CD&V chairman De Clerck tenders his resignation

At a press conference on Friday 23 May CD&V chairman Stefaan De Clerck has tendered his resignation. On 27 June the name of the new chairman will be communicated. Until then De Clerck will guarantee the management of the party together with the secretary general Jo Van Deurzen. Since 18 November, the internal pressure on CD&V party chairman Stefaan De Clerck has become greater by the day. On Thursday the Antwerp branch of the CD&V finally took the initiative of publicly asking De Clerck ‘to draw his conclusions’ from the elections. On Thursday the CD&V West Flanders MP, Luc Goutry, also expressed out loud what people in the CD&V had already been saying in private for a long time, namely that Stefaan De Clerck was an excellent coach, but in order to get the message across, ‘it would be better if a new chairman took up the cudgels’. There is no doubt that parliamentary party leader Yves Leterme has the best chance of succeeding De Clerck, but MP Pieter De Crem will also undoubtedly run for the post. Other much-cited likely candidates are Inge Vervotte, who headed the Antwerp list and is being put forward by her local branch, and former managing director of the railways Etienne Schouppe (FF).

DIRK CASTREL • GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN • 23 MAY

Senior CD&V figures declared on Thursday evening (22 May) that the party was in a crisis and that the matter should therefore be dealt with swiftly. Yves Leterme, 42, is almost unanimously being put forward as the new chairman. Leterme would have to be ‘asked’, so that it is clear that he can count on enough support and backing to accept this kamikaze assignment. In a great many local branches of the CD&V, dissatisfaction with chairman De Clerck’s recent performance has reached an all-time high. The party executive of the CD&V’s Greater Antwerp branch analysed the elections and concluded that the renewal in Antwerp has worked, and led to a remarkable result for Inge Vervotte. The executive therefore asks De Clerck to extrapolate this process of renewal right up to the top of the party, and to draw his own conclusions. CD&V circles are more inclined to expect De Clerck to announce he is stepping down on 10 June, when he presents his route plan for the 2004 elections.
Stefaan de Clerck’s shaky hold on the CD&V chairmanship

The Christian-Democratic CD&V failed to break the Purple majority, and in fact even lost a seat. In itself that loss was not so great, but this is the second defeat in a row for the Flemish Christian-Democrats and this time there was no dioxin crisis for the party to use as an excuse in reasoning away the loss. It was therefore somewhat surprising to see chairman Stefaan De Clerck wanting to say as little as possible on the subject and wanting to get down to the business in hand as quickly as possible - i.e. preparation for the regional elections next year. When he asked for the party executive’s vote of confidence, there was a deathly silence, reports De Standaard. De Clerck interpreted this as a tacit approval. But according to the paper, there is a revolt against De Clerck in the making, and Yves Leterme, the leader of the parliametary party, is coming ever more prominently to the fore (FF).

BOUDEWIN VAN PETEGHEM • DE STANDAARD • 21 MAY

That De Clerck had secured a vote of confidence from his party executive appeared to be extremely relative, for there wasn’t a sound from anyone when he asked for support. He mistakenly concluded that he had been given a vote of confidence. The chairman ought to know better, and he does know better. Yesterday he chose to become a member of parliament (he had also been a candidate for the Senate). In the run-up to the municipal elections of 2000, he promised his fellow townsfolk that he would withdraw from parliament if he became mayor. At the time he felt that being mayor, member of parliament and party chairman at the same time was too much of a good thing. That is no longer the case today. De Clerck is taking on all three mandates simultaneously and, now that the election campaign is over, is saying that he will spend more time in Kortrijk. That begs the question as to how he will combine this with his plan to draw up an action plan for the 2004 federal state elections in the short term. ‘An action plan? We need a contingency plan,’ one CD&V member was quoted as saying yesterday. The possibility cannot be ruled out that De Clerck is intending to step down as chairman. In fact he already wanted to do so in the summer of 2001, but at the time there was no successor ready and willing to take up the post. Parliamentary party leader Yves Leterme, who is in pole position, felt it was too early. And the flamboyant MP Pieter De Crem arouses too much opposition in a part of the party. Regardless of who becomes the new party chairman, it would be better if the person in question were able to wait until after next year’s federal state elections, in order to continue to grow. However, the question is whether he will be granted that postponement.

Di Ruplo appointed as ‘informateur’

The PS chairman wants to complete his preparatory work within a week

On 21 May the King appointed PS chairman Elio Di Rupo as informateur (who investigates on behalf of the crown whether a proposed cabinet formation will succeed). In theory, the mandate of informateur is limited to bringing together the parties that will start the government negotiations. But Di Rupo sees his task as being more wide-ranging, and also wants to determine already the content of the negotiations. According to Di Rupo, the next government must devote itself in particular to the socio-economic problem. It would seem probable that he has his eye on a Purple coalition. Politically speaking, the cards have seldom been easier. After all, the Socialists and Liberals together have a comfortable majority on both sides of the linguistic divide. It was mainly the Socialists who insisted on an informateur being appointed. The Liberal VLD would have preferred outgoing Prime Minister Verhofstadt to be appointed as formateur, in charge of forming a new government and to start immediately the negotiations on a new coalition agreement, but in the end they agreed to Di Rupo’s role as informateur. The PS chairman wants to complete his preparatory work within a week (FF).

Opinion

RIK VAN CAUWELAERT • KNACK • 21 MAY

There is no room for frivolity. According to the National Bank and the Planning Office, economic growth of much more than 0.5% should not be expected. Nonetheless an informateur or a formateur (the ‘formateur’) person charged with forming the government will give the parties that will have to scaffold Purple the time to prepare the outline of a government programme. In 1999 the coalition agreement was a sketch of what Purple-Green hoped to achieve. It was all rather vague. It could cost something, too. After all, the Verhofstadt I government started out with a full purée. The Verhofstadt II coalition agreement will be of a rather different order. Every component of that agreement will have a political price tag - not just the adjustment to the social security system. So the word in PS circles is that Verhofstadt can be allowed to be Prime Minister, as long as they leave the railway company NMBS/SNCB alone. The VLD wants to reposition itself by the time next year’s regional elections come round. Bekart chairman Paul Buyssse already dropped a hint as to what this would entail: entrepreneurs like him, who belong to the Liberal grassroots, cannot be disappointed a second time running. A shift to the right in the VLD cannot be excluded. Carrying out a far-reaching adjustment in the social field with a right-wing party remains a risky undertaking, even for Steve Stevaert.
Agalev remains in the Flemish Government

Agalev is to remain in the Government of Flanders until the 2004 regional elections. The decision was taken by the political council of the Flemish Greens on the evening of Wednesday 21 May. The two current Green ministers, Véra Dauw and Mieke Vogels, are standing down and are being replaced by two new faces. However, the Greens are demanding that the current Government of Flanders coalition agreement be implemented without restrictions - a guarantee they have been given the entire Flemish government.

Agalev's continued presence in the Government of Flanders has averted a serious crisis at Flemish level, since VLD and SP.A-Spirit did not have a majority without the Greens (FF).

BART ECKHOUT/TOM COCHEZ • DE MORGEN • 22 MAY

As candidate heading the list and party figurehead, Vogels and Dauw also received a severe blow at personal level in the federal elections. What is more, the call for renewal and modernisation has now become extremely urgent. The decision as to who will succeed the ministerial duo will only be taken on Saturday, at another political council meeting. The two names on most people's lips are those of Brussels MP Adelheid Byttebier and MEP Bart Staes. The choice is striking, as the former has been sitting on the Brussels regional council in a cartel with the SPA since 1999, and the latter was a member of Spirit until last summer. Nonetheless, little by little people are beginning to ask whether a government without any strong Green figures, and possibly also without Patrick Dewael, would still be feasible. The other point of contention in the much-assailed Green household is whether Agalev ought to enter into co-operation with SPA-Spirit. However, the cartel issue was not raised at the crisis meeting, and this reinforces the suspicion that the desire to keep Agalev independent seems to be increasing again.

SP.A offers Agalev a senator seat

FF EDITOR

The SPA is thinking of co-opting former Agalev senator Jacinta De Roeck, who was also the candidate heading her party's list in Limburg, in the Senate. This would involve De Roeck not switching over to the SPA-Spirit parliamentary party, but continuing to sit as an Agalev member in the Senate, Het Belang van Limburg (21 May) reports.

With the co-option, SPA chairman Steve Stevaert wants to convince the Limburg branch of Agalev to head into the elections for the Flemish Parliament in partnership with SPA-Spirit. A large part of Agalev's Limburg branch appears to be in favour of the idea of forming part of a cartel together with SPA and Spirit. The paper reports, however, that the senior members of Agalev at national level are not at all charmed by Stevaert's offer.

O n 20 May Agalev decided to lay off all of its 84 full- and part-time members of staff. The fact that the party has lost all its representatives in Parliament and the Senate will cost it EUR 2 million in federal party allocations. What is more, 25% of the salaries of all those mandataries was deducted and flowed into the party coffers. Nonetheless, the party is not yet on the rocks financially speaking. The regional and community allocations, which represent around EUR 1 million, are not at risk as yet (FF).

STEVEN SAMYN • DE FINANCIËEL-
ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 21 MAY

The 84 members of staff employed by the party, together accounting for 47 full-time positions, were yesterday informed that they were being laid off. ‘No other solution was possible. Agalev does not have alternative structures capable of taking on the employees’, stated party secretary Luc Lemiengre. However, the party has not run aground completely, financially speaking. The regional and community subsidies, which account for a good one million euros, are not in danger for the time being. Furthermore, the remaining Green mandataries will continue to have 25% of their gross salary transferred to the party. As a result, Agalev hopes to be able to recruit 22 full-time staff again before long.

Lemiengre stressed that the party headquarters near Brussels’ Midi station, which was bought at the beginning of this year, would not be sold and remains the property of the ‘Groenhuis’ non-profit-making organisation. Finally, there are also the dozens of ministerial department staff. If the party decides to withdraw from the Government of Flanders, it will be not only the federal but also the Flemish ministerial department staff who will be looking for another job. Members of parliament who are not re-elected continue to be paid for at least another year. Most Green MPs are planning to use that period to look for something new.
What direction should the Vlaams Blok take?

Paul Beliën advocates the development of a large right-wing conservative pro-Flemish party of values

The fact that the credit card affair in Antwerp’s City Hall and the uproar surrounding Dyab Abou Jahjah and his Arab European League scarcely yielded any electoral bonus for the Vlaams Blok can be attributed to the hard-line approach adopted by the party’s Antwerp big gun and candidate mayor for the 2006 municipal elections, Filip Dewinter - so says Paul Beliën, the husband of Blok politician Alexandra Coolen. In Knack, he advocates the development of a large right-wing conservative pro-Flemish party of values. But if it were to materialise, this party should distance itself from the tough political line embodied by extremist figures in the Vlaams Blok such as Filip Dewinter in Antwerp or Francis Vandenberghe in Ghent. The analysis of a moderate-minded Blok sympathiser (FF).

Christine Albers • Knack • 21 May

The Vlaams Blok’s tenth successive electoral gain makes little impression on Beliën. ‘It certainly looks as though the party has mainly filled in its weak areas. But in cities like Antwerp and Ghent the party’s result was much less solid. Filip Dewinter actually lost ground in the city of Antwerp. He tried to turn the ballot into Antwerp municipal elections, and it didn’t work. He adopted a line that was as confrontational as anything else. But that polarising style no longer has the power to bring people in’. Beliën makes a comparison with results elsewhere in the country. ‘In Ghent, with an extremist profile, it would be able to suck the electorate in the space of four years. Why shouldn’t the Blok be able to do the same?’

Blok wins Francophone votes in Brussels

Frank Willemse • Het Laatste Nieuws • 21 May

Notable rise of women MP’s in Federal Parliament

On the basis of the result of the elections of 18 May, the number of women MP’s in the Federal Parliament has risen from 36 to between 53 and 56. That is the result of the rule that half of the electoral lists must be made up of female candidates, and that at least one woman must figure among the top three candidates. Even a conspicuously male-dominated party such as the Vlaams Blok is now sending five women to parliament (instead of one) (FF).

Frank Willemse • Het Laatste Nieuws • 21 May

SPA-Spirit provides the largest number of women: there will be 11, 12 or 13, depending on the number succeeding a directly chosen candidate who takes a seat in the government or in the Senate. The VLD is sending eight or nine women to the House (as opposed to just three in 1999). CD&V has six (as compared to four in the previous legislature). The Vlaams Blok is showing its feminine side, too. The Blok delegation now has five women instead of one. The French-speakers are sending 23 ladies to Parliament. ‘Now the shift towards more women should also be reflected in the government,’ say the politicians. However, women are not really making a breakthrough in the Senate, where fifteen of the forty directly elected candidates (37.5%) are women - just one more than in 1999. However, their representation could yet increase slightly via the co-option system and the appointment of community senators.
The Flemish MPs elected last Sunday needed on average 6,480 more votes than their French-speaking counterparts, according to calculations in De Financieel-Economische Tijd. The 'price' of a Francophone seat amounted to 37,028 votes, whilst that of a Flemish seat was 43,508 votes (17.5% more). After all, the number of votes per seat depends not only on the size of the party, but also the number of foreigners living in the constituency (FF).

MARK DEWEERDT • DE FINANCIEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 21 MAY

The 150 seats in Parliament are divided among the various constituencies according to the size of their population. Since there are, relatively speaking, more foreigners living in Wallonia and Brussels than in Flanders, the Francophone seats are always cheaper than the Flemish ones. The foreigners are counted in order to determine the number of seats in a constituency, but they do not have the right to vote. The average price of a seat also depends on the size of the party. The electoral system means that it is easier for larger parties to win seats than it is for smaller parties. With 162,205 votes, Agalev did not secure any seats at all. The 'most expensive' seat assigned on Sunday was that of Geert Bourgeois. The N-VA chairman represents on his own 201,390 votes. The 'cheapest' seats are those of the MR, for which an average of 31,206 votes were needed. The PS members of parliament needed 34,240 votes, on average, to win their seat. A cdH member of parliament represents 44,958 voters on average, and an Ecolo member of parliament represents 40,369 votes on average, to win their seat. A day needed on average 6,480 more votes than their French-speaking counterparts, according to calculations in De Financieel-Economische Tijd.

The political intervention in the judicial procedure occurred yesterday, according to an announcement from the federal public prosecutor’s office. After previous judicial inquiries, on the basis of the same law, into George Bush Senior, Dick Cheney and Colin Powell, this was the straw that broke the camel's back as far as the Americans were concerned. After the review of the genocide law at the beginning of April, further to which complaints can be referred to countries that are directly concerned in the matter, the government thought that the biggest obstacle had been removed. But to the Americans’ dismay, the review of the law has not prevented fresh complaints from being submitted. This has immediately prompted the government to make a political intervention in the judicial procedure, and refer the matter to American justice (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 21 MAY

The Brussels lawyer Jan Fermon recently lodged a complaint, on the basis of the Belgian genocide law, against the American general Tommy Franks. The action is on behalf of a number of Iraqi victims of the recent American bombardments in Iraq. This resulted in a low point in Belgo-American relations. After previous judicial inquiries, on the basis of the same law, into George Bush Senior, Dick Cheney and Colin Powell, this was the straw that broke the camel's back as far as the Americans were concerned. After the review of the genocide law at the beginning of April, further to which complaints can be referred to countries that are directly concerned in the matter, the government thought that the biggest obstacle had been removed. But to the Americans’ dismay, the review of the law has not prevented fresh complaints from being submitted. This has immediately prompted the government to make a political intervention in the judicial procedure, and refer the matter to American justice (FF).

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DE STANDAARD • 21 MAY

The political intervention in the judicial procedure occurred yesterday, according to an announcement from the council of ministers ‘on the advice of the federal public prosecutor’s office’. The council of ministers did not meet to take this decision. Most exceptionally, a written procedure was followed whereby the decision is approved when none of the ministers has made an objection by a particular deadline. ‘It is not the easiest time to call the government together,’ said a staff member of Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt (VLD). In any case, this tacit procedure relieves the government of a thorny problem that was threatening seriously to disrupt relations with the United States. It was Justice Minister Marc Verwilghen who had to inform the USA yesterday. Lawyer Fermon told the Belga press agency that he would be lodging a complaint with the Council of State. He pointed out that, in its opinion on the recent amendments to the genocide law, the Council of State had already raised serious questions about their compatibility with the constitution. According to Fermon, the legal action can never receive a fair hearing in the United States.

ELECTIONS: Socialists and liberals strengthen their position

SP.A-SPIRIT (+8.47%) VLD (+1.54%)

SOURCE: DS-INFOGRAFIK
Six hundred jobs go in one day

SIEMENS ATEA AXES 345 JOBS, BEKAERT ANNOUNCES THE CLOSURE OF TWO PLANTS, INSURANCE COMPANY CB DIRECT CEASES OPERATIONS IN BELGIUM.

If the government were in any doubt as to the urgency with which socio-economic problems need to be addressed, it was removed on 21 May. On that single day, some 600 jobs were lost in Belgium. Siemens Atea axed 345 jobs. In its smaller branches, such as Mons (47 out of 90) and Ghent (49 out of 88), the job cuts represented half of the workforce laid off in one fell swoop. In the large Herentals plant, 249 of the 1,085 jobs were lost. Also on 21 May, steel manufacturer Bekaert announced the closure of two plants with the loss of 250 jobs, and the insurance company CB Direct announced that it would cease operations in Belgium with the possible loss of 200 jobs. CB Direct is a member of the Dutch insurance group Achmea, and sells its products directly on the market, via the Internet or over the phone, without any middlemen such as insurance agents or brokers (FF).

BERT BROENS • DE FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 22 MAY

The fresh round of downsizing at Atea is not an isolated case. Other departments of Information and Communication (I&C), the telecoms branch of Siemens, are also trimming off surplus fat, as are other companies in the sector such as Alcatel, Ericsson, Lucent and Nortel. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been axed worldwide in telecoms manufacturers over the last two years. That is the direct consequence of the much-reduced budgets of telecoms operators for networks. But Atea’s trade unions immediately noted that the company did not just refer to the fall in the market in its communication yesterday. ‘One new aspect is the deliberate strategy of moving R&D to low-wage countries,’ notes Leo Lauwerys (liberal union LBC). According to Atea, the fall in I&C activities is indeed leading to a proportional cut in the R&D budget. That trend hits Atea hard, since the company has transformed itself from a production plant to a sales and R&D organisation over the last decade. ‘Siemens is the last of the major European players to be putting so much into R&D in Europe and the USA, and almost nothing in low-wage countries. That had to change. The trend has simply been considerably accelerated due to the difficult situation on the market,’ says general manager Tony Verbeke.

STEFAN MICHIELSEN • DE STANDAARD • 22 MAY

CB Direct sells both non-life insurance - motor insurance policies, in particular - and life insurance. The company has for some time figured on the list of insurance companies for sale in Belgium, together with Zelia (Swiss Life) and Zurich Belgium. According to Achmea, CB Direct was not large enough to be really profitable. The company is looking for a buyer. Far-reaching talks have reportedly been held with a Belgian insurance company interested in taking over CB Direct’s private non-life insurance department. The sharp fall in the share markets has resulted in a number of smaller insurance companies finding themselves in financial difficulties. Non-life insurers, in particular, are facing problems. But large insurance companies are not interested in taking over a poor portfolio. They are certainly not prepared to pay money for it, for they assume that if companies go under, those customers will automatically end up with them anyway.

WWW.BEKAERT.BE
WWW.ATEA.BE
WWW.CBDIRECT.BE

EDS-Telindus headed for contract worth millions with Flemish administration

The steering group that is supervising the negotiations for the contracting out of the Flemish administration’s IT infrastructure, has allegedly opted to pursue the talks solely with the group EDS-Telindus, according to Trends. Telindus is a Belgian listed network integrator, specialising in network outsourcing, e-government and other IT services. EDS is an American IT group (FF).

BRUNO LEIJNSE • TRENDS • 22 MAY

The decision was taken on 19 May, but has not yet been made official. The IBM-Siemens Systems consortium came out of the selection as the second best candidate, and the group Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, Unisys and Ardatis was third. The value of the probable five-year contract is not known exactly, because the administration would still have considerable freedom to buy certain services outside the scope of the agreement. The Flemish administration’s budget for IT and communications services (ICT) is approximately EUR 100 million per year. The offers were reportedly very similar as regards price, and there is also no certainty as to whether the deal is really a lucrative one for the suppliers.

The current ICT supplier to the Flemish administration is Siemens Business Systems, for whom the loss of the contract is a major blow. Within the EDS-Telindus group, Telindus will handle security and networking. If the negotiations are brought to a successful conclusion, the contract will probably be on the Government of Flanders’ agenda on 23 June, and can be officially awarded at the end of June.

WWW.TELINDUS.BE
WWW.EDS.BE
SNBA and Sobelair discuss alliance

The Belgian charter airline Sobelair is in trouble. It must urgently find support from a partner, otherwise it faces the risk of liquidation. Therefore Aldo Vastapane, the principal shareholder of Sobelair, asked SN Brussels Airlines (SNBA), which is the successor to the Sabena subsidiary DAT, to examine the possibilities of a co-operation arrangement. SNBA is prepared to begin talks on such a co-operation, but is ruling out a merger. SNBA is also laying down conditions: it first wants a solution for the high leasing price of the Sobelair aircraft, and it also wants the pilots to make sacrifices (FF).

BERT LAUWERS • FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 21 MEI

SNBA has started ‘exclusive talks’ with Sobelair. The latter’s principal shareholder, Aldo Vastapane, had approached the representatives of SN Air Holding, the principal shareholder of SNBA, and they asked the SNBA management to take a close look at Sobelair. The management adviser Arthur D. Little carried out the study, so that SNBA knows what it is dealing with. On Monday the Board of Directors of SN Air Holding will be informed, and a decision will be taken within a few weeks.

The talks still hold out the prospect of various possibilities, according to an announcement made by the SNBA spokesman, Geert Seiot. He was not about to give any details, but according to insiders there could be either a commercial or operational co-operation agreement, or participation by SNBA in Sobelair’s capital. A merger appears to have been ruled out. Sobelair remains a separate company, at least if there is a positive outcome to the talks.

WWW.SOBELAIR.BE
WWW.FLYSN.BE

Antwerp under the spell of Panamarenko

The Antwerp plastic artist Panamarenko is being amply showcased in the city of his birth this summer. A whole series of exhibitions on the theme ‘Panamarenko: learning everything, being able to do everything, doing everything’ will run until 31 August.

The Rubenshuis - an overview of his studies, sketches and drawings, in which he gives a ‘scientific explanation’ of his original works (FF).

MARK RUYTERS • TIJD CULTUUR • 21 MAY

Panamarenko gained his reputation first and foremost with his imposing three-dimensional works, such as the zeppelin ‘The Aeromodeller’ and the submarine ‘Nova Zemblaya’. At the same time he has also produced an impressive number of studies, sketches and drawings - in most cases on cheap squared paper. From 24 May, a fine selection of this graphic/scientific work is on display at the Rubenshuis in Antwerp. Panamarenko’s drawings are generally regarded as a scientific explanation of his original works. Nonetheless, they also easily stand on their own as little autonomous works of art. Panamarenko is thus a gifted draughtsman. Even viewed separately from the end result to which they may later have led, his studies and sketches exude the same power of expression and playfulness that we know from his plastic work.

With his drawings and calculations, Panamarenko wants to do more than just please. He also wants to make it clear how his visionary appliances should or could function scientifically. Just as his aeroplanes do not always fly and his ships do not always sail, so his calculations also regularly depart from the scientific norm. That is not so dreadful, for even where it is patently clear that it will never be possible for a particular creation to be functional, Panamarenko succeeds in making us waver in our rationality, thanks to a couple of scribbles and figures.

To this end the artist makes use of a well-tried and somewhat doctrinaire method: performing conjuring tricks with numbers and figures, holding established science up to mockery, and selling the most complex results and conclusions as something obvious. For example, he himself regards his own...
Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

• 17 May to 1 June: L’amour des trois or-anges by Sergei Prokoviev, conductor: Bal-asz Kocsar, director: Andreas Komoki; Fland-ers Opera, Antwerp; info: www.vlaamsopera.be
• Until 8 June: Revolution/Restoration – Part I, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 29 May: Zwan, Ancienne Belgique, Brus-sels; info: 02/548.24.24 www.abconcerts.be
• 30 May: deFilharmonie conducted by Jacek Kasprzyk, Nicolai Luganski, piano with Pianoconcerto nr 2 by Prokoviev and Symphonic dances by Rachmaninov, PSK, Brussels, Bijloke, Ghent and Koningin Elisabethzaal, Antwerp; info: 02/507.82.00 www.bozar.be 09/269.92.92 www.hijlok.be and 0800/21036 www.defilharmonie.be
• 30 May: Simply Red, Vorst Nationalaal, Brussels, info: 0900/26060
• 31 May: Live, Vorst Nationalaal, Brussels; info: 0900/26060
• 1 June: Annie Lennox, Elisabethzaal, Antwerp; info: 0900/26060
• 3 June: Evan Dando, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: 02/548.24.24 www.abconcerts.be
• 8 June: Bon Jovi, Wellington Hippodroom, Ostend; info: 0900/26060
• 27 to 29 May: Moolisie George Khumalo, LA, dance, vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be 09/267.24.24
• 29 May: Lyanne Dawson with English songs, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be; info: 070/22.33.02 www.antwerpen.be/cultuur/kmska
• Until 30 May, 1 June: Clara in Diest with di Marinelli Consort, Jan Mäus Kwartet, Nada, Luthomania, Blindman Saxophone Quartet, Trio Gramiaux, Diest; info: www.klara.be 013/35.32.73

EXPO

• From 22 March to 17 January: Jacques Brel, ‘The right to dream’, exhibition, Schild-knapaartstraat 50, Brussels; reservation required; info: www.jacquesbrel.be 02/511.10.20
• Until 31 August: The big Sexperiment, scientific exhibition, Technopolis, Mecelen; info: 015/34.20.00
• Until 29 June: Music Planet, one century of pop music in an exhibition, Brewery Belle Vue, Molenbeek; info: www.euroculture.be 02/513/29/84
• From 1 March onwards: The Groeninghe-museum in Bruges reopened after facelift; info: 050/44.87.12
• Until 25 May: Presents from the Muses (Greek exhibition linked to the Greek chair-manship of the European Union), Royal Mu-seum of Art and History, Jubelpark, Brus-sels; info: 02/742.72.11
• Until 1 June: Horizons of reality, Russian contemporary Art, Muhka, Antwerp; info: 03/238.59.60 www.muhka.be
• Until 31 May: Louise Bourgeois and Hans van de Bovenkamp exhibitions, Galery Xavier Hulikens, Brussels; info: 02/639.67.30

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