Purple-Greens iron out creases

Jos Geysels and Karel De Gucht, Political Secretary of Agalev and Chairman of the liberal VLD respectively, had already made it clear last weekend. The bickering between government partners, especially between Blues and Greens, had to stop. Immigrant voting rights, the appointment of representatives for the European convention and eco-taxes could no longer be stumbling blocks. At a special meeting, Prime minister Guy Verhofstadt (VLD), the chairmen and leaders of the majority factions of Chamber and Senate managed to iron out the creases.

Nothing can stand in the way now of the Purple-Greens’ continuation until the next election, say the government parties (FF).

DE FINANCIËL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 1 MARCH

One of the first decisions was to meet more frequently, thus allowing adjustments to be made more quickly if a dossier threatened to get out of hand. Federal Prime minister, Guy Verhofstadt, solemnly promised that he would not force any more government candidates onto the Parliament, as was the case when appointing the Belgian representatives (including De Gucht) for the European convention. As far as the immigrant voting rights dossier was concerned, the VLD agreed that a vote would be taken on the current proposal in the Senate Committee that dealt with this. Greens and socialists agreed to submit to the results of this vote. Federal Deputy Premier, Louis Michel, had already announced that he would ask his party, the PRL, to vote against the proposal. The PRL is, in fact, in favour of oil. It is feared that electricity prices will do the same. It would have been more logical if they feel they are worth a government decision.

The crisis. The Greens have now been given the assurance that the closure scenario for nuclear power stations will definitively be approved at the meeting of the cabinet. The Council of State will also be asked to provide an emergency advice on the eco-bonuses bill, another Green initiative.

INTRODUCTION

In Belgium, 55 to 60% of electricity is still generated by four nuclear power stations in Doel (near Antwerp) and three in Tihange (near Hoei). The current Purple-Green government’s coalition agreement specifies that nuclear energy will gradually be downscaled. An agreement on this has now been reached. All nuclear power stations must close after 40 years which means the oldest power stations, Doel I and II and Tihange I, must close in 2015 and the last power station will shut down in 2025. Nevertheless, the liberals want to leave the option to keep the nuclear power stations operational, in case insufficient replacement electricity is generated by 2015. The Greens, in turn, want guarantees that this option is not an excuse to allow the alternative energy policy to slacken. For the Greens, the agreement is a political windfall, even if, strangely enough, they have the banks to thank for it, De Standaard points out (28 February). After all, the banks announced they were pulling out of nuclear energy. The investments are massive (EUR 2.5 billion per power station) and their capital will produce a faster, safer return elsewhere, they argue. Electricity producer Electrabel and the employers’ organisations are firmly against the decision. Nuclear power stations are not worn out after 40 years, they suggest. They feel that closing them before the end of their economic life is an extremely uneconomical decision. Not to mention an unecological one. Because, electricity will unavoidably have to be generated by power stations that burn fossil fuels. Wind energy alone can never meet the vast demand for electricity. Even if the least polluting solution, natural gas power stations, is chosen, enormous quantities of CO2 will still be released. Belgium may well meet the Kyoto standard in 2012, but by 2015 that will be incredibly difficult, employers maintain. What’s more, natural gas has another disadvantage. Its price fluctuates with that of oil. It is feared that electricity prices will do the same. It would have been more logical if the government had first answered the question of what energy sources Belgium would use in the post-nuclear era, concludes De Financieel-Economische Tijd (22 February).
**Purple-greens have lost their verve**

The Purple-Green coalition's open debate culture has degenerated into an open-chaos culture. The parties in power now seem only to be able to agree that they disagree. This was how De Financieel-Economische Tijd concluded its assessment of Purple-Green policy on February 23th. Things were scarcely more encouraging in De Morgen: the Purple-Greens lack persuasiveness, the Purple-Green recovery appears to have ground to a halt and Verhofstadt seems to have lost control of his coalition. De Standaard also reported that the bottom had dropped out of things: The on-going shilly-shallying around voting rights for immigrants in the Senate committee has not done the cohesion any good. A low point in the relationship between the majority parties was the vote in the Chamber for the delegation of VLD Chairman Karel De Gucht to the European convention. Although there was a consensus among the majority at government level concerning De Gucht's candidacy, a large number of majority MPs abstained. These undoubtedly included a significant number of Greens. In the end, De Gucht won just 55 of the 135 votes cast. Many MPs refused to accept that De Gucht was delegated, although he does not sit in the Federal Parliament. His Green candidate replacement Fauzaya Talhaoui paid the price for it vis-à-vis the liberal MPs. She was not even elected. In an interview in De Morgen, Jos Geysels, Agalev's political secretary, concluded that the Purple-Greens have lost their verve and that Guy Verhofstadt, otherwise so driven, is noticeably silent. Geysels feels that the government team must just clearly state what else will be achieved before the elections in June 2003. His call has now found a willing ear with VLD Chairman Karel De Gucht. (FF).

**Dewael: no federal money for Walloon care insurance**

The Walloon Region, the French Community, the Commission communautaire française (COCOF) (French Community Commission) in Brussels and the German-speaking Community are seeking a counterpart to the Flemish care insurance for non-medical assistance and services. On 26 February, a number of Minister-presidents tabled the question in the Conciliation Committee, in which the Federal Government and regional governments are represented. The Flemish Minister-President, Patrick Dewael (VLD), boosted by the Court of Arbitration, which dismissed an annulment appeal instituted by COCOF against the Flemish care insurance, says there can be no question of organising federal care insurance or making federal money available for Walloon care insurance (FF).
Road safety becomes top priority

On 25 February, the States-General for Road Safety met for the first time. In Belgium, no fewer than seven federal and regional ministers have partial responsibility for road safety and all of them related what they had done for road safety during their term of office and in particular what more they were going to do.

According to Transport Minister Isabelle Durant (Ecolo) and Prime Minister Verhofstadt (VLD), the scale of the States-General illustrates the importance the Purple-Green Government attaches to the matter. The aim is to halve the high number of fatalities (1470 in 2000) by 2010. The photos of 127 young road victims on the wall of the States-General in the Heizelpaleis in Brussels underlined the gravity of the situation. The ministers plan measures in their own areas and have set out quantifiable objectives to this end.

The planned campaigns are aimed chiefly at speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and enforcing the compulsory wearing of seat-belts. Earlier, it had been announced that fines would be increased significantly. Verhofstadt also promised to increase the number of road checks. The fact that the measures are unpopular does not matter to him. The main thing is that they save lives, he feels.

The Flemish Transport Minister, Steve Stevaert (SP.A), argued in favour of the general introduction of the 70 kph speed limit on regional roads. Let us make 70 kph the general rule outside built-up areas and 50 kph in built-up areas, Stevaert proposed. Exceptions would then be 90 kph on some regional roads and 30 kph in e.g. areas around schools. It would also save the Flemish Government a large number of road signs, says Stevaert.

One of the controversial issues is speed restrictions. The Federal Transport Minister, Isabelle Durant (Ecolo), launched, among other things, a proposal to cut the speed limit on regional roads from 90 to 70 kph. 70 kph would be the general rule, but exceptions could be permitted up to 90 kph, for example on safe regional dual carriageways.

Some liberals have already hinted they are unhappy with the measure and even the qualified Walloon Minister Michel Daerden (PS), who did not attend the States-General, let his scepticism be heard this weekend. However, he too would now sign up to the 70 kph rule. Steve Stevaert has long been a firm supporter. ‘The only certainty is that this measure will reduce the number of road traffic accident victims. In any case, I notice that there is a great interest in Flanders to introduce the speed restriction.’ Last year, he wrote a letter to all Flemish local authorities. He offered the possibility to install unmanned cameras in their municipality. ‘I also proposed signs on regional roads limiting the speed to 70 kph. The response has been much greater than expected. Almost one in three municipalities wants to introduce the restriction.’

For the sake of clarity: the Flemish Region may put up road signs, the Federal Government checks whether this restriction is observed.

What applies to the speed limit on regional roads, applies to all proposals in the States-General. The Purple-Greens have made road safety a political topic. But words are not enough and the implementation of a policy by this coalition leaves a lot to be desired. There is a good chance that nothing will change in terms of road safety. There is also the question of whether we actually need additional measures to promote road safety. What is the point of reducing the speed limit still further if, in the absence of checks, the existing speed limit is already ignored? The greatest contribution the Purple-Greens can make to road safety is to increase the chances that drivers are caught. More and better checks need to be carried out. The Federal Minister for Internal Affairs, Antoine Duquesne, has already announced that more police officers will be made available for road checks. Why this can only be done gradually is unclear. Budgetary considerations cannot be invoked. The police officers carrying out the checks pay for themselves. At least, if those who are caught also actually have to pay the fines. The introduction of an efficient system of administrative fines would prevent overburdened Public Prosecutor’s Offices from dropping cases. This system would also ensure that fines are collected promptly, thus restoring the direct link between fine and payment. If the chances of being caught are increased, higher fines are not necessary. Simply increasing the fines, as the Federal Government recently decided to do, means opting for a greater deterrent in the hope that this will compensate for the poor chances of being caught.
Vulnerable areas increase manure surplus

Flemish farmers no longer know what to do with their manure. Half the manure in Flanders will become surplus manure next year. Thanks to stricter fertilising standards, they can only spread a tiny portion of the manure on their own land.

According to the Manure Action Plan, the manure needs to be processed but the manure processing capacities are far from adequate. Manure exports to the Wallonians were the only solution. Under Flemish legislation, such exports were perfectly legal, but not under Wallonian law. However, Wallonian farmers made a good living out of them (up to EUR 250 per tonne). That was until Wallon Environment Minister Foret (PRL) became aware of the transports and put a stop to them. Now Flanders has nowhere to go with its manure.

What’s more, the Flemish Agriculture Minister wants to earmark 54% of Flanders as vulnerable area with much stricter fertilising standards. Until recently, only 15% of Flanders was designated vulnerable area, but Dua is under pressure from Europe, because in many parts of Flanders the European nitrate standard of 50 mg/litre is being exceeded.

Compared to the Netherlands and Denmark, where 100% of farmland has been designated vulnerable, that is not even all that strict a measure, but the farmers have entered the fray and are seeking support from the VLD. Minister Dua (Agalev) wants the Flemish Government to reach a decision in several weeks, but her VLD colleague, Jaak Gabriëls, Economic Affairs, says they must wait for the results of a study into the socio-economic consequences (FF).

MARK DEWEERDT • DE FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 26 FEBRUARY

Dua had wanted to submit her plan to the European Commission at the end of last year, but the liberals put a stop to that. Prime Minister Patrick Dewael (VLD) became involved and together with Dua wants to ask the European Commission to show sympathy for Flemish agriculture. Meanwhile, the VLD has called for discussions with farmers. Over the past few weeks, farmers’ organisations and the environmental movement met several times at Dua’s offices, but Minister Gabriëls told the press agency Belga that was not enough and that Dua had to talk directly to the farmers’ organisations.

Before the Flemish Government goes to the European Commission with final maps, a finer-meshed and more objective measuring net for determining the nitrate content of ground- and surface-water needs to be developed for the VLD. The liberals also want to wait for the results of a socio-economic study into the impact of the delimitation of vulnerable areas on the farming sector. Minister Dua told Belga that she wanted the Flemish Government to approve the final maps of vulnerable farming areas by mid-March. In the meantime, she hopes, along with Dewael, to be received by the EU Commissioner for the Environment Wallström.

Dua is not prepared to wait for a socio-economic study. That will keep us busy for months, she said. On the VRT programme ‘De Zevende Dag’, Dua said she would present a draft to Europe that was as beneficial as possible for agriculture and which included extremely broad margins for fertilisation. The minister underlined that she had her back to the wall as a result of the European Nitrate Directive. ‘My predecessors granted more and more licences and now we’re in a situation that we don’t know what to do with the manure’, said Dua.

DOUGLAS DE CONINCK • DE MORGEN • 27 FEBRUARY

In April last year, De Morgen published a series of articles about the VHM. These revealed that the board members of some of the 118 Flemish social housing companies (SHMs) were lining their pockets via exorbitant expense claims, expensive cars, business seats in football stadiums, accounting fraud, study trips or simply by having luxury homes or shops built for themselves or their family. All this was done using funds that had been provided by the government for housing the socially vulnerable. Although all this had been reported by the financial inspectors of the VHM, little or nothing was done. The inspectors who reported the fraud, however, had to process one disciplinary procedure after the other, often thanks the head of the anti-fraud cell, the Geraardsbergen CD&V politician Paul Michel. The audit carried out following our series of articles revealed that his electoral campaign for the local elections had been run by a VHM secretary. In addition to an audit, which largely confirmed the reports in De Morgen, Gabriëls concluded that the VHM ‘used incorrect formulas’ in its 2002 investment programme. The annoying consequence is a chunk of some EUR 30 million out of the Flemish budget. ‘The VHM’s treasury planning has to be entirely re-done,’ says Gabriëls, who pointed out that for him this was the straw that broke the camel’s back.

Gabriëls sends VHM management home
Privatisation of ABX parcel service

ABX, the ‘parcel service’ of the NMBS that delivers goods by lorry in more than 100 countries, will be transferred to a separate holding company open to private capital. In an initial phase, the company is allowed to attract EUR 250 million in private capital in a decision of the Federal Government.

As a result, Etienne Schouppe, Managing Director of the NMBS, has gotten what he wants. Not only has he got his EUR 250 million to make the company profitable, the company will also be partly made independent. Transport Minister Isabel Durant, on the other hand, wanted to sell the loss-making ABX and stop the NMBS pouring money into it. She wanted the EUR 250 million to be invested in B-cargo, the NMBS division that transports goods by rail. And yet Durant has not entirely lost the argument. She has been promised that the NMBS will not give the company any more money in the future and is proclaiming that the deal will ultimately result in ABX’ sale in the long term. The administrative bodies of the holding company and subsidiaries will be appointed by NMBS’ shareholder, i.e. the government. Schouppe will not be able to take all decisions alone. Furthermore, ABX will distribute parcels of less than thirty kilograms in tandem with De Post (the Belgian postal service). ABX and De Post will establish a new company for this purpose (FF).

CHRISTOF VANSCHOUBROEK • DE STANDAARD • 23 FEBRUARY

The flipside is that Schouppe will have less influence on his ABX. His darling is leaving home and is going to live in digs. An explicit demand is that NMBS’ shareholder (the government) will appoint the Board of Directors of the ABX holding and subsidiaries. Schouppe will probably have to tolerate a strong man in ABX alongside himself. But he does not seem prepared to simply let go of the reins. ‘I am Managing Director of the NMBS and the ABX holding will become a subsidiary. I know ABX like the back of my hand and am extremely attached to it.’ Furthermore, the NMBS will only be able to give ABX a subordinated loan of EUR 50 million, whereas Schouppe had hoped for EUR 85 million. Minister Durant loses face. Wednesday evening, she turned up with yet another report in support of her position for an immediate sale of ABX. ‘I never asked for ABX to be sold tomorrow,’ she said on Friday. And yet the Ecolo minister will have to live in digs. An explicit demand was that ABX have less influence on his ABX. His NMBS’ shareholder (the government) will appoint the Board of Directors of the holding company and subsidiaries.

KLM suspends flights from Deurne airport

On 1 July, the Dutch airline KLM will halt its three daily flights from Deurne (Antwerp) to Schiphol. The high-speed train, Thalys, will transport all passengers to Schiphol as from 1 July. According to KLM, this involves approx. 75,000 customers on an annual basis. In so doing, KLM follows Air France’s example which a year ago scrapped the scheduled flight from Zaventem to Charles De Gaulle in Paris and transported its Belgian customers in the Thalys. In 2003, Deurne welcomed 273,208 passengers, an increase of around 4%. The only two scheduled flights remaining in Deurne are Antwerp-London City and Antwerp-Geneva, both operated by VLM Airlines (Vlaamse Luchtvaartmaatschappij) (FF).

JOHAN VAN BAELEN • GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN • 27 FEBRUARY

‘This is bad news for Deurne airport. One third of all our passengers,’ says Deurne’s airport chief, Paul Paridaens. In particular, this affects handler Aviapartner, which generates 80% of its turnover thanks to KLM. Taxis, car-hire firms and shops at the airport will also be dealt a heavy blow. The airport chief is especially disappointed because KLM gave no warnings and refused all talks. ‘At the diamond sector’s request, we wanted to have discussions after the fourth flight was scrapped. After 28 years of working together we were not even consulted.’ Marleen Wijckmans of KLM Belgium: ‘The Deurne line was extremely important in the Flanders package. Last year, we invested in an attempt to attract more customers. Without success. The occupancy rate was too low, the operating costs were high.’ Pessimists see a clear sign in VLM’s new flights from Zaventem: the beginning of the end for Deurne?
2002, a crucial year for Telenet

Following the rather alarming reports concerning Telenet in, among others, De Standaard last week, Telenet CEO Duco Sickinge felt the time had come to explain about the forthcoming reorganisation of his company. He explains the announced redundancies (139 of the 900 employees), the increases in rates and interconnection (connection of other operators to the Telenet network) as a financial and organisational catch-up manoeuvre. This year, Telenet is aiming for an increase in the number of telephone and Internet lines from EUR 410,000 to EUR 747,000 and an increase in turnover from EUR 177 to EUR 307 million. However, signs of a positive cash-flow will only be noticeable in 2004. Due to the high number of new connections, investments will rise to EUR 225 million in 2002. Telenet has sufficient financial breathing space to keep the company operational until July of this year at the latest. There is little time to organise a loan of EUR 1.35 billion which will be used to finance an earlier loan of EUR 550 million. The take-over of the mixed cable companies by Telenet depends on securing the loan of EUR 1.35 billion. Sickinge says he sees no reason why the loan should not be in place in time. The cable companies are profitable: their operating result for this year is estimated at EUR 90 million positive. Telenet’s management also wants to free the company from the costly bond loan passed on by main shareholder Callahan. We would welcome strengthening the company’s capital by replacing this loan, says CFO Leo Steenbergen. According to him, talks are currently under way between shareholders concerning this loan.

Between January 1999 and June last year, Telenet’s cumulative losses amounted to EUR 445 million due to the considerable start-up investments. Next year, the debt will reach its ceiling of EUR 1.25 billion, but it will be eight to ten months before that drops again, says Sickinge.

The merger between SN Brussels Airlines and Virgin has fallen through. The talks collapsed over the valuation of each other’s assets. However, both parties are doing everything possible to maintain their commercial collaboration. Virgin boss Richard Branson had pledged EUR 24.7 million to SN Brussels Airlines and would have been prepared to increase this investment to EUR 100 million. Branson announced to withdraw his 24.7 million investment in SN Brussels Airlines. According to De Financieel-Economische Tijd, however, 5 extra candidate-investors have already come forward, who together would invest a sum greater than Branson’s EUR 24.7 million. Last week, SN Air Holding, the main shareholder in SN Brussels Airlines, decided to join forces with Birdy Airlines, the new airline of Georges Gutelman and Victor Hasson [former owners of bankrupt City Bird], for its scheduled flights to Africa. According to SN Air Holding, the Birdy dossier was financially and qualitatively more interesting than that of the other candidates, Sobelair, British Midlands and VG Airlines [owned by Flemish businessman, Freddy Van Gaever].
VRT networks not really troubled by commercial newcomers

The arrival of the regional commercial radio stations Q-Music and 4FM has not resulted in the much feared shift in Flemish peoples’ listening patterns, concludes the public broadcasting company VRT. This emerges from the audience survey, Radioscan. With a market share of 3% for Q-Music and a margin of 0.4% for 4 FM, the Flemish commercial radio stations have not caused a shift in the Flemish radio landscape. Admittedly, the market share of the VRT networks Donna, Radio 1, Radio 2, Klara and Studio Brussel has dropped slightly, but at 83% is still overwhelming. With Q-Music and the network radios Mango and Topradio, the Flemish Media Company (Vlaamse Media Maatschappij), parent company of commercial TV broadcaster VTM, has become a minor player in the Flemish radio market (5.8%).

Anciaux subsidizes young travellers

Flemish Minister for Culture and Youth, Bert Anciaux (Spirit), has prepared a new project for young people who want hands-on experience abroad. All youngsters, aged between 16 and 25, who want to meet the local population abroad are able to submit a request for grants up to EUR 1,000 provided their plans involve a project. Anciaux has positioned his project in support of a tolerant European community (FF).

Anciaux gives a couple of examples: in the Brazilian city of Salvador a young Flemish woman shoots a report on ‘capoeira’, the popular fighting dance; four Antwerp rappers go to Morocco in a music project; two young people document the winter migration of wild geese in collaboration with a Canadian nature group. The examples are so varied that they raise many questions. Anciaux does not want to impose too many rules, but there are still a number of restrictions. For instance, projects in certain countries are not possible because they cannot be insured. This implies no good deeds or cultural work in Afghanistan. Tourist projects are not permitted either, nor are ordinary employment or training because several international hands-on experience courses exist. Any youngster or group of up to four youngsters is able to submit a project proposal to the co-ordinating body of the International Youth Agency (Jint). After the exchange, youngsters are expected to get to work on the results. These proposals are also assessed by Jint. Youngsters can expect EUR 250 a month, for up to three months, and recoup 75% of their travelling expenses. The subsidies are in addition to the existing European support for group exchanges or voluntary work that are generally organised via organisations. These application files also go through Jint, which means there is no overlapping.

www.jint.be

Rik Wouters exhibited in Antwerp and Brussels

Two exhibitions of the work of Mechelen painter Rik Wouters (1882-1916) are running simultaneously: in the Museum voor Schone Kunsten in Antwerp and in the Paleis voor Schone Kunsten in Brussels. Anyone visiting the exhibitions will get a complete overview of Wouters’ oeuvre, who died of bone cancer aged 34. There is good reason for the smaller exhibition in Antwerp alongside the large exhibition in Brussels. The museum possesses a large number of works by Wouters, 48 of these were donated by Ludo Van Baggaert-Scheid, who specified in the donation deed that they must not leave the museum (FF).

The museum in Antwerp has taken this opportunity to set up a permanent Wouters Room, where the donation will stay. The collection includes wonderful paintings such as ‘Lezende Vrouw’ [his wife Nel Wouters in her famous red-and-white striped dress], ‘Vrouw in het zwart, een krant lezen’, ‘Naaktstudie’, ‘Vrouw aan de haartooi’ and the well-known ‘Rik met de zwarte ooglap’. In an adjacent room, in a temporary exhibition, several works by Wouters are exhibited together with works by contemporary artists - Rodin, Parsels, Brussels, Heirants and Peeters. Several rooms on the ground floor are also filled with drawings, letters and photos, Wouters’ death mask, his hand in bronze. True Wouters fans will get a lump in their throat when they see 4 never-before-seen photos of an elderly Nel, Wouters’ wife and favourite subject, his magnet for colours, the axis of his light carousel. In one photo Nel is laying her hand on the large sculpture ‘Het Zotte Geweld’, which shows an exuberant, dancing naked woman for which Nel posed for hours. The same ‘zotte geweld’ also ‘ceremoniously’ opens the exhibition in Brussels as a monument to sensuality. It is followed by three of Wouters’ best works, after which, just as in Antwerp, Wouters is placed in his time period, alongside and between works by such artists as, Rodin, Ensor, Cézanne and Bourdelle. Wouters’ work then extends over several large rooms. On the walls, paintings, in the centre on a sort of lectern, the drawings and a sculpture here and there. Wouters’ work is timeless, even when there is so much, as in Brussels. For Wouters, light was his main
concern. Many of his works show the very bright light of high summer. It comes from inside and outside, hangs and moves simultaneously. Sometimes it seems to be beside it- and to tremble with excitement. It is precisely in that trembling, in that shimmering that Wouters distingishes himself from other painters who tried similar things.

**Diary**

**MUSIC. DANCE. THEATRE**

- **20 February until 17 November: Bruges 2002, Cultural Capital of Europe; info: 070/22.33.02 www.brugge2002.be**
- **Until 6 March: Viewpoint, festival of the documentary film, Ghent; info: 09/225.08.45 www.viewpointdocfest.be**
- **6 March: Akademie für Alte Musik conducted by Andrew Manze with compositions by JS Bach, Rameau, Leclair, G Muffat an EPH Rameau, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be**
- **5 and 6 March: Swolllip by Alexander Baervoets (dance), De Monty, Antwerp; info: 03/238.91.81 www.monty.be**
- **6 March: Marc van Runxt and Eric Ravees/Marta Villa Lobos (dance), De Vooruit, Gent; info: 09/267.24.24 www.vooruit.be**
- **6 March: 2Pack by Abdelaziz Sarokh (dance), PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.85.10 www.pskpa.be**
- **8 and 9 March: Salma Sanan, Compagnie Sulia Ni Seydou (Burkina Faso), Tagalaa, dance, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 desingel.be**
- **6 to 15 March: Jan Lauwers & Company, Images of Affect, theatre, in English, Kaaitheaterstudio's Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be**
- **8 to 16 March: Jan Risema & Bojana Cvejic, Today Ulysses, theatre, Kaaitheaterstudio's, Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be**
- **7 March: Femi Kuti, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: 02/548.24.24 www.abconcerts.be**
- **8 March: Das Pop deluxe, De Vooruit, Ghent; info: 02/267.24.24 www.vooruit.be**
- **6 March: I Fiamminghi with Fabio Zanon in MUHKA [Museum contemporary art, Antwerp] with compositions by Van der Roost, Rodrigo and Bartok; info: 09/283.71.34**
- **6 March: Elisabeth Leonskaja (piano) with compositions by Schubert, Rachmaninoff and Liszt, PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.00**
- **9 March: Christina Branco (Fado), De Singel, Antwerp, info: 0900/26060**
- **12 March: Suzanne Vega, Koningin Elisabethzaal, Antwerp, info: 0900/26060**
- **10 March: Jools Holland & His Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels, info: 02/548.24.24 www.abconcerts.be**
- **10 March: Jorma Hynninen, Ilkka Pajunen with Lieder by Wolf, Sibelius, Brahms and Gothoni, Flanders Opera, Antwerp, info: 03/233.66.85 www.desingel.be**
- **13 March: Pieter Wispelwey, Cellos with 6 suites by JS Bach, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be**
- **18 March: Zehetmair Quartett, Conservatory, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.00**
- **20 March: Spiegel Streekkwartet with Teodoro Anzelotti (accordeon) and JF Rebel, JM Leclair, G Muffat and Hush!, Hush!, Hush! (dance), De Vooruit, Gent; info: 09/267.24.24, www.vooruit.be**
- **8 March: Zehetmair Quartett, Conservatory, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.00**
- **14 to 24 March: Cinema Novo Festival, Brugges, info: 050/33.54.86 www.cinema novo.be**

**EXPO**

- **Until 2 June 2002: Brains in action, exhibition, Museum of Natural Sciences, Brussels, info: 02/627.42.52 www.natuurwetenschappen.be**
- **Until 17 March: Europe in Euphoria, exhibition, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be**
- **Until 23 February - 1 March 2002, Woman's business - 100 European architects, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be**
- **Until 11 March: About the Head, exhibition, Museum Dr. Ghislain, Ghent, info: 09/216.35.95 www.fracarita.be**
- **Until 24 March: Woman's business - Business Women, exhibition, St-Pieters-abdi, Ghent; info: 09/243.97.30**
- **Until 1 March: Frans Odebrechts – in search of art in Africa, photo exhibition, Etnographical Museum, Antwerp, info: 03/220.86.00**
- **Until 14 April: Jan Van Imsschoot, Steven Aalders and Yvah Jusidman, SMAK, Ghent, info: 09/221.17.03 www.smak.be**
- **Until 31 March: Focus 1: a special meeting with works by Edgar Týgat, Ossip Zadkine, Floris Jaspers, Marc Chagall, Frans Vanden Berge, Gustave De Smet, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, www.museumd.be**
- **Until 24 March: Hundred houses for hundred European architects, exhibition, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be**
- **Until 21 April: Paris 1900, exhibition, Museum Elsene, info: 02/515.64.21**
- **Until 12 April: The non-conformist city by Luc Delahay, exhibition on urban design, Mercator Galery, Antwerp; info: 03/247.24.19**
- **Until November: Living Tomorrow, where visions meet, the house of the future, Vilvoorde; info: www.livtrom.be**
- **Until 21 April: Bert De Deel & Honoré d’O, exhibition, MUHKA, Antwerp, info: 03/248.59.60**
- **Until 14 April: Berlindé De Bruyckere, Ilse folliet and time/work, exhibition, Caermersklooster, Gent [Patershol], info: 09/269.29.10**
- **Until 24 March: Franky Cane, Jan Decleir/Fred Bervoets and Patrick de Spiegelaere, exhibition, De Zwarte Panter, Antwerp, info: 02/233.13.45**
- **Until 17 March: The Pose, photo exhibition by Malou Swinnen, Begijnhof, Hasselt, info: www.limburg.be**
- **Until 11 March: I made you in red, exhibition, Fashion museum, Hasselt, info: 011/23.96.21**
- **Until 26 March: Art Fashion, Fashion designers, exhibition Goethe-Institut Inter Nations Brussels; info: 02/230.39.70**
- **Until 13 May: Bruges 2002: exhibition, Attachment +, contemporary art, Normal-school**
- **Until 26 May: Rik Wouters, exhibition, KMSK, Antwerp, info: 03/388.78.09 www.antonpen.be/cultuur/kmska**
- **Until 26 May: Rik Wouters, exhibition, PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.84.66 www.pskpa.be**

**Focus on Flanders** provides a weekly overview of articles from the Flemish press and appears in English, French and German. This newsletter is published by Uitgeverij Lannoo nv, Kasteelstraat 96, 8700 Tielt and can also be obtained by e-mail.

**CULTURE**

**Translation:** Eurologos

**Printing:** Drukkerij Lannoo nv, Tielt

**Responsible editor:** Luc Demeester, Marke

**Subscription rate by post and e-mail:** 220 euro

**Either transfer the sum to account no.: 473-1010001-19 with the KBC in Roeselare Or give us the number and expiry date of your credit card (Visa/Express) and a stamp**

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**With thanks to:** Concentra nv, De Vlijt nv, de Vlaamse Uitgeversmaatschappij nv, De Persgroep nv, Uitge-verbredij Tijd nv and Roularta Media Group nv and their editorial teams for supplying the articles.