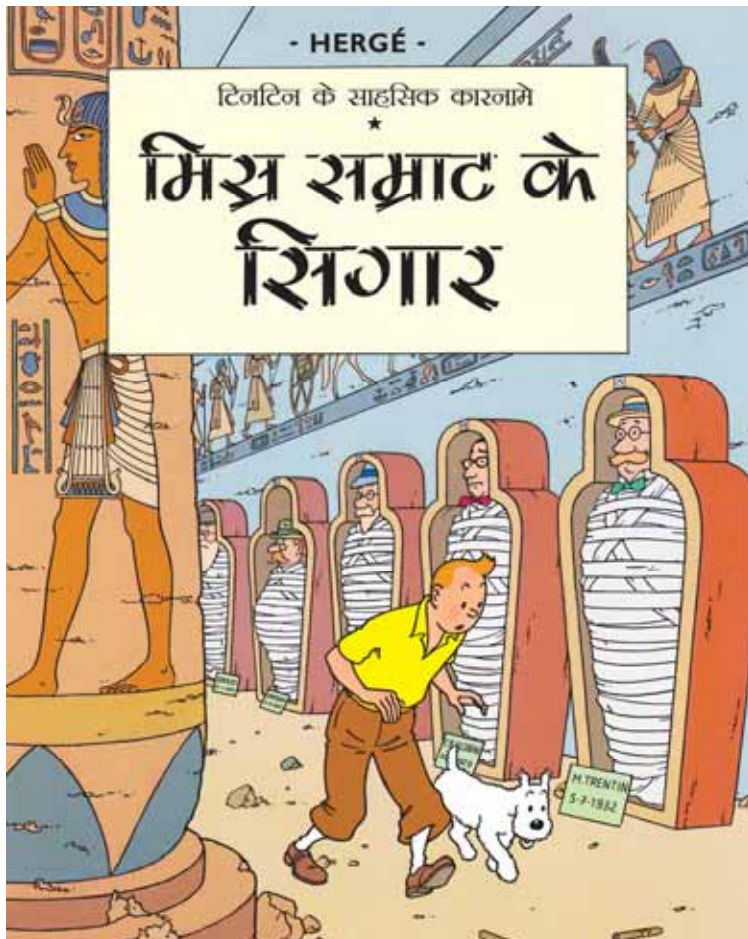
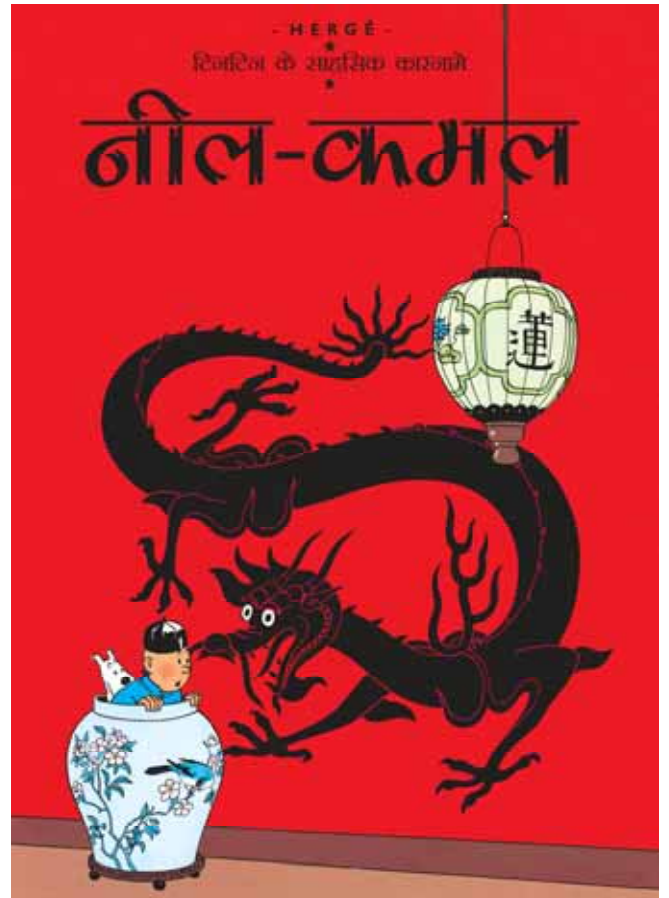
Artist Hergé has sent Tintin and Snowy to India three times: in the books *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, *The Blue Lotus* and *Tintin in Tibet*.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/116923/at-80-tintin-speaks-hindi.html>

<http://www.france24.com/en/20101130-tintin-hindi-travels-india>

<http://www.rtb.be/culture/litterature/tintin-en-hindi-debarque-en-inde/>

<http://www.ombooks.com>



## ► *Between Heaven and Hell. Dying in the Middle Ages*

Exhibition, Brussels, Royal Museum for Art and History  
(Cinquantenaire Museum)

3 December 2010 - 24 April 2011

The Cinquantenaire Museum presents a major exhibition about dying in the Middle Ages. While the subject is controversial, it affects us all and was at the time accompanied by many fascinating aspects. How our forefathers of the 6th to the 16th century dealt with death is clarified on the basis of an exquisite selection of 200 objects and works of art. The approach is multidisciplinary and reflects on the various angles such as art history, archaeology, sociology, the study of religion and forensic research.

The theme is divided into four aspects:

- 1) Causes of death** - In the Middle Ages, life expectancy was much lower than now. Diseases, epidemics, poor hygiene and wars were the culprits, making death an almost everyday experience. Disease and death was much more part of life than they are today.
- 2) Care of the dying and death rituals** - The many rituals by the deathbed, at funerals and during mourning and commemorations bonded the individual and the community. The remains were given a specific treatment, depending on social status.
- 3) The topography of death** - Each grave holds a man, woman, child or community. Cemeteries and places of worship were given a major, albeit changeable place in the community. Mausoleums and grave monuments contrasted with normal graves and mass graves.
- 4) From death to resurrection** - After death came the Last Judgement. Heaven, Hell or Purgatory. The dance of death, the wheel of fortune and a good death described the relationship towards eternal life in Christian thinking.

The exhibition brings a thousand years of dying, burying, mourning and commemorating into the limelight. The aim of man to preserve his social and spiritual status in spite of death is the thread of the concept. The exhibition will display paintings, sculptures and memorial stones, reliquaries, manuscripts and *memento mori*, but also weapons and torture instruments, skeletons and grave goods. About half originates from the abundant collections of the Cinquantenaire Museum itself, the other half is from renowned museums, libraries, treasuries, churches and private collections from Belgium and abroad.

<http://www.kmkg-mrah.be>



*Danse macabre*  
from *Liber Chronicarum opus de temporibus mundi* by  
Hartmann and Schedel  
Michel Wolgemut, Neurenberg, 1493  
© F. Boucquillon Fund – photo Hugo Maertens



*Contemplating skeleton*  
after Vesalius  
ivory (framed) – end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century  
Private collection

## ► Mons, Cultural Capital of Europe 2015

The European Institutions have designated the Belgian city of Mons, capital of the province of Hainaut, as the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2015. Mons, which will share this title with the Czech city of Plzen, will be the successor of other Belgian cities that had the honour of being the cultural capital of Europe in the past: Antwerp (1993), Brussels (2000) and Bruges (2002).



The candidature needed to meet several criteria that were checked by an independent committee consisting of 13 experts. The candidate cities were assigned to develop a cultural programme which focuses on a European dimension and stimulates citizen participation.

**I ♥ M<sup>2015</sup> MONS**

The chosen subjects and the cooperation between the participating artists should reflect the European dimension, but the presupposed programme must also have an impact on the city's long-term cultural and social development.

<http://www.mons2015.eu>

## ► Jules Schmalzigaug, a Belgian futurist

**Exhibition, Brussels, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium.  
29 October 2010 - 6 February 2011**

Jules Schmalzigaug (born in Antwerp in 1882, deceased in The Hague in 1917) was the only Belgian painter involved in the futurist movement before the beginning of the First World War. Although he is now considered to be one of the most original and talented Belgian artists of his time, he remained unrecognised for many years. The Royal Museums of Fine Arts felt a duty to dedicate an exhibition and catalogue to the artist and pay homage by presenting a selection of his works. The exhibition provides a glimpse both of his work and of his life through very unique photographs, notes and correspondence.

Schmalzigaug discovered futurism in Paris in February 1912 at a conference given by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti for the exhibition *Les Peintres futuristes italiens* held at the *Bernheim-Jeune* gallery. The exhibition was a revelation for Schmalzigaug. He left for Venice to be at the heart of the movement. From his Venetian workshop, he made contact with the local avant-garde and learned the language of futurism.

He met several major members of the futurist movement including Giacomo Balla and Umberto Boccioni. An invitation to participate in the *Esposizione libera futurista internazionale* in Rome in the spring of 1914 signalled the positive reception given to his work by his new Italian friends.

Discover the scope of his talent through a selection of his paintings, works on paper and archival documents.



© Baron Francis Delbeke, s.d. (1916-1917) RMFA of Belgium, Inv 7558

### Catalogue

*Jules Schmalzigaug a Belgian futurist*

'Cahier' scientific publication with contributions from Willard Bohn,

Giovanni Lista and Valerie Verhack (176 p. - 133 ill.)

<http://www.expo-schmalzigaug.be>

<http://fine-arts-museum.be>

► **The Belgian movie ‘Tabu’ received best scenario award at international short film festival in Warsaw**

On 27 November, the film *Tabu* made by Vincent Coen and Jean-Julien Collette won the best scenario award at the *Grand Off Festival* in Warsaw, an international short film festival. This year 895 films from 70 countries had been entered in the competition. During the actual festival, which lasted four days, a selection of 52 films from 32 countries were screened. Awards were given in 9 categories, including best scenario, best director, best actor, best actress, etc.



*Tabu* is a short film set in Ghent. It could be described as an oedipean romantic comedy. The city of Ghent as the setting of the film is depicted alternatively as a romantic and a Breughelian city. Earlier, this film had already been selected for several important international film festivals, such as the *Corona Cork Film Festival* (Ireland) and the *St. Louis International Film Festival* (United States), and it had also won four international awards. Nevertheless, the directors considered the Polish prize to be the crowning glory of their work.

*Tabu* is the fruit of the close cooperation between a French-speaking (Jean-Julien Collette) and a Flemish film maker (Vincent Coen). The attractive Flemish actress Sandrine André plays an important part in *Tabu*. The film (which has English dialogue, with a few odd sentences in Dutch) was subsequently shown in all major towns and cities in Poland.

<http://www.grandoff.eu>  
<http://www.cinergie.be/critique.php?action=display&id=1183>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Frj\\_xYhWgQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Frj_xYhWgQ)  
<http://vimeo.com/8579453>

► **Belgian films in the spotlight at the Palm Springs Film Festival in the US**

The Palm Springs International Film Festival in California will be highlighting five Flemish films this year. The festival considers Flanders a ‘cinematic hotspot’.

This year, five Flemish films will be screened at the film festival’s annual *World Cinema Now* programme at what will be named *Flanders Five*. The visitors in Palm Springs will be shown the following Flemish films: *Smoorverliefd* by Hilde Van Mieghem, *Turquaze* by Kadir Balci, *Pulsar* by Alex Stockman, *Dossier K.* by Jan Verheyen and *Adem* by Hans Van Nuffel.



True to tradition, the French Community of Belgium is also well represented in Palm Springs. This year, the film *Illégal* by Olivier Masset-Depasse -the Belgian entry for the Oscars for best foreign language film- is also included in the festival’s programme.

The Palm Springs Film Festival, which takes place from 6 to 17 January 2011, has 130,000 annual visitors. It is one of the most important film festivals in the US and strategically takes place a few days before the selection of nominations for the world famous Academy Awards ends.

<http://www.psfilmfest.org/index.aspx>  
<http://www.psfilmfest.org/index.aspx>



## ► UZ Gent (Ghent University hospital) pulmonary specialist wins European prize for research on chronic obstructive lung disease

Prof. Dr. Guy Brusselle, pulmonary specialist at the *Universitair Ziekenhuis Gent* (UZ Gent, Ghent University hospital) and head of the Laboratory for Translational Research in Obstructive Pulmonary disease at the University of Ghent, received a European prize from the European Respiratory Society (ERS) on 2 November 2010 including a grant for €50,000 for his research on the origins and development of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), which is generally a consequence of long-term smoking. Prof. Dr. Brusselle received the ERS COPD Research Award for his project *Interrelationship of systemic inflammation, pulmonary inflammation, lymphoid neogenesis and airway remodelling in the pathogenesis of COPD*.



<http://www.ersnet.org/>  
<http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/news/>  
<http://www.uzgent.be>

## ► Université catholique de Louvain is studying infectious diseases caused by a yeast (fungus) using nanotechnologies

Professor Yves Dufrêne and his team at the *Université catholique de Louvain* (Catholic University of Louvain / UCL) – *Institute of Condensed Matter and Nanosciences & Institute of Life Sciences* have taken an interest in the study of a yeast (or fungus) called the *Candida albicans*, responsible for infectious diseases, primarily among immunosuppressed people (e.g., patients with AIDS). They have tried to understand how this yeast succeeds in firmly attaching onto the cells of the human body, the first key step leading to the infectious process.

Thanks to an atomic force microscope, they scanned the surface of the yeast cell, with the help of a very fine point provided with an antibody, in order to visualise, at unusual scales, its shape and above all the way in which this yeast (fungus) anchors itself to cells in the human body. Numerous nano-manipulations demonstrated that the adhering proteins of the *Candida albicans* yeast organise themselves into nanometric islets to promote stronger adhesion and thus reinforce the infection.



The usefulness of such a research project in nanobiotechnology is to perfect, in the years to come, therapeutic molecules capable of blocking this adhesion process of the *Candida albicans* yeast.

By weakening this attachment process of the yeast, the researchers should succeed in slowing down or even blocking the infectious disease.

This research was performed in collaboration with the biologists of Brooklyn College in New York and it has been published in the prestigious scientific journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/11/02/1013893107>  
<http://www.uclouvain.be/351687.html>

## ► The Université catholique de Louvain perfects all terrain tomato plants

Until now, studies on stress in plants have concerned either the whole plant or the aerial part, that is, the leaves, the stalks and the fruit. The *Université catholique de Louvain* (UCL, Catholic University of Louvain) looked into their invisible part, the roots, a first!



Michel Edmond Ghanem (*Earth and Life Institute* at UCL), in collaboration with an international working group, has just finalised, via a genetic intervention on their roots, tomato plants that are resistant to intense stress (dryness, salinity of the soil). He targeted a natural hormone (cytokinine) capable of slowing down the negative effects of stress on the plant. Then he observed that there was more of this hormone in wild species than in the cultivated plant. Therefore he grafted the roots of this wild plant on the above-ground part (stalk) of its cultivated cousin. Finally, he noticed that when the roots were genetically modified in such a way that they produced more cytokinine hormones, the plant increased its resistance to stress and its yield by 30%.

The advantage of this discovery? To demonstrate that totally natural tomatoes (not transformed) - and therefore suitable for consumption - can be obtained by attacking only the genetic modification of the plant's roots. The objective is to provide food production in soils that could not be cultivated before, especially in the countries of the South where water is rare and in regions whose soils have not been exploitable, or only slightly so, until now. In addition, the cytokinine capitalises favourably on the maturity and the quantity of fruits produced. It allows a slower maturation of the picked fruit, which gives distributors more time to sell their products, under good conditions. Finally, this research constitutes an alternative to intensive agriculture and to excessive consumption of fertilizer. It fits into a sustainable development approach: this concerns developing plant materials that are better adapted to the ups and down of the environment, without capitalising on limited natural resources (water) and without using resources that are costly and aggressive for the earth (fertilizer).

<http://www.uclouvain.be>

## ► Destination Mars

Exhibition, Brussels, Museum for Natural Sciences  
30 September 2010 - 20 March 2011



Planet Mars has been fascinating man for centuries. The first telescopic observations showed colour changes on the planet's surface, which was reminiscent of vegetation that changed with the seasons.

Moreover, 'canal'-like markings were observed. Would this prove the existence of intelligent life? In the meantime, we have discovered far more about this mysterious planet. Being two times smaller than the Earth and ten times less heavy, it is farther removed from the sun than its blue companion. Did you know that the surface temperature on Mars fluctuates between  $-140^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the polar winter and  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the summer and that the difference between day and night temperatures is on average  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$ ? Mars has been a subject of intense research in recent years.

Scientists discovered that there has been water on the surface in the past, which could enable the development of living organisms. Would those organisms still be living in the subsoil on Mars?

In the exhibition *Destination Mars* one can unravel all mysteries of the red planet. To get to know this planet, take a walk along the audiovisual spectacles and multimedia, interactive constructions and experiments and discover three themes:

**Imagination:** Are we being observed by small 'green men' every day? Was there life on Mars or is this something science fiction lovers dream about?

**Planet:** Red dust, windy, storms ... You're not really welcome here. Observe strange landscapes of rare beauty. Take your first steps on Mars.

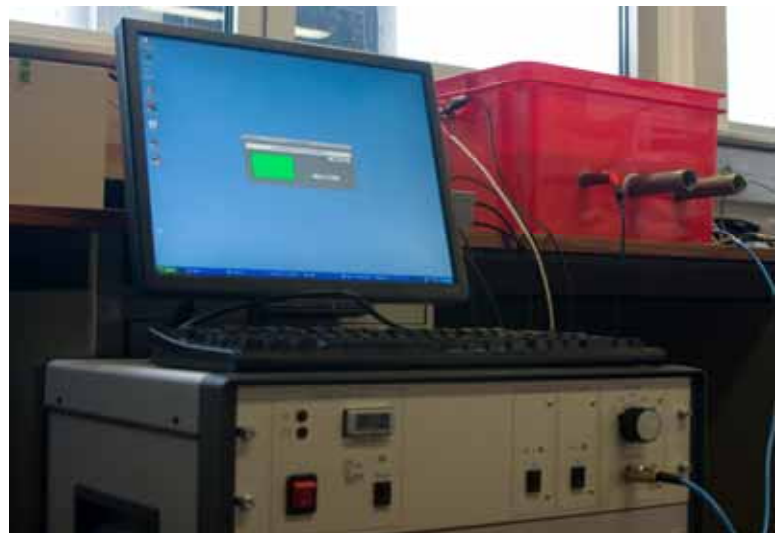
**Exploration:** Follow the robots and the 'waves of exploration' that cleave and investigate the planet, in the hope of finding answers to the big questions we ask ourselves about this beautiful planet.

## ► New corrosion sensor entails breakthrough for aviation and the medical world

Metal that is exposed to water and air undergoes a corrosion process after some time, which also affects its strength. Well-known examples are the rusting of iron or copper turning green. There are many risks when the material fails for pipelines that transport oil over the seabed, medical implants such as artificial hips and pacemakers, minuscule copper connections on electronic chips, etc.

Engineers Tom Breugelmans and Yves Van Ingelgem of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel* (Free University of Brussels) have discovered a way to measure the corrosion of metal in a fast, simple and reliable way.

The Belgian scientists used a technique where metal is exposed to an electrochemical signal in a conducting fluid, after which the response of the metal is measured. From this, it can be gathered whether there is a corrosion reaction and how active and fast it is.



Thanks to the new corrosion sensor, where a buried pipeline is weakening can be measured even before the oil flows out or certain parts in the aviation industry can be used for longer because possible shortcomings can be predicted on time. In the medical world, action can be taken before a pacemaker fails or doctors will be able to find out when an artificial hip is starting to corrode even before the patient starts to feel any pain. It is also useful to know in advance when earthquake predicting sensors will break and -in the world of electronics- timely action could be taken before unwanted connections are caused on the PCBs (printed circuit boards) of devices such as touch screens due to dampness.

In brief, not only does this discovery have major consequences for the safety of aviation, the medical world and the environment, it also has a variety of uses in electronics. A new spin-off will soon be set up to commercialise this application.

# Miscellaneous

## ► *Sinterklaas* gives presents to all good children

*Sinterklaas* (Saint-Nicolas) is the protagonist of the children's party of the same name that is celebrated in Belgium (and the Netherlands) every year. Parties with many similarities, but also clear differences, are celebrated in other countries too.

The origins of *Sinterklaas* go back to the 19th century. According to tradition, *Sinterklaas* and his helper, *Zwarte Piet* (Black Pete), live in Spain. Nowadays, *Sinterklaas* is accompanied by several *zwarte pieten*. They often act as acrobats and jokers and are up to all kinds of pranks. Every year they travel to Belgium by steamboat.

*Sinterklaas'* clothing (mitre, robe, staff ...) is clearly bishop's clothing, but also contains a number of striking differences which clearly distinguishes *Sinterklaas* from a *real* bishop.



Children are told that if they have been good the past year, *Sinterklaas* will give them presents. And if they've been naughty, *Zwarte Piet* will put them in the sack.

On 5 December, before they go to bed, children are expected to put their shoe ready by the fireplace. The children put a treat in their shoe for *Sinterklaas'* horse - a carrot or a sugar cube – as well as a drawing for *Sinterklaas*.

During the night *Sinterklaas* and his horse ride on the roofs with *Zwarte Piet*, and come in through the chimney with presents for all the children living in the house. Apart from toys, children are also usually given sweets such as *speculaas* (cinnamon biscuits), marzipan, gingerbread and chocolate.

Traditionally, children also sing songs for *Sinterklaas* and *Zwarte Piet*. These *Sinterklaas* songs are passed down the generations from parent to child. The repertoire is very extensive.

## ► The Belgian artist Stromae wins a European Border Breakers Award

Stromae (the pseudonym of Paul van Haver), a Brussels hip-hop artist, was the winner of a European Border Breakers Award which reward new European artists and bands whose first international album is a success outside of their own country.

Stromae has been active in the music world for some time already. However, this year, he had an international breakthrough with *Alors on danse*. The hit led sales in nine European countries.

The European Border Breakers Awards are financed by the European Union and *Eurosonic-Noorderslag*, a music festival for new European talent, held annually in Groningen, in The Netherlands. It is a partnership between the European music industry and the European Broadcasting Union.



<http://www.stromae.org/>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pKrVB5f2Wo>  
<http://www.europeanborderbreakersawards.eu>

## ► Ghent in Lonely Planet's world-wide top ten

The *Lonely Planet* has included Ghent in the top 10 cities worth visiting in 2011 (*Lonely Planet's* top 10 cities for 2011). According to *The Lonely Planet*, Ghent is Europe's best kept secret. Tourists are advised to stroll along the Leie River to the historic centre. The many students and the Ghent Festival *Gentse Feesten* are also cited as major assets of the city.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/new-york-city/travel-tips-and-articles/76165>



© City of Ghent - Niels Donckers

## ► **Belgian is a master in floral design**

The Belgian Daniël Ost is one of the world's most celebrated artists in floral design. Time and again, he is able to surprise the public with astonishing floral arrangements and sculptures. Daniël Ost is able to capture life through flowers and creates absolute beauty through his passion and artistry. He has created a world of his own full of amazing floral artworks which has garnered him a devoted international clientele.

The Belgian floral artist is therefore highly active internationally: he exhibits and shares his vision of flowers worldwide and draws inspiration from other cultures. In Japan Daniël Ost is a bigger star than anywhere else in the world, given that the Japanese art of flower arranging *ikebana* is an art form with a long tradition. Ost has in fact had ties with Japan for many years. In 2009 he had the opportunity to decorate the Golden Temple of Kinkaku-Ji in Kyoto for an exclusive exhibition. In December 2009 he was asked to organise Christmas decorations at the *Imperial Hotel* in Tokyo. He was back in Tokyo again recently, on 24 and 25 November 2010, for workshops and master classes on the themes of *Christmas wreaths* and *Christmas table arrangements*. There are other exceptional events planned in Japan for 2011. But elsewhere in the world, Ost's craftsmanship is equally well received: for example, Daniël Ost provided the floral decorations for the official opening of the *Museum for Islamic Art* in Doha (Qatar) in 2008.

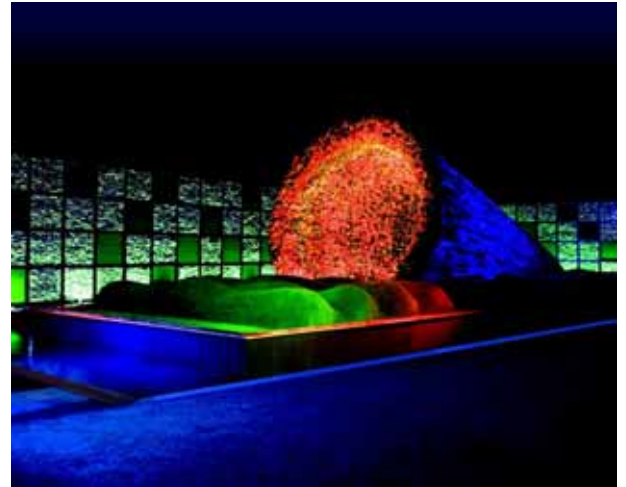
In Belgium itself, the maestro of floral creations is also highly regarded. His art form is most appreciated by the Belgian Royal family, celebrities and companies. He has created floral decorations for events such the 60th birthday celebration for the late King Baudouin and the 40th anniversary of his reign. He also provided the floral decorations for the marriage of Crown Prince Philippe and Princess Mathilde and the marriage of Prince Laurent and Princess Claire.

Daniël Ost owns two shops in Belgium: the original shop in Sint-Niklaas, the artist's native city, which opened in 1985, and a spectacularly renovated art-nouveau building on Koningsstraat/rue Royale in Brussels, which opened in 2005.

There are several magnificent books that capture his floral artworks in dazzling photographs. The creations of Daniël Ost are also regularly exhibited in Belgium and abroad (Tokyo, Kyoto, Dubai, Taipei, Seoul, Minneapolis etc.).

Events by Daniël Ost are considered to be unique experiences. Envisioning the 'realm of flowers' the way Daniël Ost does is to enter another world full of beautiful colours, designs and fragrances. His motto 'Perfection is in the details' is no accident. Together with his team of experts, the Belgian floral design artist creates sumptuous and refined floral fantasies that leave a lasting impression on all those who encounter them.

<http://www.danielost.be>



► **Grand-Place in Brussels is nicest square of Europe**

According to readers of Dutch travel website *StedenTripper.com* the *Grand-Place* in Brussels is Europe's nicest square. The Red Square in Moscow and *Place Stanislas* in Nancy (France) complete the top three. The *Grote Markt* in Antwerp is a respectable ninth.

Brussels' City Hall, the *Broodhuis* (Bread house) and the many guild houses on the *Grand-Place* in Brussels are very popular.

<http://www.stedentripper.com/blog/mooiste-squares-europe/>



© OPT - Joseph Jeanmart



© Marc Segond

# Agenda

## 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

#### Van Eyck to Dürer

29 October 2010 - 30 January 2011  
Bruges, Groeningemuseum  
<http://www.brugescentral.be>

#### Ensor revealed

7 October 2010 - 13 February 2011  
Brussels, ING cultural centre  
<http://www.ing.be>

#### Ensor and contemporary art

16 October - 13 February 2011  
Ghent, Fine Arts Museum and the Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK)  
<http://www.mskgent.be>  
<http://www.smak.be>

#### .03 Maarten van Severen. The history of an icon

20 November 2010 - 27 February 2011  
Ghent, Design Museum  
<http://design.museum.gent.be>

#### European Comic Strip Treasures

5 October 2010 - 6 March 2011  
Brussels, Belgian Comic Strip Centre  
<http://www.comicscenter.net/en/home>

#### SOS Planet

4 September 2010 - 1 May 2011  
Liege-Guillemins  
<http://www.sos-planet.eu>

### MUSIC

<http://www.festivals.be>  
<http://www.a-z.be/muziekfestivals.html>

### 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>

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