Dumping of asylum-seekers is punished

The Purple-Green government has announced two measures with which it wants to reduce the concentration of asylum-seekers in large towns, in particular Antwerp. The first measure is aimed at the Public Social Assistance Centres (OCMWs) of smaller towns and municipalities who dump their asylum-seekers in larger towns. These OCMWs are currently reimbursed each payment they make to asylum-seekers by the Federal Government. That will no longer be the case if they do not find a place to live in their own municipality. Rack-renters in large towns who accept these dumped asylum-seekers also risk having their house declared forfeit (FF).

FRANK WILLEMSE
HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 24 MAY

The measure relating to the OCMWs, which must still obtain the authorisation of the Council of State and the approval of Parliament, only applies when assigning new asylum-seekers who have been declared admissible. ‘In 2000 there were 42,000 requests for asylum. With such a large number we could not force the OCMWs to find accommodation in their own municipality. As a result of the government measures, their number fell to 24,000 last year. This year we are expecting no more than 18,000,’ says Minister for Social Integration Vande Lanotte (SP.A). ‘Of these asylum requests, barely 10% are accepted. In the end, therefore, we are talking about some 1800 people a year, or 3 asylum-seekers per OCMW.’ According to Vande Lanotte, OCMWs that are assigned so few asylum-seekers can now no longer hide behind the argument that there is no room for these people in their municipality. ‘They will have to show that the asylum-seekers are actually registered in their municipality and that it is not just a postal address,’ he says. ‘If the asylum-seekers would rather live in large towns, because their friends or family are there, they will have to give up 20% of their payment. This does not seem much, but for someone with very little, it is a fortune,’ says the Minister.

FRANK WILLEMSE | editor in chief
**Parties**

**Spirit continues to pursue independent course**

At a hastily convened meeting on the evening of Monday 21 May, Spirit, the party of Flemish Minister Anciaux and Van Grembergen, decided that it would go to the elections alone and not in an alliance with the SPA, as figure-head Bert Anciaux had urged. An alliance with another political party was also rejected. A broad majority opted for an independent course. After the meeting, Chair Annemie Vandecasteele and Bert Anciaux took a hefty swipe at VLD Chair Karel De Gucht. According to them, he profited from a weak moment to persuade several Spirit mandataries to go over to the VLD. Margriet Hermans, Flemish MP has already confirmed she is taking this step. Spirit may well also lose its only two senators. Vincent Van Quickenborne and Patrick Vankrunkelsven will most likely go together with the SP.A. In any event, Spirit has taken its medicine. The party will go to the elections alone and is trying to close ranks. ‘It is better for a few people to leave us than for us to carry on dragging dead wood along,’ says chair Anne-mie Van de Casteele. Vankrunkelsven, Van Quickenborne and Hermans again defended an alliance with the VLD with courage born out of desperation. Anciaux won the approval of several young people in particular for his call to work together with the SPA.

The talks, which were open but also emotional, ended with five rounds of voting. There 31 members present - the party executive and the mandataries - clearly opted for an independent course. This at least has the advantage of clarity, says vice-chair Geert Lambert. Afterwards, Van de Casteele asked all mandataries for their conclusions. ‘Better this way than for us to drag them along against their wishes and go through the same for several months,’ said the chair. The split is happening ‘on friendly terms’.

And yet the idea of an alliance again rearing its head cannot be ruled out, for example after the next opinion poll of La Libre Belgique. The liberal wing is then already cut off, say the mischievous, leaving the way open to the SPA. In any event, Spirit has been damaged, Van de Casteele realises. Her solution: Bert Anciaux, who caused this crisis and on Monday ‘acknowledged his guilt’, must ‘do penance’. Spirit’s rejected marriage partners are reacting calmly. SPA chair Patrick Janssens has let it be known that his party’s door will remain open. In socialist circles, however, there is also resentment over the way in which Anciaux ‘has blown’ a possible switch.

VLD chair De Gucht has received a list with demands from potential members Vankrunkelsven and Van Quickenborne. ‘Under no circumstances do I want to become a member of a right-conservative party. The VLD must choose open liberalism,’ says Van Quickenborne. Both senators want to enshrine that in a text ‘that goes beyond mere philosophical considerations but also contains concrete points for consideration such as state reform’.

**Ten-year plan for R&D**

In Flanders, the government spends 0.61% of the gross domestic product on research. In the US and Japan this figure is 2%. We must catch up, says Minister-President Dewael (VLD). In an article in De Standaard (22 May) he announced that the Flemish Government wants to invest 60 million euros extra a year by 2010 in research and development. Dewael was thus reacting to the warning cry from the former adviser to Minister Vanderpoorten, Marc Luwel (see FF 18), who claims that our universities are not competitive enough to attract scientific staff and that Flanders invests too little in research (FF).

**Research**

**MARK DEWEERDT - DE FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD - 23 MAY**

At the EU summit in Barcelona, in March of this year, it was agreed that by 2010 each Member State should devote 3% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to R&D. According to the Flemish Council for Scientific Policy last year Flanders received only 1.91%: 1.3% from businesses and 0.61% from the government. The VEV said it was pleased with Dewael’s commitment to a ten-year plan, ‘that is just in time’. By securing 60 million euros a year, Flanders can lift itself into the top group of developed countries in terms of scientific and technological research, says the VEV. The employers’ organisation is calling on Dewael to enshrine his commitment in a political agreement, so that it remains intact over different administrative periods and government coalitions. The VEV is asking businesses to make an effort to achieve their share of the European norm, 2% of GDP, by 2010. Agoria Flanders, the multi-sector federation of the technological industry, also welcomed the declaration by Dewael, who ‘displays a strategic vision’. The federation is calling on the Flemish government to examine how the European target figure can be achieved over the coming weeks with Flemish industrial sectors. An agreement must also be reached as to how the extra funds are to be divided equally between academic research and research with an economic finality. On behalf of the CD&V, Luc van den Brande said he was prepared to support the ‘catch-up programme’.
**Euthanasia law encounters strong opposition**

On 16 May the Federal Chamber ratified the bill that allows euthanasia under certain conditions. The opposition (CD&V, N-VA, Vlaams Blok) tabled some 70 amendments, in particular to the third article of the bill, which lays down the conditions under which euthanasia is permitted. They find it unacceptable that euthanasia would also be possible for non-terminal patients and people who are suffering hopelessly. But in the end the bill was approved with 86 votes for, 51 against and 10 abstentions. In addition, a bill was also approved that everyone has the right to palliative care. As a result Belgium is the second country, after the Netherlands, to make euthanasia legally possible and since the restrictions on euthanasia are less numerous than those of our northern neighbours, it is naturally the most liberal euthanasia law in the world. The Christian Democratic CD&V has already announced that as soon as it is part of government again it will repeal the law. Cardinal Danneels was even more critical and even called on Catholic hospitals to ignore the statutory ruling for euthanasia. Meanwhile, Caritas, the Catholic umbrella organisation for hospitals and nursing homes, intends not applying the ruling for non-terminal patients and incorporating a palliative filter itself. This filter obliges the doctor to inform the patient about measures to combat pain and offer them palliative treatment. Only if the patient refuses this is it possible after lengthy discussions to consider euthanasia (FF).

 RUUD GOOSSENS  
 DE MORGEN • 18 MAY

‘If we are invited to the government negotiations in 2003, we will again raise the issue of euthanasia. This is a bad law that must be overhauled,’ says CD&V chair Stefaan De Clerck categorically. De Clerck does not want to abolish the right to euthanasia again. He does, however, want to repeal the law sensitive-ly. In concrete terms, De Clerck wants to incorporate a stronger palliative filter into the law, while euthanasia for non-terminal patients must be revoked. The CD&V also wants to incorporate a sanction machine for those who break the law. De Clerck is even making this a breaking point for the coming governmental negotiations. By adopting this tough stance the CD&V is threatening to exclude itself from these negotiations. This is of no concern to De Clerck. ‘If we sit down round the table, we will bring up euthanasia. A number of major players have not been heard. All legal objections are being ignored.’ Earlier the CD&V opposition announced that it would take its objections to the law to the European Court in Strasbourg during this period of government.

**Opinion**

Cardinal Danneels, the most senior representative of the Catholic community in this country, deplores the law because according to him it ‘puts quality of life above life itself.’ He is perfectly correct in this and has actually outlined the differing approaches of believers and non-believers to the existential problem of the end of life. Believers see their life as a gift, which consequently they are not able to dispose of at will. This vision deserves every respect. Non-believers are convinced that their life is part of their right to self-determination and that they have the right to decide when that life becomes unbearable for them. They want to determine themselves when their life ends. This viewpoint also deserves every respect. The new law does precisely what should be patently obvious in an ideological pluralistic society. Since no one can be given euthanasia against their will - which today has happened more than once in the grey twilight zones of medical practice - and since no doctor can be forced into euthanasia, no believer need fear that their ideological conviction will not be respected. Non-believers, who claim they have the autonomous right to decide whether or not their quality of life is acceptable, will be given the right to ask for euthanasia without individuals with a different outlook on life being able to impose their vision. In ethical dossiers it is not right that one outlook on life imposes its standards on others, certainly not if it knows that its own standards will continue to be respected.
Safety becomes top priority

Safety is rapidly climbing to the top of the political agenda, writes De Standaard (22 May). Not only the elections in France and the Netherlands, but also signals from their own country have made politicians sit up and take notice. Even with parties for whom safety never used to be a priority, such as the SPA, it is now at the top of the list. Safety is a community duty like any other, said Frank Vandenbroucke in his 1 May address. Giving some thought to safety has also become unavoidable for the Greens, claims Jos Gheysels in Knack (22 May): ‘We have to take a number of problems seriously. Many progressive people, for example, are afraid to talk about safety. But it is not because you force yourself to think about such a topic that you have to go and imitate others. Crime has to be dealt with. Period.’ Day after day De Standaard is also attributing a whole series to safety policy in this country. How are break-ins, car-jacking, or street crime being tackled and what results have been achieved? Thus, it emerges that street crime, a phenomenon that highlights the feeling of insecurity better than any other, very quickly bears fruit with a resolute approach. This has been demonstrated by the cities of Antwerp and Ghent (FF).

DOMINIQUE MINTEN
DE STANDAARD • 22 MAY

Street and urban crime have risen sharply in recent months. For Justice Minister Marc Verwilghen the rise in this form of ‘petty crime’ was serious enough to summon seven public prosecutors to his office. Their task is to draft a joint plan of action. Meanwhile, the two largest cities in Flanders are posting encouraging results in the fight against crime. Since January, Ghent has been afflicted by a plague of muggings. In March there were 81 robberies with violence, an increase of 150% compared with March 2001. In conjunction with the public prosecutor and the mayor, muggings became an absolute priority for Ghent’s police. ‘Project 11’ began in mid-March. Six weeks later the plague was under control: 61 offenders were picked up. April saw another 52 crimes, as many as in April 2001. In May the downward trend is continuing. Since October 2001 Antwerp has seen an outbreak of pickpocketing. Here the corps priorities unit was put on the case and since last month the plague has been under control: 251 cases of pickpocketing, or more than half fewer than in November 2001. A gang of Roma gypsies with Bulgarian nationality appeared to be responsible. They were brought in by bus and dropped in Antwerp. Some have been repatriated, the others have been given custodial sentences.

Franco-Belgian police patrols in border region

The first results of the talks between Prime Minister Verhofstadt (VLD) and his French colleague Prime Minister Raffarin on border crime along the Franco-Belgian border have been visible since 21 May. That was the day on which the first mixed Franco-Belgian police patrols began. These are intended to stem the flux of cross-border crime, which affects shopkeepers in South-West Flanders in particular. The patrols operate out of Wervik, Menen, and Moeskroen on the Belgian side and Lille, Tourcoing, and Roubaix on the French side. The aim is to have the entire border region between Doornik and De Panne covered by such patrols within a short time (FF).

On French soil two members of the French national police are on patrol. In their vehicle sits an observer from the Belgian local police. In Belgium a French policeman accompanies two members of the local police. The Belgians have radio contact with their police zone and the French with their communications centre. Both Belgian and French observers are unarmed. The main task of the patrols is to observe. However, both countries have not yet reached agreement on the way in which police officers on the territory of the neighbouring country can round up suspects. This point will come up for discussion on 10 June at the first meeting of the Franco-Belgian working group of experts.
WATER TREATMENT

Aquafin: lack of money in municipalities acts as brake

Water treatment in Flanders is gaining momentum under pressure from Europe. Europe is demanding that domestic wastewater in Flanders satisfy strict agreements concerning treatment by 2005. At the end of 2001, 53% of sewage in Flanders was already treated. When the water treatment company Aquafin was established in 1992 that figure was only 34%. But despite catching up, Flanders is lagging behind compared to neighbouring countries such as the United Kingdom (96%), the Netherlands (93%) and even France (68%). According to Aquafin, the timing imposed is not feasible. But according to the company that is not its fault, but that of the municipalities, that do not have enough money to connect their sewers to the water treatment plants (FF).

PASCAL DEN DOOVEN
DE STANDAARD • 18 MAY

Since it was established in 1992, Aquafin has already completed 1,211 projects, good for 1.29 billion euros. However, the Flemish government wants to lay the contract with Aquafin on the table and is demanding an ecological maturity guarantee. Negotiations will begin in September. According to Managing Director Luc Bossyns, one of the main problems is that the network of sewers, for which the municipalities are responsible, is not adequately connected to the water treatment plants that Aquafin has set up.

‘At present, 300 million euros worth of work has been at a standstill for almost two years because the municipalities cannot pay for the connection.’ For the moment, a little more than 75% of Flanders has already been dealt with in terms of water treatment. Almost one quarter has not yet been redeveloped.

Aquafin has to draft a detailed plan (‘Master Plan’) by the end of this year, which shows how these areas must be tackled. The key question in the redevelopment plan is whether to opt for ‘collective redevelopment’ or individual redevelopment for a house, block of houses or district. Normally that depends on the cost. Because an individual solution costs more, there is likely to be lobbying in the municipalities.

The municipalities, which are responsible for water treatment in smaller residential areas (fewer than 2,000 residents), do not have the money or the know-how to provide water treatment. Consequently, Aquafin is offering the municipalities a total solution.

Flemish region comes to Aquafin’s aid

On 26 April the Environment Minister, Vera Dua (Agalev), and the Budget Minister, Dirk Van Mechelen (VLD), signed an agreement which says that the Flemish Region will pay the overdue VAT bill of around 220 million euros of the water treatment company Aquafin if the company is ordered to pay, reports De Standaard (18 May). The federal VAT administration is demanding that in its invoices to the Flemish Region, Aquafin invoice at 21% and not the reduced rate of 6% as is the norm for drinking water. Aquafin disputes that, but since November last year has been invoicing at a rate of 21%. The Flemish Region and Aquafin have already agreed to dispute the interpretation of the VAT administration and the claim in court. Thanks to the agreement with the Flemish government, Aquafin was yesterday able to submit the annual accounts approved by the auditor. The claim of 220 million euros threatened to send Aquafin under. There was after all the risk that 780 million euros in long-term credit would be put at risk. The consequence was that the auditor was not prepared to approve the annual accounts. It may be several years before the result of the dispute is known. That means that in any event, a negative verdict will be a problem for the next Flemish government.

Umicore in 30 million euros’ worth of takeovers

The Belgian non-ferrous group Umicore has taken over the Swiss technology firm Unaxis Materials and three divisions of the American Arconium, according to De Financieel-Economische Tijd (22 May). In the Philippines, Umicore acquired a 67% interest in Subic, a producer of cobalt and nickel alloys. Unaxis Materials is based in Liechtenstein. The company, for which Umicore shelled out 25 million euros, applies thin layers of metal or alloys onto a carrier. That is also the activity of Arconium, where Umicore took over several divisions for the sum of 3 million euros. Together with the company Subic, based in the Philippines, Arconium and Unaxis Materials will become part of Umicore’s new materials division. Managing Director Thomas Leysen has also announced one or two more takeovers for this division. Continually low prices on the copper and zinc market resulted in a poor operating profit for Umicore in the first quarter. Profit forecasts for the first half of 2002 will be in line with the second half of 2001. Savings and investments in the hi-tech materials division are intended to save the year for Umicore.
Flemish textile sector fears competition from China

The Belgian textile sector had a difficult 2001. The worldwide economic recessions and 11 September had repercussions on contracts with hotels, aircraft, office buildings, etc. In the first quarter of this year the carpets industry saw a drop in volumes of 3 to 4% for tufted carpets and 3% for woven carpets. Figures for furniture and decorative fabrics for this year are not yet available, but at the present time the carpet industry is on the brink of a long, far-reaching crisis. A revolution, some say. The villain of the piece is the Chinese textile industry, which is putting mostly copied collections on the market at rock-bottom prices.

China has long had weaving mills. A new phenomenon is the rapid modernisation of the production apparatus. Flemish textile industrialists watch sadly as loom manufacturers such as Picanol sell modern machines in China. Software developers have also descended on China. ‘With the looms, our knowledge is also being sold to China,’ complains one Flemish industrialist. Many of his colleagues get cold chills when the subject of ‘China’ comes up. Many Flemish businesses are seeking refuge in niche markets or mid-range and higher segments, where higher added values can be achieved. ‘There is not enough room for everyone in those markets,’ one industrialist points out. He fears for the consequences of the Chinese competition for many Flemish businesses. For the time being, the carpet industry has the best protection. Transporting carpets over more than 1,000 km is not profitable. The relatively limited Chinese carpet industry also has its hands full providing for the local residential market.

More and more companies in foreign hands

In five years, foreign companies have increased their share in Belgian technology firms from 68 to 75% (table p. 7). This means that most jobs are in the hands of foreign managers. Twenty-seven percent of these foreign companies are American, 44% European. This appears from a survey by the federation of technological industries, Agoria (formerly Fabrimetal), that covers the metalworking, plastics, electrical engineering and electronics sectors, ICT, the car industry, aviation and space travel and metals and materials. What is striking is that SMEs have not avoided the wave of foreign takeovers either. There are differences from region to region. In Wallonia, 69% of companies are in foreign hands, in Flanders and Brussels 74% and 85% respectively (FF).

Although the trend has been visible for years, the strong economic boom of recent years has ensured this picture has accelerated, claims Managing Director Paul Soete of Agoria. The Americans in particular have seized their opportunity in the high days and taken over many firms. However, a number of these companies were already foreign, such as Volvo and Siemens Electronics. According to Remi Boelaert, Agoria’s Chief Economist, the American dominance is the result of the strong position of the Americans in the technological industry. According to Soete, the percentage of SMEs currently in the hands of foreign owners is ‘surprising’. In the case of companies with between one and one hundred employees that is more than half. ‘And yet we often think that SMEs are Belgian companies,’ says Soete. Because although Soete does not consciously want to highlight any advantages or disadvantages, a parent company that is based thousands of kilometres away is clearly not always beneficial to employees. Managers who are far away generally find it easier to cut in a company where they have never been. Also, it is sometimes attractive for multinationals to move departments in times of adversity. ‘In the fight for competition, plants will not only be compared with other firms, but also with each other. This can only increase the competition.’

In future, the technological industry federation will focus more on preserving these firms. Among other things by, as well as creating an attractive climate for establishing new businesses, increasing the promotion of the specific benefits of our country [knowledge of languages, centre of Europe] and creating a homely feeling.
A campaign with average models

With the slogans ‘I am what I am, you can see that’ and a photo campaign in weekly and daily magazines that shows six average Flemings alternately clothed and naked, the Flemish government, at the request of Flemish Minister for Welfare Mieke Vogels (Agalev), is joining the battle against the ideal of beauty and obsession with the ideal size in our society. According to Mieke Vogels, media, advertising, and fashion give the impression that every woman must be a size 36, have large breasts and tight buttocks and men a muscular torso. She believes that creates mountains of frustrations. The campaign is aimed at making it easier again for Flemings to feel good about themselves, even if their body does not correspond to the ideal of beauty. According to Vogels, that good feeling is the first step towards a healthy life (FF).

BARBARA DEBUSECHERE
DE MORGEN • 22 MAY

Vogels wants to tackle her basic responsibility, health, in a roundabout way. Precisely for this reason the posters do not contain any extremes. Vogels: ‘This is not an attack on women who are a size 38 and it is certainly not a promotion for being overweight. Precisely for this reason you will not see any extremely fat or thin people, only ‘normal people’.’ On the link with her concern for health Vogels says: ‘It is a roundabout approach, but that is necessary because health as a topic no longer exists. People smoke and diet to get thin or stay thin or else throw the towel in, stop playing sport and eat everything because the ideal is unattainable. This campaign shows that normal is also beautiful. Only if we all again start to feel happy with the body we were born with can we again talk about health, good eating habits and movement.’ A survey shows that 80% of those questioned are behind the idea. Vogels does not agree that this is just a drop in the ocean, mainly because there will be a follow-up to the advertising campaign. That follow-up will expand on the topic of health. Because eating disorders are not detected in time, a strategy will be drawn up for doctors and Centres for Student Counselling (Centra voor Leerlingenbegeleiding).

WEBSITE: www.maggezienworden.be, free poster available via Flemish infoline (0800/30.201).

A party with a mission at the IJzertoren

The IJzer Pilgrimage committee, organiser of the annual IJzer Pilgrimage to Diksmuide, pretty much the high mass of the Flemish movement, is battling with an image problem. Recent editions of the pilgrimage around the IJzertoren not only attracted fewer and fewer people, but also an increasingly older public. Drumrolls, banner-waving, speeches and a holy mass are not the sort of things to hold young people’s interest. The Committee therefore wants to try an entirely different approach. A multi-cultural music festival featuring the Algerian Rai-singer Khaled and the Turkish pop-singer Sertab that has been christened ‘Ten Vrede’ is designed to attract young people to the IJzertoren, the monument to peace par excellence. But this initiative may well not go down very well with a great many conservative Flemish nationalists (FF).

STIJN TORMANS/GERRY MEEUWSSEN
KNACK • 22 MAY

‘The concert must become an indictment of all forms of violence, suppression, and violation of human rights,’ says Arnold Peeters from the IJzer Pilgrimage. ‘We want to use it to highlight the twin pillars of peace and tolerance. It is not coincidental that the artists come from conflict areas such as Algeria, Serbia, Kurdistan, and Ireland. Also, they are all musicians seeking their roots.’ ‘The IJzer Pilgrimage is battling with an image problem,’ says Peeters. ‘The clichés about drumrolls are still widespread. Now people only take notice of us if a couple of far-right skinheads run amok in the fields. That is unfair. For years we have distanced ourselves from that ideology, but perhaps we have not been loud enough. Hence this initiative. The IJzertoren must again become a monument for all Flemings.’ In conservative Flemish nationalist circles people are grabbing their pens to consign the first edition of ‘Ten Vrede’ to the boulevard of broken dreams. ‘Part of the Flemish movement would be all too happy to see this concert fail. If it does, the bigots will win and we may as well pack our bags,’ says Peeters. Local bard Willem Vermandere is also playing at the festival. He is enthusiastic about the initiative. ‘In its current form the pilgrimage is doomed,’ says the singer. The organisers realise that. ‘Ten Vrede’ is a revolution. Vermandere has never been a fan of the pilgrimage. ‘I didn’t like the old style, all that swearing alle-
diary

music, dance theatre

• Until 17 November: Bruges 2002, Cultural Capital of Europe; info: 070/22.33.02 www.brugge2002.be
• 3 to 25 May: KunstenfestivaldesArts, Brussels; info: 070/222.1999 www.kunstenfestivaldesarts.be

28 May: Chris Robinson, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: 02/548.24.24 www.abconcerits.be
• 28 May: Lenny Kravitz, Macy Gray, Sportpaleis, Antwerp, info: 0900/26060
• 30 May: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders with Jacek Kasprzyk with van Beethoven and Brahms, Koningin Elisabethzaal, Antwerp, info: 0800/21036 info www.kfow.be
• 30 May: Alban Berg Quartet, PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.02 www.psk.pbea.be
• 31 May to 30 June: Damnation de Faust, De Munt, Brussels; info: 070/233.939 www.deMunt.be
• 29 May: Elton John & Band, Sportpaleis, Antwerp, info: 0900/26060
• 3 June: [isonic]square # 5: stutermouthface with Christof Migeon, Vincent Barra, Brandom Labelle, Caroline Bergvall, Kaaitheaterstudios Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be
• 3 June: [isonic]square # 5: Stutermouth, contemporary music, kaaitheaterstudios, Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be
• 4 June: Simple minds, Royal Circus, Brussels; info: 0900/26060
• 4 June: Electric Ballroom, Ictus ensemble, contemporary music, kaaitheater, Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be
• 8 and 9 June: Akram Khan Company with Kaash, dance, kaaitheater, Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be
• 11 June: Cleveland Orchestre Feat. Christoph Van Dohnanyi, PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.00
• Until 9 June: Touareg in residence, concerts, workshops, exhibitions, Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp, info: 03/248.01.00 www.zuiderpershuis.be
• 28 May to 31 May: Flemish Radio Choir with Maria Guinand (Vs) with compositions by Juan de Dianes, Alberto Ginastera, Alberto Grau, Carlos Alberto Pinto Fonseca and Rodolfo Halfter, Bruges, Ghent (MSK), Antwerp (KMSK and Louvain), info: 050/44.86.86
• Les Ballets C. de la B., Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Rien de rien, De Vooruit, Ghent; info: 09/267.28.28 www.vooruit.be

expo

• Until 23 June: Retrospective exhibition Janis Kounellis, SMAK, Ghent, info: 09/211.17.03 www.smak.be
• Until 2 June: About the Head, exhibition, Museum Dr. Chuslain, Ghent, info: 09/216.35.95 www.fracarita.be
• Until November: Living Tomorrow, where visions meet, the house of the future, Vilvoorde, info: www.livtom.be
• Until 30 June: Van Eyck, The Flemish Primitives and the South, Groeningemuseum, Bruges, Until 15 September: In situ: exhibition on different locations with Manon De Boer, Messieurs Delmotte, Robert Devriendt, Job Koelewijn, Ugo Rondinone, Joe Scanlan and Joelle Tuerlinckx; Until 2 June: The snake, sculptures on 12 locations in Bruges, Until 21 July: The modular museum and Schone Aussicht 2, Kolenkai, Bruges; Until 15 September: Home theatre, Concertgebouw, Bruges
• Until 25 June: Photo Festival Knokke-Heist with Erwin Olaf, Paradise 2001, Photo exhibition, CC Scarpooord, Knokke-Heist
• Until 18 July: Rubem and the Baroque painters, exhibition, City Hall, Brussel, info: 02/586.53.34
• Until 14 July: Silver work by the De Vecchi Family. Provincial Museum Sterckshof-Zilvercentrum, Antwerp, info: 03/360.52.50
• Until 23 June, The Boursesgel Firm, exhibition, Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels, info: 02/508.32.11
• 28 May: To 23 June: Affinity and Individuality, exhibition Holland-Belgium between 1890 and 1945, Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent; info: 09/240.07.50
• Until 9 June: After Sprawl, the contemporary city, exhibition, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• Until 23 June: Desire in a cage, Jane Graverol, Rachel Baes and surrealism, KMSK, Antwerp, info: 03/288.78.09
• Until 8 June: A glance at pianos, 60 pianos from the historical collection of Chris Maene, Bijloke, Ghent with concerts, Bijloke, Ghent, info: 09/266.70.40
• Until 31 August: Kunst-stof/f: exhibition on contemporary art and design, Broelmuseum, Kortrijk
• Until 9 June: After-sprawl: study about the contemporary city, exhibition on architecture, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28
• Until 28 July: The ritual art of the Lega, ethics and beauty in the heart of Africa, exhibition, KBC gallery, info: 02/429.85.68
• Until 27 May: Postkarte Berlin, art and Berlin, Goethe-Institut, Brussels; info: 02/502.57.34 www.recyclart.be
• Until 18 August: The Illias and the Odyssey, exhibition by Mimmo Paladino, Museum Elsene, info: 02/515.64.22
• From 26 May onwards: Interactive Diamond Museum of the Province of Antwerp, info: 03/20.2.48.90 www.diamantmuseum.be
• Until 25 August: Atelier Van Lieshout, the Franchise unit, Open Art Museum Middelheim, Antwerp, info: 03/827.15.34 www.artenwerken.be
• Until 6 July: SMAK and Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent: Jan De Cock, Randschafe Fig, exhibition, info: 09/240.07.00 www.smak.be
• Until 29 June: The Rustin Foundation, exhibition (about Jean Rustin), Modern Art Center Belgium, Antwerp, info: 03/281.34.47
• Until 16 June: Jorge Pardo, Art and Design, exhibition, Museum Dhondt- Dhaenens, Deurle (near Ghent), info: www.museumdd.be

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children are not bothered about any of that. The organisers have understood that well.

info: www.tenvrede.be

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Telephone: 0511/41.42.99
Fax: 051/40.11.52
E-mail: frank.vandecaye@lannoo.be

editor in chief: Frank Vandecaye
• Advisory panel: Luc Demeester (Lannoo), Rik Van Cauwelaert (director Knack), Koen Clement (Manager director, De Morgen), Frans Crols (Director, Trends), Frans Decoster (Information Officer, Flemish Community), Mark Deweerdt (Journalist, Financiell-Economische Tijd), Michael Stabenow (Correspondent, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), Luc Standaert (Journalist, Belang van Limburg), Jan Van Doren (Deputy Director, Vlaams Economisch Verbond), Bernard Bulcke (De Standaard)
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