Hasquin sees financial deficit in Flanders

Hervé Hasquin, the Minister-President of the French-speaking Community, has caused commotion with some bold remarks about the Government of Flanders’ accounting. Hasquin claims that the Government of Flanders is heading for a financial deficit of EUR 545 million, at least when the standard of the High Council for Finance (HRF) is used, which lays down a budgetary course with a view to the European Stability Pact. The Minister-President of the Government of Flanders Bart Somers regards Hasquin’s arithmetic as remarkable. He points out that the HRF standard assumes a surplus of EUR 320 million. Together with Minister for the Budget Van Mechelen, he continues to maintain that the budgetary surplus is still the objective. Finally, he advises Hasquin not to venture into comparisons between Flanders and the French-speaking Community. Flanders has achieved budgetary surpluses six years in a row, and has halved its debt vis-à-vis 1999. In the French-speaking Community, the debt mountain has simply continued to grow, says Somers in De Standard (29 August) (FF).

Le Soir reports the French-speaking Community’s favourable budget forecasts in relation to the talks on the Stability Pact to be held between the federal government and the community and regional governments next Wednesday. Because the federal authorities need some financial breathing space, it was agreed during the consultations for the formation of a government that the federal states would be asked to cut their expenditure by EUR 340 million next year, and by EUR 380 million in 2005, in order to ensure that the debt reduction process, to which Belgium is bound in accordance with the EU Stability Pact, is not jeopardised. Hasquin told Le Soir that he was going to the talks in the firm belief that he would not be opening the purse. He hints that the French-speaking Community has no leeway for any extra budgetary effort, and is evidently counting on the Government of Flanders, in light of the alleged financial deficit, adopting the same standpoint. The Government of Flanders said earlier that it was prepared to carry through an additional budgetary squeeze, provided the other federal states did so, too. What is more, it has linked this effort to Kyoto. To be precise, Flanders is counting on Wallonia’s solidarity in the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, as stipulated in the Kyoto protocol (table, page 3).
Director of Centre for the Fight against Racism resigns

Johan Leman's decision to resign as director of the Centre comes after a long drawn-out conflict with the Purple-Green coalition partners, ‘who wanted to curb the Centre's independence and my independence’. Leman is thus refusing what he calls a ‘flowerpot post’. (...) Leman: 'When it came to power in 1999, the Verhofstadt government thought, 'Le- man, he's a guy from the ancien régime - a CVP member'. That's understandable, but all too soon it appeared that I was not a CVP member, that I was independent vis-à-vis all political parties. The political representatives in the Centre were soon appointed: in the board of directors and the four co-ordinators. The Centre did receive more areas of competency, it is true, but its independence shrank. (...) I have to be honest. Both the Prime Minister and Marie Arena have tried to make me change my mind, but my decision stands firm. I want to give a signal in the hope that the patronising attitude towards the Centre is reversed'.

Opinion

KIM HERBOTS • DE MORGEN • 26 AUGUST

'I don't feel guilty about Leman's resignation,' says Dewael in a reaction. 'He even said the day after my decision he had no problem with it. If now, fourteen days later, he decides to step down, I regard that as rather exaggerated'. Prime Minister Verhofstadt, under whose authority the Centre resorts, said in an initial communiqué that he 'lamented Leman's extreme reaction'. However, he has accepted the resignation. In various circles it is being suggested that the issue of the Afghans was only a 'phantom reason' and that Leman had for sometime been seeking a reason to step down as director of the Centre with which he had in the meantime become identified. Conversely the political world would not really lament Leman's resignation, either. Johan Leman (57) is a Dominican Father who made a name for himself in immigrant-related issues as director of the immigrants' Centre 'Foyer' in Brussels' canal zone. When the Royal Commissioner for Immigrants' Policy Paula D'Hondt (CVP) sought a principal private secretary in 1989, the choice went to Leman. In 1993 he succeeded her as director-general of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and the Fight against Racism.

In the law it is stated that 'the Centre is responsible for the contacts with 'new immigrants', and that the Centre must negotiate with the NGO sector', writes Leman. According to the law, the Centre therefore has the task of and the competence for mediation, but ‘the minister apparently considers that that is not possible because the Centre is not neutral,’ explains Leman. 'If there had been problems concerning any remarks, made by any member at all of the Centre's staff, the minister could at least have said something to me, before the Centre was dealt 'an unnecessary slap in the face', Leman goes on to write. 'There is something called a telephone, but I have had no telephone contact whatsoever with the minister,' Len- man lamented on Monday evening. A third reason why Leman is standing down is a Royal Decree, which makes provision for a board for the Centre. The board of directors ‘has distributed the tasks among the co-ordinators and appreciably restricted the director-general's authority. This leads to predictable situations, about which I already warned the responsible directors a year or more ago,’ continues Leman. Under the given circumstances, it is impossible for me to carry on as managing director in any meaningful capacity.'

DE FINANCIEEL-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 26 AUGUST

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22-Day hunger strike leads to a few minimal concessions

FF EDITOR

14 August saw the end of the hunger strike by 200 Afghan refugees in the Church of the Holy Cross, in Ixelles, which had begun on 24 July in protest at the forced return of 1,100 candidate refugees. The hunger strikers, who included a good number of intellectuals who had already fled to Belgium before the Taliban regime was driven out by the Americans in 2001, point out that Afghanistan is in fact being governed by local warlords who still adhere to Taliban fundamentalism and are waging war between themselves.

After 22 days, they reached an agreement with the brand new Interior Minister Patrick Dewael (VLD). The minister did not acquiesce to their original demand, which was for a collective regularisation. The existing regularisation regulations applicable to all candidate refugees therefore remain applicable to the Afghans. In short, what this amounts to is that families with children are eligible for a residence permit if they reside for three years in Belgium without a decision having been taken as to their recognition as political refugees. For candidates without children, the period is four years. However, the minister did agree that all Afghan without children could stay in Belgium until 2004, and Afghans with children could do so until July 2004. At the beginning of 2004 the Belgian Government wants to reassess the situation in Afghanistan and check whether a forced return would be opportune.

Thanks to the extra months’ stay, the chance of regularisation has increased for a great many Afghans. Moreover, they will be entitled to hold down a job in Belgium whilst their dossier is being dealt with. According to minister Dewael, the latter point was the only concession he had made to the hunger strikers.

Pascal Smet: new SP.A state secretary in Brussels

Smet is considered to be the architect of the current asylum policy

In the field of personnel policy SPA chairman Steve Stevaert always seems to have a surprise up his sleeve. After sending three new faces (minister Freya Vanden Bossche and state secretaries Anissa Tensmamani and Peter Vanvelthoven) to the Federal Government in July, he announced on 25 August that Pascal Smet, the Commissioner for Refugees, was to be the new Brussels SPA state secretary for Transport, the Civil Service, Fire fighting and Medical Assistance, replacing Robert Delathouwer. Smet, who was chairman of the Young Socialists between 1990 and 1992, became a specialist in asylum policy at the office of Johan Vanderlinden (SPA) and later Antoine Duquesne (MR). At the end of 2000 he became Commissioner-General for Refugees and is generally considered to be the architect of the current asylum policy. With his firm, consistent approach, he was able to bring the number of asylum applications down from 42,000 to 24,000. With Smet at the head of the Brussels SPA, Stevaert wants his party to give more weight to Brussels policy and wants the cartel with Spirit and Agalev to become the largest Flemish party in Brussels (FF).

JOHAN CORTHOUTS • DE MORGEN • 26 AUGUST

In the constituency of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde the cartel of SPA and Spirit, with its big guns Frank Vandenbroucke and Bert Anciaux did indeed obtain a fine result with 8.5% of the votes for the Parliament, but in the 19 Brussels municipalities the result was below par. The investment in Brussels with minister Vandenbroucke heading the list of candidates therefore only yielded half returns. The older generation of SPA politicians with Rufin Grijp (Anderlecht), Werner Daem (Jette) and Delathouwer (Koekelberg) was presented with the bill for the failure. They will have to put up with the ambitious 36-year-old Smet as their new boss. He is expected to put the Brussels department’s house in order. ‘We shall have to go about things in Brussels in a different way. Therefore we needed someone who stood out above the mêlée,’ said Stevaert. ‘The SPA won the elections, among other things, because we had good ministers. I expect Smet to do a good job. He is outstanding.’ Stevaert declined to say whether Smet was the man who would be able to prevent the Vlaams Blok from winning the regional elections in June 2004. With almost 40% of the votes, the Blok is by far the largest Flemish party in the capital. If the extreme right-wing party can secure the absolute majority, it will be able to bring the operation of the Brussels Region to a standstill next year with a blocking strategy.

BUDGET BALANCES ACCORDING TO THE STANDARD OF THE HIGH COUNCIL FOR FINANCE

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SOURCE: DS-INFORMATIE
Speeches marking 11 July warn of difficult times

FF EDITOR

This year the political part of the Flemish Community’s Celebration Day on 11 July was not only overshadowed by the formation of the federal government, but the tone of the speeches was also a little less enthusiastic than in previous years. The Speaker of the Flemish Parliament Norbert De Batselier (SPA) even dared to question the prosperity that Flemings had built up over recent years, and pointed a warning finger towards the ailing German economy, which was once a model for the neighbouring countries. In his speech in ‘De Warande’ Minister-President Bart Somers said that the economic crisis had also affected Flanders, with a few years’ delay. He announced a thrifty but dynamic policy with absolute priority being given to unemployment relief work. He called for a thrifty but dynamic policy with absolute priority being given to unemployment relief work. He called for a

Agalev rejects national cartel with Sp.a-Spirit

At a ‘green summer weekend’ at the seaside town of Nieuwpoort, the new political secretary of Agalev Dirk Holemans declared that his party would be going into the regional and European elections of 2004 on its own, and not in a cartel with SPA-Spirit. However, he did not rule out local co-operation arrangements, such as in Limburg. Holemans announced that his party would form a shadow cabinet, which will support the good measures of the Verhofstadt II cabinet and propose alternatives to the bad ones. The Green party has already put forward a first initiative, namely a referendum on the European constitution. The proposal will be submitted by Agalev senator Yacinta De Roeck, who was co-opted by the SPA and who, in the wake of the Flemish Greens’ humiliating election campaign, is the only Flemish Green mandatory in the federal House and Senate. The Flemish Greens do still have two ministers in the Government of Flanders, namely Adelheid Byttebier and Ludo Sannen, and they will be the figureheads of the campaign for the regional elections next year, according to Holemans.

Flemish Government must curb spending drive

Proof that the warnings made by the Minister-President and the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament on 11 July were not unfounded came a few weeks later in the form of a circular from Budget Minister Dirk Van Mechelen (VLD), to all departments of the Flemish administration. In it the minister warned of the threat of the budget going off the rails, and called on the departments to keep their expenditure drive within the limits. As a precautionary measure he wants to freeze all credits at 80% of the budgeted expenditure. The departments may only use a fifteenth instead of a twelfth of their credits every month. However, there is no talk of the credits being scrapped, Van Mechelen stressed. The minister claims that he only wants to curb the overly high rate of spending. The Flemish Welfare Union, which is the umbrella organisation for the Christian welfare institutions (care of the elderly, day nurseries, care of the disabled), sounded the alarm last weekend and claimed that the Government of Flanders was in this way putting its agreements with subsidised institutions at risk. The union found an ally in the form of Minister for Welfare Byttebier (Agalev) who warned at a meeting of her party that a linear austerity measure was not acceptable. Ludo Sannen, the second Agalev minister in the Government of Flanders, qualified his colleague’s speech to some degree (FF). The only saving that can be made is a saving on expenditure of a minor, less urgent nature.

In the shadow of these budget debates relating to 2003, the Flemish ministers are also beginning to get nervous about 2004. Those budget discussions will begin in two to three weeks’ time. And on that subject, too, Byttebier says that the Government of Flanders must meet its commitments regarding day nurseries and waiting lists.

The Minister of the Flemish Government for Welfare Byttebier (Agalev) ranged herself behind her welfare sector at an Agalev meeting in Nieuwpoort. ‘I am astounded at the circular. A linear saving in the welfare sector is not possible. He (Van Mechelen) can’t come fiddling around on my patch’.

This is a forceful pronouncement that merits a degree of qualification. After all, Byttebier cannot act as though Van Mechelen’s letter has come completely out of the blue. The measure was informally discussed at one of the last cabinet meetings before the summer.

‘And,’ says Agalev colleague Ludo Sannen, ‘we will be assessing the measure in September. The circular uses a very linear intervention as a point of departure. After the summer we shall be looking to examine what is feasible, and can be applied, and what isn’t. We might temper the linearity somewhat.’ Meanwhile Van Mechelen’s office has once again stressed that the circular is not a saving. Once a fifteenth of the operating resources have been paid every month through to and including December, a check will be made at the end of December to see which bodies of the Authorities of Flanders still need funds in order to meet all their obligations. The only saving that can be made is a saving on expenditure of a minor, less urgent nature.

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‘Purple I’ coalition gets going

genocide law abolished, licences for arms export henceforth awarded by regions, excise duties and energy taxes increased

**FF EDITOR**

On 14 July the Federal Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) presented his ‘Purple’ government team of Liberals and Socialists after lengthy government negotiations. The powerful figures from the previous cabinet have remained at their posts or have been given a new portfolio. Johan Vande Lanotte (SPA) remains Budget Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, but also assumes responsibility for Public Enterprises. Louis Michel (MR) remains Foreign Affairs Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. Didier Reynders (MR) stays on at Finance, whilst Laurette Onkelinx remains Deputy Prime Minister but switches from Labour to Justice, and Frank Vandenbroucke (SPA) exchanges Social Affairs for Labour and gets Pensions added to his portfolio. Despite earlier persistent rumours to the contrary, André Flahaut stays on at Defence, whilst former Justice Minister Marc Verwilghen (VLD) has to make do with Development Co-operation. New federal ministers with important portfolios include Patrick Dewael (VLD; Interior Minister and Deputy Prime Minister), who until recently was Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Rudy Demotte (PS; Social Affairs and Public Health), Marie Arena (PS; Civil Service, Integration and Metropolitan Policy), and Bert Anciaux (Spirit; Mobility and Social Economy). Other newcomers are Fientje Moerman (VLD; Economy, Energy and Foreign Trade), Freya Vanden Bossche (SPA; Environment, Consumer Affairs and Sustainable Development) and Sabine Laruelle (MR; the Self-employed and Agriculture).

Rik Daems, Public Enterprises Minister in the previous government, has to make do with the consolation prize of parliamentary party leader of the VLD in the House. In addition to the fifteen ministers, six state secretaries were appointed.

In his government declaration, Verhofstadt admitted that difficult times lay ahead from an economic and budgetary point of view, but that the government would take drastic measures to support the economic recovery. The first policy act to be notched up by the Purple I coalition has been the abolition of the controversial Genocide Law. The law, which according to the Belgian Government was being misused far too often - among other things to lodge international complaints against senior American politicians and military men - is now only applicable to lawsuits with a Belgian complainant or where a suspected perpetrator was in prison in Belgium at the time the criminal proceedings were instituted. With this decision, the Belgian Government has met the demands of the Americans, who even found two successive relaxations of the law to be insufficient, and pressed for it to be completely abolished. A second explosive matter was also immediately diffused. In order to avoid argument over arms exports between Flemings and Walloons paralysing the Federal Government again in the future, it was also decided that the trade in arms would be federalised and that the Regions would henceforth award the licences for exports of weapons manufactured on their territory. At the same Cabinet meeting, a draft programme law containing an increase in excise duties and energy taxes on petroleum products and electricity was approved. There are also a couple of surprises in this draft law for investors, according to the Financieel-Economische Tijd (15 and 16 July): a doubling of the tax on bearer securities and a tripling of the tax on investment funds. The latter is in fact paid by the banks, but charged to the investor.

**COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT:**

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**Speed traps record impressive result**

Last year the federal police carried out 10 million speed checks using manned and mobile cameras on motorways and regional roads with motorway characteristics. These resulted in 350,000 tickets for speeding. In the first half of this year they increased the number of checks to 14 million, and these have led to only 260,000 tickets. The conclusion that the police have drawn from this is obvious: the checks are having the desired effect. People are clearly driving more slowly. Whilst last year 3.5% of drivers were taken to court, today that number has dropped to 1.8% of those subject to a check. It can also be demonstrated on the basis of figures that there is a connection between speed and the number of serious accidents. A comparison between the first five months of last year and the same period this year shows that there were thirteen fewer fatalities on the same roads in 2003 (down from 62 to 49) and that the number of people suffering bodily injury fell from 1,732 to 1,433. These impressive results appear to be giving the police extra motivation to boost the checks. Although according to the Traffic Safety Plan the cameras together only have to be deployed for 86 hours a day by 2005, they are in fact already being used for a total of 94 hours a day on average.

It is still too early to talk of a change of mentality among Belgian motorists, says federal police spokesperson Els Cleemput (De Morgen, 28 August): ‘We shall have to continue carrying out checks until people really do regard it as normal to drive more slowly’.
Vandenbroucke advocates consultation at employment conference

The number of unemployed job-seekers (those in full unemployment + school leavers) in Flanders rose at the end of July to 232,571. In Wallonia, the figure was 253,525 and in Brussels 83,227. Rising unemployment in July is not unusual and is seasonally related, with school leavers entering the job market and many temporary contracts of employment coming to an end. But the rise on an annual basis, in excess of 26,000 more people than last year (+12.7%), and 53,000 more than two years ago (+29.5%), is alarming. Also striking is the rising percentage of highly-skilled people among the unemployed (48.3% compared with 39.9% in 1999). A large number of those unemployed persons have lost their jobs on account of a bankruptcy, the figure running to 14,600 so far this year throughout Belgium, according to the research bureau Graydon. The number of corporate failures was not only up 6.6% on the same period the previous year, there were also appreciably more large companies, with the list including no fewer than 14 companies with more than 100 employees. Finally the many company reorganisations have also resulted in an increase in the number of people taking early retirement. At the moment there are 72,235 people on early retirement in Flanders, but this is no fewer than 1,369 more than in 2002. In addition to this, Flanders also still has 89,000 older unemployed people who, like those who have taken early retirement, do not appear in the official unemployment statistics. Prime Minister Verhofstaden promised the creation of 200,000 new jobs. The new Minister for Labour Frank Vandenbroucke (SP.A) has a devil of a task ahead of him. Vandenbroucke sees a consensus between employers, trade unions and authorities (regional and federal) as the only chance of turning the tide, and will be organising an employment conference in the second half of September (FF).

LUC VANDER KELEN • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 27 AUGUST

At the moment Vandenbroucke is sounding out what he could put on the agenda at the employment conference. At this stage he sees five points: 1) How are we going to distribute the EUR 800 million reduction in employers charges? What are we going to do with that in order to make the employment of older people cheaper? 2) The work bonus, the new system aimed at giving more to people on a low gross wage. 3) Increased guidance and counselling for the unemployed. This is an area of competence of the regional governments - one of the reasons why they will also be present. 4) A greater effort in the field of training and education on the part of companies. Here, too, we are lagging behind. We have more unskilled people than other countries and we do less in terms of training. On average companies in Europe spend 2.3% of wage costs on training, but here the proportion is only 1.6%. 5) The system of ‘service cheques’, which should be substantial extended. It is disgraceful that so much is earned in moonlighting whilst so many people are on the dole. But the most important thing is for us to make progress in the consensus. Experience shows that countries where trade unions, employers and government act in concert succeed in adapting the job market. Countries where that unity is not achieved fail to do so'.

Private investors keep ignoring stock exchange

The Brussels stock exchange has experienced a spectacular recovery in the last few months. Since the low point of 12 March, the Bel-20 index has gained in excess of 40%. This has also been reflected in more stock exchange dealings: in the first half of 2003 Euronext Brussels recorded an 8% rise in transactions compared with the first half of 2002. But according to De Financiell-Economische Tijd, the increase is largely attributable to major institutional investors such as insurance companies and portfolio managers. After four consecutive loss-making years, private investors are still ignoring the stock exchange. According to figures from the major banks, there is talk of a further fall in stock exchange orders from small investors. Fortis says that orders are down by 5%, KBC quotes a 12% downturn and Dexia has recorded a fall of as much as 17%. In all, Belgian savers have some EUR 110 billion in savings accounts where the return is zero, whilst the yield on Belgian share dividends is 4% even though all Belgian listed companies have much more to offer.

LUC VANDER KELEN • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 27 AUGUST

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Eighth Flanders Culture Market in Antwerp

The last weekend of August will see Antwerp staging the Flanders Culture Market for the eighth time. This major free cultural festival takes over the whole of Antwerp's city centre and offers an overview, in a single day, of what Flanders has in store in the way of culture. The performing arts section schedules performances by no fewer than 700 artists at 20 indoor and outdoor locations. Between the performances the public can visit the information market, where 200 cultural organisations present themselves. In a nutshell, the Flanders Culture Market combines the best aspects of an information fair with those of a city happening (FF).

ZIP CULTUUR • DE STANDAARD • 27 AUGUST

The Culture Market, the permanent rendezvous for anyone who has had enough of summer festivals, has grown into the trendsetter for the new season. It is an annual initiative of the Prospekta non-profit-making organisation, the Antwerp bureau for provincial and city spectacles. It has become a mega-event that is played out on streets and squares. For the performing arts section, two programmers browsed through the theatre and music offerings and have put a number of previews on the billing. Then there is the information market with more than 200 stands this year. ‘The emphasis is increasing on entertainment. The cultural associations are becoming more creative, and want to catch the eye. They no longer make do with just handing out leaflets, and now devise their own attractions. The Culture Market is becoming more interactive, with the organisers appealing directly to the public. Anyone visiting the Literature Square will find a Talking Donkey and a Rhyming Oracle. I predict that there are certain stands that you won’t be able to get away from too easily,’ says Eva-Rita Boon, director of Prospekta. She counters the criticism that there has been of the ‘Antwerp-specific’ character of the Cul-
CULTURE

Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

• 4 September: Sonia Wieder-Atherton with Sarah Iancu and Mathieu Lejune: Monteverdi, Kurtag, Berio and Dutilleux, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: 070/22.33.02 www.concertgebouw.be
• 6 September: Capriccio Stravagante, Late renaissance and Baroque music (Händel, Corelli, Monteverdi, Frescobaldi, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 10 September: Tonhalle O Orchester Zürich with Richard Strauss and Antonin Dvorak, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 20 September: Dambe Festival (Cameron, Niger, Burkina Faso), Zuidershuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuidershuis.be
• 10, 12 and 13 September: Alain Platé & Les Ballets C de la B, Wolf (Wolfgang Mozart), Flanders Opera, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be and www.museumdrguislain.be
• 3 and 4 September: Contemporary art in the dunes and on the beaches of the coastal towns, open air exhibitions with Jan Fabre, Wim Delvoye, Anne & Patrick Poirier, Niel Spoerri, Henk Visch, Antony Gormley and others, info: coastal tourist offices www.beaufort.be
• 14 September: Minnes in confrontation: Seascapes in painting; PMM K, Ostend; info: 059/70/11/99 www.pmmk.be
• 15 September: Kin Moto na Brussel, exhibition by popular Congolese painters, City Hall, Museum for Central Africa (Tervueren); info: 02/412.58.81 www.museumbc.be info: 09/282.51.23 www.museumd.md.be
• 17 August: Fatal women 1860-1910, exhibition, KM SK, Antwerp; info: 02/34.04.16 www.antwerpen.be/cultuur/kmska
• 14 September: Art en marge, exhibition of art brut by asylum patients, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent; info: www.museumdrguislain.be info: 09/216.35.95
• 28 September: Jan Fabre, Searching for Utopia, exhibition, Zwarte Huis, Knokke; info: 050/61.36.65
• 9 November: Guided by Heroes, exhibition, Z33, Hasselt
• 7 September: Exhibition: Mas- terpieces of Belgian Art, the Simon Collection, Museum of Eisene, Brussels; info: 02/512.64.22
• 21 September: Art on Cows, Open Air Exhibition, City Centre, Brussels; info: www.cows.be
• 14 September: Transferts, contemporary art from Africa, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 18 December: The museum evenings, every Thursday; www.museumvereniging.be
• 7 September: Young Belgian Painters, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be, www.pieceforpeace.net
• 7 September: Peter Dowsbrough, exhibition, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 26 October: Maya-textile, mirror of a world vision, etnographical museum, Antwerp; info: 03/220.86.00
• 9 November: L’Amour toujours, Wedding pictures from the 20th Century in Antwerp, Museum van Volkskunde, Antwerp; info: 03/248.15.77
• 11 September to 30 November: The Summer of Watou: poetry and visual arts at Watou (West-Flanders, near French border); www.poeziemer wonderwatou.be
• 28 September: Searching for Utopia, exhibition by Jan Fabre, Het Zwarte Huis, Knokke-Heist; info: 050/61.36.65
• 14 September: Gelijk het leven is (Just like life), exhibition on 17 Locations in Ghent; info: 09/221.17.03 www.smak.be
• Hollywood near The Scheldt, exhibition, Cinema Roma, Antwerp; www.rataplanvzw.be
• 11 September to 30 November: U rban Dramas, photo and film exhibition on urban life, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be

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