

Belgian Events



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HRH Prince Philippe at the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall on 11 July 2009

Belgian Parade at the Cenotaph

On 11 July, the 75th Belgian Parade at the London Cenotaph took place in the presence of HRH Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium. The ceremony was also attended by the Belgian Defence Minister Pieter De Crem, the British Minister of State of the Armed Forces Bill Rammel as well as by Belgian Ambassador to the UK Jean-Michel Veranneman de Watervliet.



Ambassador Veranneman lays a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall

Shortly after King Albert I of the Belgians' death in 1934, King George V, in recognition of the Belgian Army's and its leader's heroic stand in World War I, granted Belgium permission, as the only non-Commonwealth nation, to parade bearing their arms in the streets of London. Ever since a Belgian Parade takes place at the Cenotaph in Whitehall a few days before the Belgian National Day. It is a strong symbol of the fraternity between the British and Belgian soldiers during both World Wars and at the same time it confirms the close ties that unite both countries.

This year, the Belgian Veterans Association in Great Britain was formally disbanded at the Parade and its colours presented by Mr Frank Wadham to H.R.H. Prince Philippe who entrusted them to the Belgian Ambassador for safekeeping at the Embassy.

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Reactions and contributions by outsiders are welcome

Somali piracy

Piracy off the coast of Somalia meant for many years simply robbery. That changed a few years ago when the pirates realised they could earn big money by taking ships hostage instead of robbing them. They are now largely ignoring African ships and going for the big money jobs - cargo ships and tankers owned by international shipping lines or tourists in their luxury yachts.

In June 2008, the United Nations Security Council approved incursions into Somali waters to combat the pirates. Consequently, a coalition of warships backed by aircraft began to patrol the Gulf of Aden in order to deter destabilising activities in the area, including drug smuggling, human trafficking and piracy. But despite the resolution and interventions by a coalition of warships, piracy has continued to climb. Six months ago, the European Union set up a joint naval patrol named 'Operation Atalanta' to act against piracy off the Somali coast. In August the Belgian frigate 'Louise Marie' will leave Zeebrugge to join the operation on 1 September.



The Belgian frigate Louise Marie will shortly join the EU anti piracy patrol off Somalia

On 18 April, the Belgian vessel Pompei was captured by Somali pirates some 600km from the Somali coast. It took 70 days of negotiations and a substantial ransom to free the ship and its crew. Following this incident, Belgian merchant ships pleaded for protection by the Belgian military if such protection could not be guaranteed by the European operation Atalanta. As a result, Belgian ship owners can now request the presence of up to 8 military personnel on board.

New Belgian contribution to Afghanistan

Belgium supports a balanced vision between civil and military action in Afghanistan and is aimed at finding a balance between Defence, Diplomacy and Development. It hopes this will be a positive contribution to the new strategic vision for Afghanistan proposed by the US administration and supported by the Allies during the NATO summit in Strasbourg-Kehl (3-4 April 2009). This new approach aims in particular to confirm support for the Afghans in the stabilization and reconstruction of their country, but in a much more consultative fashion.

Belgium sent an extra 60 military personnel and two F-16 fighter-bombers to Afghanistan. This increased contribution to the ISAF mission brought the Belgian contingent from 500 up to 560 strong and increased the Belgian air fleet from four to six F-16s. The two F-16s, as well as a detachment of 25 military personnel joined the Belgian contingent that has been in Kandahar since September 2008. The other 35, a group of instructors who supervise the training of the national Afghan army, formed a second Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team. Training the Afghan army is important, in view of the fact that the Allies have made "Afghanisation" of the country a priority. Belgian humanitarian aid to Afghanistan is also increased by 5 million euro per annum.

In total, Belgian aid will reach 24 million euro in two years. This commitment is to increase Belgian financing for, amongst other things, election support and development projects for education and rural environments. These should in the long term improve Afghans' living conditions and increase the chances of peace, thereby contributing to a safer world.

www.diplomatie.be and www.mil.be

Frank De Winne travels to international space station (ISS)

On 27 May 2009, Belgian astronaut Frank de Winne left for a six-month mission on board the international space station (ISS). He set off from Baykonur, Kazakhstan aboard a Soyuz spaceship heading for the ISS, accompanied by a Russian cosmonaut and a Canadian astronaut.



This is De Winne's second trip to the ISS, following his first mission in 2002. He will serve as commander of the ISS from October 2009 until the end of the mission, the first European astronaut to hold that position. He is scheduled to return to earth in November 2009.

Medicine slows Alzheimer's in mice

Around 27 million people in the world are suffering from Alzheimer's disease, an incurable form of dementia, caused by the slow deterioration of the brain. There is no real medication to prevent the disease from spreading further either, although there are medicines that suppress the symptoms.

A group of scientists from the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology (VIB) succeeded in disengaging the specific Alzheimer protein in the brains of laboratory mice, thus weakening the advance of dementia but without creating side-effects. Because the same protein gamma secretase - occurs in human brains, the researchers hope that curbing it in humans will lead to the same results. To date all attempts to find a drug that will stop the protein have had harmful side-effects. The researchers in Leuven could now get around this by only blocking a part of the gamma secretase. This opens a path for the development of a preventative medicine against Alzheimer's disease. However, there will probably be another fifteen years of research and testing required before the medicine would be commercially available.

New insight in the fight against asthma

For a long time it was thought that house dust mites directly affected the white blood cells of the immune system, causing symptoms of asthma, hay fever and eczema.

Researchers from the University of Ghent (department of Internal Diseases, led by Dr. Hamida Hammad and Professor Bart Lambrecht) have shown that house dust mites are also recognised by the epithelium cells located on the insides of the lungs, which are in direct contact with the inhaled air. This mechanism had never been found in the lungs before. The cells on the insides of the lungs activate the white blood cells, which in their turn activate the immune system, which eventually leads to asthma symptoms.

The research shows that eliminating a specific recognition system in these cells on the inside of the lungs ensures that allergens (elements of a substance that may cause allergic reactions) no longer cause an inflammatory reaction and that therefore asthma symptoms no longer occur.

In the future it will be possible to use drugs which by-pass this recognition system in the fight against asthma.

Sleep apnoea treatment a world first for Antwerp Hospital

Doctors at the University Hospital in Antwerp (UZA), led by Professor Paul Van de Heyning and Professor Wilfried De Backer, have scored a world first in the treatment of sleep apnoea. Patients suffering from apnoea do not breathe normally during sleep because the throat closes completely or partially. When that occurs the lack of oxygen causes sleep to be interrupted. UZA's new method was developed in cooperation with Inspire Medical Systems. It stimulates the nerve that goes to the

tongue and the back part of the throat and keeps the throat open. Doctors have already treated a first patient successfully. As part of this project UZA also develops and uses innovative imaging techniques that can possibly predict the therapeutic result of the intervention and give very precise indicators for the diagnosis. This new technology, which was recently granted a patent in the US, is developed by a spin-off company named FluidDA.

www.uza.be

Consular news

Elections results

Belgians proceeded to the ballot boxes on June 7 2009 to elect their representatives in the European Parliament, the Flemish Parliament, Walloon Parliament, the Brussels-Capital Parliament and the Parliament of the German-speaking community. The Parliament of the French community is not elected directly, but consists of 75 members of the Walloon Parliament and 19 French-speaking members of the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region.

The results of the European elections led to the following composition in representation: Open VLD, PS en CD&V each have 3 seats ; SP.A, Vlaams Belang, ECOLO, MR en CDH each have 2 seats ; Lijst Dedecker, GROEN! en N-VA each have 1 seat.

In the Flemish Region CD & V is the largest party, but the N-VA reported the most significant gains.

In the Walloon region the PS remains the largest party, but the big winner was ECOLO.

In the Brussels-Capital Region the MR is the largest party, the big winner was again ECOLO.

In the German-speaking community CSP remains the largest party, but ECOLO was the strongest gainer.

For complete election results:

<http://polling2009.belgium.be/en/>

<http://elections2009.belgium.be/fr/>

<http://verkiezingen2009.belgium.be/nl/>

eID crosses Belgian borders

On June 4, 2009 the first Belgians living abroad received their new electronic identity card (eID) at the Belgian Consulate General in Lille.

Thus far, the eIDs were reserved for Belgians residing in Belgium, but now the eID programme is being gradually extended through 120 other consulates and embassies abroad, where they will replace the current non-electronic identity cards of 265,000 Belgians 18 years or older living abroad.

The eID is an example of administrative simplification efforts. Belgians living abroad will, due to the eID, be able to receive certain administrative documents directly to their homes, without needing to go to their embassy or consulate, often hundreds or even thousands of kilometers from their place of residence.

Each year as many as 30,000 new cards are issued throughout the world. Belgium hereby opens the way for new technological applications of e-government, and allows for Belgian expertise and knowhow to be advertised abroad.

Information on when eID procedures are starting at the Belgian Embassy in London will be available from the Embassy's website as soon as dates have been released.

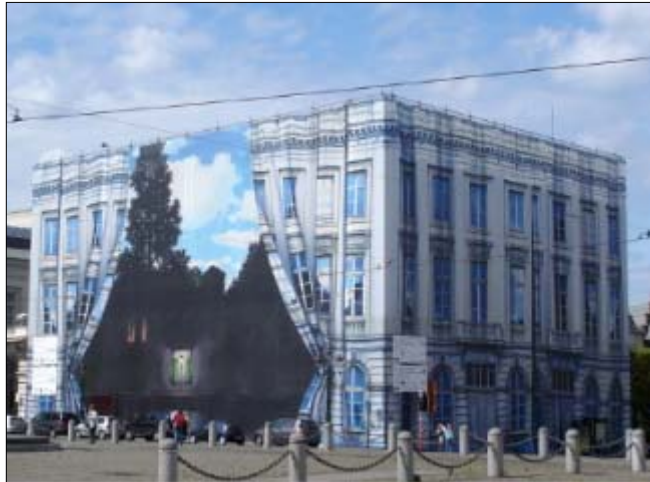
<http://welcome-to-e-belgium.be>

New Belgian driving license

From July next year new Belgian driving licenses are systematically introduced for those registered in Belgium. According to European specifications, the license will be the size of a bank card or Belgian ID card and will need renewing every 15 years.

Opening of the Magritte museum

It is surprising that the man often described as the most famous non-fictional Belgian has had to wait so long. But finally, on 2nd June, the Magritte Museum opened its doors to the world. Located within the elegant 19th century premises of the Royal Museums for Fine Arts of Belgium in the centre of Brussels, the museum pays homage to the life, times and work of the internationally renowned Belgian artist.



Magritte fans can finally enjoy 250 of his finest works under one roof. Starting on the ground floor would be too conventional for a temple to surrealism, so the Magritte tour starts on the third floor and works its way down. Take the lift up to the top floor and it is the disembodied voice of the artist himself that provides the greeting.

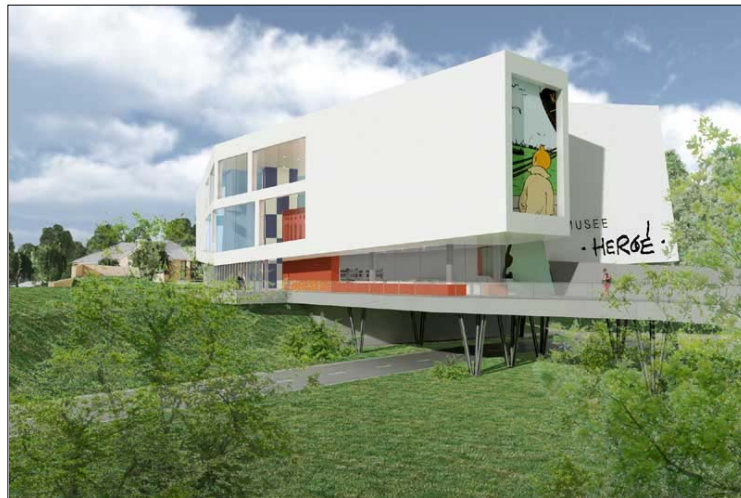
The museum is open between 10am and 5pm from Tuesdays to Sundays. Guided tours, catalogues and tape-guides are also available in English.

Magritte Museum
3 Rue de la Régence / Regentschapstraat
1000 Brussels
www.musee-magritte-museum.be

A new museum for Hergé

2009 is not just the Year of Comic Strip in Brussels, it also saw the inauguration on 22 May of a museum dedicated to the great master of "la bande dessinée" himself, Hergé. It was designed by Christian de Portzamparc, one of the stars of European architecture, responsible for landmark buildings like the Cité de la Musique in Paris and the LVMH Tower in New York.

The Hergé Museum is situated at the edge of Louvain-la-Neuve, thirty kilometers from Brussels, surrounded by woods. Although white on the exterior, the interiors are brightly-coloured and visible from the outside. The effect is to try and recreate an image of the boxes of a comic strip itself, and once inside, the visitor feels within a "bande dessinée" - one that never ends.



The museum is devised by Studios Hergé, the foundation that is presided over by the artist's wife at the time of his death, Fanny Rodwell. The building is made up of eight exhibition rooms, of which seven are devoted to the work of Hergé - not just those famous "Adventures of Tintin", but the many other characters he created, like Quick & Flupke, Jo, Zette and Jocko, the successful magazines he oversaw, advertising and film posters. The "permanent" exhibition will have to be changed three times a year, as four months is the limit that these fragile drawings, ink illustrations and gouaches can be exposed to the light without risking serious damage. The eighth exhibition room in the Hergé Museum is reserved for temporary shows.

Hergé was born as Georges Rémi in Brussels just over a century ago. At the age of 17 he was already publishing his own comic strip drawings, but signed under the pseudonym Hergé - RG, the French pronunciation of his initials reversed. He founded his own comic strip magazine in 1928, and a year later, Tintin et Milou - Tintin and Snowy - first appeared. The famous Tintin books, published in their millions all over the world in dozens of different languages, first came out in 1934, and so the great adventures of Tintin began: to China for "The Blue Lotus", to Moscow for "In The Land of the Soviets", followed by travels across the globe to the Congo, Tibet, Egypt, America, culminating in the futuristic "Destination Moon". What many of his faithful readers never realised was that the creator behind these incredible voyages rarely left his home in Brussels. Hergé created what is known as "la ligne claire", an overriding philosophy behind his comic strip creations - clear, uncomplicated drawings, a simple, straightforward storyline, strong basic colours. This has remained the philosophy of the Studios Hergé today, and is the all-important vision behind the Hergé Museum itself.

Apart from drawing and illustrating, Hergé was also a painter in his own right. Studios Hergé have a collection of his works that is virtually unknown to the rest of the world. Hergé collected paintings too and was particularly interested in abstract 20th century art with Miró being one of his favourites. On the walls of Hergé's preserved studio on Avenue Louise are also canvases by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein.

In the future, visitors will not just see Hergé's unforgettable drawings and illustrations of Tintin, The Thompson Twins, Captain Haddock and of course, Snowy, but possibly also a temporary exhibition called: "Hergé - Painter and Collector".

Hergé Museum
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
Tel.: + 32 (0)2 62 62 421
Fax: +32 (0)2 646 14 59
info@moulinsart.be

The Surrealist Photography of Marcel Mariën

The Belgian artist Marcel Mariën (1920 - 1993) is one of the most intriguing figures of the Surrealist movement...and at times the most elusive. He was not only an artist but also a publisher. He opened a bookshop, "Au Miroir d'Elizabeth", worked as a sailor, then as a journalist in China, and carried out elaborate Surrealist jokes. Marcel Mariën worked in several mediums, photography, collage, drawing, painting, object making, poetry and film. He was also the chronicler of the activities of the Belgian Surrealists and wrote the first monograph on René Magritte, published in 1943. His work is kept in numerous private and public collections, including the Tate and the Centre Pompidou. This is the first UK exhibition of Mariën's photographs.

Born into a poor family, he was, at the age of 15 apprenticed to a photographer. In his spare time he devoted himself to making collages and writing poetry. His life changed when he discovered the paintings of René Magritte and read André Breton's Surrealist manifesto. He started corresponding with Magritte, (who was 20 years his senior), and was soon warmly welcomed into the Belgian Surrealist group. He began exhibiting with them in 1937.

It was pure Surrealism, marked with the two themes that would characterise his photography; the everyday object stripped of its traditional function and the female body as an instrument of creation. But despite a series of successful photographs, Mariën would soon abandon photography to concentrate on object making, drawing and writing. Forever a restless spirit, in 1951 he signed on for two years as a sailor on a Swedish cargo ship. In 1962 he lived in New York and then decided to go to China where he worked as a corrector on the French edition of the magazine "China Under Construction".

In between he published several books and the magazine "Les Lèvres Nues" (from 1954 onwards) and directed the film "L'imitation du Cinéma" (1959) which caused considerable scandal in Belgium and was banned in France.

Mariën and his fellow Surrealists loved making jokes. In 1953 Mariën went to the Belgian coast where he distributed false bank notes, printed by René and Paul Magritte. In 1962, the joke was on Magritte. Mariën and Leo Dohmen produced a tract, "La Grande Baisse" to coincide with a major retrospective of Magritte's work in Knokke. Presented as written by Magritte himself, it announced drastic discounts on the artist's major paintings and offered the chance to order them in different sizes. Even leading Surrealists, amongst them André Breton, failed to grasp the joke and praised Magritte for the undertaking. Magritte was furious when he found out. The 25 -year friendship between him and Mariën was over.

Mariën was never a practical man and was helped by his partner Hedwige Benedix in the production of his art work. In 1983, a year after her death, he took up photography again, as a quick and immediate way of expressing his ideas. And he carried on where he had left off in 1942, producing simple yet elegant Surreal images, with free associations of symbolism and text.

"Don't pay attention to the photography", commented Mariën, meaning the technical side of the medium, sophisticated lighting. etc. He wanted to capture his ideas immediately and his images are both more poetic and powerful for it.

Thirty photographs, dating from 1983 to 1990 are included at Diemar/Noble Photography. Exhibition dates 24th June – 25th July 2009 - Gallery hours 11- 6 Tuesday through Saturday Diemar/Noble Photography is located at 66/67 Wells Street, London W1
Tel 0207 636 5375

www.diemarnoblephotography.com

Tom Verbruggen wins Lex van Rossen Award



© Rockarchive.com

An annual competition, award and exhibition, set up to find and reward the best new European music photographer

This year's winner of the coveted Lex van Rossen Award and cash price of €2,500 is accomplished young Belgian photographer **Tom Verbruggen**. The accolade, which was awarded earlier in the year at The Eurosonic/Noorderslag Festival in Groningen, recognised Verbruggen's talent for capturing impressive live silhouettes and atmospheric backstage portraits. These images along with the work of six commended finalists will be exhibited at Roundhouse, Camden from 2nd August until 10th September 2009.

Amongst the highlights on display in London, will be images taken by NME photographer **Danny North**, representing UK talent with his portfolio of shots on the road, at music festivals and in the studio. The work of other commended finalists include, the unobtrusive imagery of Belgian photographer **Charlie de Keersmaecker**; quirky journalistic shots taken by Dutch photographer **Jordi Huisman** and striking portraits captured by Frenchman **Julien Bourgeois**. Also included are Finnish photographer **Kalle Bjorklid's** riveting images of audience interaction and Danish photographer, **Patrick Ryming's** documentation of the highs and lows of life on tour.

Gent-born Tom Verbruggen was 22 years old when he got his first SLR camera. He has experimented with technique since then and has recently founded the Genthology and Antwology collective for music photographers. The idea behind these photographic archives is to capture and contribute to the local music scene by creating a chronicle of pictures online. His atmospheric imagery reminded the judges of the great music photographer Anton Corbijn.

www.tomverbruggen.com

Belgian photographer Charlie de Keersmaecker is a regular photographer for Focus Knack Magazine. He has chosen to defy the digital revolution and shoots with monochrome film.

www.charliedekeersmaecker.com

www.rockarchive.com

www.roundhouse.org.uk

Travel news

Norfolkline launch Rosyth to Zeebrugge route



On 19th May, ferry services between Flanders and Scotland recommenced with the launch of Norfolkline's new Rosyth to Zeebrugge route. As the only continental ferry link between Scotland and Flanders, the new route makes it easier than ever for Scottish passengers to visit our country.

The brand new vessel, Scottish Viking, which boasts lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions offers travelers 107 four-berth cabins and 57 reclining seats, providing a cost-effective option for travelers on a budget. Pricing packages start from £70 one-way for foot passengers with one reclining seat, and £165 single fare for a car and one reclining seat. Additional prices are available for those travelling with motorbikes and bicycles. On board facilities include a restaurant and a bar, shop, cinema, free Wifi zone, gaming tables, a children's play area and evening entertainment..

Belgian sections of high-speed track are completed

The final missing piece of the Belgian track for high-speed trains between Liege and the German border were opened on 12 June, thus completing the immense infrastructural construction project that first broke ground in 1988.

Belgium is the first country in Europe to complete the high-speed train network. Now that the route to Germany is complete, the Brussels-Cologne route will take just one hour and 57 minutes. Only the Antwerp-Amsterdam route is not yet capable of taking international high-speed trains, but this too will be opened at the end of the year once all the signals and trains have been modified to satisfy the European standards. The first part of the network, the route running westwards between Halle and the French border, already became operational in 1997.

The total network has cost the railways almost € 5.2 billion, with the next major investment by Infra-bel being the Regional Express Network around Brussels and the Diabolo link that will open up Zaventem airport to the north.

Brussels Airport, 1st European airport to put "green touchdowns" to the test

Brussels Airport is to see the start of the so-called environmentally-friendly landings using the continuous descent approach (CDA).

The CDA method is part of a test project in line with the European plan to make air traffic more fuel friendly, emit less CO2 and reduce noise pollution.

What sets the CDA apart from the "traditional" touchdown is the earlier descent from a higher altitude, resulting in a more gradual landing and less acceleration. With the CDA approach, the pilot starts the landing procedure about 50 kilometres before reaching the airport and allows the aircraft to gradually descend in a continuous motion.

An environmentally-friendly landing saves 50 to 150 litres of fuel per flight and reduces CO2 emissions by 160 to 470 kilogram. An added bonus is the reduction of noise in residential areas around the airport.

Did you know?

The money of Belgian youngsters

A study by Dexia shows that Belgians between the ages of 18 and 24 have an average income of about 2,546 euros per annum, of which 836 euros are saved and 1,710 euros are spent. The young spend their money mostly on recreation, travelling and culture, which consumes a total of around 40 percent of their budget. Eating and drinking take second place at 16 percent, with clothing, communications and expenditure in cafés, fast-food joints and restaurants seeing each 12 percent of their money.

The young people that participated in the survey depended on their parents and sometimes also on weekend and holiday jobs for their income. By comparing the prices of the products they buy today with those of 2004, it is clear that prices increased by an average of 3.96 percent against the 11.33 percent for the real government index that registers these price increases. So, although life has become more expensive for the youth, it has become less expensive than for other consumers. This is probably due to the downturn in prices for electronic equipment such as DVD and MP3 players (down 22 percent) and the decrease of mobile phone costs (down 28 percent). However, other categories, such as festival tickets (up 11 percent) and travel (up 11 percent), have recorded sharp increases too.

No blanket smoking ban in cafés

As of 1 July 2010 there will be a ban on smoking in all places where a prepared meal can be obtained. To date, businesses in Belgium where less than a third of the turnover was generated by food were not obliged to prohibit smoking, but now it will be outlawed in those places too. Smoking will, however, still be permitted in pubs where only beverages are served.

These proposed rules are all contained in a compromise for which a consensus has been reached in Parliament. A majority of café owners opposed a ban on smoking, with 65 percent even fearing it would lead to bankruptcy. Due to the fact that the sector is already suffering greatly under the present financial crisis, the majority parties decided to water down a complete ban.

Belgian healthcare second best in Europe

Eurofound, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, has carried out a study into the quality of life in Europe.

Between November 2007 and February 2008 35,000 people from 31 countries were interviewed for the study. The results show amongst other things that 66 percent of Belgians consider their health to be good or very good. Moreover, the quality of Belgian healthcare was felt to be above average. Only Austria scores better. The study also indicates that Belgians generally feel rather contented and give themselves an average score of 7.8 out of 10 for happiness.

Belgium second best recycler of household waste in the EU

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has published figures on household waste production and processing in EU countries for 2007.

With 39% Belgium is the best recycler in the Union, after Germany.

Each EU member state produced on average 522 kg of household waste per inhabitant. In Belgium the figure amounted to 492 kg.

Household waste can be processed in various ways – by using it as landfill, incineration, recycling or composting. In 2007, the distribution of household waste processing in the EU was on average 40 % landfill, 20 % incineration, 22 % recycling and 17 % composting. In Belgium, however, there was 4 % landfill, 34 % incineration, 39 % recycling and 23 % composting. Belgium recycled and composted a total of 62% of its waste which deserves second place in the EU.

Bank services in Belgium amongst the cheapest in Europe

In Belgium a package of basic bank services costs an average of €63 in bank charges. This is lower than the European average of €71.10. In Europe only the Netherlands do better, according to the most recent comparative study by the consultant *CapGemini*, the *World Retail Banking Report 2009*.

Belgian Clubs & Organisations

The Anglo-Belgian Society (ABS) promotes Anglo-Belgian friendship and culture. Membership is not expensive and application forms can be obtained, with all enquiries, from the Hon. Secretary, Mr Patrick Bresnan, www.anglo-belgiansoc.com, secretary@anglo-belgiansoc.com

The Royal Anglo-Belgian Club (RABC), situated in the heart of London, an ideal meeting place for Belgians living in or traveling to London, as well as for British with Belgian connections. Information and application forms from the secretariat, RABC, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LF, tel. 020/7235 2121 or fax 020/7245 9470, www.ra-bc.com, secretary@ra-bc.com

The Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce (BLCC) For information on membership or on any of the events organised by the Chamber, contact the BLCC at Westwood House, Annie Med Lane, South Cave, HU15 2HG, tel. 0207 127 4292, fax 0870 429 2148, www.blcc.co.uk, info@blcc.co.uk

The Young Chamber. Contact: Patrice Bataille, tel. 079 50495171 All Belgians welcome to meet in informal atmosphere. www.theyoungchamber.org, info@theyoungchamber.org

Brussels Capital Region, Christian Mouvet, Economic and Commercial Attaché
tel. 020/7235 8949, fax 020/7235 8650, info@brusselstrade.co.uk

The Walloon Region of Belgium, Didier Denayer, Economic and Commercial Attaché
tel. 020/7235 0903, fax 020/7235 0585, www.wallonia.co.uk, london@awex.co.uk

Walloon & Flemish Trade Office (Birmingham Branch), Vincent Bastin, Economic & Commercial Counsellor, The White House, 111 New Street, Birmingham B2 4EU
tel: 0121 616 1962, Birmingham@awex.co.uk

Belgian Tourist Office, Brussels-Wallonia, 217 Marsh Wall, London E14 9FJ, tel. 020 7531 0391, www.belgiumtheplaceto.be, info@belgium-tourism.net

Flanders House, 1A Cavendish Square, London W1G OLD, houses the services of the Representative of the Flemish Government Tel: 020 7299 3592

of **Flanders Investment and Trade**, Ben De Smit, Economic and Commercial Attaché
Tel: 020 7307 7710, fitlondon@fitlondon.org

and **Tourism Flanders-Brussels**

Tel: 020 7307 7730, info@visitflanders.co.uk

Flanders Investment and Trade(Scotland Branch), Ishbel McFarlane, Trade Commissioner
Conference House, 152 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EB, tel: 0131 200 6080
Edinburgh@fitagency.com

Vlaamse Club in Londen (VCL), organises activities for Flemish and Dutch-speaking people in the London area, thus creating a meeting place and a network opportunity for the many Flemings in the UK, www.vlaamseclublonden.com, info@vlaamseclublonden.com

Vlamingen in de Wereld, representative in the UK: Mr Johan Serneels, 61A Providence Square, London SE1 2EB, johan.serneels@sgcib.com

Union Francophone des Belges à l'Étranger, representative in the UK: Mr Didier Denayer, 20 West Heath Close, London NW3 7NJ, ufbe_uk@yahoo.co.uk

Vlamingen in Surrey organise meetings and events for Flemish people living in the Surrey area. Contact: Brit Deckers-Beckers, Chase Manor, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9AA, tel. 01483/726 760, Britbeckers@yahoo.co.uk, www.vlamingeninnsurrey.co.uk

Orde Van den Prince promotes the unity of the Dutch language and culture, stimulating cooperation between Flanders and the Netherlands. Bimonthly meetings in London. Enquiries: Bruno Stalmans at brunostalmans@aol.com, tel. 01483-893522

28 May – 24 July

Parasol Unit, Foundation for Contemporary Art, presents **Parades & Processions** participated by Belgian artist **Francis Alÿs**
www.parasol-unit.org

24 June - 25 July

The Surrealist Photography of **Marcel Mariën**, Diemar/Noble Photography, 66-67 Wells Street, London W1
www.diemarnoblephotography.com



4 July - 30 August

Quiet Revolution international group exhibition of sculptural works created from found or discarded materials, featuring Belgian artist **Joelle Tuerlinckx**, A Hayward Touring Exhibition, Milton Keynes Gallery
www.mk-g.org

20 July

ABS: Talk by **Sir Peter Westmacott**, British Ambassador to France 'The Entente Formidable and the Economic Crisis'

2 August - 10 Sept

The Roundhouse in Camden hosts the 2009 **Lex van Rossen Award and Exhibition**. Belgian photographer **Tom Verbruggen** is this year's winner with Charlie de Keersmaecker as one of 6 other commended finalists (see article under 'cultural news')
www.rockarchive.com

19 Sept - 14 Nov

Quiet Revolution at Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston
www.harrismuseum.org.uk

Rectification

In the previous edition of this newsletter, an article appeared on the E-waves phone chip distributed by Belgian pharmacies. The chip supposedly neutralises harmful electro-magnetic radiation from mobile phones.

One of our readers kindly pointed out that because of problems with the chip, Omega Pharma has now decided to withdraw its sales.