Water test becomes compulsory for every construction project

ONE OF THE KEY MEASURES OF THE INTEGRATED WATER POLICY

It will henceforth be impossible for large-scale building projects to be carried out in areas that from time immemorial have been prone to floodwaters in the event of very heavy rains. From next year, every new land parcelization application, every new road and every new SME zone must first be subject to a water test, according to an announcement made by the Flemish Minister for the Environment Vera Dua (Agalev). This water test is one of the key measures contained in the decree on the integrated water policy that was approved before the summer (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 6 SEPTEMBER

There are plenty of examples of new land allotments that have been laid in places that have traditionally always been subject to flooding when there is very heavy rainfall. The same goes for new industrial zones or infrastructure works.

According to the Minister for the Environment Vera Dua (Agalev), the decree on the integrated water policy will put an end to that. ‘One of the key measures in this is that from now on a water test will also have to be carried out at the site of any major works’, says Dua.

What effect does a construction project have on water management? And is this a suitable place for a land allotment to be laid or can only pole houses be erected here? The water test, which is carried out by the managers of the river basins, can stop projects. The water managers can also impose conditions and demand that particular water works be carried out together with the parcelization.

It is not the case that a water test will be carried out for every individual planning application. ‘Although we hope that the municipality will think carefully about the location in those cases, too. In the case of dwellings that have flagrantly been built in areas highly susceptible to flooding, we must even consider whether we would not better advise to expropriate them’. The water test is one aspect of Dua’s ‘water offensive’. Another is the indication of new controlled flood areas.
At the beginning of the school year, the Minister for Education Marleen Vanderpoorten (VLD) announced that she was planning to bring the school age down from six to five. Her Walloon counterpart Jean-Marc Nollet (Ecolo) is equally keen on the idea. With her measure, Vanderpoorten wants to get children from underprivileged neighbourhoods coming to school more often. At the moment 98% of five-year-olds are registered in kindergarten, but by no means do all children attend school with the same regularity. However, since the age for compulsory education is a federal issue, the two education ministers have to sit down and discuss the matter. On the first school day, 700 ICT co-ordinators have started working in schools for the first time. In a text setting out her perception of the subject, Minister Vanderpoorten explained what she expects from the use of computers in education. Teacher training and the drawing up of digital teaching programmes are central here. In Vanderpoorten’s view, ICT should be integrated in all subjects and at all levels, from as early as kindergarten upwards (FF).

ALEXANDRA DE LAET • DE STANDAARD • 2 SEPTEMBER

A computer that is constantly going down or the decision to buy new programs - as of this school year, schools can call upon their ICT co-ordinator for these things. The government is giving them the staff and resources with which to develop a computer help desk. Large schools, in particular, had already developed such help desks on their own initiative. Usually that is one teacher who takes care of all the school’s computers. The Minister for Education is now earmarking funds for the development of a help desk. Schools do have to work together for this, however. For a part-time ICT co-ordinator to be recruited, the group of pupils must consist of around 11 young people. The ICT co-ordinator is responsible not only for the technical side of things, but also for the educational aspect. He should support the teachers and receives a small package of operating funds. The ICT jobs are currently being filled. Often it is the pioneers - the people who did the work as volunteers or in part payment - who are now applying for the job.

Ghent offers free primary education

The young Ghent alderman Freya Vanden Bossche (SP.A) had already earlier caused a stir when she announced that she wanted to abolish homework for school children attending the city’s primary schools. Now, on the first day of the school year, she also announced that her city would henceforth be picking up the tab for teaching materials and children’s attendance at the city’s primary schools. Children will henceforth receive schoolbooks, folders, stationery, calculators, and dictionaries free of charge. Day trips out of school will also be free. According to Vanden Bossche, a measure like this is necessary in order to place the bar at an equal height for all pupils and because studies have shown that even the costs of one pupil in primary education run to EUR 350 on average per school year for the parents (table page 5). Vanden Bossche feels that with her plan she is only putting into practice the Flemish Primary Education Decree of 1997, which assigns all the costs for pupils in the primary education system to the organising authority. Not everyone is entirely pleased with the plan. Minister for Education Marleen Vanderpoorten (VLD) reckons that the gulf between city education and the other education systems (Catholic education, community education) will widen. City and provincial education is now already the most expensive of all the networks, she points out. Moreover, Vanderpoorten recalls that the costs will be borne by Ghent taxpayers, including taxpayers sending their children to a primary school in another education network. The Flemish Association for Catholic Primary Education (VBKA) is favourably disposed towards the idea, but says that it is the Flemish Community that should guarantee free primary education (FF).

Opinion

ILSE DE VOOGHT • DE FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 3 SEPTEMBER

Freya van den Bossche’s initiative comes in the middle of the debate on whether or not the provision of education is a core task of the cities and municipalities. If it were up to minister Vanderpoorten, the municipalities would only be allowed to play a co-ordinating role for all schools on their municipal territory. They would be able to continue to arrange for education, but the organisation would have to be left to an education board - a kind of privatised agency. In her summary Education-XIV decree, the minister has meanwhile done away with the municipalities’ obligation to organise education. The education secretariat of the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), of which Van den Bossche is deputy chairperson, recently inveighed bitterly against the minister’s plans. According to the association, the organisation of primary education should remain a core task of the cities and municipalities. The argument is that they are best placed to organise primary education since they know what the local requirements are - and there is certainly something to be said for that. However, that should not turn into systematic preferential treatment for their own schools, as is often the case.

Why not establish by decree that if cities and municipalities make extralegal efforts for education, they must do so for all pupils, without any distinction being made between the education networks? Only in that case can an alderman for education be an alderman for all pupils in his or her city or municipality.
Since the Dutroux affair, which glaringly exposed the woefully inadequate way in which the judiciary operated, the reforms in the judicial machinery have slowly been gaining pace. These reforms have admittedly led to a good deal of friction between magistrates and the ‘political establishment’, but they have also brought about a more open spirit among public prosecutor magistrates and judges, opines De Standaard [31 August]. Magistrates have come to recognise that they have a social role to play and that they have to explain what they are doing. Since then, the beginning of the judicial year has always seen a lot of expectant attention focused on the opening addresses delivered by the senior magistrates, who are not afraid of taking a swipe at justice policy in their opening addresses.

The new judicial year also gets underway

Senior magistrates take a swipe at justice policy in their opening addresses

The new judicial year has also come to symbolise the beginning of the judicial year. Five minutes after the school bell rang yesterday, most classes were full. In the judiciary it often takes months, and sometimes years, before a lawsuit begins. For that matter, European research on values shows that Flemings’ confidence in the education system is high and that their confidence in the judicial system is low. There are also similarities between education and the judiciary. Both are generally housed in dilapidated buildings and predominantly use equipment from the last century. In both, productivity could be increased by leaps and bounds if only the new technologies were integrated more effectively. Both sectors are run by a VLD minister, but whereas the Minister for Education comes up with at least one reform every day, it’s months since we heard of any new plan from the Minister for Justice. If our education is not at the top level, we can forget about continuing to be one of the richest countries in the world. That is just as true of the judiciary. If it does not function better soon, the distrust in society will grow and we will become a band of frightened men and women forever grumbling because justice is not being done. Education and the judiciary are two essential pillars of the basic trust that is unquestionably essential to a society.
The close ties between Wallonia and the arms industry
FORMER PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES PULL THE STRINGS AT FN HERSTAL

The Verhofstadt Government comfortably secured the confidence of the House with a majority of 87 to 38 votes on 31 August. This brought an end to the Nepal crisis that had held the Rue de la Loi in its grip for a week. The Flemish Greens reconciled themselves to the fact that the delivery of 5,500 machine guns to Nepal would only take place after the elections on 13 November in that country. However, Prime Minister Verhofstadt was at pains to stress that there was no truth in the assertion that the late delivery of the arms was a concession from the government to the Greens. The FN arms factory was quite simply unable to deliver before December, came the matter-of-fact explanation from the premier. The Green coalition partner, which had to cope with the dismissal of its Deputy Prime Minister Magda Aelvoet, was not even granted an elegant way out of the crisis. That the government is sending observers to Kathmandu to oversee respect for human rights, to check that the elections pass off correctly, and to ensure application of the arms law of 1991, is scant consolation for them. The brand new Green minister Jef Tavenner was forced to concede on the VRT at the weekend that the coalition partners, and in particular the Minister for Foreign Affairs Louis Michel, had outsmarted the Greens. But he assured them that it would not happen again. The fact that the Walloon Socialists and Liberals alike continue to provide their outright support for the FN’s arms shipments on every occasion should come as no surprise, according to De Morgen. FN is in the hands of the Walloon Region, although chief executive Tenneson makes it quite clear that the company is shortly to be privatised. In its weekend edition, the newspaper exposes the political ties linking the Walloon political establishment with the arms factory (FF).

DOUGLAS DE CONINCK/GEORGES TIMMERMAN • DE MORGEN • 31 AUGUST

GIAT from selling the company to the highest bidder in the USA, whereby the latter would only retain the choicest morsels, and there would be no jobs left in Herstal. [...] The Government of Wallonia placed its FN shares in its venture capital company Sogepa, Société Wallonne de Gestion et de Participations. FN is Sogepa, and Sogepa is the Government of Wallonia. Once you know that, it’s fascinating to have a look at the individuals at Sogepa who pull the strings. You clearly need to be, or have been, a principal private secretary in order to get a job at Sogepa. Practically the entire board of directors consists of principal private secretaries or former principal private secretaries of chiefly PS and MR ministers. To the outside world, the face of FN is chiefly that of the French manager Philippe Tenneson, who is FN’s chairman and managing director. The board of directors is remarkably small. In addition to Tenneson, there are just three members, all three of whom are also directors at Sogepa, and - logically, too - political backbenchers. Deputy chairman is Pierre Sonveaux, principal private secretary to Wallon Minister President Robert Collignon [PS] in the previous government. Besides Sonveaux, there is André Cremer, Sonveaux’s predecessor with Collignon and long one of Guy Spitaels’ confidantes. The fourth FN director is called Jean-Pierre Dubois. He is deputy chairman at Sogepa on behalf of the French-speaking Liberals (MR), was assistant principal private secretary to minister Serge Kubla (MR) until May 2000, and according to a local journalist is an old friend of the Minister for Foreign Affairs Louis Michel (MR).

FRANK WILLEMSE • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 31 AUGUST

The residents of the areas hit by floods are as good as guaranteed compensation from the Disaster Fund, since the conditions are met. Enough rain fell and the scope of the damage appears to be sufficiently large. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) promised that compulsory private insurance against flooding would also be introduced by the end of this year. The bill for this insurance has suffered quite a lengthy delay on account of a protracted argument between the regions, federal minister Picqué [PS] and the insurance companies (see FF 28). But according to the Prime Minister, more efforts above all need to be made in the field of flood prevention. He wants to hold talks shortly with the Ministers-Presidents of the Governments of Flanders and Wallonia, Dewael (VLD) and Van Cauwenbergh (PS) in order to work out measures (FF).

Catastrophe insurance to be introduced by the end of this year

The problem is that the Disaster Fund does not cover all the damage incurred and it often takes years before the victim receives his money. That leads to family tragedies. Insurance policies currently do make good this damage in full, and much more quickly, and there is no need for the event to be classed as a genuine disaster. If the water flows into the premises, there will be a pay-out. It’s as simple as that. However, not everyone can take out such a policy. ‘In Belgium 97% of homes are eligible, according to calculations made by the University of Leuven. However, we have to turn down 3% - representing 12,000 homes - because for us they are situated in a high-risk area’, says Luc Nijs of KBC Insurance. Since February last year KBC has been including natural disasters in the fire policy. Insurers such as Omob, Fortis, P&V, Sun Alliance, Chubb and Naviga have formulas of a similar or different nature. In December 2000 the Verhofstadt government tabled a bill in Parliament to make insurance against flooding compulsory. Everyone would have to take out such a policy, even if they lived in a fifth-floor flat. The watchword is that ‘it’s a matter of solidarity with the people who are now unable to obtain insurance’. **
Jean-Luc Dehaene: ‘there is still life after prime ministership’

**FORMER PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT BE STANDING AS A CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR**

Former prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, the major vote-catcher in the ranks of the CD&V, will not be standing as a candidate in the elections next year. In his book ‘There is life after No. 16’ (the title is a reference to the prime minister’s official residence), he removes all doubt on the subject. By his own admission, Dehaene does not miss national politics. He feels that it would be implausible and harmful for the modernisation of figures such as the murdered Dutch populist Pim Fortuyn - politicians who only believe in themselves, individualism, and encourages the emergence of figures such as Verhofstadt. He dismisses the citizens’ demand for a changed electoral system, but do have an electoral list since voters would have been able to decide whether they preferred Verhofstadt and Dehaene on the senatorial lists, you are soon verging on a personal plebiscite between leading figures. This would certainly have been the case in the event of a duel between Verhofstadt and Dehaene on the senatorial lists, since voters would have been able to decide whether they preferred the present government or the previous one. Dehaene’s decision means Verhofstadt is the only one who can cash in on his prime minister’s popularity and familiarity of the politician on the Flemish (Senate, ed.) and provincial (Lower Chamber, ed.) electoral lists. In this kind of system, in particular on national electoral lists, you are soon verging on a personal plebiscite between leading figures. This would certainly have been the case in the event of a duel between Verhofstadt and Dehaene on the senatorial lists, since voters would have been able to decide whether they preferred the present government or the previous one. Dehaene’s decision means Verhofstadt is the only one who can cash in on his prime minister’s bonus. In an election that will give even greater advantage to media politicians on account of the new system, the Liberal and Socialist media darlings have begun with more than a length’s head start over their colleagues in the opposition.

**OPINION**

In the chapter entitled ‘The power and impotence of the Prime Minister’, the former prime minister not only outlines his approach, which differs fundamentally to that of his successor. He also prods a forceful finger on the sore spots of the Liberal/Socialist/Green government. The fact that he is currently pretty much this government’s chariots d’affaires for European affairs does not seem to bother him. Dehaene says that Verhofstadt has been severely handicapped ‘because the VLD ministers are so weak’. ‘Because the job gives him much less power than many people believe, a prime minister has to draw his authority and power to a large degree from within himself’. Dehaene succeeded in doing this; Verhofstadt has not. Louis Michel is the only figure who, admittedly thanks to his own Walloon grassroots supporters, has hitherto come out of the past period of office in a stronger position. Hence the image that has emerged, certainly in the wake of the recent arms row, of Louis Michel as the country’s de-facto premier.

**HOW MUCH DOES A PUPIL COST IN EACH EDUCATION NETWORK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION NETWORK</th>
<th>PRIMARY EDUCATION</th>
<th>SECONDARY EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CITY SCHOOLS</td>
<td>361 EURO</td>
<td>648 EURO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEMISH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS</td>
<td>532 EURO</td>
<td>674 EURO</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATHOLIC SCHOOLS</td>
<td>399 EURO</td>
<td>829 EURO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Infographic RUG

**HOW MUCH DO PARENTS PAY EACH SCHOOL YEAR (SEE P. 2)?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>PRIMARY SCHOOL</th>
<th>SECONDARY SCHOOL</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURSERY SCHOOL</td>
<td>177 EURO</td>
<td>747 EURO</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRIMARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>335 EURO</td>
<td>2nd CLASS 320 EURO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3rd CLASS 308 EURO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1st CLASS 346 EURO</td>
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<td>5th CLASS 376 EURO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6th CLASS 470 EURO</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECONDARY SCHOOL</td>
<td>1st CLASS 747 EURO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2nd CLASS 755 EURO</td>
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<td>5th CLASS 874 EURO</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6th CLASS 1,103 EURO</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Infographic RUG
Umicore and Lamitref prepare pooling of copper divisions

Bert Lauwers/Erik De Leye • De Financieel-Economische Tijd • 31 August

Over the coming months the two companies will be working out the detailed business plan for the pooling of their copper activities, and deciding on the exact form that the amalgamation will take. Umicore is also extending a loan of EUR 12.5 million to Kovanco, which is using this amount to take part in Lamitref Industries’ convertible debenture loan of EUR 27.5 million, a loan reserved for Lamitref shareholders. The loan from Umicore can be regarded as an engagement ring, which Umicore wants to use to prevent its rivals from courting Lamitref.

Lamitref is the only company in the world that has a continuous casting roller for copper pre-strip. This technology gives Lamitref a significant cost advantage. The traditional production method is more time-consuming and calls for more power, more staff, and a greater operating capital. The copper activities of the two companies dovetail neatly with each other. Umicore makes copper semi-finished products in Olen in Flanders, Pirdop in Bulgaria, and Avellino in Italy, whilst Lamitref, which has plants in Hemiksem [Flanders], Chênée [near Liège, in Wallonia], and Hettstedt [Eastern Germany], is more oriented towards the production of finished products. Umicore has a staff of 2,120 working in its copper division, whilst Lamitref has 1,678 employees. With a production of 450,000 tons of copper rod wire, Umicore is the largest European producer. Last year Lamitref produced approximately 150,000 tons of rod wire in Hettstedt, of which 43,000 tons was made into copper wire and copper cable and close on 40,000 tons was processed into rods and pipes.

The increasing production of the continuous casting roller in Hettstedt, Lamitref is growing into a major producer of pre-strip - a title to which Umicore can already lay claim. For Christian Dumolin, Umicore’s interest demonstrates that Lamitref has done well to invest in a continuous casting roller, despite the scepticism in the sector. ‘We are honoured that a big name such as Umicore should want to be sitting at the table with us.’ Dumolin, who is also governor of the National Bank, also regards it as normal that a Belgian solution be sought.

| TURNOVER LAMITREF INDUSTRIES (IN MILLIONS OF EURO) |
| 611.57 | 616.45 | 496.35 | 633.84 | 629.56 |

| TURNOVER UMICORE (EX-UNION MINIÈRE) (IN MILLIONS OF EURO) |
| 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 1,602 | 1,578 | 1,889 | 1,966 | 1,930 | 1,803 | 1,664 |

SOURCE: Tijd Graphics

Rise of unemployment in Flanders

The number of unemployed persons not doing any work and entitled to benefit in Belgium rose by 2,924 in August, in comparison with the previous month. The rise has been registered solely in Flanders, where the total number of unemployed persons grew by 9,787 in August, whilst Brussels and Wallonia respectively had 5,402 and 1,461 fewer unemployed persons than in July. On an annual basis - a comparison with August 2001 -, the difference between the rising unemployment in Flanders (+ 23,906) and the falling unemployment in Brussels (-2,023) and Wallonia (-11,397) is even more striking. However, since a different working method is used for the monitoring of job seekers in Wallonia and Brussels, the regional figures on an annual basis should be taken with a pinch of salt (FF).
LABOUR POLICY AND CULTURE

WIM VANDE VELDEN • DE FINANCIEEL- ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 3 SEPTEMBER

At the end of August, Flanders had 215,706 unemployed persons looking for work. The rate of unemployment - i.e., the proportion of job seekers in the working population - rose from 7.41% in August 2001 to 8.12% in August 2002.

Unemployment rose markedly in the provinces of Antwerp and Flemish Brabant. The Flemish Minister for Employment, Renaat Landuyt [SPA], pointed out that Sabena’s bankruptcy was still taking its toll.

But it is youth unemployment that is of particular concern to Landuyt. A quarter more young persons under 25 were receiving benefit at the end of August. In August there were also 14.1% more job seekers in a waiting period, or school leavers who had not found work yet. The total number of younger job seekers out of work rose in August on an annual basis by 15.2%. Landuyt attributes the rise in youth unemployment to the ‘poorer economic situation’ and wants the federal ‘take-off job’ plan for young people to be applied. Instead of reductions in the tax and premium burden being granted to all young people up to the age of thirty, Landuyt is advocating having the ‘take-off jobs’ focus on the under-25s again.

The minister wants the economic expansion aid henceforth also to be linked to job creation again.

BART EECHEOUT • DE MORGEN • 5 SEPTEMBER

Minister Landuyt: ‘I’m not surprised that the rise is becoming more marked now. The effects of the major closures of the last year are now being felt. What surprises me is that no more new workers are being taken on. That has a lot to do with a credit problem. The banks are being frugal with the extension of credit because they themselves are in problems due to the falling stock markets. It is therefore a question of distrust in the business community’. The Minister of the Government of Flanders for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade Jaak Gabriëls (VLD) sees salvation chiefly in the stimulation of enterprise: ‘The authorities can help by making the financing of start-up capital more attractive or by encouraging young people to go into business. Learning how to do business should be included in the goals of educational programmes. It is also essential that space urgently be made available for enterprises. The promised 7,000 ha of industrial land should be made available within the near future.’ According to minister Landuyt, it’s zero hour for the active welfare state. ‘It should now become apparent whether our concept, under which a distribution of the work was the best means of distributing wealth, can also withstand a less healthy economic climate. We shall therefore have to adjust the sails. We must react as soon as the economy fluctuates’.

ARCHITECTURE

14th Open Monument’s days shows symbolism

ARCHITECTURE

A

rchitecture has been incorporating symbols into its designs for centuries - not only patently obviously in coats of arms, crosses, stained-glass windows or wall decorations, but also in the very form of the design itself or in the choice of a particular neo-style. It is not just churches or freemasons’ temples that externalise the ideology of their users through architecture. Many public buildings, gardens or parks were the expression of the prevailing ideas and opinions of their time. Even private houses sometimes announced the client’s outlook on life. Flanders Open Monument Day (Open Monumentendag Vlaanderen) opens some 900 monuments and buildings to the public and also recruits hundreds of guides to take visitors on guided tours and to explain the symbolism present [FF].

BERT POPELIER • TIJD CULTUUR • 4 SEPTEMBER

The Catholic body of thought was linked to Gothic Revival (or neo-gothic) in architecture from 1850. Not just churches and monasteries, but also Catholic schools and hospitals were erected in the neo-gothic style. The Gothic style of the 13th to the 15th centuries, which people harked back to, was symbolic of the Golden Age of Christendom. Symbols were used to propagate particular ideals. As a reaction to the Gothic Revival espoused by the Catholics, Liberals built their buildings in neo-Renaissance style. In so doing, they wanted to point to the humanistic values for which they stood. For the Liberals, classical antiquity was the cradle of democracy, the legal system and the idealised image of the arts. The Socialists opted for modernistic styles, such as Art Nouveau and Art Deco, through which they aimed to give expression to their social progressiveness. Private individuals also sometimes built in accordance with their philosophical inclination. Leading Catholics had their houses designed in neo-gothic style. In other private residences, on the other hand, we can see neo-Egyptian decorations - a style characteristic that refers to free masonry. Neo-Egyptian elements are quite often present in freemasons’ temples. The symbolism of buildings is not necessarily of an ideological nature. Belfries, for example, are symbolically charged buildings par excellence. In the Middle Ages, the belfry, which was usually built next to the city hall or the clothmakers’ hall, was the symbol of the city’s freedom, power and wealth. Bell towers can be found in many cities in Flanders, including Bruges, Ghent, Ypres, Lier and Aalst.

Towers continue to retain their strong symbolic value in Flanders. By having their own tower, even if this did not have a working function, private individuals saw [and see] a way of showing
CULTURE

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 97, 8700 Tielt and can also be obtained by e-mail.

Focus on Flanders


MUSIC, DANCE THEATRE

4 to 29 September: Cirque du Soleil with ‘Saltimbanco’, Heizel, Brussels; info: 0900/84.07
10 and 11 September: Bryan Ferry, PSK, Brussels and Ethibethzaal, Antwerp; info: 0900/26060
8 September: Open Monuments day Flanders: symbols; info: 03/226.11.38 www.monumentvlaanderen.be
7 and 10 September: De Filharmonie conducted by Arturo T mano with compositions by Ravel, Messiaen, Debussy and B w, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be and Sint-Romboutskathedraal, Mechelen.
12 and 13 September: Marius, Fanny and César by Marcel Pagoal, De Onderneming (French spoken), theatre; De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
13 September: Brussels Jazz Orchestra, conducted by Maria Schneider with Wallace Roney (trumpet); De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
14 September: Arditi Quartet with compositions by van Beethoven and Rihm; De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
19 to 30 September: Les Nuits Botanique with Marc Moulin at Secret Band, Les Rita Mitsouko, Chocolate Genius, 16 Horse Power etc., Botanique, Brussels; info: 02/218.37.32
13 to 15 September: Leffingeure with Arno, Theraffy, Flip Kweller, Millionaire, Leffinge near Oostend; info: 059/70.087.22 www.leffingeure.be
18 to 21 September: Drumming Live, Rosas, dance with Steve Reich compositions performed by Jactus Ensemble, Kaaitheater, Brussels; info: 02/201.59.59 www.kaaitheater.be
15 September: Elviss Costello, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: 02/548.24.24 www.ab-concerts.be
11 and 14 September: Anima Eterna conducted by Jos Van Immerseel with compositions by Rimski-Korsakov and Borodin, Concertgebouw Bruges and De Bijloke, Ghent; info: 070/22.33.02 and 070/77.00.00
14 September: Ialma, Galician songs, Bijloke, Gent; info: www.festivalvanvlaanderen.be
14 September: National Orchestra of Belgium with Christian Tetzlaaff, De Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.festivalvanvlaanderen.be
11 September: Beethoven Académie conducted by Ian C ayers, with symphonies by Haydn and Beethoven, Sint-Rombouts Cathedraal, Mechelen, info: 03/226.35.11
17 September: Spiegel String Quartet with string quartets by Bartok, Poortackere Monastery, Ghent, info: www.festivalvanvlaanderen.be
18 September: Orchestre révolutionnaire et romantique conducted by John Eliot Gardiner, PSK, Brussels; info: 02/507.82.00 www.psk_pba.be
19 September to 1 October: Il Trittico by Giacomo Puccini, directed by Robert Carsen, Flanders Opera, Antwerp, info: www.vlaamseopera.be
19 September: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders and Berlin Rundfunkchor, L’ascencion by Messiaen and Parcifal by Wagner, Sint-Baafskathedraal, Ghent; info: www.festivalvanvlaanderen.be
19 and 20 September: Martin Pissani (Sax) and Kassys (Mousse) and Permeke’s Noise Maker’s files and Bambuso sonoro, dance and theatre, De Vooruit, Ghent; info: 09/267.24.24 www.vooruit.be
23 September: Kraftwerk, Vooruit, Ghent; info: 0900/26060 www.vooruit.be
23 September: Water Music and Music for the Royal Fireworks by Händel, Le Concert Spirituel and the Freiburger Barockorchester conducted by Hervé Niquet, Sint-Baafskathedraal, Gent; info: 070/77.00.00
24 September: Alicia Keys, Vorst Nationalaal, Brussels; info: 0900/26060 www.vooruit.be
25 September: Engelbert Humperdinck, Koningin Elisabethzaal, Antwerp; info: 0900/00311
18 September: Tyndale’s Last Will, the site of an abbey; Bruges; info: 0900/00311
18 September: Een Sware Enterprise, exhibition on the East-Indian Company in the 18th century, Venetaanse Gaanderijen, Oostend; info: 059/80.55.00
17 September: Dead Lines: War, media and propaganda in the 20th century, exhibition, Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
15 September: Being Young in ancient times, exhibition Gallo-Roman Museum, Tongeren
15 September: Grimbergen 2002: Open Air exhibition, Meeting Point Museum Oude Technieken; info: 02/265.03.43
21 September: Ommeegang: Circumflexion, exhibition with Flemish and international video-art in the chapels and churches of Roeselare [West-Flanders]; info: 051/20.85.09 www.phidas.be
1 December: Tyndale’s Last Will (the Coverdale Bible), exhibition, Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp; info: 03/321.14.50
27 October: Aztecs and Mayas, pre-colombian art, CC Sint-Niklaas; info: 03/777.29.42
31 October: Station2station, exhibition: art in petrol stations along the roads leading to Bruges, info: www.station2station.be
15 September: Joohan Tahon (sculptures) and Permeke, Permeke museum, Jabbeke [West-Flanders]; info: 050/81.12.88
Until November: Living Tomorrow, where visions meet, the house of the future, Vilvoorde; info: www.livtoven.be
Until 17 November: Closed world - Open books, exhibition, mural manuscript and contemporary art in a splendid the splendid site of an abbey, Bruges; info: 070/22.33.02 www.brugge2002.be
15 September: In situ: exhibition on different locations with Manon De Boer, Messeurs Delmote, Robert Devriendt, Job Koelewijn, Ugo Rondinone, Joe Scanlan and Joedic Tuurlemcke; Until 15 September: Home theatre, Concertgebouw, Bruges;
26 May onwards: Interactive Diamond Museum of the Province of Antwerp, info: 03/20.2.48.90 www.diamantmuseum.be
29 September: Een Sware Enterprise, exhibition on the East-Indian Company in the 18th century, Venetaanse Gaanderijen, Oostend; info: 059/80.55.00
17 September: Dead Lines: War, media and propaganda in the 20th century, exhibition, Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres
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15 September: Festiv Al and equal rights, women artists show their work in 40 places, organisation: Gynaika; info: 05/232.22.29 www.gynaika.be