

Good news from Belgium (the economy & business) – January/February 2010

1. Foreign investments in Belgium

This section was prepared in collaboration between the Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs and the Liaison Cell Federal-Regions Foreign Investments. The Liaison Cell was created in 1995 as a result of the Cooperation Agreement "Foreign Investments" of 7 February 1995. Its mission is to raise important issues concerning the investment climate in Belgium to policy makers, and create synergies between all the Belgian authorities involved in the attraction of foreign investments. The following authorities are represented in the Cell: FPS Foreign Affairs, FPS Economy, FPS Finance, Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT), Agence wallonne à l'Exportation (AWEX), the Brussels Enterprise Agency (BEA) and the Ministry of the Brussels-Capital Region. Its chair is held by the Regions on a rotating basis and its secretariat is ensured by the FPS Economy.

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Transfer of the dividend received deduction is now officially possible

Since January 1st, 2010 the law stipulates that unused dividend received deductions may be carried forward to subsequent tax periods.

BELGIAN APPLICATION 'MOTHER-DAUGHTER DIRECTIVE'

When a company receives dividends, this income is normally exempt from tax for 95% in the form of the so-called dividend received deduction (participation exemption), provided that the parent owns at least 10% of the capital of the subsidiary. The reasoning behind that is that these dividends are already taxed in the head of the company that pays them. Including them in the taxable base of the company receiving the dividends would thus amount to double taxation.

Until recently, the problem was that a loss-making company could make no practical use of that exemption. Because the dividend received deduction was not transferable to subsequent years. Without taxable profit one can obviously not use deductions, but if this "unused" deduction also can not be transferred to subsequent years, the deduction is finally lost as if it had never existed. Hence the law is now designed to make transfer of the dividend received deduction possible.

ALSO APPLICABLE FOR BELGIAN DIVIDENDS

Despite the fact that the parent-subsidiary directive governs only cases between tax payers of different EU-member States, the amendment also applies to "internal-Belgian" dividend flows. This is evident because the government has obviously never intended to treat Belgian source dividends less favorably than dividends from abroad.

NOT ONLY EU

What the amendment does not govern, is the case of dividends paid to a Belgian parent company by a daughter from outside the European Union. Therefore, the tax authorities issued a circular letter explaining how the transferability of the dividend received deduction can be organized in this case.

ALSO APPLICABLE FOR THE PAST

Formally, the amendment enters into force as of January 1, 2010. But in an earlier circular letter, the tax authorities admitted that the ruling of the Court of Justice has actually a retroactive effect going back to the starting point of the Mother-Daughter Directive, i.e. from tax year 1992.

<http://minfin.fgov.be/portail2/belinvest/index.htm>

Swedish clothing giant *H&M* confirms its arrival in Mons

The Swedish giant *Hennes & Mauritz (H&M)* has acquired a plot in the Ghlin-Baudour industrial area (Hainaut province) where it plans to locate its future European distribution centre, a depot of more than 50,000 m². More than 500 new jobs will be created.

<http://www.hm.com>

<http://www.investinwallonia.be/of-belgique/menu-news/HnM-confirme-sa-venue-a-Mons.php>

Dutch *DESSO* Group invests €3.6 million in Dendermonde

The Dutch leading textile group *DESSO* is investing €3.6 million in a robotizing project at its tufting department in the town of Dendermonde (Eastern Flanders province). *DESSO's* process of two tufting robots working in tandem will be unique in Europe.

This investment will raise the productive capacity by 2011 by 30 to 35 %. Tufting is the first step in the production of carpet tiles, which make up three quarters of the company's turnover. The other quarter is generated by the production of artificial grass which is used, inter alia, for sports fields, such as football fields all over the world.

500 of the 900 *DESSO* group's staff are employed at the production site in Dendermonde. In addition to the tufting shop, the plant houses a paint spraying division, a weaving mill and part of a wool spinning mill.

<http://www.desso.com>

<http://trends.rnews.be/nl/economie/nieuws/bedrijven/desso-investeert-in-dendermonde/article-1194660344852.htm>

International law firm *Salans* opens new office in Brussels

Salans, a multinational law firm founded in Paris in 1978, combining the skills of lawyers trained in European civil law and Anglo-American common law, has opened a new office in the capital of Belgium on March 1st, 2010.

The new Brussels office will offer trade, customs, antitrust, regulatory and government affairs advice in multiple languages including English, French, Bulgarian, Chinese, Dutch, German, Russian, and Spanish.

The new office will be a compelling attraction to both *Salans'* and the new team's clients, given the strategic importance of a Brussels presence to *Salans'* global competition, EU regulatory and trade practice.

<http://www.salans.com/en-GB/sitecore/Content/Salans/Global/Items/News/2010/20100217-Salans%20Announces%20New%20Office%20in%20Brussels.aspx>

Australian company *Ansell Healthcare* opens new distribution centre in Belgium

Australian company *Ansell Healthcare*, a global leader in barrier protective products that holds leading positions in the natural latex and synthetic polymer glove and condom markets, has chosen Genk (Province of Limburg) to open a new European distribution centre for its medical and surgical gloves for healthcare workers. The centre is fully operational since January 1st, 2010. The Belgian transport and logistics firm *Groep H. Essers* handles the logistics activities.

One year earlier, *Ansell* opened a new distribution center for its industrial gloves in Aalst (Province of Oost-Vlaanderen). *Ansell's* European headquarters has been based, for some time now, in the city of Anderlecht near Brussels. As for distribution, the city Antwerp plays a crucial role for the Australian company: over 95% of *Ansell's* products enters Europe through the Port of Antwerp.

<http://www.anselleurope.com/ansell/ansell-healthcare-news/ansell-healthcare-press-releases-1/index.cfm?I=10621>
<http://www.ansell.eu>

Swedish company *Atlas Copco* moves its financial centre from Sweden to Belgium

The Swedish group *Atlas Copco*, world leader in the production of compressors, electricity generators and materials for construction and mining, has set up a financial subsidiary in our country, under the name of *Atlas Copco Finance Belgium*. This new financial centre is established in Wilrijk near Antwerp, and was formed in November 2009 with a capital of €100,000, increased to €2.3 billion on 15 December.

The group's financial activities are thus organised and centralised in Belgium. This is no accident, given the financial expertise and the share in the group's turnover generated by the industrial activity in Belgium. *Atlas Copco Airpower*, the most important compressor factory of *Atlas Copco's Compressor Technique* division is in fact established in Wilrijk, where at the end of 2008 it employed about 2,800 workers. In addition, the Swedish group has a distribution centre in Hasselt, a *Customer Centre* in Overijse, and a European *hub* for hiring out machinery in Rumst. The group employs a total of some 3,000 people in Belgium.

But there is also a financial reason for opening this new financial subsidiary in Belgium. *Atlas Copco* used to have a coordination centre in Belgium, but it was closed because the favourable tax system for such centres was abolished in 2010. Belgium nonetheless remains fiscally attractive for foreign investors because of the notional interest deduction, whereby notional interest can be deducted from the taxable income.

<http://www.atlascopco.be>

Dutch private equity group *Gilde Buy Out Partners* opens Belgian office

The Dutch private equity group *Gilde Buy Out Partners* has opened an office in Brussels. The group had been active for some time already in Belgium, but the files were followed up from Paris and head office in Utrecht (the Netherlands).

The best known stake of *Gilde* in our country is probably *Betafence*, the former fencing division of *Bekaert*. Other *Gilde* stakes in Belgium include *Morubel* (crustaceans and shellfish) in Ostend and through *Gilde Healthcare Partners* in the biotech firm *Ablynx*. Through its French subsidiary *Novasep*, *Gilde* also acquired the Belgian firm *Henogen*. *CropDesign* used to belong to the portfolio until it was sold to *BASF Plant Science* in 2006.

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<http://www.gilde.com>

German chemical company *Lanxess* invests €35 million in its caprolactam production in Antwerp

Lanxess, the German special chemistry group active particularly in high-tech plastics, rubber and chemicals, had decided to invest €35 million in its caprolactam production in Antwerp harbour. Caprolactam is used in particular as a basic raw material for nylon and high-tech plastics.

The alteration works in *Lanxess'* caprolactam plant in Lillo will be carried out in 2010 and 2011. This factory has a capacity of 200,000 tonnes and a workforce of about 400. *Lanxess* employs 1,320 people in all in its three branches in the Antwerp harbour.

<http://corporate.lanxess.com/>

Swiss combined freight operator *Hupac* opens a transshipment terminal in the Port of Antwerp

The Swiss combined freight operator *Hupac* has opened a new transshipment terminal in the Port of Antwerp. The investment is worth € 22 million.

The facility has the capacity to handle 12 train pairs with a length of 620 metres each day. It also helps to further shift freight traffic from road to rail.

The terminal is an important prerequisite for the further development of environmentally friendly combined transport. Furthermore, it anticipates open rail markets by the year 2020.

http://www.hupac.com/en/index.php?p=presse_2010/26_1_2010/26_1_2010&ml=&mt=6

Belgium attractive for Japanese investors

The *Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce (BJA)* conducted an analysis of all available international studies on the investment climate and came to the conclusion that Belgium has countless winning assets for foreign investors. In the 17 studies that

were examined, Belgium always came across as one of the best countries for foreign investors, as it scored well in very many areas. Belgium's strong points include in particular: labour regulations, the average wage developments in logistics, its attractiveness as a distribution country, the quality of the research institutions and capital tax, thanks to the notional interest deduction.* The *BJA* hopes that its report entitled *Belgium and its neighbours' business climates compared* will arouse interest in Japanese companies to invest in Belgium.

* *When a company takes out a loan for its economic activity, it can deduct the interest paid. Thanks to the notional interest deduction (Act of 22 June 2005 on the introduction of tax deduction for risk capital, applicable since tax year 2007), all companies liable for Belgian corporate tax can deduct an amount (a notional interest) from their taxable income equal to the interest that they would have paid in the event of outside financing.*

<http://www.bja.be/pdf/statistics/BJA%20Investment%20Publication%20-%20under%20embargo%20until%202%20Feb%202010.pdf>

American IT company *Intel* wants supercomputer laboratory in Belgium

During a visit in California by the Flemish Minister President Kris Peeters and Vice Minister President Ingrid Lieten, in February 2010, *Intel* announced that it wanted to develop, together with the five Flemish universities and the Flemish research institute *IMEC*, an advanced laboratory for research in the supercomputers of the future.

Intel has its regional sales office for Northern Europe in Kontich near Antwerp. The company has moreover been an important company of *IMEC* for 17 years.

<http://www.intel.com/intel/index.htm>

American concern *Paramount Farms* builds distribution centre in Belgium

The American concern *Paramount Farms*, the world's largest producer of pistachios and almonds, plans to invest \$20 million in a new plant in Willebroek (province of Antwerp). *Paramount Farms* already has offices in Ghent (province of East Flanders) and Heverlee (province of Flemish Brabant). The concern, a division of the *Roll International* group, wants to introduce *Wonderful Pistachios*, the best known such brand in the United States, in the European market as well. A centre will be built for that purpose in Willebroek for the processing and distribution of nuts grown in California.

<http://www.paramountfarms.com>

Belgian regions in the top 10 European regions with the best strategy for attracting foreign investors

European Cities & Regions of the Future 2010/2011, a publication of *fDI Magazine*, published by the *Financial Times*, shows that Flanders has the best strategy among all European regions for attracting foreign investments. Brussels and Wallonia score high as well, ranking 2nd and 6th respectively. The assessment took account of the staff responsible for promoting the region and for providing advice and support to investors, *incentives* and the presence of infrastructure projects.

In the list of the most attractive regions for foreign investments, Flanders is 7th and Brussels sixteenth. Wallonia did not make the top 25.

<http://www.fdimagazine.com/cp/26/European-Cities-and-Regions-of-the-Future-2010-11.pdf>

2. Contracts abroad for Belgian companies

Spanish sugar refinery opts for Zetes solution to improve product traceability

Headquartered in Brussels, *Zetes Industries* is a leading provider of solutions and services with added value for the automatic identification of goods and people.

Zetes recently completed successfully the roll out of the pilot phase of a project based on RFID technology in the *Guadalete* sugar refinery of *Azucarera Ebro*, the biggest sugar producer in Spain and the second largest sugar group in the world. The system improves the external product traceability by making it possible to control outgoing trucks with finished product.

The two objectives set for this project are to reduce errors and boost productivity.

<http://www.zetes.be>

Belgian windmills in Cambodia

The first wind turbine in Cambodia was commissioned in January 2010 in Sihanoukville, the country's largest harbour. The aim is to have the entire harbour run on wind energy.

The contract was made possible thanks to the EU's *Euro Asia Pro Eco* programme intended to promote cooperation by and between Europe and Asia on environmental technology.

The *Flanders International Technical Agency (FITA)* is responsible for managing the project. The agency makes Flemish knowledge, technical capacities and attainments in infrastructure and facilities, transport and the environment, town and country planning and housing known abroad. *FITA* moreover promotes the participation of Flemish businesses in investments in these sectors abroad by providing logistical and technical support, particularly by making governmental experts available for international assignments.

Other partners include *Flanders Hydraulics*, *Geres*, a French non-profit association for sustainable development, and the Brussels-based consultancy firm *NV 3E*, a spin-off of IMEC and a specialist of renewable energy that works closely with the Dutch-speaking Free University of Brussels.

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

http://www.flandern.be/servlet/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1231781006770&context=1166590833692--EN&p=1231781006770&pagename=flanders_site%2FView

http://www.delkhm.ec.europa.eu/en/projects/harbour_development.htm

Belgian engineering and consultancy firm develops computer model for predicting floods

Under an EU LIFE project and in close cooperation with the Egyptian government, the Belgian engineering and consultancy firm *Soresma* has developed a computer model that predicts floods. The operational model uses a (radar) forecast of where and how a great deal of precipitation will fall to calculate the potential flooding risk and to warn the local water control authority.

Thanks to this application, fatalities could be avoided in January 2010 during the heavy flooding in the Red Sea and in the Sinai desert in the test area around Nuweiba. Thanks to the forecast of the Belgian computer model, the area could be evacuated in good time.

Egypt is reported to want to extend the system to all risk areas in the country, while other countries too have shown interest in *Soresma's* technology.

<http://www.soresma.be/>
<http://www.flaflo.org>

Dredging International*, a division of the *DEME* Group, completes dredging in Estonia *DEME* to build the *London Gateway Port* together with *Laing O'Rourke

Estonia

The Belgian company *Dredging International*, a division of the *Dredging, Environmental and Marine Engineering (DEME)* group landed a contract in 2009 for works in the first phase of the *Muuga Port Eastern Development project* to expand Muuga harbour in Estonia. This harbour is located some 17 km from the country's capital Tallinn and is one of the deepest and most modern harbours in the Baltic region.

The works got under way on 1 December 2009 and were completed on schedule in mid January 2010, in spite of particularly adverse weather conditions under which they had to be carried out.

United Kingdom

On January 8th, 2010, Port operator *DP World* has committed itself to the foundation stage of its *London Gateway Project* on the river Thames. The new port development project is located at the former *Shell Haven* installations about 25 miles downstream of the City of London.

The dredging works will start in March 2010 and have to be completed by end 2014. A significant number of heavy-duty dredgers of the *DEME* fleet will be involved in the execution of this project.

The new *London Gateway Port* will be a state-of-the-art fully automated deepwater container port for the latest generation of container vessels. The entire project (quay walls, superstructure, dredging and reclamation, connecting road systems) will be funded by the client *DP World*. The dredging and reclamation works include some 29 million m³ of capital dredging in the river Thames over a distance of approx. 100 km.

<http://www.deme.be>

Jan De Nul Group gains project in Iraq Extension of concession contract in Argentina

Iraq

Jan De Nul Group signed a contract with *GCPI (General Company for Ports of Iraq)* for deepening the Umm Qasr Port, situated in the most southern tip of Iraq, near the border with Kuwait. This commercial port is Iraq's gate to the Arabic Gulf and Iraq's lifeline for import of mixed cargo and bulk goods.

Through the years, the port slowly silted up and *Jan De Nul Group* now has to deepen it to -12.5 m. The contract is worth €52 million and for 8 months, it will put 1 small and 1 medium sized trailer hopper dredger to work.

Argentina

On January 21, 2010 the Argentine President signed the decree that extends the concession contract of *Jan De Nul Group* and its Argentine partner *Emepa* for the dredging and signalization of the Parana River and Rio de la Plata. *Jan De Nul Group* was awarded the concession in 1995, but this contract has now been extended for a period of eight years, from 2013 to 2021. The concession is unique in the sense that a private company maintains the navigational depth and collects toll from the ships that navigate the fairway.

<http://www.jandenul.com>

<http://www.sandandgravel.com/news/article.asp?v1=12482>

Agfa Graphics new joint venture with Shenzhen Brothers

Agfa Graphics, the business unit of the listed company *Agfa Gevaert*, has engaged in a joint venture with the Chinese *Shenzhen Brothers*. Both companies will unite their activities in the Chinese and South-east Asian regions.

Agfa Graphics is a world player in the graphic and publishing arenas with its prepress solutions, printing plates and workflow automation. In addition, it produces inkjet printers for the publishing, graphic and packaging industries. According to *Agfa Graphics* CEO, Stefaan Vanhooren, this collaborative venture is an effort to "realise ambitious expansion plans for digital prepress and industrial inkjets in Asia".

Agfa Graphics and *Shenzhen Brothers* enjoy a history of collaboration spanning ten years. *Shenzhen Brothers* started distributing *Agfa Graphic* graphic film master rolls in 2000, establishing a vast distribution network in the Chinese graphic industry in the process. *Agfa Graphics* boasts a print plate factory in the Chinese town of Wuxi. According to the deal, *Agfa Graphics* will receive a 51 percent share and *Shenzhen Brothers* 49 percent. Stefaan Vanhooren will be appointed chairman of the board of directors and the current CEO of *Shenzhen Brothers* will be CEO of the joint venture, which is expected to become operational during the third quarter of this year.

In addition to its activities in the graphic industry, *Agfa Gevaert* is a key player in the medical world as manufacturer of computer radiography and digital networks used in hospitals. The company employs a staff of 14,000 worldwide and is active in 120 countries.

http://mds.agfa.com/en/gs/news_events/latest_news/archive/20100126_Agfa_Brothers.jsp

Agfa Graphics signs contract with Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

Belgian company *Agfa Graphics* has signed an agreement with *Singapore Press Holdings Ltd (SPH)*, Southeast Asia's leading media organization, to upgrade the complete pre-press production at *SPH's Print Centre* in Singapore. With this contract the *Singapore Print Centre* will switch from analogue to digital pre-press production.

With 17 newspaper titles in 4 languages, *SPH Print Centre* has one of the most complex operations in the newspaper industry. The equipment supplied by *Agfa Graphic* turns *SPH Print Centre* into one of the largest single newspaper computer-to-plate sites in the world. The agreement also includes a two years' supply of :N92v violet photopolymer plates.

<http://www.sph.com.sg>
<http://www.agfa.com>

Belgian green electricity company *Enfinity* builds solar energy project in Canada

The Belgian green electricity company *Enfinity* has started construction works for a gigantic solar energy project in Ontario, Canada. The *Stardale Solar Park* in Ontario will consist of 150,000 solar panels and cover the area of 150 football fields. It will generate electricity for more than 10,000 households and thus become one of the largest solar energy projects on the American continent. The contract is worth €100 million.

<http://www.enfinity.be>

***ProCure* signes contract with Belgian company *Ion Beam Applications* for its proton therapy centre in New Jersey (United States)**

IBA (Ion Beam Applications S.A.) is a Belgian company based in Louvain-la-Neuve (Brabant wallon province) that develops high technologies and also sells pharmaceutical solutions and custom solutions in the medical sector, with emphasis on cancer diagnosis and treatment. The company announced that it had been selected by *ProCure Treatment Centers, Inc.* to deliver a proton therapy centre to the *ProCure Proton Therapy Center* in Somerset, New Jersey. This centre is expected to welcome its first patients in 2010.

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

3. General economic information about Belgium

Belgium retains credit rating

Fitch Ratings Ltd. has maintained the credit rating for Belgium: our country is given an AA+ rating for the long term with stability prospects. Such a rating is decisive for the conditions under which money can be borrowed on the international markets.

According to Fitch, the credit rating is underpinned by the sound policy, high income and high productivity level. Belgium is faced with a high government debt, but it has shown in the past that it can keep the budget under control, according to *Fitch*.

http://www.fitchratings.com/index_fitchratings.cfm
<http://imarketnews.com/node/7359>

Belgium in top 10 in logistical efficiency

A study by the World Bank that ranks 155 countries shows the places where goods can be transported the easiest from one port to another and across borders. *Logistics Performance Index* (LPI) is based on the assessment of six criteria according to which a country is given a score from 1 to 5.

With a score of 3.94 Belgium ranks 9th. In 2007, the year in which the World Bank launched this index, our country ranked 12th.

<http://www.lloyd.be>
<http://info.worldbank.org/etools/tradesurvey/mode1b.asp#ranking>

Belgium third most productive country in the world

According to a study by the American research institute *The Conference Board*, work productivity in Belgium ranks third in the world, up from fourth place a year earlier.

<http://www.conference-board.org/>

Belgium most globalised country in the world for fourth year in a row

According to the KOF index 2010, which is calculated by the Swiss *ETHZ (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich)*, Belgium is the most globalised country in the world, for the fourth year in a row.

The KOF index measures the economic, social and political degree of globalisation and is calculated on the basis of 24 variables.

<http://globalization.kof.ethz.ch/>

Belgium in top 10 countries with fastest internet connection

According to a report published by *Akamai Technologies* of the United States, Belgium ranks 8th among countries with the fastest Internet connection. 31% of the connections in our country are faster than 5 Mbps (megabits per second). 29% of these Internet connections attained speeds between 5 and 10 Mbps.

<http://www.thomascrampton.com/internet/asia-internet-speed/>

Brussels third on list of richest EU regions

According to *Eurostat*, the Statistical Office of the European Commission, Brussels is the third richest region of the European Union. The per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is 2.2 times higher than the European average. The figures are based on data from 2007 and reflect the economic activity in a region.

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/1-18022010-AP/EN/1-18022010-AP-EN.PDF

2009, a record year for Charleroi airport

Brussels South Charleroi Airport (BSCA) received 3.94 million passengers last year, up 33% from the year before. During December, the airport registered an increase of 38%, with 325,610 passengers. According to the airport authority, the strong growth can be explained in particular by the substantial expansion in the number of flights. 23 new destinations were added to Charleroi last year, and another 14 new destinations will be added in 2010. This growth also led to a 20% increase in the airport's workforce.

http://www.charleroi-airport.com/raccourcis/detail-de-la-nouvelle/index.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=221&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=20&Hash=eaec93a658

Liege Airport, first Belgian and eighth European cargo airport

In 2009 482,121 tonnes of goods were transported via Liege airport, making it the most important cargo airport of Belgium and number eight in Europe. Liege Airport specialises in the transport of flowers, animals and fresh products.

The good results are primarily attributable to the revival of TNT in the fourth quarter, to the good performances of *El Al*, *Ethiopian* and *Southern Air*, and to the arrival of *ABX Air* and *Avient*, which established its European hub in Liege.

In terms of passenger transport, 356,782 people used Liege airport in 2009. In the summer of 2010, another airport (Dalaman in Turkey) will be added to the holiday destinations from Liege.

The prospects of Liege Airport are good for 2010 as well: The expansion of the most important landing runway will be completed (it will then be 3,700 m long), and cargo hangars with 25,000 m² of floor space will be built, as will office buildings. The total investment amounts to €30 million.

<http://www.liegeairport.com>

Record results for Zeebrugge harbour

The Port of Zeebrugge handled 44.87 million tonnes of goods in 2009, i.e. 6.8% more than the previous year, thereby registering the best result in history. The particularly strong growth in container traffic and the good performances of the LNG terminal contribute to the harbour's positive result. Container transport was up 17%, whilst gas traffic doubled to 5 million tonnes.

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

Ostend harbour henceforth accessible to larger vessels

The Port of Ostend can henceforth accommodate vessels of up to 200 metres, made possible by a new run up route. Current traffic will be expanded and a number of new customers attracted thanks to this operation. Although the new channel has been opened, dredging works have not been fully completed. There has been some delay too because war-time ammunition was unexpectedly found during the works. The dredging operations are expected to be entirely completed by the summer of 2010. To improve access to the harbour even better, work is being carried out on the installation of a new longitudinal embankment. These works should be completed in two years.

<http://www.portofoostende.be>

Brussels Airlines launches four new destinations in Africa

In July *Brussels Airlines* will launch four new African destinations: Accra (Ghana), Cotonou (Benin), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Lome (Togo). These additional destinations will be offered many times a week from Brussels Airport. The current connections to Abidjan (Ivory Coast) will also be increased. An additional Airbus A330 will join the *Brussels Airlines* fleet creating additional 110 staff positions within the Company.

http://corporate.brusselsairlines.com/en_be/corp/news/press-releases/