



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation



Belgium Unlimited

News from Belgium



▶ ***Belgian Royal couple visits Congo to mark 50th anniversary of independence***

Belgium on the international stage

► *Belgian Royal couple visits Congo to mark 50th anniversary of independence*

From 28 June to 1 July King Albert II and Queen Paola visited Kinshasa in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Congo's independence. They were accompanied by the Belgian Prime Minister.

At the airport they were welcomed by Congo's Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito for a state visit that is considered a landmark for the DRC.

Hundreds of thousands of Kinshais had lined the road between the airport and the city to cheer the Belgian Royals.

King Albert II was received by President Joseph Kabila. The Belgian Prime Minister was joined by his Congolese counterpart Muzito. The Belgian King also met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon.

The King and Queen attended the military parade and the Gala dinner. The Congolese President thanked them for participating in the festivities and expressed his appreciation for their presence in Kinshasa.

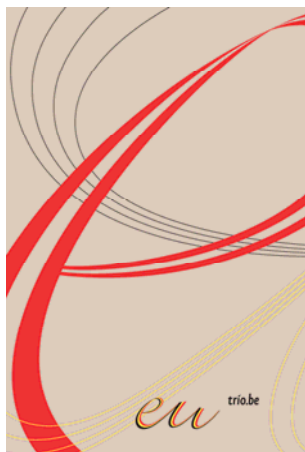
The Royal couple ended their tour with visits to various sites that are strongly linked with Belgium:

- The Royals visited Belgian schools in Kinshasa, such as the *Lycée Prince de Liège* and the *Prins van Luikschool*. The King thus returned to the schools he inaugurated 40 years earlier, when he was still Prince of Liege. Children from both schools celebrated this special event with a performance.

- Next on King Albert's agenda was the Belgian shipyard *Chanic*. One of the DRC's major shipyards, it was founded in 1927 on the site where Henry Morton Stanley had stepped on land in 1880, laid the foundations for the Congolese capital city and instigated the country's industrialization, even before colonization. The King dropped by the workshops where barges, buoyage vessels, push tugs as well as bridges are built.
- Meanwhile Queen Paola paid a visit to the *Institut national de Préparation professionnelle* (INPP, National Institute for Professional Preparation), where young Congolese are educated. This institute also provides re-training to demobilized soldiers. Professional training is a top priority of Belgium's development cooperation with the DRC.
- On 30 June Queen Paola called on the Belgian *Music Fund* project at the *Institut national des Arts* (National Institute of Art). The *Music Fund* association is a joint initiative by NGO *Oxfam* and *Ictus*, a contemporary music ensemble based in Belgium. It supplies musical instruments and provides training in instrument repair to various global partners. The Queen dropped by the workshop and attended a concert by a mixed ensemble.
- The tour ended with a visit to the *Centre hospitalier Roi Baudouin* (CHRB, King Baudouin Hospital Centre), the hospital of which the first stone was laid by the King's older brother 25 years ago. Here King Albert II unveiled a bust of his brother, while the Prime Minister revealed plans by the Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC) to extend the maternity ward, a gift from Belgium to the DRC to mark the Royal Visit.



► **The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union** **1 July - 31 December 2010**



From 1 July to 31 December 2010 Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the twelfth time. This will be a special Presidency for several reasons. First of all Belgium will have to carry out its duties within the framework of the new **Treaty of Lisbon**, which came into force on 1 December 2009. This treaty involves a whole series of innovations. Secondly, the Belgian Presidency takes place against a background of **financial and economic crisis** and fundamental changes in terms of international economic governance.

The **programme** of the Belgian Presidency is completely imbedded in the 18 month programme of the **team Presidency** (Spain-Belgium-Hungary, 1 January 2010-30 June 2011). Another source of inspiration for our programme can be found in the so-called **legacy programme**. This is the totality of the Council activities and agenda deadlines that are built up and passed on from one Presidency to another. The Belgian government also consulted **civil society** on a large scale as part of the preparations for the Belgian Presidency.

The main lines of the Belgian Presidency have been developed round **five theme clusters**: combating the economic crisis and promoting economic and financial modernisation; combating global warming and the environmental aspects in the broader sense; EU enlargement; further strengthening of the social dimension in the EU and implementation of the "Stockholm programme" for justice and home affairs, asylum and migration. In addition to these five theme clusters Belgium will pay particular attention to the **implementation and correct application of the new rules of the Treaty of Lisbon**.

In total over 500 **events** will take place during the Belgian Presidency, including 27 formal and 16 informal Councils at ministerial level. The 8th ASEM Summit, which will bring 48 heads of state and government from Europe and Asia together at the Royal Palace in Brussels on 4 and 5 October 2010 is the biggest political and logistical event of the Presidency at the international level.

Socio-cultural events strengthen the image of the Presidency in the eyes of the wider public and specific target groups. The **opening ceremony** for VIPs at Laeken Castle on 2 July ("José van Dam & Friends" concert) and the **dance parties for the wider public** in various Belgian cities, as well as the **extraordinary show "I ♥ EU"** near the European Parliament in Brussels contribute to this. On top of this, there will also be countless cultural events.

Anyone wanting a front-row view of what is going on during the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, can consult the official Presidency **website**: <http://www.eutrio.be>

Or **Belgium Unlimited**, Special issue : http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/binaries/BU%20Special%20En_tcm312-103127.pdf



Belgium Unlimited



► **Belgium confirms commitment to meet Millennium Development Goals**

On 4 May 2010 the Minister for Development Cooperation confirmed the Belgian commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The eight development goals are set out in the United Nations' Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by the international community in 2000. Belgium is determined to double its efforts and produce significant results by 2015, the deadline for the MDGs.



A special action was launched to mobilize the population for the MDGs and the Minister signed a MDG Commitment together with a number of Belgian celebrities. They all stand behind Belgium's reinforced commitment to meet the Development Goals. All Belgians are invited to show their support and sign the MDG Commitment on <http://diplomatie.belgium.be>.

Finally the Minister introduced the "MDG cube", symbol of our reinforced commitment to global fairness. The metal cube measures six m3 and carries the MDG Commitment: the Commitment is printed in 4 languages on the perspex sides of the cube.

http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation/states_general/mdg_commitment.jsp

► **"Stop Child Prostitution" campaign**

On 4 June 2010, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs officially launched the third "Stop Child Prostitution" campaign in Belgium. The aim of the campaign is to combat sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children abroad.

The Minister stressed the commitment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the fight against the sexual exploitation of children, and in particular the role played by our embassies and consulates in previous awareness and prevention campaigns.

This initiative is unique in Europe in the way it involves both public and private partners: NGOs and grassroots players such as ECPAT/End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, *Plan Belgique/Plan België*, Child Focus, APLE/*Action pour les enfants* and Samilia, whose work includes tackling child prostitution in the Dominican Republic, Cambodia and Romania; representatives from the transport, tourism and travel industries; and also the public partners, namely the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice and the Federal Police.

Among other things, the campaign involves distributing posters and brochures in railway stations, airports, hotels and restaurants in Belgium, as well as in Belgium's 130 embassies, consulates and permanent representations abroad. The website www.stopprostitutionenfantine.be describes the actions being taken by each partner in the fight against child prostitution, and can also be used by members of the public to report incidents of child abuse abroad.



► *Belgian UN volunteer releases alternative World Cup song*

It is not only footballers' goals that count in this year's World Cup. In Pretoria, the Belgian Christophe Verhellen coordinated a UN campaign coinciding with the tournament and designed to boost the profile of the Millennium Development Goals and the fight against poverty. For that campaign, Christophe teamed up with eight prominent African musicians, including Yvonne Chaka Chaka and Baaba Maal. Their alternative World Cup song, "8 Goals for Africa", aimed to educate millions of football fans about the Millennium Development Goals. The song's refrain was certainly very stirring:

*"Time is tick, tick ticking
It's ticking away
There's no time to delay
The Africa we dream of
Only 8 Goals away"*

The song "8 Goals for Africa" and its accompanying video were broadcast throughout the World Cup in South Africa, including on the giant screens set up for supporters. In addition, the musicians performed the song live at several World Cup games and at the closing ceremony on 11 July, the day of the World Cup final in Johannesburg.

The song "8 Goals for Africa" can be downloaded for free from www.8goalsforafrica.org or via iTunes. The campaign target is 1,000,000 downloads.

http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/newsroom/news/press_releases/cooperation/2010_os/ju/ne/ni_240610_8_goals_for_africa.jsp



Christophe Verhellen

A screenshot of the "8 GOALS FOR AFRICA CAMPAIGN" website. The page has a dark background with gold and red accents. At the top left is the campaign logo, which features a globe with the number 8 and the text "GOALS FOR AFRICA". To the right of the logo, the text "8 GOALS FOR AFRICA CAMPAIGN" is displayed in large, bold, gold letters, with "Millennium Development Goals advocacy campaign by the United Nations in South Africa" in smaller white text below it. A navigation bar with red background and white text contains the following links: "HOME", "8 GOALS", "THE SONG", "TAKE ACTION", "BLOG", and "CONTACT". Below the navigation bar, there is a video player showing a man in a white shirt and a hat. The video player has a play button, a progress bar, and the text "05:07" and "vimeo". To the right of the video player, there is a list of menu items in white text: "RESOURCES", "ARTISTS' BIOS", "UN IN SOUTH AFRICA", "WE CAN END POVERTY", and "DOWNLOADS". At the bottom left, the word "WELCOME" is written in large, bold, red letters. At the bottom right, the text "MDGS TWITTER FEED" is written in white.

The economy & Business

► *Belgian economic mission to Brazil*

Prince Philip led a successful economic mission to Brazil (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Brasília), from 16 to 21 March 2010, in which around 150 Belgian companies (227 businessmen) participated. During that week many contracts were signed. More will be signed later, probably.

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

The following contracts were signed in Brazil:



► SAO PAULO

- AGFA HealthCare - Fundação Instituto de Pesquisa e Estudo de Diagnóstico por Imagem (FIDI)
- Utinam – Ecorenova
- N-Side – CSN & N-Side – Usiminas
- BECI (Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry) – Chamber of Commerce Brazil-Canada

► RIO DE JANEIRO

- N-Side - Gerdau
- Waterleau - Haztec Tecnologia e Planejamento Ambiental

► BRASILIA

- Collaboration Agreement SCK.CEN – CNEN (Comissão Nacional de Energia Nuclear)
- Technical Cooperation Agreement between APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training Center & Secretaria Especial de Portos da Presidência da República do Brazil
- Technical Cooperation Agreement related to inland waterways between the Ministry of Transport of the Federative Republic of Brazil, and the Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works and the Walloon Ministry of Equipment and Transport
- EUROPALIA – Brazilian Ministry of Culture (“Frame agreement in view of Europalia Brazil 2011”)

► **Belgium 6th most attractive European country for foreign investments in 2009**

According to *Ernst & Young's* "Barometer of Belgian Attractiveness", Belgium climbed from rank 8 in 2008 to rank 6 in 2009 on the list of the most attractive European countries for investment.

The number of FDI projects in Belgium increased from 142 (2008) to 146 (2009), which is four per cent market share of the European total. 100 of these investments were entirely new projects. Wallonia in particular received very good scores, with 57 out of 146 projects, an increase of 17 compared to 2008.

The most important foreign investors in Belgium are the United States (33 projects), followed by the UK (16), France (14), Germany (13), Japan (12) and the Netherlands (9).

According to the survey by *Ernst & Young* conducted among approximately 800 CEOs, foreign investors choose Belgium for the excellent quality of life, the telecom and transport infrastructure, the high-quality workforce and the stability of the social climate.

[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Les_investisseurs_souhaitent_un_climat_dinvestissement_fiscalement_\(plus\)_favorable_et_politiquement_stable/\\$FILE/attractiveness2010_FR.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Les_investisseurs_souhaitent_un_climat_dinvestissement_fiscalement_(plus)_favorable_et_politiquement_stable/$FILE/attractiveness2010_FR.pdf)

► **German company Bayer MaterialScience to invest € 2.5 million in Antwerp**

Bayer MaterialScience, which is part of German concern *Bayer*, has a € 2.5 million investment plan for further polycarbonate process development at its Antwerp site. The project comprises the whole process for the granulate-shaped polycarbonate production as well as test installations and a Technology Center for process engineering and the implementation of best practices. Granulate-shaped polycarbonate has a huge application area, from compact discs and DVDs to blue 10 liter water bottles, construction, automotive and medical applications.



► **Belgian diamonds ever more popular**

Exports of both raw and cut diamonds from our country rose in the first five months of this year.

What is more, buyers are also prepared to pay higher prices per carat for cut diamonds, says the *Antwerp World Diamond Centre* (AWDC).

In the first five months of 2010 exports of cut diamonds increased by 2.3 percent to 2.95 million carats. In terms of value, exports rose 29.3 percent to 4.26 billion dollars.

Exports of raw diamonds shot up during these first five months by 65.8 percent to 50.4 million carats or 4 billion dollars, a doubling in value.

"If this trend continues, 2010 will be a brilliant year for the Belgian diamond industry", according to AWDC.

<http://www.awdc.be>
<http://www.antwerpfacetsonline.be/belgiums-polished-exports-again-show-higher-price-carat>



This new investment will reinforce *Bayer Antwerpen's* leading position as competence pool for polycarbonate production and technology within *Bayer*. In the past 5 years *Bayer MaterialScience* has invested ca. € 90 million in its Antwerp plant. Over 40% of that went to polycarbonate production and technology.

With this additional investment in Antwerp, *Bayer MaterialScience* confirms its confidence in the innovation potential of the Antwerp employees as well as the continued expansion of *Bayer Antwerpen* as a strategic production site in Europe.

http://www.bayer.be/ebbsc/cms/nl/nieuws/nieuwsberichten/Persbericht_20_mei_2010.html
<http://www.bayermaterialscience.com>

► **Belgian technology company EVS supplies digital applications for television recordings in the context of the Football World Cup in South Africa**

EVS Broadcasting Equipment, a Liege-based Belgian technology company, develops and sells servers and the corresponding software and services for the television market, especially in the sports domain.

The company supplies a wide range of products including slow motion images, repeats, clips, fast clip editing, immediate transfer of SD/HD folders, simultaneous multi-camera recordings, storage and distribution of graphics, digital broadcasts, broadcasts in different formats, recording and editing of audio signals etc.

The most important television channels in the world, such as NBC, FOX, RTL, NHK, CANAL+, ABC, ESPN, TF1, PBS, CBS, BBC, ZDF, TVE and many others use *EVS* technology.

For years *EVS* technology has been used at every large sporting event – from the Olympic Games to the Football World Cup. In June and July this year *EVS* was actively involved in the World Championship in South Africa.

<http://www.evs-global.com/>



© EVS

► **Belgian broadcasting company Alfacam plays an essential role in coverage of Football World Championship in South Africa**

Broadcasting company *Alfacam* based in Lint near Antwerp, won the contract for coverage of 45% of the World Championship football matches. *Alfacam* sent 170 cameras and 155 technicians to South Africa.

The company produced images of the matches in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Johannesburg and Pretoria. *Alfacam* also worked on behalf of German and Japanese broadcasting companies. It handled all interviews, reports and post-match discussions for German public broadcasters ARD and ZDF direct from the stadiums.

Because of the large distances between the stadiums *Alfacam* built technical “television villages” with customized containers, as the company previously did at the *Confederations Cup* in 2009.

<http://www.alfacam.com/>



© Alfacam



© Alfacam

► **Belgian company Zetes to deliver biometric kits to the DRC in support of the 2011 presidential elections**

Zetes, the European leader in automatic identification solutions and services for goods and people, has been awarded a contract for the delivery of 9,500 mobile biometric kits for Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in support of the 2011 presidential elections.

The contract, concluded directly with the Congolese authorities and the Independent Electoral Commission (*La Commission Electorale Indépendante* or *CEI*), has a value of more than 30 million USD.

The kits, which will be delivered in the second half of 2010, will be used to update the 2005 electoral lists established for the 2006 presidential elections. *Zetes* also develops and supplies the software that allows biographic and biometric data to be recorded and provides the AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) software necessary to identify and eliminate any duplicate entries. It also provides the equipment's technical maintenance throughout the enrolment period.

<http://www.zetes.be>

► **ICBC, biggest Chinese bank, sets up branch in Belgium**

The *Industrial and Commercial Bank of China* (ICBC), China's biggest bank, has decided to open an office in Brussels, stated Prime Minister Yves Leterme after a meeting with ICBC's chairman, Jiang Jianqing.

China's third biggest bank, the *Bank of China*, will start operating here within a few weeks. These are the first two Chinese banks to set foot in our country. According to the Prime Minister 230 Chinese companies are already active in Belgium.

From the point of view of these Chinese banks Brussels has some advantages to offer as the capital of Europe and the seat of other international organisations. Besides this it is a country with a multilingual workforce. The open nature of the Belgian economy is an important plus point too.

The plan is that ICBC will also act as an advice and support centre for Chinese companies wanting to invest in Belgium. The presence of the ICBC in Brussels could eliminate any initial hesitations candidate investors' may have. It is intended to advise and provide credit for Belgian investors in China as well.

Finally, the state-run *China Development Bank* is apparently considering a Brussels branch too.

<http://www.icbc.com.cn/icbc/sy/>
<http://www.premier.fgov.be/nl/node/3323>

► **Belgian bakery and restaurant chain Le Pain Quotidien takes over New York**

The Belgian bakery and restaurant chain *Le Pain Quotidien* has set up its 140th branch in the *Mineral Springs Pavilion* in Manhattan (New York, US), no less - the only place in Central Park where businesses are tolerated. Apart from 44 branches in the US, *Le Pain Quotidien* now has bread restaurants in 17 different countries. In 2009 they were collectively worth 118 million euros in sales and had 2,600 employees.

Le Pain Quotidien swears by biological ingredients for its hand-kneaded bread. In its restaurants all over the world there are long wooden tables, the trademark of this Belgian bakery chain.

<http://www.lepainquotidien.com/>

► **French chain FNAC opens ninth branch in Belgium**

On 7 May 2010 the French chain *FNAC* opened a second shop in Brussels in the renovated *Galerie de la Toison d'Or* shopping arcade. This is the French chain's ninth branch in Belgium. The shop has a surface area of over 3,000 m² spread over two floors. This branch also has a *FNAC Forum* for concerts, literary events and photo exhibitions.

In total the new arcade comprises 36 shops with a total commercial area of nearly 15,000 m². There are 500 parking spaces too. The renovation of the arcade took two years.

► **American company Dow Corning to invest \$13 million for solar research in Seneffe**

American company *Dow Corning Corp.* will invest up to \$13 million to expand a Solar Energy Exploration and Development Center in Seneffe (Hainaut province). *Dow Corning* makes adhesives, emulsions and other chemicals in the automotive, cosmetics and other industries.

The investment in Belgium includes two new buildings to go with the company's Business & Technology Center in Seneffe.

One building will house laboratories and chemists focusing on innovations in silicon-based materials. The other will focus on advancing the company's technology for use in photovoltaic cells.



<http://www.dowcorning.com>

► Royal Museum for Central Africa marks jubilee year with exhibition and party

The Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) organized a scientific expedition along the Congo River as well as various exhibitions and a huge party to celebrate Congo's 50 years of independence, its own hundredth birthday and the International Year of Biodiversity.

Congo exhibitions

Congo River. 4,700 Kilometres Bursting with Nature and Culture *27 April 2010 - 9 January 2011*

In the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity, the Museum is organizing an interactive exhibition featuring the great Congo River.

A spellbinding river over 4,500 kilometres long and up to 30 kilometres wide, flowing gently across plains or roaring furiously through rapids and waterfalls, it's Central Africa's main artery, the source of extraordinary biological, geographical and cultural diversity.

The exhibition will follow the Congo from source to mouth through equatorial forest, using a multidisciplinary approach based on RMCA collections and research.

Indépendance! Congolese Tell Their Stories of 50 Years of Independence *11 June 2010 - 9 January 2011*

The museum presents an exhibition that will place the events just prior, during and after independence into their proper historical, political and geographical context.

The main actors, the Congolese themselves, will take centre stage. In this way, the exhibition will present the period's myriad individual experiences, historical interpretations, and political events that reverberate to this day.

Through archives, objects, photographs, witness accounts, film footage and relevant art objects, the exhibition will offer a variety of perspectives.

Bonjour Congo in Belgium *11 June - 30 September 2010*

In May, Flemish broadcaster *Canvas* introduced the documentary series *Bonjour Congo*. Prior to the airing, Canvas had asked the public to help search for traces of Belgium's colonial past: monuments, statues, buildings, street names ... that are somehow associated with Congo. The most beautiful photographs or intriguing stories entered were selected for exhibition in the RMCA.

Kinshasa-Brussels: From Matonge to Matonge *11 June - 30 September 2010*

The photographer Jean-Dominique Burton points his camera at Matonge Brussels and Matonge Kinshasa. Intriguing photographs of two neighbourhoods thousands of kilometres apart.

Birthday party

30 April marked the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of the current RMCA building by King Albert I. The museum and the city of Tervuren celebrated this occasion with a huge party. The public was treated to live music performances on the market square, fire artists in the park, the opening of the exhibition '100 Years of the Museum in 100 Photographs' and a firework display. On 2 May people enjoyed free entry to the museum and to many activities.

<http://www.africamuseum.be>
<http://www.congo2010.be>
<http://www.canvas.be/bonjourcongo>



Mami Wata, coll. KMMA-MRAC

► **Belgian Chris Dercon becomes Tate Modern head**



Belgian Chris Dercon, who is currently heading the Haus der Kunst in Munich, Germany, has been appointed director of the Tate Modern, the London Museum of Modern Art, where he will start in the spring of 2011.



Dercon joined the Munich Haus der Kunst, also specialized in contemporary art, in May 2003.

He was previously director of the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam (Netherlands).

<http://www.tate.org.uk/modern/>
<http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/4617>
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment_and_arts/10323147.stm

► **Mayombe. Masters of Magic**

Leuven, M

8 October 2010 – 23 January 2011

Mayombe. Masters of Magic presents a large number of valuable statues and objects from the little-known but exquisite Congolese collections of K.U. Leuven, the *Université catholique de Louvain* and the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren.



Missionaries of Scheut collected these impressive objects one hundred years ago in Mayombe, a region in Lower Congo near the mouth of the Congo River. M is now exhibiting these rare items together for the first time, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Congo's independence.

The fascinating beauty of the ritual objects will be the main focus, but their significance and context will also be illustrated. The exhibition will give an insight into Mayombe society in the year 1910. The magical presence and the power of these items bear testimony to an extremely rich culture, which still appeals to the imagination today.

<http://www.mleuven.be>

► 16th edition of the Queen Elisabeth International piano competition

Origins

The Queen Elisabeth Competition was established in 1937. At the time it was known as the Eugène Ysaÿe Competition, after the famous Belgian violinist and composer. The first edition took place thanks to the financial support offered by the de Launoit family and a number of personalities from the Belgian artistic and economic worlds. It was not until after the Second World War, in 1951, that the Queen Elisabeth Competition really came into being.

Piano, voice, violin and composition

The Queen Elisabeth Competition is open to musicians who have already completed their training and who are ready to launch their international careers. The competition covers the following musical disciplines: piano, voice, violin and composition. The performance sessions take place every three years and the competition for composers before each instrumental session. The winning works of the composer's competition are given as compulsory works during the piano and violin sessions.

2010 – piano

This year's edition (3-29 May 2010) of the Competition was devoted to the piano. It has allowed us to discover a new generation of young pianists. The compulsory unpublished work performed in the final was chosen by a prestigious international jury in the autumn of 2009, at the International Competition for Composers: *Target*, a work for piano and orchestra by the South-Korean composer JEON Minje. The other works chosen by the candidates had to meet certain criteria of style and era decided by the Artistic Committee.

Laureates 2010

On 29 May the chairman of the jury announced the 6 laureates of this year's competition:

First prize: Denis Kozhukhin (Russia)

Second prize: Evgeni Bozhanov (Bulgaria)

Third prize: Hannes Minnaar (Netherlands)

Fourth prize: Yuri Favorin (Russia)

Fifth prize: Tae-Hyung Kim (South Korea)

Sixth prize: Da Sol Kim (South Korea)

The remaining 6 finalists do not receive a ranking.

Master classes, concerts, CD box

As every year, master classes were given by some members of the jury, whose talent should make for fascinating encounters. Starting in June, concerts given by the laureates offered many more great musical moments. Moreover, a 3-CD box set is now available.

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



► *Procession of the Bayard Steed. Dendermonde, 30 May 2010*

Dendermonde is best known in Belgium and internationally as the city of the Bayard Steed. The Bayard Steed (*het Ros Beiaard* in Dutch) forms the central theme of a folk procession which is held once every ten years.

Its origins date back to the 15th century. The myth of the Bayard Steed and the four Sons of Aymon started in the medieval novel of chivalry and spread across Europe. Singers, folk tales and processions brought the heroic story to life in the 15th century. The story deals with issues of feudalism in the early Middle Ages and dates back to Charlemagne's period.

The Processions are so rare that all inhabitants of the city look forward to it many years before and enjoy it many years after. Young and old are fascinated by the spectacle.

The Bayard Steed, a colourful horse of 5 metres high, over 5 metres long and weighing over 800 kg, is carried through Dendermonde by twelve bearers. The horse is ridden by the four sons of Aymon, four brothers born one after the other without interruption by the birth of a baby sister. The requirements are that they were all born in Dendermonde and are between 7 and 21 years old on the day of the Procession. Their parents must also be born in Dendermonde and have been living there all their lives. The boys are dressed up as knights and greet the audience from the horse.

At the end of the Procession a gunfight takes place on the main square.

Since 2005 the Bayard Steed and Procession are part of the *UNESCO* 'Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'.



<http://www.rosbeiaard.be>

► *Marcel Broodthaers*

2 July – 26 September 2010

Brussels, Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium

The time has come to honour once again one of the greatest Belgian artists of the 20th century. Marcel Broodthaers, the king of heteroclite assemblages with the most unexpected aesthetical features, loved to create works with objects from everyday life: bricks, eggshells, sponges, plaster, newspapers, etc.

This exhibition features all the works by Marcel Broodthaers from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the largest public collection of Broodthaers' works. It is the very first time that those works will be shown simultaneously.

Plenty of reasons to re-discover this visionary, anti-authority artist, whose works are still as topical as ever.

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



Marcel Broodthaers
Red Mussel Casserole, 1965
Casserole with lid, in red enamel, containing mussel shells
© SABAM 2010
MRBAB/KMSKB, photo: J. Geleyns / www.roscaan.be

Marcel BROODTHAERS 1924-1982
Museum of Modern Art
1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.fine-arts-museum.be

► **Visionary Africa. BOZAR, Brussels, 30 May – 26 September 2010**

In 2010 the eyes of the world will be turned on Africa: Congo and 16 other African countries will celebrate 50 years of independence this year and the biggest sporting event of the year, the football World Cup, took place for the first time on the African continent!

All summer BOZAR, the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, focuses on Africa, with exhibitions, concerts, performance art, debates, films and literature.

Committed artists and voices like **Rokia Traoré, Angélique Kidjo, Didier Awadi** and the cutting-edge choreographer **Germaine Acogny** will be on stage at the Centre for Fine Arts.

The main exhibition, **GEO-graphics**, on which BOZAR and the Royal Museum for Central Africa collaborated, offers a fresh look at our cultural relations with Africa. Around 200 ethnographic masterpieces from public and private Belgian collections are exhibited in a whole new way. The focus is on these traditional artworks in relation to cultural life in Africa now. They are given a new context by combining them with contemporary African works and the urban photos of artistic director David Adjaye. Eight African cultural institutions present artists and artistic projects and engage in dialogue with the past.

In the framework of the Summer of Photography 2010 there is a retrospective of contemporary African photography (1960-2010), **A Useful Dream**, portraying 50 years of African photographers' views of their continent. The exhibition is curated by Simon Njami, the author of, amongst other things, *Anthologie de la photographie africaine*.



George Osodi, Ogony Boy, 2007

Roger Ballen, a South African photographer with American roots, has spent nearly 30 years producing his masterly, constantly evolving oeuvre. His particular universe, which goes from the documentary style of his early period to more pictorial compositions, steers a course between dream and reality. A mysterious oeuvre that is both amusing and confusing. Discover it through 200 photos.

PÔZE III/Africa Town focuses on African life in Brussels. All the Africans and other people in Brussels with a heart for Africa were invited to photograph their everyday environment. Since the end of November 2009 disposable cameras have been made available free of charge for this project. The best photos were selected by a professional jury and will be exhibited at the Centre for Fine Arts from 25 June to 26 September.

The Centre for Fine Arts also participates in the festivities to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the independence of Congo under the title **CONGO@BOZAR**. The emphasis will be on 50 years of Congolese music and will feature Congolese stars.

The last word goes to the artists of the festival. During their **"48 hours in Brussels"** artists from the African continent and the diaspora will be invited to dedicate themselves to the development of the African artistic sector. They will be given the opportunity to debate the role of culture in the development of Africa. Day in day out they embody "Visionary Africa".

<http://www.bozar.be>

► *Royal Museum for Central Africa marks jubilee year with a Congo River scientific expedition*

The Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) this year celebrates 50 years of independence of Congo as well as its own hundredth birthday. On top of that, 2010 is the international year of biodiversity and the Tervuren museum, a fountain of knowledge on Africa, will not let this pass unnoticed.

On 26 April 2010 a multidisciplinary expedition team started following the Congo River from Kisangani to Kinshasa. The 67-strong team of Belgian, Congolese and international scientists included zoologists, botanists, geologists, freshwater biologists, cartographers, archaeologists, doctors and linguists.

The expedition was organized in cooperation between the coordinator RMCA, the University of Kisangani, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and the National Botanic Gardens of Belgium, and was supported with funds from the Belgian Development Cooperation, the Federal Science Policy and the National Lottery.



© Kris Pannecoucke

Purpose of the trip was to map the rich biodiversity around the River Congo and to reinforce the capacity of Congolese scientists. A Centre for Biodiversity was also set up in Kisangani, under the auspices of the University of Kisangani. The Centre will house the many plant and animal species found and researched during the expedition. These collections will be available for further study by Congolese and international scientists.

Journalists joined the scientists to provide direct coverage of the expedition.

<http://www.africamuseum.be>
<http://www.congo2010.be>
<http://www.belgium.be>
<http://diplomatie.belgium.be>

► **VIB-UGent scientist receives prestigious European Science Award for research on plant hormones and development**

Scientist Jiří Friml from VIB (*Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie*/Flemish Institute for Biotechnology) and Ghent University is this year's laureate of the Körber European Science Award. The Körber Foundation (Germany) annually awards European scientists who are pursuing particularly innovative research projects.

Friml gets the prize for his research into the development and adaptability of plants. Unlike animals, plants can't run away when confronted with heat, drought or other forms of stress. Plants tackle those problems in a totally different way: they are able to adapt their metabolism very quickly in response to changes in their environment, for example by growing new roots, temporarily shutting down their respiration or by initiating the production of toxins.

The plant hormone auxin, the primary research target of Friml, plays a central role in this adaptability. Understanding the effect of auxin may lead to development of plants that are more resistant to drought or produce higher yields.

It is the second time that a biotech researcher from Ghent wins the Körber Prize. Dirk Inzé, the scientific director of the department where Friml conducts his research, received the award in 1994.

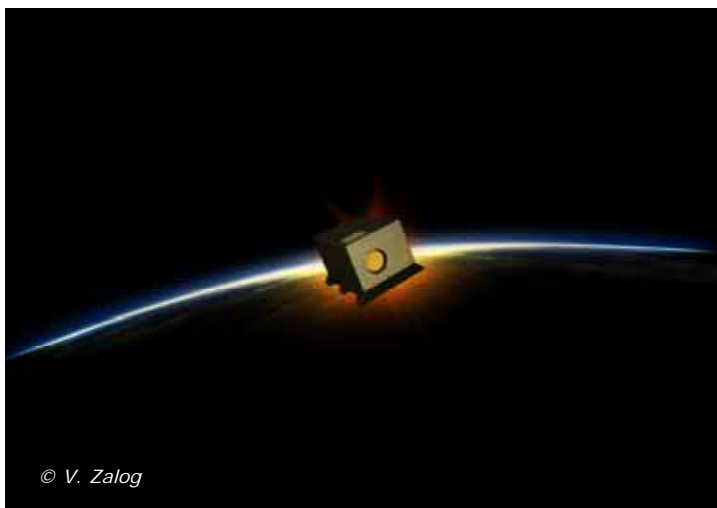


<http://www.koerber-stiftung.de/>
<http://www.ugent.be>
<http://www.vib.be>

► **UCL develops an energetic particle telescope**

On 4 June 2010 the *Centre des Radiations spatiales* (Centre for Space Radiations) at the *Université catholique de Louvain* (UCL) introduced a prototype of the energetic particle telescope (EPT) in Louvain-la-Neuve.

The EPT was developed by the European Space Agency and will be attached to a satellite. The instrument looks like a "box" and weighs under 5 kg. It is designed to measure highly energetic particles in space. The data gathered in space will be used in the developing field of "space meteorology". The EPT will allow seven day space weather forecasting so that satellite damage can be prevented in case of strong particle fluxes and space storms.



The telescope detects the charged particles and examines their number, direction, energy and nature.

Development on the telescope started in 1997 at the UCL. The concept was devised by Professor Ghislain Grégoire and researcher Mathias Cyamukungu.

The prototype, funded by the European Space Agency, was completed today at a total cost of 5 million euro. Russia and Canada have already registered their interest in the telescope and Belgium too may order one for the Proba-V satellite.

<http://www.uclouvain.be/322709.html>
http://csrv1.fynu.ucl.ac.be/csr_web/ept/eptday.php

► **Scientists at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel develop a new diagnostic technique for deep lung function**

The “deep lung” is the name used for the many bronchial tubes and pulmonary alveoli that are so tiny and have such complex connections that it is almost impossible to reach them with traditional diagnostic measuring equipment.

However, more than 95% of lung volume is situated in the deep lung, where the primary function of the pulmonary alveoli is gas exchange. In a normal lung, the area covered by all pulmonary alveoli is equal to the size of a tennis court.

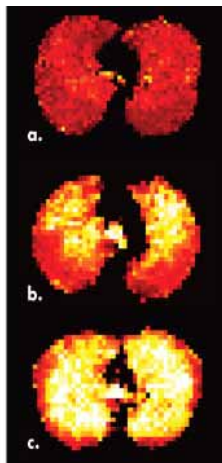
This area is smaller for smokers: the pulmonary alveoli in their lungs are destroyed or inflated, reducing the area for gas exchange which causes breathlessness.

Researchers from the Pneumology Department at the Brussels University Hospital (UZ) have caused a breakthrough in deep lung function diagnostics. With magnetic resonance imaging – a technique often used to measure body tissue – it is possible to image gases, such as helium, within the deep lung.

The gases spread in a different way around the deep lung depending on the number of pulmonary alveoli. With simulations of MRI images of normal and smokers’ lungs, researchers calculated how the gases move around both types of lung, to predict how much lung tissue destruction is shown in MRI images.

The more lung tissue destruction, the less geometric barriers for breathed-in gas molecules and the wider the diffusion of gas molecules in the deep lung structure. So the better the gas can move around in the deep lung, the more tissue destruction there is.

This revolutionary research opens the way to all sorts of new, non-invasive diagnostic techniques of the deep lung.

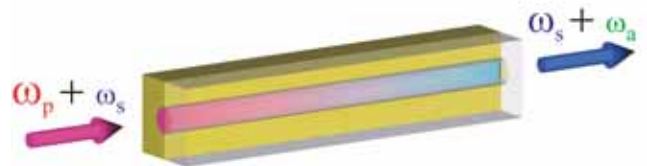


<http://www.vub.ac.be>

► **Researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel paves the way to realization of silicon photonic chip with minimal heat dissipation**

Silicon has long been the ideal material for the production of electronic chips. Soon it will be possible to add photonic functions to the chips, at almost the same cost and with the same production techniques.

These chips will dramatically improve performance of existing products and make faster computers, broader internet bandwidth and miniaturization of medical labs into so called *labs-on-chips* possible. These *labs-on-chips* will allow medical analyses of water, blood or DNA in difficult circumstances, such as during the aftermath of a natural disaster.



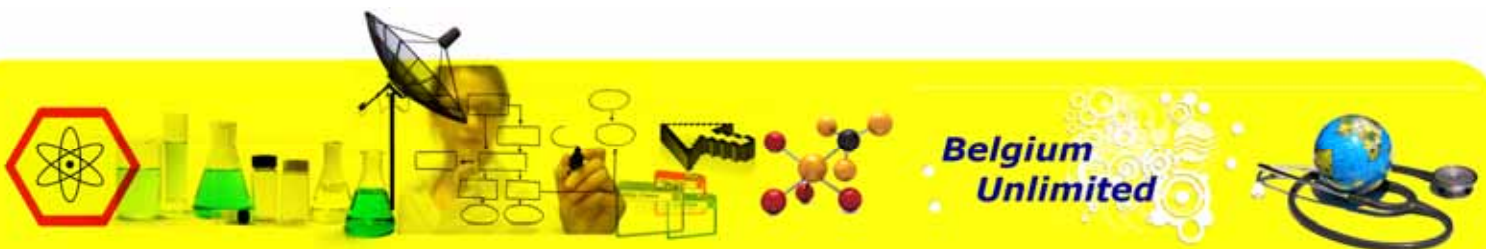
Dr. Ir. Nathalie Vermeulen, researcher at the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*, and her promoters Prof. Dr. Ir. Hugo Thienpont and Dr. Ir. Christof Debaes of the Brussels Photonics Team resolved a few important issues, including the problem of overheating when a large number of components are connected to one chip.

Vermeulen developed a new method whereby excess heat is removed in the form of light.

Vermeulen received the prestigious Photonics21 Student Innovation Award for her research work.



<http://www.b-phot.org>



**Belgium
Unlimited**

Miscellaneous

► **Elections on 13 June 2010**

Belgians proceeded to the ballot boxes on Sunday, 13 June 2010 to elect their representatives in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The results of the parliamentary elections led to the following seat distribution:



Senate:

N-VA: 9 seats
PS: 7 seats
CD&V: 4 seats
sp.a: 4 seats
Open VLD: 4 seats
MR: 4 seats
Vlaams Belang: 3 seats
ecolo: 2 seats
CDH: 2 seats
GROEN!: 1 seat

House:

N-VA: 27 seats
PS: 26 seats
MR: 18 seats
CD&V: 17 seats
sp.a: 13 seats
Open VLD: 13 seats
Vlaams Belang: 12 seats
CDH: 9 seats
ecolo: 8 seats
GROEN!: 5 seats
Lijst Dedecker: 1 seat
Parti Populaire: 1 seat

For the complete election results:

<http://polling2010.belgium.be/en/>

► **The Royal Palace opens its doors to the public from 26 July to 5 September 2010**

The Royal Palace will this year open its doors between 26 July and 5 September. A plethora of events are on the agenda.

Biodiversity

To get the public interested in science and technology, the Federal Science Policy holds an exhibition on biodiversity in the Grand Hall. Four major federal scientific institutions will join forces for this event. They will use some exceptional pieces from their collections to make visitors aware of cultural differences in the relationship between nature and human.

Experimenting

In the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union Technopolis®, the centre for science and technology in Mechelen, will bring together a number of interactive exhibits from all over Europe in the Mirror Room. Technopolis® is in collaboration with Ecsite, the European network for science centres. The young visitors to the Palace will be able to experiment to their heart's content. A workshop 'Fire a rocket' will be held where kids can design and launch their own rocket. The mission of Technopolis® is to bring science and technology closer to the public.

Contemporary art

Queen Paola has been devoting herself for many years to the integration of contemporary art into the Palace. After commissioning work by Jan Fabre, Marthe Wéry, Dirk Braeckman and Patrick Corillon, this year the Ghent artist Michaël Borremans was asked to produce a piece. He was given free rein and came up with six paintings and a video production, all with the same theme. This new series of artworks will be on display in the three refurbished rooms between the Throne Room and the Empire Room, together with some historic pieces of furniture including the desk of King Albert I.

The King and Queen will attend the festive opening on Tuesday 20 July. The Royal Palace will be open to visitors every day from 10.30am to 4.30pm, except on Mondays.

<http://www.belspo.be/>
<http://www.technopolis.be/>
<http://www.monarchie.be>



OPT – JP Remy

► **Antwerp and Brussels are top expat destinations**

According to a recent survey of European expats by expat management agency *ECA International*, the cities of Antwerp and Brussels are among the most favorite destinations for European expats.

The Danish capital Copenhagen heads the charts together with Swiss capital Bern. Second place, out of 400, is shared by two cities in Belgium: Antwerp and Brussels. They beat major business cities such as Amsterdam (11th), Berlin (15th), Paris (20th), Stockholm (21st), London (31st) and Rome (36th).



© OPT - JP Remy

The *ECA* study is used by HR departments to calculate the compensation that expats can expect to receive for difficulties in adapting to their new environment. The criteria used are climate, health services, housing, public services, distance, social life, leisure facilities, infrastructure, safety, political tension and air quality, among other things.

<http://www.eca-international.com/showpressrelease.aspx?ArticleID=7144>

► **Two Belgians European snooker champion**

Luca Brecel, 15, became European champion snooker in the Romanian capital Bucharest on 5 June 2010. He beat 31-year old Dutchman Roy Stolk in the finals with 7-4. Last year the youngster from Limburg became European champion in U-19.

This is the second title in two days for Belgium at the EC snooker in Bucharest, after Wendy Jans won gold at the women's European championship on 4 June.

The 26-year old Belgian beat German Diana Stateczny with 5-3. Jans played no less than eleven European finals, six of which she won. She also contested in five WC finals and won one in 2006.

<http://www.brecelluca.com>
<http://www.wendy-jans.com/>



Luca Brecel

Wendy Jans

► **Brussels top international meeting city**

Brussels is the top meeting city in Europe and in second place worldwide. This is reported in *International Meeting Statistics for the Year 2009*, prepared by the Union of International Associations (UIA). According to the UIA 402 meetings were held in Brussels. Brussels scored lower than Singapore (746 meetings), but higher than Paris (386), Vienna (331) and Geneva (183).

<http://www.uia.be/sites/uia.be/files/documents/statistics/press/press10.pdf>

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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.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

Toiling for war. Chinese workers in the First World War

24 April - 15 August 2010
Ypres, In Flanders Fields Museum
<http://www.inflandersfields.be>

Whales and dolphins

14 October 2009 - 29 August 2010
Brussels, Museum of Natural Sciences
<http://www.natuurwetenschappen.be>

Visiting Ensor

13 February - 29 August 2010
Ostend, MU.ZEE
<http://www.muzeeb.be>

A Passage to Asia

25 Centuries of Exchange between Asia and Europe
25 June - 10 October 2010
Brussels, Bozar

UPCOMING EVENTS 2010

Bruges Central. City festival 2010
28 September 2010 - 31 January 2011

With, inter alia:

Van Eyck to Dürer

29 October 2010 - 30 January 2011
Groeningemuseum

Luc Taeymans. A vision of Central Europe

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

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>

MISCELLANEOUS

Flower carpet on the Grand-Place (takes place every two years)
13 - 15 August 2010
Brussels
<http://www.bruxelles-tourisme.be>

Virga Jesse festivities (take place every seven years)
13 - 29 August 2010
Hasselt
<http://www.virga-jessefeesten.be>

FAIRS

<http://www.beurskalender.be>
http://mineco.fgov.be/enterprises/fairs/home_nl.htm

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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