

**25/02/2009**

### **Brussels continues to be an interesting office location**

According to the new "*Office Space Across the World 2009*" report from global real estate advisor *Cushman & Wakefield*, Brussels ranks 29th on the list of the world's most expensive office locations. Compared to other business cities Brussels continues to be an attractive location as far as office occupancy costs are concerned. Brussels is considered a relatively small business city with international standing. Brussels, the capital of Europe, offers affordable high quality office space, which is highly appreciated by international players.

Business cities that compete with Brussels at the international level, such as Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Luxemburg, Zürich and Milan, are far more expensive than Brussels.

**See also :**

<http://www.cushwake.com/cwglobal/jsp/kcReportDetail.jsp?Country=GLOBAL&Language=EN&catId=100003&pId=c21200007p>

**25/02/2009**

### **Port of Antwerp and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey sign Memorandum of Understanding**

On 24 February 2009 the Port of Antwerp and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* in order to strengthen the existing ties. The *Memorandum of Understanding* is aimed at increasing traffic between the ports. In 2008, about 4.3 million tons of freight was transported between the ports of Antwerp and New York & New Jersey. Mr. Bruyninckx, director of the port of Antwerp, together with Mr. Colpin, head of the Belgian Customs and Duty Agency, also received a security award from the *National Nuclear Security Administration* for the exemplary support provided throughout the implementation of the *National Nuclear Security Administration's Megaports Initiative* at the Port of Antwerp. The award recognizes Antwerp Port Authority's strong commitment to increase the security of both the Port of Antwerp and the global maritime system as a whole. Under the *Megaports Initiative*, which provides radiation detection equipment, training, and technical support to key international seaports to scan cargo containers for nuclear and other radioactive materials, monitoring is carried out at more than 40 detection sites in the port of Antwerp since 2007.

**See also :**

[http://www.portofantwerp.com/portal/page/portal/POA\\_EN/Actueel/Nieuws/Persberichten](http://www.portofantwerp.com/portal/page/portal/POA_EN/Actueel/Nieuws/Persberichten)

[http://www.lloyd.be/nieuws/id23764-Anvers fait bonne impression New York.html](http://www.lloyd.be/nieuws/id23764-Anvers%20fait%20bonne%20impression%20New%20York.html)  
<http://nnsa.energy.gov/2288.htm>

**23/02/2009**

**Belgian Michel De Bosschere becomes president and CEO of Ricoh France SAS and Rex Rotary France**

On 1 March 2009 the Belgian Michel De Bosschere will become President and CEO of *Ricoh France SAS* and *Rex Rotary France*. He will also continue to be President of the Board of Directors of the Belgian and Luxemburg organisations. Mr. De Bosschere has worked at *Ricoh* for about 30 years and is now taking up a new challenge within Ricoh Europe. With 2500 employees and a turnover of € 728 million, *Ricoh France SAS* is the largest organisation of the *European Ricoh Family Group*. Michel De Bosschere has been active in the world of printing and copying since 1971. He worked for *Rank Xerox* and *Océ*, and became General Director of *Nashua* in 1977. In 1990, he turned President and CEO of *Nashuatec/NRG Group Benelux*. In 2003 he became Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors of *Ricoh Ltd. Japan*.

**See also :**

[http://www.ricoh.fr/about\\_ricoh/ricohxx/index.xhtml](http://www.ricoh.fr/about_ricoh/ricohxx/index.xhtml)

**20/02/2009**

**Belgian Wilfried Verstraete to head Euler Hermes**

On 1 April 2009 the Belgian Wilfried Verstraete will become CEO of *Euler Hermes* group, the world market leader in credit insurance with its headquarters in Paris. *Euler Hermes*, which is part of the German *Allianz* Group, has branches in more than 50 countries.

Between 2004 and 2006 Wilfried Verstraete led *Euler Hermes's* competitor, *Atradius*. Before that he held senior positions at, amongst others, *France Telecom Group*, *Mobistar*, *Wanadoo* and *Orange*. Verstraete studied economics at the VUB and earned a master's degree in Financial Management at the *Vlekho* in Brussels. He is an alumnus of the *INSEAD International Executive Program*. At the moment he works for *Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty*.

**See also :**

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

**09/02/2009**

**Stronger partnership between ports of Antwerp and Tangier**

The port cities of Antwerp and Tangier Mediterranean are strengthening their ties. On both the Moroccan and the Belgian sides there is a desire to build on existing relations. Partnerships such as those between the universities of Antwerp and Oujda and between the ports of Antwerp and Tangiers are being encouraged by both parties.

Tangier Med, a container port that has undergone very rapid expansion, is an extremely ambitious project. The first containers were handled there in 2007 and the objective is to handle 8 million TEU in 2015. In addition, a 5,000 hectare industrial zone is being developed, which should provide 300,000 jobs in the space of 5 years. Major companies from the Port of Antwerp, like CMA and MSC, already have a terminal in Tangier Med. Other companies with a branch in Antwerp are interested in the Moroccan port, too.

Trade between Belgium and Morocco is worth some 700 million euro annually. In particular, phosphate, petroleum products and the import of Moroccan fruit to Europe occupy an important position.

<http://www.jamiati.ma/Pages/ConférenceportuaireàAnvers.aspx>  
<http://www.portofantwerp.com/>

**06/02/2009**

### **IBA and the Turkish Eczacibasi-Monrol join forces for growth in the radiopharmaceutical market in various regions**

*IBA (Ion Beam Applications N.V.)*, in Louvain-la-Neuve, a company that produces and commercialises high-quality technologies, pharmaceuticals and custom-made healthcare solutions focussed on cancer diagnosis and treatment, is to collaborate with the Turkish company, *Eczacibasi-Monrol Nuclear Products co.*, for the distribution and sale of *IBA's* SPECT radiopharmaceuticals for diagnosis and therapy, and new molecules in PET radiopharmaceuticals.

*IBA* will bring in *Eczacibasi-Monrol* as a privileged partner for the local distribution of *IBA* products and the ongoing development of nuclear medicine in the Balkans, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe. The two companies will cooperate closely in these regions for the exploitation of high energy cyclotrons for diagnostic purposes and the production of isotopes for therapy.

**See also :**

<http://www.iba.be/pressroom/group/2009/02/IBA-and-Eczac--ba-----Monrol-join-forces-to-Grow-market-for-Radiopharmaceuticals-in-several-regions/nl>

**03/02/2009**

### **Sonaca concludes contract with Bombardier**

*Sonaca*, an aerospace construction company in Gosselies, has concluded a 19.6 million euro contract with the Canadian airplane builder, *Bombardier*, for the

development, design and production of fixed wing leading edges, components for the new *Learjet LJ85*. Delivery will start in 2012.

**See also :**

<http://www.rtbf.be/info/la-sonaca-decroche-un-contrat-avec-bombardier-generant-196-millions-76918>

**05/02/2009**

### **Melotte develops new technology for the digital manufacture of medical implants in titanium**

The technology company, *Melotte*, from Zonhoven in the province of Limburg, has developed a new technology with which medical implants can be made in titanium. With this technology a laser robot constructs dental prostheses, heart valves and skull prostheses, etc from titanium powder. Thanks to the new technology there is practically no waste, energy is saved and delivery takes barely 36 hours. A surgeon can send the medical scan of, for example, a skull trauma digitally to *Melotte*. There the prosthesis is manufactured while the patient is kept in coma. A day and a half later the surgeon can fit the implant.

**See also:**

<http://www.melotte.be/MELOTTE/EN/HOME/>

**02/02/2009**

### **Traffic at Port of Liege breaks historical record**

The Port of Liege performed well last year in terms of both inland traffic and global transshipments. Inland traffic was good for a transshipment volume of 16 million tons, 1.5 % more than in 2007 and a new historic record. Taking all modes together, 21.8 million tons were transhipped last year, 2.63 % more than the previous year. All modes of container traffic together grew by 14% to 27,459 TEU.

**See also :**

<http://www.lloyd.be/nieuws/id23547-Le-traffic-portuaire-de-Lige-tablit-des-records-historiques-en.html>

**30/01/2009**

### **2008 good year for the Port of Brussels**

The Port of Brussels finished 2008 with good results. Its own traffic rose by 13 % compared to 2007, and amounted to about 49 million tons. Global traffic came to nearly 8 million tons, an increase of 6 % compared to 2007. Container traffic rose too (+5 %) and reached almost 18,000 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units). Rail traffic in the outport rose by 7 % to slightly above 360,000 tons. The main sectors that booked increases were building materials, liquid fuels and various goods.

**See also :**

[http://www.lloyd.be/nieuws/id23536-Le trafic du port de Bruxelles augmente de.html](http://www.lloyd.be/nieuws/id23536-Le%20trafic%20du%20port%20de%20Bruxelles%20augmente%20de.html)

**30/01/2009**

### **Zetes signs contract with British supermarket chain**

*Zetes Industries* is a Brussels based company that offers market solutions and services for the automatic identification of goods and people (Goods ID and People ID). *Zetes* has signed a contract worth around £ 6 million with the British supermarket chain, *Morrisons*, the fourth largest shopping chain in Great Britain. *Morrisons* is in the process of updating its whole IT infrastructure. *Zetes* will supply technology which will allow thousands of the British supermarket chain's warehouse staff to receive their instructions via voice computer. As a result they will no longer have to check off orders on paper. The contract will be carried out over a period of two years.

**See also :**

<http://www.zetes.be>

**29/01/2009**

### **« Dicipity », first partnership between European inland ports**

On 29 January 2009 the port authorities of Brussels, Liege, Lille and Paris presented the final report of the DIPCITY project, which was financed by the European Union's INTERREG IIIB programme. This partnership was started in 2005 with a view to having the four ports collaborate and share their experiences in a number of dossiers: the valorisation of waste transport via the waterways, the attractiveness of port areas and urban integration, multimodality, the role of ports in urban distribution, the introduction of measures aimed at improving the environment and the security of port areas.

The DIPCITY project was a stimulating opportunity for the four partner ports to combine their know-how. Each port could learn from the experiences of the other ports with a view to introducing strategies for the development of port activities as well as making them more efficient instruments to serve the city and the region.

In addition, the partners of the DIPCITY project have decided to submit their candidature again for the Interreg project, this time in the framework of the Interreg IVB programme. There is a project proposal aimed at developing a greater sense of responsibility towards serving the population in the regions in which the ports are situated. The partners will address several themes focussed on heightening this sense of public responsibility and finding ways to integrate their installations into the fabric of the cities around them. This type of approach should make it possible to maintain the logistical functions of the ports as well as developing various others. All of these functions are essential for both the economy and town and country planning

at a European level. This new project could also be extended to include new partners.

**See also :**

<http://www.havenvanbrussel.be/?node=&id=24&lng=fr>

<http://www.liege.port-autonome.be/en/news/74-bruxelles-liege-lille-et-paris-satisfaits-de-di.aspx>

**29/01/2009**

**Foreign investments: 776 million euro invested in Wallonia in 2008**

In 2008, 122 foreign investment projects were realised in the Walloon Region for a total of 776 million euro. The projects yielded 2,543 direct jobs. In 2007, 70 foreign investment projects were realised for a total of about 439 million euro and 1,907 jobs were created.

Foreign investments are becoming steadily larger. Between 2000 and 2008 foreign investors invested about 5.75 billion euro in the Walloon economy. This led to the creation of 15,838 units of employment.

The most popular sectors were chemicals, paper, metal, logistics and the agro-food industry.

In terms of job creation, logistics came out on top with 2,888 jobs, followed by the metal sector, chemicals and the agro-food industries. Most jobs (11,220) were created thanks to investments from Europe, followed by America in second place with 3,819.

**See also :**

<http://www.rtbf.be/info/776-millions-deuros-investis-en-wallonie-en-2008-75479>

**28/01/2009**

**German Chemical concern opens subsidiary in Schoten near Antwerp**

The *Bodo Möller Chemie group*, a German chemical concern, has established a subsidiary in Flanders. Although the group has been active for many years here already, it never had a holding in our country.

Located in Schoten, near Antwerp, the subsidiary is responsible for Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. *Bodo Möller Chemie Benelux* distributes adhesives, polymers, various additives and technical tapes. Its target markets are the automotive, construction and electronics sectors, among others.

The *Bodo Möller Chemie* corporation was founded in the German city of Offenbach am Main in 1974. Since then, the company has transformed itself from a contract-filling company to a customer adviser and full service provider. In 2008 the group established six new subsidiaries.

**See also :**

<http://www.kunststoffe.de>

**27/01/2009**

### **Zetes signs contract with Democratic Republic of Congo in the framework of upcoming local elections**

In 2005 *Zetes* signed a contract with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for the biometric registration of its population for the general election. Now *Zetes* has concluded a new agreement with the United Nations to update six thousand registration kits. These should make it possible for the Independent Electoral Commission to update electoral lists for the local elections that are to take place soon. Citizens who have recently reached the age of majority will be added, whilst deceased voters will be removed from the lists. Besides this, *Zetes* will also be responsible for training the Independent Electoral Commission's trainers and for technical support in the field during registration. The project is worth € 2 million euro and will last for a few months starting in the first half of 2009.

**See also :**

<http://www.zetes.be>

**27/01/2009**

### **Belgium is the most globalised country in the world**

According to the KOF index 2009, which is calculated by the Swiss ETHZ (*Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich*), Belgium is the most globalised country in the world, with a score of 91.02 points. Belgium has been at the top of the ranking since 2004. This year it shares first place with Ireland.

The KOF index measures the economic, social and political level of globalisation and is calculated on the basis of 24 variables. The data was collected in 158 countries during the period 1970 to 2006.

**See also :**

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

**23/01/2009**

## **Chinese Sinomax group invests in Wallonia: company to build firework factory in Vresse-sur-Semois**

The Minister-President of the Walloon Region, Mr. Rudy Demotte, has announced a new Chinese investment in Wallonia. The Chinese group, *Sinomax*, is to build a European production centre for fireworks in Vresse-sur-Semois in the province of Luxembourg.

Specialised in the import and sale of fireworks, *Sinomax* has been active in our country for the last 20 years, though at the moment it imports the fireworks from China – around 1500 tons in 2007.

Now the group plans to establish a European production centre in Sugny. This will strengthen its position at the European level and keep it competitive, as well as giving it access to European technology for the manufacture of its products. *Sinomax's* environmental footprint will also be reduced as a result of the drop in imports from China and the reduction in transport on our soil. In addition it will create new jobs.

The choice of the former military depot in Sugny is no coincidence. The *Sinomax* group has used this site for a long time to stock material imported from China before its distribution in Belgium and the rest of Europe. Apart from that it is also the ideal location for production for safety reasons, as it is in an isolated zone.

In the initial phase (second half of 2009) the plant will provide 20 new jobs. In the course of 2010 (second phase) that figure will rise to between 50 and 80. An investment of 500,000 euro is involved.

### **See also :**

<http://demotte.wallonie.be/site/Textes.asp?DocID=582&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=>

**23/01/2009**

## **Belgium had a good 21,000 fewer unemployed in 2008 than in 2007**

At the end of December 2008 there were 386,253 unemployed jobseekers receiving benefits from Belgium's *NEO (National Employment Office)*. That is 21,221 fewer than at the end of December 2007. The number of unemployed jobseekers under the age of 25 receiving benefits from the *NEO* came to 55,033 (or 2,315 fewer than the previous year). Finally, at the end of December 2008 there were 194,006 unemployed jobseekers who had been receiving benefits from the *NEO* for two years or longer. This is a drop of 23,347 compared to the previous year. There was a reduction in each category in each of the three Regions - the Flemish Region, the Walloon Region and the Brussels Capital Region.

### **See also:**

[http://www.rva.be/D\\_new/Press/Mededelingen/2009\\_01\\_22/StatFR.pdf](http://www.rva.be/D_new/Press/Mededelingen/2009_01_22/StatFR.pdf)

**23/01/2009**

**Flemish government takes extra measures for economic recovery**

In November 2008 the Flemish government launched the first economic recovery plan for Flanders. At the time around 800 million euro were earmarked to boost the job market, ensure faster and stronger public and private investment and promote the provision of credit to companies, amongst other things.

On 23/01/2009 Dirk Van Mechelen, Vice Minister President of the Flemish government and Flemish Minister of Finance, Budget and Town and Country Planning, and Patricia Ceysens, Flemish Minister for the Economy, proposed a series of measures to the Flemish government, which should boost company financing even more.

The guarantee scheme, for example, whereby the government acts as a guarantor when a company wants to borrow for an investment, will be expanded. Apart from SMEs, large companies will also be able to make use of it in future. Moreover, the maximum amount for which the government will act as a guarantor has been considerably increased.

The Arkimedes Fund, which provides risk capital for SMEs and start-ups, is to raise fresh money from private investors. The Flemish innovation fund, Vinnof, which invests in the growth of innovative companies, has doubled its size to 50 million euro.

The Flemish government will also make funds available via the PMV (Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen) to provide companies with direct investment credit. This will take place via so-called "Mezzanine loans", which will allow companies to improve their financial structure.

**See also :**

<http://www.dirkvanmechelen.be/2009/91-miljoen-euro-aan-bijkomende-middelen-ter-versterking-vlaams-relanceplan/>

**20/01/2009**

**Inauguration of the Microsoft Innovation Centre in Mons on 4 March 2009**

On 4 March 2009, the *Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC)* opened its doors in the *parc technologique Initialis* in Mons, in the province of Hainaut. *MIC* is a public-private partnership between *Microsoft* and the Walloon Region. Its objective is to stimulate entrepreneurship and help start-ups by offering operational, financial and technological support. It will be focussed particularly on supporting start-ups in the domain of e-health with the development of technological solutions for the health sector. *MIC's* goal is to contribute to the establishment of 5 to 10 new companies a year and 200 to 250 new jobs. Apart from that it will also support 50 research and development projects annually and deliver 500 training certificates.

*Wygwam* and *Eonix*, two small and medium-sized SMEs specialised in new health and welfare technologies plan to anchor themselves in the new project.

*Voo* (communication via cable) and *Hewlett-Packard (HP) Benelux* have recently associated themselves with the project, too. *HP* will supply hardware (PCs, servers, printers and storage devices) and *Voo* will eventually offer applications for internet television for the wider public.

*MIC* will move into a building of approximately 550 m<sup>2</sup> in *parc Initialis* in Mons, where it will form part of a "*Digital Innovation Valley*" with *Virtualis* and *Technocité*.

**See also :**

<http://www.awt.be/web/res/index.aspx?page=res,fr,foc,100,085>

**20/01/2009**

### **Federal government recovery plan**

On 11 December 2008 the federal government – with Yves Leterme as Prime Minister still - decided to work out a recovery plan to get the economy back on track. The government of Herman Van Rompuy, the new Prime Minister, agreed to implement the recovery plan without delay. In the meantime a number of measures have been approved, including some to stimulate energy efficiency and others to give business new impetus. For companies and organisations that employ researchers, for example, we note an increase in withholding tax exemption from 65% to 75% as of 1 January 2009. There will also be a general increase in withholding tax exemption to 0.75% on 1 June 2009 and 1% from 1 January 2010. In addition, there will be a monthly tax credit refund for sectors which, due to the nature of their activities, build up VAT credits (mainly construction and export).

**See also :**

<http://www.enviodesk.com/node/47804>

[http://www.belgium.be/nl/binaries/herstelplan\\_tcm117-29600.pdf](http://www.belgium.be/nl/binaries/herstelplan_tcm117-29600.pdf)

[http://www.belgium.be/fr/binaries/planderelance\\_tcm116-29600.pdf](http://www.belgium.be/fr/binaries/planderelance_tcm116-29600.pdf)

**20/01/2009**

### **3.6 % growth for Brussels National Airport**

*Brussels Airport* received 18.5 million travellers in 2008, which is 3.6 % more than in 2007. This growth is mainly due to the success of new long-haul flights and the arrival of new low cost airlines. However, in the course of the year growth slowed as a result of high fuel prices and the worsening general economic situation.

**See also :**

<http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/news/newsItems/333151>

**20/01/2009**

## **Belgian becomes Chairman and CEO of Swedish company Atlas Copco**

The Board of Directors of the Swedish company, *Atlas Copco*, has appointed the Belgian Ronnie Leten as CEO and Chairman. He will succeed the present CEO, Gunnar Brock, on 1 June 2009. Ronnie Leten comes from the province of Limburg. He is only the second non-Swede to head the company since the concern was founded in 1873. Mr. Leten will lead *Atlas Copco* from the headquarters in Nacka, Sweden. Ronnie Leten previously worked for *Atlas Copco* as head of the *Airtec* division and the *Industrial Air* division. In 2006 he became Chairman of the *Compressor Techniques* department. 33,000 people work for *Atlas Copco* worldwide. In Belgium *Atlas Copco Airpower* employs 2,780.

### **See also:**

[http://www.atlascopco.com/benl/news/corporatenews/090120\\_new\\_president\\_and\\_ceo.asp](http://www.atlascopco.com/benl/news/corporatenews/090120_new_president_and_ceo.asp)

**15/01/2009**

## **New law should reduce number of bankruptcies**

On 15/01/2009 the Chamber of Representatives approved a bill to reform the law on legal settlement. This settlement is an agreement that a company in difficulties may make in order to get on top of its problems and avoid bankruptcy. Incidentally, the new law on legal settlement is called the "law on company continuity". It relaxes the conditions for starting the procedure for a legal settlement. It also provides specifically for the possibility of companies reaching an out of court settlement with their creditors and offers a better framework for the takeover of a company in difficulties. The law will come into effect on 1 April 2009.

### **See also :**

<http://www.just.fgov.be/communiqués/2008/11/06.html>

**13/01/2009**

## **Russian steel giant Severstal opens subsidiary in Antwerp**

*Severstal*, a Russian company active mainly in the steel and mining industry, has opened a subsidiary in Antwerp. The world's 15th largest steel producer, *Severstal* is the second largest in Russia after *Evrast Group* and has production facilities in Russia, the US, the UK, Italy, France and Ukraine, amongst others. The headquarters of *Severstal* are located in Cherepovets, Russia.

### **See also :**

<http://de.rian.ru/business/20090113/119473276.html>  
<http://www.severstal.com/>

**1301/2009**

**Saudi investment in Genk**

*SABIC, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation* is a producer of chemicals, artificial fertilisers, plastic and metals. The first stone of the new branch of this Saudi Arabian company was laid in Genk, in the province Limburg. Reinforced plastic granules for the European automobile industry will be produced at the new plant, which will provide employment for 75 people. The company should be operational by 1 January 2010. With a working area of 70,000 square metres, the *Sabic* branch in Genk will be the Saudi Arabian group's largest plant in Europe.

**See also:**

<http://www.sabic.com>  
<http://www.sabic-genk.be>

**12/01/2009**

**Zetes signs contracts with Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire**

Having previously secured a project for the personalisation of ordinary biometric passports, *Zetes* has concluded two new contracts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ivory Coast. One of these is for the personalisation of diplomatic and service passports and the other is to supply biometric visas and consular registration cards intended for Ivorian citizens resident abroad. Thanks to the solutions and equipment supplied by *Zetes*, both Ivorian citizens who travel abroad and people who visit Ivory Coast will have identification documents produced in conformity with the most up-to-date security methods.

**See also :**

<http://www.zetes.be>

**08/01/2009**

**Zetes signs contract with government of Togo**

*Zetes* has also concluded a contract with the government of Togo to supply 500 mobile biometric kits for updating the electoral lists. This contract is a follow-up to the project for the compilation of the electoral lists for which the Togolese also used *Zetes*, in March 2007. Now the Togolese authorities need to bring the electoral lists made for the parliamentary elections of June 2007 up to date in order to register voters who have reached the voting age since last year and to scrap from the lists people who have died or have lost their right to vote. The kits work with software applications that were developed by *Zetes*. The validity of the lists is ensured by AFIS technology which makes it impossible for the same person to vote more than once thanks to a system of digital fingerprints. All 500 kits are expected to arrive in Lomé before the end of the first half of 2009.

**See also :**

<http://www.zetes.be>

## **January 2009**

### **Regional airports achieved good results in 2008**

#### ***Liege Airport***

In 2008 Liege Airport handled nearly 6 % more freight than in 2007 and 20.25 % more passengers. This growth is mainly due to the arrival of new airline companies that have chosen Liege as their European hub, such as *El Al*, *Ethiopian Airlines* and *Ukraine International Airlines*; an increase in charter flights organised by the tour operators present in Liege; as well as the successful launch of new scheduled flights to Tel Aviv, Pristina and Tirana. In the summer of 2009, 20 destinations will be available from Liege Airport. Thanks to the new *Cargo City Nord* zone, which will be devoted completely to freight handling, Liege Airport can receive new operators and new airline companies.

**See also :**

<http://www.liegeairport.com>

#### ***Charleroi Airport***

The airport at Brussels South Charleroi (BSCA) welcomed around 20% more passengers in 2008 than in 2007. These positive results are a consequence of the excellent occupancy rates to all destinations, the successful expansion of the airline companies and the arrival of Jetairfly. In addition, in 2008 new routes were launched by *Wizz Air*, *Ryanair* and *Jetairfly*, which have proved popular with travellers.

**See also :**

<http://www.charleroi-airport.com/doc.php?nd=o62&tid=62&lg=3&docid=471&site=1>

#### ***Antwerp Airport***

The Airport in Antwerp received 1.2% more passengers in 2008 than in 2007. This growth is mainly the result of an increase in local flights, such as maiden and private flights. The number of charter plane passengers also rose by a good 25 %. In total 56,000 flight movements were carried out, that is 8.7 % more than in 2007. The number of passengers on training flights rose from 46,000 to 54,661 units. The number of charter flights came to 178 units as opposed to only 140 the year before.

**See also :**

<http://www.antwerp-airport.be/>