



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM  
Foreign Affairs,  
Foreign Trade and  
Development Cooperation



# ***Belgium Unlimited***

*News from Belgium*



# Belgium on the international stage



## ► *Distinction for Belgian development cooperation*

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD has awarded a distinction for Belgium's development policy. Our country has made significant progress in the past few years.

This is the result of a peer review, in which the Member States of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) examine each other's development policies. In this particular peer review, Belgium's development policy was reviewed by Canada and Switzerland.

### Praise

The DAC was full of praise in at least five areas. It paid particular attention to the fact that Belgium was one of the few countries that continued to support fragile states at a time when other donors were pulling out. It also scored well in the following areas: increase in the aid budget, the agreements concluded with NGOs and universities, the non-earmarked contributions to multilateral institutions and the reform of humanitarian aid.

### Increase in aid

Last year, 0.55% of Belgium's Gross National Income (GNI) was reserved for development cooperation. Our country aims to allocate 0.7% of its GNI to development cooperation by the end of the year. We have the capability to achieve this according to the peer review. This would make Belgium the sixth donor country to reach the 0.7% target.

The OECD also finds it encouraging that Belgium devotes over 50% of its bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa and the least developed countries (LDCs). A significant proportion is still accounted for by the former colonies Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. The main focus of Belgian development cooperation is therefore still Central Africa.

### Reform

Last year, Belgian development cooperation was considerably transformed. Belgium is showing an increasing tendency to commit itself in international agreements and more scope is allowed for self-reflection. Its development policy has now been modernised and new implementing decisions are being drawn up. Pride of place is being given to modernisation with continual adjustments of focus. This has enabled Belgium to follow many of the recommendations made in the previous peer review and placed it in a good position for meeting new challenges.

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development\\_cooperation/index.jsp](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation/index.jsp)  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/14/45738991.pdf>

## ► *Belgian frigate Louise-Marie involved in operation Atalanta*

### *Belgian officer number two man in operation*

The frigate *Louise-Marie* will once again be taking part in operation Atalanta - the European initiative to fight piracy off the Horn of Africa - from 20 October 2010 to 20 January 2011.

The *Louise-Marie* has a crew of 170. The frigate may also have a helicopter, a Vessel Protection Detachment and a boarding team deployable on merchant navy ships.

Belgian Captain Michel Hofman will be the second-in-command for operation Atalanta during this four-month period. The Force Commander is French Admiral Philippe Coindreau.



<http://www.eunavfor.eu/>  
<http://www.mil.be/ops-trg/subject/index.asp?LAN=nl&FILE=&ID=907&MENU=2093&PAGE=1>

# THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



# The economy & Business

## ► Lotus, a Belgian manufacturer of caramelised biscuits, is opening a coffee shop in the USA

The Belgian biscuit manufacturer *Lotus Bakeries* is best known for its famous, crunchy brown, caramelised biscuits, which are made out of flour, butter, brown sugar and a mix of spices that include cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, powdered ginger, cardamom and white pepper.

On the one hand, *Lotus* is endeavouring to make further inroads in the Asian market. Consequently, just like five years ago at the World Expo in Aichi (Japan), every visitor to the Belgian pavilion at the ongoing World Expo in Shanghai is offered a *Lotus* biscuit to try.



On the other hand, early in July, together with a local partner, *Lotus* opened its first “Biscoff Coffee Corner” in San Francisco, USA. *Biscoff*, a neologism amalgamating the words “biscuit” and “coffee”, is the brand name under which *Lotus* markets its caramelised ‘cookies’ in the United States.

Although caramelised cookies from Belgium are nothing new in the USA, the concept of ‘coffee and a cookie’ is not yet established stateside, so the company’s present aim is to make sure that this popular Belgian tradition now takes hold on the other side of the Atlantic, too.

<http://www.lotusbakeries.be/>  
<http://blog.biscoff.com/press-room/press-releases/>

## ► IBA signs contracts in the US, Poland and Sweden

*IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.)*, a Belgian company with headquarters in Louvain-la-Neuve (province of Walloon Brabant), develops and markets leading-edge technologies, pharmaceuticals and tailor-made solutions for healthcare with a focus on cancer diagnosis and therapy. Leveraging on its scientific expertise, *IBA* is also active in the field of industrial sterilization and ionization.

In the **United States**, *IBA* was selected by *Seattle Procure Management LLC* to install a proton therapy system in Seattle. The proton therapy center will be owned and operated in partnership with the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and will be built on the campus of Northwest Hospital & Medical Center. This contract totals €45 to 55 million.

In **Poland**, the *Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics* of the Polish Academy of Science (IFJ) adjudicated to *IBA* the supply of a cyclotron along with the essential technological equipments for the construction of the Bronowice Cyclotron Center (CCB – Centrum Cyklotronowe Bronowice), Cracow, Poland. This contract amounts to between €25 and 30 million.

In **Sweden**, *Skandion Clinic*, the clinical centre for proton therapy, has selected *IBA* for the installation of a particle therapy facility. This new center will be managed by a consortium of seven Swedish counties, representing eight university hospitals.

*Skandion* has selected *IBA* for the supply and installation of a particle therapy facility, including the cyclotron, the equipment for two treatment rooms, installation of a scanning beam nozzle for experimental purposes and other ancillary equipment. The contract also covers a five year service agreement and all non-clinical operations. This project amounts to between €40 and 50 million.

*IBA* commits itself to making proton therapy - the most accurate cancer treatment – available worldwide. Up to now, *IBA* has sold 17 proton therapy centers, which represents more than half of the clinical-based proton therapy facilities in the world.

<http://www.iba-worldwide.com>



## ► *The Belgian-designed Ice Watch is conquering the world*

The Belgian designed Ice Watch is on the way to conquering the world. Although the watches are actually made in China, they were the brainchild of Belgian designer Jean-Pierre Lutgen. The watches' design, sales strategy and management are all orchestrated from the company's headquarters in Bastogne in the province of Luxembourg.

Today, more than 250,000 watches are being made every month. By the end of 2010 it is estimated that 3 million will have been sold, and Lutgen expects sales to pass the 5 million mark some time in 2011.

The Ice Watch, which is on sale in 81 different countries, was designed to be a fashion accessory, conducive to multiple purchases by a single customer. The concept comprises three key elements:

affordability (the cheapest model costs just €59) without sacrificing quality, availability in a wide range of colours, and the fashion factor, whereby the product's success hinges on the wearer's wish to wear a different watch to match another outfit. In that connection, Lutgen drew the inspiration for his slogan, "Change. You Can", from the slogan used by US President Barack Obama.

Each Ice Watch is sold in designer packaging dubbed 'Becubic', which is an original, fun concept in its own right, consisting of a cube-shaped polycarbonate box coloured to match the watch it contains. The box is also reusable and has a slit in the top so that it can be used as a money box.

Today, everyone knows the Ice Watch, which became famous, among other things, thanks to a three-second clip in which it was shown on the wrist of the famous DJ David Guetta. That immediately made it familiar to millions of Internet users. And the Ice Watch has been unstoppable ever since.

<http://www.ice-watch.com>



J-P Lutgen

## ► *DEME awarded contract regarding site of Olympic Winter Games 2014 in Russia*

The Belgian dredging, marine engineering and environmental group *DEME* has been awarded a contract for a project which involves dredging 8 million m<sup>3</sup> sand from the Black Sea, transport over a distance of 120 km, and reclamation works to prepare the Imeretinskaya Lowland area at Sochi (Russia) for construction of the Olympic village for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games.

In this way, a swamp area of 412 ha will be lifted to 2.5 m above Black Sea zero level.



© DEME

The initial contract was signed by *DEME* in January 2010. A further extension to this contract was signed on 18 August. Site preparation works and mobilization were started in May. The actual dredging works started early July.

The contract has a value of €105 million. The quality and timing of the works is being closely monitored by the International Olympic Committee.

<http://www.deme.be>



© Ice-Watch

- ▶ ***Hamon Environmental, branch of Hamon group, is awarded a contract to build a facility for Electricité de France***



Based in Mont-St-Guibert (in the Belgian province of Walloon Brabant), the *Hamon* group is a global player in engineering and contracting.

Recently, through its branch *Hamon Environmental* which specializes in controlling air pollution, the company landed a contract from the French utility giant *EdF (Electricité de France)*, to build a facility designed to reduce emissions of carbon oxide and nitrogen oxide for an *EdF* diesel power station in Cayenne, French Guiana.

The contract includes the development and construction of the facility as well as its transportation and implementation.

According to *Hamon Environmental*, the project reflects the company's creativity and analytic capacity in finding optimally cost-effective solutions for environmental projects that meet consumers' requirements.

<http://www.hamon.com>



- ▶ ***Belgium's Asco Industries concludes a contract with Bombardier***



At the *Farnborough Air Show* in Great Britain, the Belgian company *Asco Industries*, based in Zaventem, concluded a contract with *Bombardier Aerospace Belfast*, the Northern Irish daughter of Canadian aircraft manufacturer *Bombardier*.

*Asco Industries* will design, manufacture and assemble the mobile parts for the flap supports at the rear of the wings of the new CS 100 and CS 300 models that *Bombardier* will start marketing in three years' time. This will not be the first time that *Asco Industries* has collaborated with *Bombardier*.

<http://www.asco.be>

- ▶ ***Besix wins new contract to build airport terminal in Doha***

The Belgian construction group *Besix* has netted a contract worth \$750 million for the third phase of the construction of the terminal complex at *New Doha International Airport* in Qatar. The project will be realised in a joint venture with *Midmac Contracting* and should have been completed in two-and-a-half years' time.

According to the Egyptian *Orascom Construction Industries* group, the construction companies are responsible for all structural, mechanical and electrical work, as well as for the design of the lounge and retail complex in the new terminal. *Besix* is said to have a 50% stake in the project.

<http://www.besix.com>

<http://www.ameinfo.com/236790.html>

## ► *Bruges Central. City festival 2010*

*Dance, theatre, music, literature, film, expo from Central Europe*

*Bruges, 17 September 2010 – 30 January 2011*

Every five years Bruges provides the stunning setting for a large-scale cultural festival. In this edition creative Belgians and artists from Central Europe take over the city.

*Bruges Central* will delight residents and visitors with a packed and varied programme of concerts, films, stage performances, exhibitions and other events over a period of more than four months. The programme is poised between East and West, past and present, confrontation and harmony.

Along with the art-historical exhibition *Van Eyck to Dürer*, the contemporary art trail *Luc Tuymans: A vision of Central Europe* is one of the highlights of this major event.



*Anonymous master  
Portrait of a woman  
Around 1480*

© Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza Madrid

*Van Eyck to Dürer  
Bruges, Groeningemuseum  
29 October 2010 – 30 January 2011*

In the fifteenth century the Flemish Primitives triggered an artistic revolution in Central Europe. Talented painters like Jan van Eyck with his brilliant eye for detail, introduced new painting styles and techniques. Their influence spread rapidly and inspired scores of artists, including the painter, draughtsman and etcher Albrecht Dürer.

Van Eyck and Dürer are two great masters from the period 1420-1530. A pioneering exhibition brings together first-rate works by them and some of their contemporaries, drawn from important European and American collections. Paintings and other art forms will illustrate the interaction between the Flemish Primitives and art in Central Europe. The exhibition looks set to be one of the cultural experiences of 2010.

With masterpieces by Bouts, Campin, Dürer, Lochner, Memling, Schongauer, Van der Goes, Van der Weyden, Van Eyck, ...

*Luc Tuymans: A vision of Central Europe  
Bruges, Forum+ [Concertgebouw], Arentshuis, Memling  
in Sint-Jan - Hospitaal museum, Stadshallen,  
Grootseminarie  
22 October 2010 - 23 January 2011*

Born in 1958, Luc Tuymans is one of the leading artists of his generation. His fascination with Central Europe's eventful history has been translated into a highly personal exhibition. Some thirty refreshingly innovative artists from that region show work that displays a clear vision of society. Like Tuymans, they don't shy away from themes such as war, violence and trauma.

A key role is allocated to animation film, a genre Central Europe excels in and which the art world is increasingly embracing. Work will be shown by internationally celebrated animation artists from that region.

In the run-up to the exhibition, Paweł Althamer's striking work *Balloon* will hover above Bruges.

The exhibition trail will lead to five locations in the city, providing an idiosyncratic and up-to-the-minute view of a region on the move.

<http://www.brugescentral.be>

## ► *The Flower Carpet on the Grand Place in Brussels*

*12–15 August 2010*

As the biennial tradition requires, Brussels' Grand Place was covered with a carpet of flowers in August. This year, however, the theme of the traditional flower carpet was the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Visitors who went on to the Grand Place via one of the seven roads leading to it were treated to a dazzling spectacle with a surface area of over 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. This magnificent flower composition demanded months of preparation. About a million begonias were needed for it, placed close to each other to create motifs and provide contrast and tones for the design of this artwork, which has no equal anywhere in the world. 120 volunteers carried out this delicate task. They created a microclimate with a constant level of humidity to ensure the freshness and colour tones of these typically Belgian flowers. All the work was done in a period of 48 hours.

So, what did the flower carpet show this year? First of all, in two diagonally opposite corners, visitors saw St. Michael felling the dragon, the symbol of the city of Brussels, which was established over 1,000 years ago. In the other two corners they saw a stylised yellow and blue iris, the emblem of the Brussels Capital Region. Between the two there was a synthesis of the gothic architecture of the buildings surrounding the carpet of flowers. In the middle the three different versions of the logo of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union were portrayed - the "eu", a creation of Antoine Durieux, a young Belgian designer. Finally, twelve fountains rounded the whole thing off.

The opening ceremony took place on 12 August at 20.30. This fleeting masterpiece could be admired for just three days. In keeping with tradition visitors were able to look at the flower carpet from the balcony of the city hall.

To add lustre to the opening ceremony six young singers, "The Brussels Vocal Project", interpreted a repertoire of Belgian composers written especially for them. The project developed from the vocal ensemble lessons led by David Linx at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels. Each piece has its own universe, from jazz to contemporary, ballads and groove. Surprising harmonies and rhythms were passed in review, all constructed round one central theme, a composition by the great Belgian composer Pierre Van Dormael, "the Art of Love".

<http://www.flowercarpet.be>



## ► *Seven-yearly Virga Jessefeesten Hasselt, 13-29 August 2010*

August 2010 saw the 45th celebration of the Virga Jessefeesten, a seven-yearly tradition in the city of Hasselt (Limburg province). The focal point of the festivities is Our Lady Virga Jesse, the city's protectress. Over its entire history, from 1682 until the present day, the celebration has been skipped only twice: once during the turbulent years of French rule (in the early 19th century) and again in 1940, due to the outbreak of World War II.

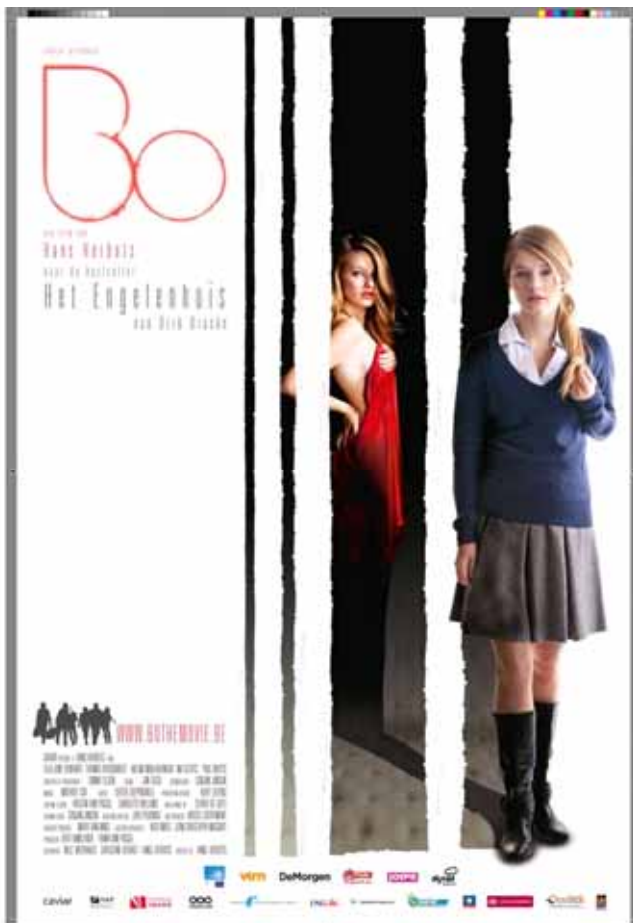
This year, the centuries-old tradition continues with a familiar programme of festivities: the procession with a statue of Virga Jesse through the decorated streets of the city. The evocative procession aims to raise awareness in spectators, to move them, and to speak to them in pictures, words and song. It gives spectators an opportunity to reflect on modern life. The festivities and the long run-up to them promote a culture of coming together, respect and coexistence.

In the decorated streets (known as *rotten* in the local dialect) visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities: exhibitions, theatre, dance, storytelling, music and singing. Footpaths around the city are clearly marked.

Traditional and contemporary scenes and depictions make for an unforgettable visit to the city, and almost all of the activities are free of charge.



<http://www.virga-jessefeesten.be>



## ► *Belgian film wins three awards at international youth film festival in Italy*

*Bo*, a Belgian film by Hans Herbots, won three awards at the *Giffoni Experience Festival* in Italy (18-31 July 2010). One feature of the festival is that the jury consists exclusively of young people. At Giffoni, *Bo* was screened in the Generator +16 programme (jury members aged 16 and 17).

The film, which tells a delicate tale about a girl looking for her identity, won the *CIAL Aluminium Award*. Herbots also took home the *Crystal Gryphon Award* and the *Salerno Province Award*.

Starring Ella-June Henrard, *Bo* is the film adaptation of Dirk Bracke's bestseller *Het Engelenhuis*. Nele Meirhaeghe wrote the screenplay.

<http://www.giffoniiff.it/en/pageview.php?i=1>  
<http://www.bothemovie.com/>

► ***Decorative fountain Nymphaeum now on view in Sagalassos (Turkey) thanks to archaeological digs led by Belgian professor***

For 22 years, Dr Marc Waelkens (a Belgian professor at the *K.U. Leuven*, the Catholic University of Leuven), has been leading an international excavation team in Sagalassos, Turkey, also known as the “Pompeii of Anatolia”. In October 2009, Dr Waelkens received an honorary doctorate from the University of Burdur (near Sagalassos) for his archaeological work in the area. In recent years, Dr Waelkens' team has carried uncovered important sites, including two city marketplaces (agoras), a number of adjoining monuments, such as the Neon library, a Doric fountain and a complex of baths. One of the unique finds are the statues of Roman emperors Hadrian (an attention-getter at an exhibition about Hadrian at the British Museum in London in 2008) and Marcus Aurelius. In 1994 work started on excavating the Nymphaeum, a decorative fountain erected in the year 180 AD.

After years of restoration work, the fountain was officially unveiled on 28 August 2010 by the Turkish Minister for Culture and Tourism, Ertugrul Günay, and Dr Waelkens. The ceremony was attended by a number of prominent figures, including Herman Reynders (governor of Limburg), Dr Marc Vervenne (honorary chancellor the Catholic University of Leuven), the Belgian ambassador to Turkey, the governors of the provinces of Burdur and Isparta, the CEO of lead sponsor Aygaz, the Flemish families who have been providing financial support for the digs for many years, and many other Turkish and Belgian guests.

The fact that this splendid fountain could be officially unveiled is, in the first place, the result of years of devotion and intensive work carried out by the excavation team led by Dr Waelkens. They uncovered the remains of the structure. The restoration itself is due mainly to the expert leadership of one of the restoration experts on his team, Turkish-Belgian engineer Semih Ercan. Sagalassos has been a model for excellent Turkish-Belgian scientific cooperation for the last 25 years.

A prestigious exhibition will open at the Gallo-Roman Museum in Tongeren (Belgium's oldest city) in November 2011, giving Belgian and international visitors a chance to admire these unique treasures from Sagalassos.

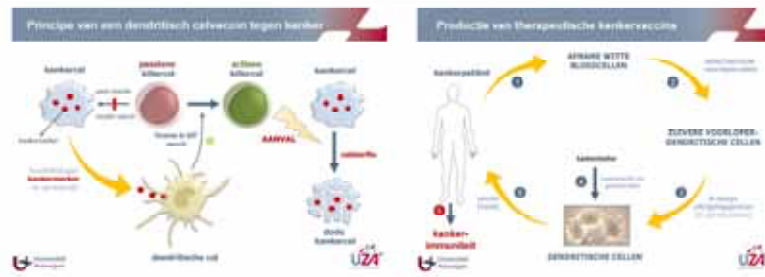
<http://www.sagalassos.be/>



<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/07/12/1008051107.full.pdf+html>

<http://www.maguza.be/dossiers/p/artikel-dossier/immunotherapie-studie-test-vaccin-tegen-acute-myeloide-leukemie>

© UZA - Eric de Mildt



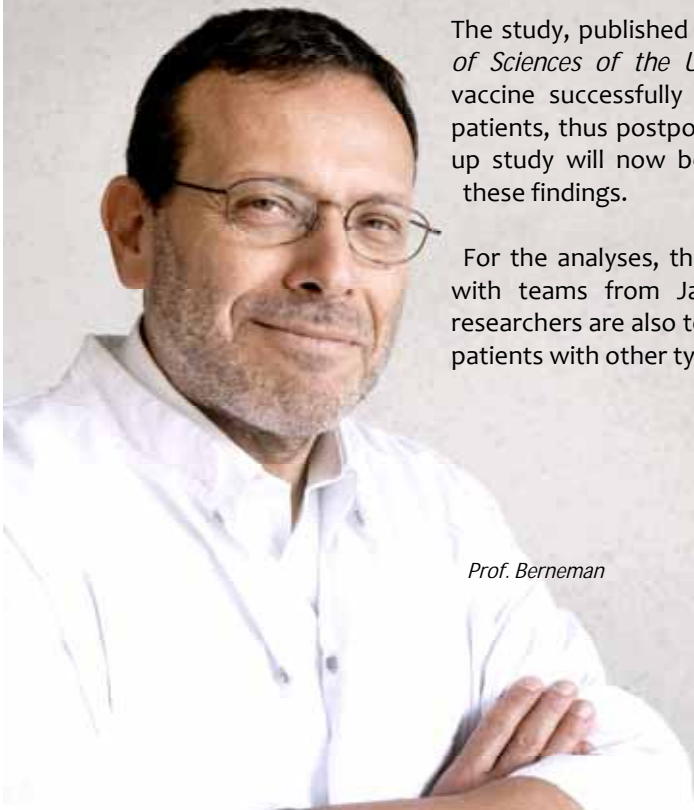
## ► World first in Antwerp: a vaccine against leukaemia

Researchers at University Hospital Antwerp and the University of Antwerp, led by Dr Viggo Van Tendeloo and Dr Zwi Berneman, have, for the first time, succeeded in developing a personalised leukaemia vaccine based on the patient's own defence cells. This is a world first.

The phase 1/2 clinical study was carried out on adult patients suffering from acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) who had undergone chemotherapy but who had a high chance of relapse. Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) in adults is an aggressive blood cancer that typically affects people over the age of 60. Although the disease can be brought under control in most patients by chemotherapy, many of them relapse relatively quickly due to the remaining – often very few - leukaemia cells.

The study, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, shows that the vaccine successfully fights remaining leukaemia cells in some patients, thus postponing or even preventing relapse. A follow-up study will now be carried out in more patients to confirm these findings.

For the analyses, the researchers worked in close cooperation with teams from Japan, the UK and the Netherlands. The researchers are also testing the vaccine in smaller pilot studies on patients with other types of cancer.



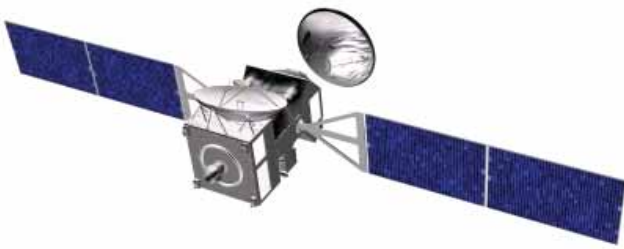
Prof. Berneman



Prof. Van Tendeloo

## ► *Belgian instrument may probe atmosphere of Mars*

Space organisations NASA and ESA have decided to include a Belgian instrument aboard the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter mission, to be launched in 2016. This mission is the first joint NASA-ESA mission to the Red Planet.



Following an extensive selection process, NASA and ESA selected the Belgian instrument SOIR-NOMAD - a spectrometer capable of researching the composition of the Martian atmosphere - as a key instrument on the mission. This puts Belgium on the frontline of the quest to find out if there is life on Mars.

The design and construction of SOIR-NOMAD is being handled by the Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy (BIRA-IASB), led by Dr Ann Carine Vandaele.

<http://www.aeronomie.be/nl/actueel/persberichten.htm>  
<http://www.aeronomie.be/en/press/soir-nomad.htm>



## ► *Belgian achieves breakthrough in Alzheimer's research*

Geert De Meyer, a Belgian researcher at the University of Ghent, and his colleagues involved in the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) have made a discovery that could make it possible to predict future cases of Alzheimer's with almost total certainty. The study was published in the American Medical Association's *Archives of Neurology*.

The researchers have analysed data from more than 400 elderly people: 114 of them had normal cognitive functions, 200 had mild cognitive problems and 102 had Alzheimer's disease. The researchers identified specific proteins present in the cerebrospinal fluid that were found in 90% of the subjects with Alzheimer's, 72% of the subjects with mild cognitive problems and 36% of the subjects with normal cognitive functions. The researchers ultimately developed a model making it possible to predict with nearly 100% certainty who will develop Alzheimer's disease.

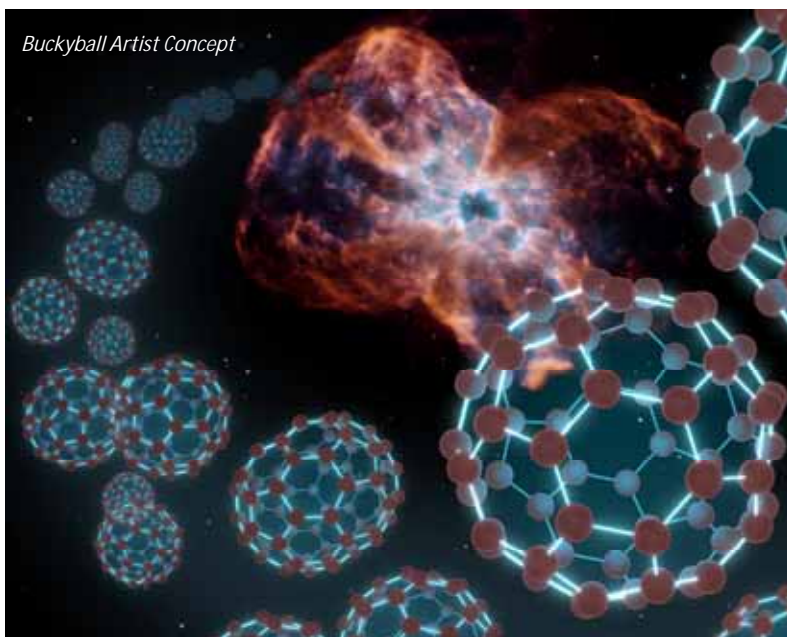
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-10/spinal-taps-may-help-diagnose-alzheimer-s-in-living-patients.html>

## ► *Belgian professor discovers largest molecule in the universe*

An international team led by Jan Cami, a Belgian professor at the University of Western Ontario (Canada) and SETI Institute (California), has discovered the largest molecules known to exist in space, as reported in *Science*, a leading scientific magazine.

Using NASA's Spitzer infrared space telescope, molecules have been identified in a planetary nebula that consist of 60 carbon atoms arranged in a three-dimensional ball. The atoms are ordered in varying patterns of pentagons and hexagons which, on a molecular scale, look exactly like a football.

The researchers also found evidence of similar molecules with 70 carbon atoms that look more like a rugby ball. Astronomers have been looking for evidence of these molecules in space for the last 25 years.



The discovery of the large molecules contributes to our knowledge of how life is formed.



Professor Jan Cami is originally from the Belgian city of Aalst (East Flanders province). He studied physics at Leuven University (KU Leuven), earned his doctorate in the Netherlands and carried out research in California, before moving to Ontario.

<http://www.uwo.ca/>  
<http://www.astro.uwo.ca/>

## ► *A Belgian hospital and a Belgian biotech company work together to treat heart problems using the patient's own stem cells*

The Cardiovascular Centre at *Onze-Lieve-Vrouw* Hospital in Aalst (in the province of East Flanders) is one of five centres where people with heart failure have been treated with their own stem cells, reprogrammed into new heart cells to heal their weakened cardiac muscle (myocardium).

This breakthrough therapy had already been tested on animals and has now also been successfully applied to a group of 45 Belgian and Serbian heart patients. The new treatment was pioneered by the leading Belgian biotech company *Cardio3 BioSciences* based in Louvain-la-Neuve (in the province of Walloon Brabant), which specialises in regenerative therapies for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. It is the outcome of years of research conducted at *Mayo Clinic* (Rochester, Minnesota, USA) and the Cardiovascular Centre in Aalst.

A bone marrow puncture is carried out to extract stem cells from the patient's hip bone. These stem cells are then taken to the *Cardio3 BioSciences* lab where, through a proprietary process, they are converted into cardiopoietic cells. Three to six weeks later the new heart stem cells are ready. The patients then have their own stem cells injected back into the heart, where they regenerate damaged heart muscle cells. The simple operation involved entails a catheter insertion. And thanks to the procedure the patient benefits from a freshly rejuvenated heart.

The aim now is to conduct further trials with this technique on a larger group as soon as possible. If successful, it would mean a tremendous breakthrough in the treatment of heart failure, potentially avoiding the need for heart transplants.

<http://www.c3bs.com/images/stories/pdf/en-c-cure-safety-data-release.pdf>  
[http://www.olvz.be/olv\\_web\\_includes\\_tab.jsp?page=1464](http://www.olvz.be/olv_web_includes_tab.jsp?page=1464) (in Dutch only)



## ► *VIB department for plant research at the University of Ghent number 1 in the world*

According to a study by the *ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology* in Australia, the Department of Plant Systems Biology (PSB) is currently the world's best research centre into plant biotechnology.

PSB is a research department at VIB (Flemish Biotechnology Institute) and the University of Ghent, the foundation for which was laid in the 1980s by Marc Van Montagu and Jeff Schell. They developed the technology that makes it possible to genetically modify plants. Their discovery made it possible to determine the function of genes and proteins in plants, which in turn led to a revolution in basic research into the functioning of plants. Their work was also the foundation for the development of the biotech crops on the market today.

Since 2002 PSB, led by scientific director Dirk Inzé, has grown into a world-renowned centre focusing on fundamental research into plant growth and development. This research makes a significant contribution to optimising plants for the production of food and bio-energy.

The Australian study compared the impact of work done by scientists at all well-known plant research institutes around the world. As a yardstick the *ARC* used the number of references per article, a universally accepted way of measuring the impact of scientific research. With an average of 18 references per article, PSB stood out among other well-known institutes, such as the *Max Planck Institute of Plant Breeding* (Germany), the *John Innes Centre* (UK), *INRA* (France) and *ARC* itself (Australia).



© VIB

<http://www.vib.be>

<http://www.ugent.be>

<http://www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au/>

## ► *International Mathematical Union chooses a Belgian as its president*

For the next four years, the International Mathematical Union (IMU) will have a Belgian president, Ingrid Daubechies. It is the first time that a woman will be presiding over the IMU's affairs. Daubechies was elected president on 20 August 2010 at the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) held in Hyderabad, India.

Daubechies, who was born in 1954, is a Belgian scientist and mathematician, and a world authority on 'wavelets', which are used in image compression. Indeed, they form the basis for the JPEG 2000 standard, which is used to facilitate the transmission of images over the Internet.

Daubechies graduated from the Free University of Brussels (VUB). Since 1993 she has been a professor at Princeton University in the USA.

As president of the IMU, a non-profit-organisation promoting international cooperation in science, Daubechies will be a pivotal global policymaker for mathematics.

<http://www.mathunion.org/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/articles580676.ece>

<http://www.pacm.princeton.edu/~ingrid/>



# Miscellaneous

## ► Belgians bag numerous medals at the European Championships for inline speed skating

At the European Inline Speed Skating Championships held in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, between 29 July and 7 August 2010, the Belgian participant Bart Swings carried off no fewer than four individual gold medals: in the 1,000 m, the 10 km elimination, the 20 km and the 10 km points. Together with Maarten Swings and Ferre Spruyt he even bagged a fifth gold medal in the 5,000 m road relay.

The trio also won silver in the 3,000 m track relay, as did Bart Swings individually in the marathon.

Among the junior girls, Belgium's Sandrine Tas came away with four medals: gold in the 10 km points, silver in the 3,000 m points, silver in the 1,000 m inline and bronze in the 5,000 m elimination. She, Vicky Jacobs and Ellen Van De Catsye also took gold in the 5,000 m road relay. Vicky Jacobs came third in the 1,000 m inline.

Among the boys, the Belgian junior Siemen Tas won a gold medal in the 10 km points race, and Mathias Vosté took a bronze in the 10 km elimination. Also, Siemen Tas and Mathias Vosté clinched a bronze in the 5,000 m relay.



<http://www.euroinline2010.it/>  
[http://www.cec-roller.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=139:july-29-august-7-2010-european-roller-speed-skating-championships&catid=45:July&Itemid=72](http://www.cec-roller.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=139:july-29-august-7-2010-european-roller-speed-skating-championships&catid=45:July&Itemid=72)  
<http://www.bartswings.be>

## ► Belgium wins three medals at European Athletics Championships

Belgium won three medals at the European Athletics Championships in Barcelona (Spain, 26 July – 1 August 2010).

Belgian Kevin Borlée won a gold medal in the 400 metres. The last time a Belgian man won gold at the European Athletics Championships was in 1971, when Karel Lismont took gold at the marathon in Helsinki.



*The men's 4x400m relay team*

Svetlana Bolshakova, a Belgian of Russian origin, took bronze in the woman's triple jump.

The third Belgian medal, also a bronze, went to the men's 4x400m relay team, comprising Arnaud Destatte, Kevin Borlée, Cédric Van Branteghem and Jonathan Borlée.

<http://www.bcn2010.org/>

## ► Six Belgian beers win international award

Six Belgian beers took home awards at the *World Beer Awards*, an annual international competition. More than 500 beers from 27 countries took part in the competition.

The winning Belgian beers were:

A. In the *World's Best Styles* category:

- Saint-Feuillien blonde (Saint-Feuillien brewery), *World's Best Pale Ale-Abbey/Trappist*;
- Gouden Carolus Classic (Het Anker brewery), *World's Best Dark Ale-Abbey/Trappist*;
- Rodenbach Grand Cru (Palm brewery), *World's Best Dark Ale - Flavoured*.

B. In the *Regional Best Styles* category:

The jury also ranked the best beers per continent. In addition to the three winning beers above, the following also scored:

- Houblon Chouffe (Achouffe brewery), *Europe's Best Pale Ale - Imperial IPA*;
- Urthel Saisonnière (De Leyerth brewery), *Europe's Best Seasonal Pale Ale*;
- Floris Kriek (Huyghe brewery), *Europe's Best Fruit Wheat Beer*.



<http://www.tastingbeers.com/awards/wba/2010/>

## ► *Beach orientation poles: a Belgian invention conquers the world*

You can see the same thing around the world: kids playing on the beach get lost because they can't find their way back to where their parents are sitting.

Twenty years ago, Dominiek Vervaecke, a Belgian journalist, developed a system of 'beach orientation poles' to help prevent this kind of distress. These are tall poles with a child-friendly three-dimensional object on top that is easy to recognise and remember, even for a lost and frightened child.

As a result, millions of tourists to the Belgian coast know that it is safe near the little house, the fish, the banana, the train, the ball and the boat. "If something happens, don't panic! Mommy and daddy are sitting right by the train!"

One way to make the orientation poles even more effective is to combine them with special bracelets to help prevent kids from getting lost. These fun wristbands have a picture of the object that mommy and daddy are sitting next to. There is also room to write the name of the child and the parents' mobile phone number. If the toddler gets lost while wearing one of the wristbands, he can be returned to his parents in no time at all.

Belgian beach orientation poles have been deployed in many European countries, including France, Spain, the Netherlands and Italy. This extremely simple yet ingenious Belgian invention now looks set to spread to other parts of the world, with interest expressed from Asia, Latin America, Australia, Canada and elsewhere.

<http://www.orientatiepalen.be/>



© JJ Soenen Media Consulting

*Beach orientation poles have been proving their worth on the Belgian coast for the last 20 years: getting lost is a thing of the past. There is interest in the simple yet ingenious system from Europe and many other parts of the world.*



© JJ Soenen Media Consulting

*One way to make the orientation poles even more effective is to combine them with special wristbands to help prevent kids from getting lost. On the wristband is a picture of the orientation pole. The name of the child and the parents' mobile phone number can also be written on them.*

## ► *Belgian Development Cooperation launches new identity*

Belgian Development Cooperation has launched a new website and also has two new logos.

### Website

The new website ([www.dg-d.be](http://www.dg-d.be), available in Dutch, French and English) is part of the recently updated Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs website. The DGD site is distinctive, with its own personality, colour (green) and content. The new site is easier to use than the previous version, more attractive and contains more topic-based articles and sections. News items are more prominent, but information on subsidies, NGOs, awareness-raising campaigns, partners, figures, evaluation and more is all still there.

### Logos

Belgian Development Cooperation also has two new logos: one for Directorate-General Development Cooperation (DGD) and one for Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC). The DGD logo is simple, reflecting the government's involvement and expressing the renewed enthusiasm of the government, BTC and other partners at home and abroad. The BTC logo symbolises partnership and international solidarity, and its new slogan is "Building a fair world".

### Identity

The new identity dovetails with BTC's efforts to earmark 0.7% of gross national product to development aid and to provide more efficient and high-quality aid. Our priority is still fighting poverty and inequality.

<http://www.dg-d.be>  
<http://www.btcctb.be>  
<http://diplomatie.belgium.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-](http://www.wallonie-tourisme.be/contenus/agenda_culturel/fr/181.html)

[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

### Marcel Broodthaers

2 July - 26 September 2010

Brussels, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium

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

### Visionary Africa

30 May - 26 September 2010

Brussels, Bozar

<http://www.bozar.be>

### A Passage to Asia

25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe

25 June - 10 October 2010

Brussels, Bozar

<http://www.bozar.be>

### Bonjour Congo in Belgium

11 June - 30 September 2010

Brussels, Royal Museum for Central Africa

<http://www.africamuseum.be>

### Kinshasa-Brussels: from Matonge to Matonge

11 June - 30 September 2010

Brussels, Royal Museum for Central Africa

<http://www.africamuseum.be>

### Congo River. 4,700 Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture

27 April 2010 - 9 January 2011

Brussels, Royal Museum for Central Africa

<http://www.africamuseum.be>

### Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence

27 April 2010 - 9 January 2011

Brussels, Royal Museum for Central Africa

<http://www.africamuseum.be>

### Mayombe. Masters of Magic

8 October 2010 - 23 January 2011

Leuven, M

<http://www.mleuven.be>

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

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

14 October 2010 - 23 January 2011

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

### Ensor revealed

7 October 2010 - 13 February 2011

Brussels, ING cultural centre

### Ensor, composer and writer

7 October 2010 - 23 January 2011

Brussels, Bozar

### Ensor and contemporary art

16 October - 13 February 2011

Ghent, Fine Arts Museum and the Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (SMAK)

## 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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