This year too, Flanders celebrates 11 days in a row

网络科技将是这次活动的主旋律。

DE FINANCIELE-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 26 JUNE

‘Last year the Flemish Government decided to cater for a broad public. We are continuing this trend,’ explained Somers. ‘The only thing still missing is to make 11 July a public holiday. I’m not going to make any strong comments about this, but it must be possible to reach some sort of agreement.’ The eye-catchers include a poetry night in 17 museums. In addition Essen, Menen and Tongeren are inviting their Dutch, French and Walloon neighbours during ‘Over the border’. In ‘The Golden Lapse’ (de Gulden ontsporing, a pun on de Guldensporenslag, the Battle of the Spurs) Brussels will present a range of poetry, theatre and music and a final concert on the Grote Markt. The number of districts, neighbourhoods and streets to receive a cheque for 200 euros as part of the ‘Neighbours Feast’ campaign has almost doubled to 1,335. ‘Having fun together is the perfect way to prevent life turning sour,’ says Somers. The Flemish Minister for Culture, Paul van Grembergen (Spirit) was pleased to announce that poetry would be the central theme of the festivities (FF).

INTRODUCTION

Flemish cities are on the up, at any rate that is the opinion of the Flemish Minister for Home Affairs Paul Van Grembergen, who presented the monographs of the five Flemish cities of Antwerp, Ghent, Leuven and Kortrijk on 25 June. Through these monographs the Flemish Government provides a figures-based portrait of demography, investment, transport policy, crime, economy and other aspects of Flanders’ thirteen city centres. If the central challenge of Flemish Urban Policy is to stop the urban exodus, as we read on the website www.thuisindestad.be, the Minister is right. In the past ten years this has stopped, or at any rate slowed down significantly. And that is not only due to the influx of foreign migrants. The city is clearly once again proving sufficiently attractive to more and more young people and young families for them to settle there on a long-term basis. That is certainly the case in Ghent, where the population is on the rise again, slightly less so in Antwerp, where depopulation is slowing. Yet the figures also suggest that (problem areas of) some large cities clearly remain a place of refuge for a great many underprivileged people. Another positive aspect is that road safety is on the rise everywhere and that in general crime has fallen, although this is not always confirmed by the experience of residents. In Ghent, but in particular in Antwerp, the feeling of insecurity (table p. 3) has risen since 1997 and is higher than in smaller cities such as Kortrijk or Leuven. But it is Mechelen that scores highest in this area. Research also shows that both are seen to be much less ‘clean’ (table p. 5) than the smaller cities. Ghent can produce the best figures in many areas, its population is on the rise again, slightly less so in Antwerp. This is the case in Ghent, where depopulation is slowing. Nevertheless, this city clearly once again proving sufficiently attractive to many potential residents is the task of the Flemish Government, De Morgen concludes, which feels that something urgently needs to be done about the fiscal discrimination of city-dwellers, who have to foot the bill for all central functions the city provides for its hinterland.

Frank Vandeveeye | editor in chief

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N-VA’s Bart De Wever brings action against Louis Michel

He wanted to unmask the Foreign Affairs Minister as a ‘hypocritical figure’ and to show that any fool could use the Genocide Act to bring an action.

Bart De Wever, a member of the Flemish-national N-VA, claimed that he could best illustrate the absurdity of the Genocide Act with an example that made its defenders sit up and take note. On 20 June he brought an action against Louis Michel (MR) before the Public Prosecution Service in Brussels because last year as Foreign Affairs Minister Michel agreed to the delivery of 5,500 FN machine guns to Nepal. De Wever refers to reports from Amnesty International, the European Commission and the German Government to demonstrate that the regime in Nepal is guilty of gross violations of human rights. De Wever substantiated his argument. There were two intentions behind his genocide action against Louis Michel: to unmask the Foreign Affairs Minister as a ‘hypocritical figure’ and to show that any fool could use the Genocide Act to bring an action (FF).

BART BEIRLANT • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 21 JUNE

Yet it was not De Wever’s intention ‘to have Louis Michel thrown in the cells, but to unmask him as a hypocrite. He wants to lecture everyone about human rights, but listen who’s talking.’ An examining magistrate will shortly determine whether the action is admissible or not. It is unlikely that the action will be declared admissible. It does not satisfy a number of formal requirements. The law stipulates that only someone who feels personally disadvantaged by an offence can bring a civil action against someone. Furthermore, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, Michel enjoyed immunity from prosecution during his period of office. In February this year the Court of Cassation confirmed this limitation in response to the action against Israeli Premier Ariel Sharon. Nevertheless the international press agencies jumped at the accusation. ‘Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister joins Americans as target of Genocide Act,’ read the Associated Press title. And so De Wever achieves his second objective: ‘I want to give the signal that the Genocide Act’s time is up. It had noble intentions but missed its target. If any fool can bring an action, why not me?’ said De Wever, referring to the recent series of actions against American authority figures. With the establishment of the International Criminal Court, which can adjudge crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide on a permanent basis, De Wever feels the Genocide Act has become redundant.

Michel reacted furiously. ‘This is extremely irresponsible. It’s completely crazy and irrational,’ he said at the European summit in Greece. ‘It makes Belgium a laughing stock on the world stage.’

THE FEELING OF INSECURITY IN FLEMISH CITIES (IN %)

Source: DS-INFOGRAPHICS

www.antwerp.be
www.amcham.be
Belgium makes about-turn in Genocide Act

Verhofstadt added that the Act had not been modified because of pressure from the Americans, but because it was being abused too frequently.

On Sunday 22 June it finally happened. The Belgian Government made an about-turn and abolished the universal character of the Genocide Act. No longer can anyone bring an action in our country, there must be a link to Belgium. In the first version anyone could bring an action before the Belgian courts for events (war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide) regardless of where these had taken place. In the amended version the Act requires that suspects or victims be Belgian or reside here. This brings Belgium into line with most other Western nations. The only difference is that it is still possible for an individual or organisation to bring a civil action, whereupon the courts must examine the action. However, Formateur Guy Verhofstadt immediately added that the Act had not been modified because of pressure from the Americans, but because it was being abused too frequently. Because the Act was used to make political statements, it had deteriorated into a bad Belgian joke, claims Chris Wijnants, Professor of Criminal Law at the University of Antwerp (FF).

‘No change has been made to the essence of the Act. Its intention, its value and its ethical dimension remain the same,’ says Guy Verhofstadt, who in a deep voice referred to ‘the Butare Four’, who were convicted in 2001 on the basis of the Act because of their involvement in the Rwandan genocide in 1994. The most significant amendment is that the Belgian Genocide Act will lose its ‘universality’.

Belgium is now narrowing its focus on what is essential in the genocide laws of most other Western countries: there must be a link with the country in question. Either the suspect is of Belgian nationality or resides here, or the victim is Belgian or has been ‘ordinarily resident in Belgium for the past three years’.

The Act will also stipulate that the immunity rules of international and common law apply: diplomats and politicians in office will thus be given a guarantee that they will not be pestered in the performance of their duties. Furthermore, if there is a case against the suspect before the International Criminal Court, they will only be picked up and transferred to the Criminal Court. According to negotiators, the only point on which the Belgian Act still differs from the ‘Western average’ is that elsewhere only the Public Prosecution Office decides whether an action is brought, while here it remains possible for an individual or organisation to bring a civil action, whereupon the courts must examine the action in any event.

This is carried out by the Judge of the Court of Appeal. S/he decides whether there is a link with Belgium. Even if the answer is ‘yes’, the case does not automatically proceed: this only happens if the country of the suspected perpetrator does not penalise the event itself or if that country cannot guarantee a fair hearing. This is also decided by the Judge.

Verhofstadt said that actions against Americans, British citizens and Israelis were excluded because in those countries the law deals with genocide and war crimes.

The formateur was especially critical of all those who had ‘frivolously’ called for the Act to be abolished. ‘We must comply with the Geneva Convention and we want to retain the ethical inspiration of the Act at all costs.’ The Premier reacted against ‘those who want Belgium to return to being the insignificant country it was earlier in international politics, a country with no opinions, and that nods when ordered to nod.’

Opinions

LUC VANDER KELEN • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 23 JUNE

Reason has partly returned to Belgian foreign policy. This was primarily based on an emotional element, human rights, and neglected geopolitical realities. Belgium transformed itself from grey mouse to moral superpower, but had neither the political nor the military or economic might to defend its position. We inflated ourselves and one prick from the Americans was enough to burst the bubble. (…) The Belgian Government has reached the limits of its policy. Belgium may well be on the world map, but the effect is negative. You only have to ask the Belgian ambassadors in Washington or at NATO. In foreign policy the head of diplomacy is held accountable for this internationally, however good his intentions. For Louis Michel it was one incident too many and the question is very much whether he is still taken seriously in London, Washington, Rome or Madrid.

YVES DESMET • DE MORGEN • 24 JUNE

There are plausible reasons for the about-turn the government made in the Genocide Act. But in the collective press there was barely a mention of it. No, the only thing that really matters was that finally Belgium had to learn that it has nothing at all to offer internationally, that it is a powerless insignificant country, and that things must stay the way they were, and that we must not make the slightest sound that could cause even one frown in Washington, let alone that could stop even one American ship from docking at the Port of Antwerp. Belgium, country of cowardly shopkeepers and proud of it. And if an idiot like Louis Michel does not understand this, he has immediately lost the authority to remain Foreign Affairs Minister for a day longer, in the collective opinion of Flemish editors, fraternally united in their salute of the American flag, eagerly prompted by a section of the diplomatic caste. Perhaps the Genocide Act was actually a step too far, but that does not yet mean that we should return to a foreign policy in which kneeling and nodding before the hawks that currently occupy the White House is seen as the ultimate goal. It has been Belgium’s merit, small as it is, to make it clear that pretty much all European public opinion disagrees with the foreign policy currently being adopted by Washington. To make it clear that Europe has its own right to exist, which extends far beyond dependency on the United States.
Contours of budgetary framework appear

There are still a number of stubborn sticking points. Of these, the NMBS and healthcare seem to present the greatest challenge

The breakthrough in the Genocide Act clearly also had a liberating effect on the other key dossiers of the discussions to form a new government. The Liberals and Socialists have reached broad agreement on the general budgetary framework for the next four years and as regards tax cuts the gulf no longer seems quite as wide. The future partners in government also more or less agreed on a new metropolitan policy. The Purple negotiators want to concentrate on tackling nuisance in the five main cities. Nevertheless, there are still a number of stubborn sticking points. Of these, the NMBS and healthcare seem to present the greatest challenge (FF).

IVAN BROECKMEIER • DE FINANCIËLE-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 23 JUNE

The Liberals and Socialists agree that they will aim to balance the budget for 2004 and 2005. A small surplus would again have to be posted for the following two years. According to some government sources, 1.5 billion euros would have to be saved each year in 2004 and 2005 to achieve that goal. In 2006 the effort will rise to a little more than 2 billion euros before dropping back to 1.4 billion euros in 2007. Altogether this means an effort of almost 6.5 billion. In addition, these figures apply to an unchanged policy. Extra money will therefore have to be found for new initiatives.

An overview of the sticking points

Tax cuts. In the Liberal corner the talk in recent days was of an operation of 800 million euros that would probably be implemented next year. The Socialists are not yet prepared to commit themselves to that amount. The SPA's Chairman, Steve Stevaert, is repeating that the operation must be directed at the regions and communities. Nevertheless, there are still a number of stubborn sticking points. Of these, the NMBS and healthcare seem to present the greatest challenge (FF).

First 24-hour rail strike on 29 June

The railway unions announced on 29 June a first 24-hour strike against the dismissal of 10,000 workers planned by NMBS boss Karel Vinck. The railway unions toured the party headquarters to make their views known on the restructuring plan of NMBS boss Karel Vinck. Afterwards it was said that the visits had again confirmed that the Socialists and Liberals were not on the same wavelength where that plan was concerned. The Socialists support the unions’ opposition to the compulsory laying off of 10,000 workers. The Liberals are keeping their options open (FF).

JOHAN CORTHOUTS • DE MORGEN • 25 JUNE

There is disagreement over the regionalisation of the railways and the restructuring operation announced by railways boss Karel Vinck. The negotiators only agree on taking over the railways’ billions of euros of debt. But no agreement has yet been reached over ‘the timing and conditions of the debt take-over’, according to Michel Bovy of the Christian trade union. The unions are particularly angry with the VLD. The Flemish Liberals fully support Vinck’s restructuring plan. Despite the opposition to the job losses by the PS, SPA and MR, there is according to Roger Van Hove of the Socialist ACOD union no one who has dared to tell Vinck that he must withdraw his restructuring plan. The strike is also bad news for the tens of thousands of young music-lovers heading to Rock Werchter Festival this weekend. On Sunday evening they will not be able to get home by train. They are being supported by the young peoples’ divisions of the Flemish democratic parties, who want to trade union offices to ask for the strike to be postponed or a pay strike to be organised. To no avail.

WWW.NMBS.BE
WWW.ROCKWERCHTER.BE

BART EECHKOUT • DE MORGEN • 25 JUNE

The Federal Government will concentrate the funds it invests in metropolitan policy more on genuinely neglected districts, so that more money will be released for these areas. This was agreed yesterday by the Purple negotiators forming a new government. The cities concerned, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Liège and Charleroi will, however, have to indicate the areas that merit extra attention. In these cities the government negotiators want to concentrate more on tackling nuisance. Therefore a nuisance manager will be appointed in each city. These must ensure that the funds from the municipal and security contracts are better matched to each other. The Purple also want to step up the fight against rack-renters.

that a major operation should be chosen above a gradual approach. Savings. Here, healthcare is in the firing line. The Liberals are demanding that everything is done in the current climate to put a brake on the rate of increase as much as possible. But there is definitely more to come on this. This dossier is also highly sensitive on a community level. Another savings channel is to pass on expenditure to the regions and communities. The NMBS. In principle there is an agreement to take over 7.2 billion euros of the railway company’s debt. But a lot of talking still has to be done on the terms and timing. Further consultation with the regions is also needed over the conditions under which this investment could be made. Yesterday the railway unions toured the party headquarters to again protest against the restructuring plan of NMBS boss Karel Vinck.

Reducing debt: Despite the difficult context the negotiators want to further reduce government debt to 90% of GDP at the end of the legislature. That inevitably means that a great many more government assets will have to be sold off.

The NMBS and health care seem to present the greatest challenge (FF).
Agalev conference in Ghent: what direction should we take?

On Saturday 21 June Agalev held its first conference after the humiliating election defeat of 18 May, when the Green party failed to hold onto a single seat, partly as a result of the introduction of the electoral threshold. The turnout in Ghent was considerable, in any case bigger than expected, since the hall, which holds 1,000, was too small. Dirk Holmans, the only surviving candidate to succeed Political Secretary Jos Geysels, was elected by a majority of almost two thirds. The conference's main task was to find an answer to the question: what direction should the Flemish Greens now take? There is not much time to waste, because in the autumn the party has to decide how it wants to participate in the regional elections: in a cartel with SPA-Spirit or independently or a return to Green roots. The final answer has not yet been given, but the conference seemed mainly inclined to opt for a realistic and qualified approach (FF).

FILIP ROGIERS • DE MORGEN • 23 JUNE

Amendments that drifted too far in the direction of a cartel or a nostalgic return to Green roots were voted down. The clock cannot be turned back. The rue de la Loi should not expect a decision under its own banner. A conference will later decide on possible forms of collaboration. Not necessarily only with the SPA. Apart from the belief in an umbrella party. It was also suggested that Agalev may need a simpler name. Why not simply say what we are, like the Grünen. Let’s discuss it, said the conference. In his maiden speech, after the introduction of the electoral threshold, which he criticises? Nor do we support the splitting of social security – which the N-VA is calling for. Nor do we see its relationship with the centre-right, which it criticises? Nor do we support the splitting of social security – which the N-VA is calling for.

The CD&V is willing to hold talks with N-VA on collaboration

The Flemish nationalist party N-VA was left with just one seat after the Federal elections of 18 May. That was mainly due to the introduction of the electoral threshold. The regional elections of 2004 ahead the party spent last weekend considering what strategy to follow. Should it form a cartel with another political party or should it go to the voter independently? The Flemish-nationalist party has precluded any form of joint venture with the left-wing parties the SPA and Agalev, as well as the far-right Vlaams Blok. Which leaves: the Christian Democratic CD&V and the Liberal VLD. Yves Leterme, who will shortly be able to call himself the new CD&V Party Chairman, feels positively about this approach, but meets with opposition from the Christian trade union, the ACM. The Flemish Liberals, who have their hands full with forming a new government, have not yet commented on the position of the Flemish nationalists (FF).

BOUDEWIJN VAN PETEGHEM • DE STANDAARD • 25 JUNE

The CD&V and the ACM are not on the same wavelength as regards forming a cartel with the N-VA. CD&V front man Yves Leterme will compare the two parties’ manifestos. Within two to three weeks the Flemish Christian Democrats will then discuss the question of collaboration with the N-VA in their political executive. Leterme says he is not surprised by the opening made by Bourgeois’ party. We have already expressed our willingness to hold talks, says the future CD&V leader. Jan Renders, Chairman of the ACM - which is allied with the CD&V - is much less confident about such a collaboration with the N-VA. ‘It will come across as a political regrouping on the right,’ he says. ‘In a cartel, how does the N-VA see its relationship with the centre field, which it criticises? Nor do we support the splitting of social security – which the N-VA is calling for.’

CLEANLINESS IN FLEMISH CITIES (2001)

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SOURCE: DS-INFOGRAPHICS
Exmar quoted on Euronext Brussels

There were no negotiations with the Norwegian Golar, it emerged, which tempered expectations of a merger.

MARC BALDUYCK • GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN • 24 JUNE

Apart from one or two defectors from the unstable Nasdaq such as Innogenetics, Icos Vision or Global Graphics, the stock market has hardly seen any new arrivals. Exmar is the first 'big one' to be landed since the arrival of the brewing group Interbrew. The splitting up of Exmar by the Saverys family was clearly inspired by a strategic vision. CMB is a traditional shipping company that deals mainly in bulk transports and the shipment of oil. As a shipping company, the subsidiary Exmar focuses mainly on the transport of gas and ammonia. The difference between CMB and Exmar lies in the fact that due to economic movements on the transport markets, CMB is much more susceptible to price fluctuations while Exmar, as a gas company, is mainly involved in steady long-term contracts. It therefore seemed advisable for the Saverys family to separate the two companies. This allowed the individuality of both companies to flourish. The split also has to do with the death of Mr Saverys. The company passed to the three children, Marc, Nicolaas and Virginie. Because the brothers in particular each have their own ideas about market developments it seemed advisable to let each go their own way. Marc via his holding Saverex in Exmar, and Nicolaas via his holding Saverex in Exmar. In this way they could also create more added value for small shareholders, because the value of the business would be better expressed via the changes of the exchange rates.

www.cmb.be
www.exmar.be

Telenet in commercial battle with Belgacom

In terms of broadband Internet penetration, Belgium is one of the world leaders.

FF EDITORIAL TEAM

Between now and 2013 Belgacom wants to invest around 500 million euros under the name of Broadway in the next generation of broadband services, it announced last week. In concrete terms this involves VDSL, a powerful successor to ADSL. However, to do this Belgacom will have to invest massively in the creation of a fine-meshed optical network. With the ExpressNet project the Flemish telecoms firm Telenet is taking a stand against its rival Belgacom, but already has an unmistakable advantage over its competitor, since the Mechelen-based firm already has a 10,000 km optical network in Flanders. Between the end of this year and the end of 2005 Telenet will invest 50 million euros to increase the capacity of its network. This will allow the telecoms firm to offer super-fast Internet access and new features such as digital TV and film or music on request. Through technical interventions Telenet will boost its capacity to 51 megabits per second (M bps) from the network to the user compared to 4 M bps at present, and to 30 M bps in the other direction compared to 192 kilobits per second at its current capacity. VDSL achieves 30 to 40 M bps in both directions. In terms of broadband Internet penetration, Belgium is one of the world-leaders. That is partly as a result of the fierce competition between Belgacom and Telenet that is set to continue with Broadway and ExpressNet.

Telenet is also entering the market for fast wireless Internet access via a WLAN technology. WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) is a technology for setting up a fast wireless Internet connection with a laptop or palmtop. The use of WLAN in public places or hotspots is on the rise. Earlier both the Limburg firm Sinfilo and Belgacom announced that they each wanted to connected around 150 hotspots this year. Over the next few months Telenet will start 25 and possibly more hotspots on the coast and in the interior by way of a trial. This will begin on 4 July on the coast and from September in the interior (in libraries, among other places). The trial will run until the end of this year. Access is free. Cisco, in collaboration with Telindus, and Siemens are some of the partners in this project.

www.belgacom.be
www.telenet.be
Compromise over Lejeune Act and juvenile rights

At 2 o’clock on Thursday morning the government negotiators reached an agreement on the justice section of the coalition agreement, more specifically on juvenile rights and the Lejeune Act, which allows the early release of detainees as soon as one third of the sentence has been completed. Negotiations on a tightening up of the Lejeune Act were particularly difficult, as the Francophone Socialists continued to oppose it. In the end, however, a compromise was reached: when determining whether to release detainees early, three aspects will be taken into account: the seriousness of the offence, the chance of re-offending and the conduct of the prisoner (FF).

WILLY DE BUCK • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 27 JUNE

Sentence of less than five years, sentences of more than five years, sentences for repeat offences of murder and manslaughter. The first two categories are currently released after serving one third of the sentence, but in future depending on circumstances - they will remain locked up for a longer period. A fraction figure is being attached to the other categories: repeat offenders will have to serve out at least two thirds of their sentence, as is already the rule. For the time being, repeat offences of murder or manslaughter can only be released after serving two thirds of their sentence. ‘That is the minimum. Most murderers who re-offend will in practice probably never be released,’ says Justice Minister Verwilghen (VLD).

‘The Liberals have long been calling for this stricter approach, but until recently we were pretty much on our own. That Steve Stevaert (SPA) did a u-turn in our direction in the middle of the election campaign made things easier. Now the PS was isolated in its opposition,’ says Verwilghen. The Francophone Socialists were again forced to back down in the discussion on juvenile rights, but they stood by their veto of global juvenile sanction rights. The most important change concerns minors aged between 12 and 16 who have committed serious criminal offences. Juveniles up to the age of 15 can be locked up in one of the Community’s secure centres and those over the age of 15 will be sent to Everberg detention centre. When the offender turns 18, supervision can also be extended by up to five years. Finally, a juvenile judge can now pass on young people over the age of 16, which means they will have to appear before a criminal judge.

City Parade: a trail of beats and fun

The masses danced like Duracell rabbits through the night

The average resident of Ghent will have hardly noticed the Green party conference in the city’s conference centre, but the City Parade, the annual techno party of the young dance crowd, is unlikely to have passed him by. In the afternoon a mass of 130,000 to 200,000 - depending on the source, police or organiser - exuberant dance-mad young people moved from the Citadelpark along the inner ring road to the Watersportbaan. To the beats of around 29 mobile discos the colourful trendy crowd danced away the stress of exams in tropical temperatures, while above them helicopters kept a constant eye on things. In the early evening the party continued at the Watersportbaan, after which they swam out over the city or headed to Flanders Expo, where the party continued into the small hours (FF).

DIETER BERNAERS • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 23 JUNE

Everyone cheerful, everyone happy, and yet the same critical question could be heard again and again. ‘What’s this parade about?’ In Berlin the Love Parades have a theme each year. This may be hollow - world peace, you know that - but at least there is a purpose to all that noise and din. In Ghent we basically saw nothing more than an advertising procession for several mega-discos that charge a fortune for a beer. But the masses did not care and danced like Duracell rabbits through the night. They looked happy. Sorry, mega-happy. www.cityparade.be
**Diary**

**MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE**

- **Until August:** Afrikaal, the Caravan, moving African circus in Flemish towns www.afrikaal.be
- **22 June to 6 July:** mostly Handel Festival, organisation: PSK and De Munt with the opera Agrippina and the Oratorium Belshazar, info: www.boxar.be.
- **2 to 10 July:** Klinkende Munt, Uniplein, Brussels with Sputnik and the Guay, Belgian Aan Vleugels Van Zuiden, Antwerp, London's Klezmer Brass All Stars, Dave Douglass Quintet, and DJ Grazzhoppe's DJ Bigband; info: www.beurschouwburg.be
- **4 to 5 July:** Open Tropen with Orisha, The Waliers, Zuco 103, Turnhout; info: 014/42.75.55
- **4 and 5 July:** Graspop, Dessel, Heavy Metal Festival with Alice Cooper, Iron Maiden, Anthrax and others; info: www.graspop.be
- **5 July:** Rock Zottegem with Iggy Pop, INXS, Echoes of the Year, Women at War, info: www.rock.zottegem.be
- **5 July:** Rock Zottegem with Iggy Pop, INXS, Echoes of the Year, Women at War, info: www.rock.zottegem.be
- **6 July:** Jorgen Ben Jor, PSK, Brussels; info: www.boxar.be
- **11, 12 and 13 July:** Cactus Festival, Bruges, with Susan TG, Joe Jackson, Stereolab, MC's, Boz Scaggs, Toots & the Maytalls and others, info: www.cactus festival.com
- **5 July:** Blues Festival with Tony Joe White, Rivierenhof, Deurne; info: 03/070/222.192
- **15 and 19 July:** Cassandra Wilson and Zap Mama, Rivierenhof, Deurne; info: 03/070/222.192
- **22 and 23 July:** Robbie Williams, Sportpaleis, Antwerp; info: 0900/26060
- **30 June:** Renée Fleming, De Munt, Brussels; info: www.demunt.be
- **13 and 27 July:** Blue Note Festival with Herbert Hancock, Bill Frisell, John Zorn, Philip Catherine, The Cinematic Orchestra, Marcus Miller, The Zawinul Syndicate, Calexico, and others, info: www.bluenote festival.com
- **19 to 28 July:** Gentse Feesten, concerts and shows on various places in the city centre; www.gentsefeesten.be with Latin and African music.
- **20 to 27 July:** Blue Note Festival with Herbie Hancock, Bill Frisell, John Zorn, Philip Catherine, The Cinematic Orchestra, Marcus Miller, The Zawinul Syndicate, Calexico, and others, info: www.bluenote festival.com
- **28 to 31 July:** Gentse Feesten, concerts and shows on various places in the city centre; www.gentsefeesten.be with Latin and African music.

**EXPO**

- **From 22 March to 17 January:** Jacques Brel, "The right to dream", exhibition, Schilde naastraat 50, Brussels; reservation required; info: www.jacquesbrel.be 02/511.10.20
- **Until 31 August:** The big sexperiment, scientific exhibition, Technopolis, Mechelen; info: 015/34.20.00
- **From 1 March onwards:** The Groeninghemuseum in Bruges reopened after face lift; info: 050/44.87.12
- **Until 30 August:** 50 years of Matchbox Toys Museum, Mechelen; info: 015/55.70.75 www.spiegelmuseum.be
- **From 28 September to 28 September:** Beaufort, contemporary art in the dunes and on the beaches of the coastal towns, open air exhibitions with Jan Fabre, Wim Delvoye, Anne & Patrick Poirier, Dries Sperri, Henk Visch, Antony Gormley and others; info: coastal tourist offices www.beaufort.be
- **Until 28 September:** Marines in confrontation: Seascapes in painting; PMK, Ostend; info: 059/70/11/99 www.pmk.be
- **Until 14 September:** In Moto na Brussel, exhibition by popular Congolese painters, City Hall, Museum for Central Africa (Ter- vuren); info: 02/412.58.81 www.afrikaal.be info: 09/282.21.23 wwww.museumdd.be
- **Until 17 August:** Fatal women 1890-1910, exhibition, KMSK, Antwerp; info: 03/242.04.16 www.antwerpen.be/cultuur/kmska
- **Until 31 August:** Panamarenko exhibitions in Antwerp: Drawing and Calculating, exhibition, Rubenshuis; Original works, Bing & others, De Antwerpse Luchtschijfabriek, Borgerhout and multiples 1966 - 2003, MUHKA, Antwerp; info: 03/232.01.03 www.panamarenko.info
- **Afrika kunst aan zee (Poster art at the coast), exhibition, Vennetiaanse Gaanderen, Ostend; info: 059/80.55.00
- **Until 14 September:** Avenue marge, exhibition of art brut by asylum patients, Museum Dr. Gislain, Ghent; info: www.museumdr.gislain.be 09/216.35.95
- **Until 28 September:** Jan Fabre, Searching for Utopia, exhibition, Zwart Huis, Knokke; info: 050/61.36.65
- **Until 6 July:** Artists on the move: meeting between North and South with Philip Aguirre, Soly Sistel, Gerald Dederen, Michel François, M. Shach Gaba, Ken S., Laone Lopes, Birame Ndye enz., De Marktken, Brussels
- **Until 9 November:** Guided by Heroes, exhibition, Z33, Hasselt
- **Until 3 August:** Art in the Low Countries, City Museum Leuven; info: 016/22.69.00 www.leuven.be
- **Until 7 September:** Exhibition: Masterpieces of Belgian Art, the Simon Collection, Museum of Elseen, Brussels; info: 02/512.64.22
- **Until 21 September:** Art on Cows, Open Air Exhibition, City Centre, Brussels; info: www.cows.be
- **Until 14 September:** Luc Deleu & T.O.P, Office, exhibition, Open Air Museum Middelheim, Antwerp; info: 03/827.15.34 www.antwerpen.be/cultuur/museum-middelheim
- **Until 14 September:** Just like life - Belgian art from the museum collection, SMAK, Ghent; info: www.smak.be
- **Until 14 September:** Transferts, contemporary art from Africa, PSK, Brussels; info: www.boxar.be
- **Until 13 July:** Africa Screams, horror film posters from Ghana and Nigeria, De Marktken, Brussels; info: www.afrikaal.be, www.demartken.be

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