Introduction

The Dutch-speaking part of Belgium (22 September), Van Rompuy called Minister-President Somers’ plan to hold the Olympic Games a stunt to place himself on the political map of Flanders, whereupon the debate inevitably moved to the subject of the Flemish elections themselves, more especially the size of the constituencies. In line with the federal model, the ‘purple-green’ majority wants to extend the constituencies to provincial scale, but does not have a two-thirds majority to alter the existing arrangement. Therefore it is having to appeal to the Federal Parliament to get more ammunition with which to fulminate against a Government of Flanders ‘that is using French-speakers’ votes’ to change Flemish electoral law. He warned that his party - which does not have a two-thirds majority - would use all possible legal and political means in an attempt to prevent this.

Frank Vandecaveye | editor in chief

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Opinion

Yves Desmet • De Morgen • 26 September

Steve Stevaert accepted the resignation without protest and did not go to any trouble to try to make Temsamani change her mind. You do not have to look far, either, to see the reason. Temsamani is one of the members of government who were not really brought in to help outline the country’s policy, but rather on account of their considerable image value. In her case, she is the ideal immigrant daughter-in-law, attractive and with a dazzling smile - good for announcing congenial initiatives for the shop floor. When you are recruited almost entirely on the basis of your image, then that - conversely - also immediately becomes your weakest flank. The slightest blemish on the image of the sweet single mother with children is then fatal. Not the smallest grain of sand can be allowed to cause the engine to sputter on the road from here to the Flemish elections. By the way, the Flemish Parliament’s official website lists the diplomas obtained by Philip Dewinter (Vlaams Blok) and these include that of ‘bachelor’s degree in political and social sciences’. Dewinter never obtained that degree.

First immigrant state secretary resigns after 74 days

A nissa Temsamani (SPA) had been State Secretary for the Organisation of Work and Welfare at the Workplace in the ‘Verhofstadt II’ Purple government for barely 74 days. The first ever Belgian member of government of immigrant origin (born in Tangiers, Morocco) got herself talked about after a fib she told with regard to her educational past, in the monthly paper De Dern. She said that she had broken off her studies in the first year of the licentiate degree course (third year) of commercial sciences, because she had become pregnant. In actual fact, this occurred in the second year of the bachelor’s degree course (second year). De Morgen calls it an implicit lie, because such an assertion implies that you have obtained a first university degree. Significantly, her biographical sheet in Parliament states that her highest diploma is of secondary-school level. Temsamani came under further pressure when old stories about the bankruptcy of a clothing business in which she was involved came to the surface again. She resigned ‘on the understanding that a member of government may not be led astray by all kinds of controversies’. SPA chairman Stevaert stressed that it was ‘a personal and courageous decision’ (FF).
The consultative committee between governments of regions and communities and the federal government can finally present a result after three weeks. The Minister-Presidents of Wallonia and Flanders, Jean-Claude Van Caunenbergh (PS) and Bart Somers (VLD), respectively, initially refused to contribute to the reduction of the Belgian debt. But after intensive talks, the federal states are now prepared to set aside a total of EUR 163 million next year for accelerated debt reduction. Where are they getting that money from? Firstly, from a number of long-drawn-out dossiers with the federal authorities on which an agreement was reached in that same consultative committee. In all, this concerns EUR 88.3 million. In this way, part of the repaid government aid from carpet manufacturer Beaulieu accrues to Flanders and rental arrears and overdue revenue from the Résidence Palace building in Brussels should still be paid. In addition, Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels Region will additionally together receive EUR 75 million next year as a share in the revenue from the fiscal regularisation. That money will be shared out on the basis of the average revenue from inheritance taxes in the regions in the previous decade. After all, inheritance tax is a matter for which the regions have competence. Finally, there is the revenue from the so-called ‘Elia levy’. Elia is the company that runs the high-tension network and was forced to pay a transmission fee to the municipalities. In this way the municipalities can make up for the loss in dividends from electricity distribution, which they ran together with Electrabel and which they are losing as a result of the liberalisation of the electricity market. Both the Federal Government and the Government of Flanders appear to be satisfied with the arrangement (FF).

Verhofstadt gives regional governments funds for debt reduction

The compensation for the dividends from electricity distribution of the intermunicipal companies is a Flemish problem, because Flanders was the only region to have worked for an accelerated liberalisation of the energy market. The Commission for the Regulation of the Electricity and Gas Sector (CREG) calculated that the disappearance of the dividends would cost the Flemish municipalities between EUR 170 and 180 million. In Brussels and Wallonia the liberalisation is not being introduced in an accelerated manner, so that both regions have always opposed a federal Elia levy. They will undoubtedly make use of the possibility to exempt the networks from this levy. Last year the Flemish distribution network managers purchased approximately 40,100 gigawatt hours from Elia (De Financier-Economische Tijd, 20 September). According to that newspaper the Prime Minister has mentioned a levy of EUR 4.30 per megawatt hour on the activities of the high-tension manager Elia, which could yield EUR 170 million on an annual basis for the Flemish municipalities.

www.elia.be
www.creg.be

Verhofstadt estimates that the contribution from the regions and communities and the better budget plan result in a budget effort of EUR 200 million. That is EUR 100 million less than Verhofstadt had asked for. Yet Budget Minister Johan Vande Lanotte (SP.A) was well satisfied with the effort made. ‘The regions and communities are helping without having to cut deep,’ he said. The Government of Flanders is happy too with the arrangement that has been made. ‘We had promised to step in financially provided all regions and communities pulled their weight,’ said Tom Ongenae, spokesman for Somers. According to Ongenae, Flanders is only providing for 52.8% of the total effort and the region is thereby getting a good deal. Flanders had originally linked an additional budgetary effort to a sharing out of the country’s efforts in the battle against the greenhouse effect. No specific agreements regarding Kyoto were made in the consultative committee. However, the decision was taken to create a working group whose job it will be to determine the regions’ precise efforts by the year’s end. In this respect, it was agreed that Wallonia would have to show the necessary solidarity with Flanders.

JOHAN CORTHOUTS • DE MORGEN • 23 SEPTEMBER

Pre-financing of railway projects (in million euros)

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Evolution of employment rate (see page 5)

![Graph showing evolution of employment rate]
The recovery plan of Bart Somers

The plan is aimed at strengthening Flanders' competitive position.

The Somers government has less than nine months. The Flemish elections are to take place on 13 June. "It would be irresponsible just to trundle along now in the current international economic climate. The times we are living in call for a bold policy," said the Minister-President. Somers is keeping a vigilant eye on Asia's young economies, headed by China, which are competing ever more strongly with ageing Europe and therefore with the whole of Flanders. He wants to counter the threat from the Far East by strictly meeting the commitments that have been entered into and announcing new ones. The withholding tax is to be partly abolished and there will be less red tape for companies. In this way 100,000 SMEs will no longer have to go through all the red tape involved in an environmental permit, and building and environmental permits will be combined. The Government of Flanders also wants to continue investing in accessibility, road safety and traffic fluidity. Further progress will be made on the finishing work for the Deurganck Dock (a container terminal on the left bank of the Scheldt) in the port of Antwerp, the huge-scale road works around Antwerp will continue, and a start will be made on the Liefkenshoek railway tunnel (under the Scheldt) a year earlier so that it will be possible for more containers to be transported by train from 2009. EUR 100 million will also go into road works at traffic black spots, EUR 75 million into cycle paths and EUR 57 million into the regional De Lijn bus company. However, more than anything Somers wants to promote creativity in Flanders. "Because creativity will secure jobs, companies and investments," said Somers. "If we do it ourselves, we must do it better," was his slogan, and he gave a few examples of companies that have become world leaders thanks to their creativity. In order to 'make the difference', Somers wants investment in venture capital to be made easier. Moreover, 1,000 ha in additional industrial estates are being prepared for building and the budget for scientific research is being increased, a training course will be laid on for all unemployed people. The existing commitments are to be met in welfare, education and housing, with the construction of 15,000 public-housing homes. EUR 22.5 million is being earmarked to do away with waiting lists in the disabled persons sector (FF).
Reconciliation between VLD and Christian union

Rik Daems (VLD) suggested that the ACV would do better using the money it has in accounts abroad to invest in Belgian companies.

The leader of the VLD’s parliamentary party in the House, Rik Daems, the former Public Enterprises Minister, suggested in an interview in Het Laatste Nieuws last week that the Christian trade union ACV would do better using the money it has in accounts abroad to invest in Belgian companies. Daems’ remark was intended as a riposte to the severe criticism that the Christian trade union had expressed last week over the ‘purple’ government’s plans to permit a tax amnesty for tax evaders with money abroad. The ACV funds Daems is referring to is a ‘war chest’ of EUR 30 million (saved by the union members, and on which no taxes are payable), which is intended in part for strike pay. It was deposited in foreign accounts to avoid that the government would be able to freeze the accounts in the event of a large-scale industrial conflict, as Margaret Thatcher did in the 1980s during the miners’ strike in Great Britain. ACV leader Luc Cortebeeck reacted furiously to Daems’ remarks, saying that they were akin to ‘hitting below the belt’. On Sunday he announced that he was suspending his union’s participation in the employment conference. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) referred to Daems’ comments as the standpoint exposed by one faction, and not by the government, and feels that the issues of the tax amnesty and the employment conference should be kept apart. A good number of newspapers (Het Laatste Nieuws, De Morgen, De Financieel-Economische Tijd) also regarded Cortebeeck’s reaction as exaggerated. Cortebeeck was convinced that the Liberal camp, in particular, is waging a political battle against the union.

But on 23 September all the ruffled feathers were smoothed again. In the course of the day Employment Minister Frank Vandenbroucke (SPA) paved the way for reconciliation and in the evening the ACV’s leaders were invited to the Prime Minister’s official residence. After the talks the Premier referred to the importance of the ACV being present at the employment conference, and called the union a serious partner. In exchange, Cortebeeck promised his ‘full co-operation’ in the conference (FF).

Opinion

STEFAN HUYSENTRUYT • FINANCIËLE-ECONOMISCHE TIJD • 23 SEPTEMBER

Cortebeeck is right when he says that there is nothing unlawful about the ACV’s foreign strike fund. By drawing a link between that money and the tax amnesty, the VLD bigwigs are nonetheless making it look as though there is a whiff of tax irregularity here. For that matter, the ACV is entirely within its right to want to keep its strike fund out of the clutches of the Belgian ‘constitutional state’. After all, a law forbidding the Belgian authorities to lay a hand on strike funds, as Rik Daems suggests, can easily be repealed. Guy Verhofstadt therefore has a point when he says that strike funds and the employment conference are two completely separate issues. Cortebeeck’s reaction is disproportionate. It shows that the ACV leader is more than tired of the ‘purple’ government’s nagging and that relations between the ‘purple’ coalition and the Christian trade union have reached an all-time low. An increasing urge to create a distinctive profile ahead of next spring’s union elections might have something to do with this.

But there is more to it than that. This is the second legislature that the Christian workers’ movement has to get on with a government without the Christian-Democrats. In Verhofstadt’s first term of office, that was compensated, for better or for worse, by the seeking of a rapprochement with the Greens. But in Verhofstadt’s second term, the Greens have also been removed from the federal majority. And there is still too great a chasm between the leaders of the workers’ movement and the Socialists. In fact, that chasm is yawning wider by the day. It makes the ACV leaders all the more green with envy when they observe how Mia De Vits’ ABVV is best of mates with the ‘purple’ government, all the more so since things are not going swimmingly between Cortebeeck and De Vits on a personal level, either.

Daems lashes out at ‘social profiteers’

The VLD’s parliamentary party leader Rik Daems did not just have some startling remarks for the Christian trade union up his sleeve. The Socialist coalition partners will also have such remarks for the Christian trade union up his sleeve. The Socialist trade unionists will see an opportunity for a new job as parliamentary party leader chiefly to address the conservative grass roots of the Liberals. In the interview Daems called social security fraud, in contrast to tax fraud, ‘downright immoral’. ‘Tax fraud is often the result of the combination of hard work and unduly high taxes’. However, Daems does feel that the government is right to tackle tax fraud. Daems also makes some conspicuous remarks about the Vlaams Blok. ‘When a fellow MP says something with which I agree, I am quite happy to acknowledge that, regardless of the person in question or the party to which he or she belongs.’ He does not want to organise a co-operation arrangement with the Blok, but is prepared to support parliamentary proposals made by the party. VLD chairman Karel De Gucht feels that that is not immediately an advisable line of action. De Gucht does not think that forcing unemployed people to work is advisable, either. Obliging them to follow a course of training would, however, be a possibility, in his view.
‘A silly provocation’

The SPA, CD&V and the trade unions called Daems’ interview in ‘DagAllemaat’ a silly provocation (FF).

Johan Rasking • De Standaard • 24 September

The former minister immediately elicited considerable disgust in political and trade union circles. ‘What an incredibly stupid proposal,’ was the reaction of SPA chairman Steve Stevaert. ‘The government should provide jobs for the unemployed.’ In his view, all kinds of fraud should be tackled, and he regards the assertion that tax fraud is less serious than social security fraud as ‘a way of half justifying the fraud committed by the rich by opposing it to that committed by the poor’. Yves Leterme, chairman of the largest opposition party, the CD&V, called Daems’ comments ‘the words of a Liberal parvenu, the son of a minister, who has inherited a company. He has failed as a minister and now, gasping for political breath, has to assume a new profile at the expense of people having to cope with difficulties in life. This is really crass.’

For the Christian trade union ACV, Daems’ declarations prompted an angry reaction for the second time in a matter of days. ‘Being out of work is not a choice. Attacking the social protection of the unemployed has nothing to do with the creation of extra jobs or training.’

The ABVV and the Liberal ACLVB also rejected the idea. ‘Too ridiculous and stupid to waste many words on,’ said ABVV spokeswoman Mia DeVits.

Vandenbroucke advocates a move off the beaten track

Jan Smets of the High Council for Employment presented a non-too-optimistic study on the structural weakness of the Belgian labour market

Evelyne Hens • De Financieel-Economische Tijd • 20 September

In 2002, 60 out of every 100 people of working age in Belgium were actually working - a figure a good deal better than in the mid-1990s, but still four fewer than in Europe. A source of concern is the fact that Belgium’s arrears vis-à-vis its European partners is growing. Helping to get 70% of people of working age into employment by 2010 is too high a target to aim for, he reckons, but: ‘We must increase employment here and expand it to a greater extent than the rest of Europe. We have to strive for employment growth 50% higher than that achieved by our European partners’. Smets cited four areas where action was necessary in order to achieve this goal. The creation of sustainable economic growth is top of the list. This may not be curbed by a short-

www.nbb.be
On 28 September Het Nieuwsblad, the popular sister paper of the quality broadsheet De Standaard, will be the first newspaper in Flanders to produce a Sunday edition. ‘Het Nieuwsblad on Sunday’ - as it is to be called - will have a print run of 100,000, and its 32 pages will chiefly contain sports news and current affairs, as well as news from the region, lifestyle features and special reports. It will cost 1 euro and will be on sale in the few hundred newsagents that open on Sundays, as well as at grocery stores, baker’s shops and petrol stations. With this move, the publisher Vum has stolen a march on the other press groups. Managing director Jo Croonenborch says he wants to occupy the market ahead of the competition, and thus take a decisive head start.

An improvement in the quality of the service. In a number of high-profile newspaper and TV interviews, Thijs accepts some criticism, but puts that down to the fact a lot of reorganisations are under way at the same time. He feels that operating at break-even, doing away with the priority stamp and improving the quality of the service is too much to ask for all at once. The priority stamp will continue in use for a further three years, according to Thijs, because it is essential in his strategy for pushing back losses. The Post could also operate without a loss in 2004, but in that case ‘I would have to discontinue all the reform projects, and The Post would be dead in five years,’ says Thijs in De Morgen (20 September). ‘No miracles are possible in this business. The Post’s profitability is determined by two simple factors. Income, and that’s falling because postal volumes are down 3% this year. So how do you make The Post profitable? By reducing costs, and 75% of the costs are related to the staff.’ Although Thijs promises that there will be no involuntary redundancies, between 700 and 1,000 employees are being laid off in 2003, with that figure doubling in 2004.

**Johny Thijs (De Post) answers criticism**

The Belgian Post is experiencing difficult times. Mail in the form of letters is in a falling market. Electronic mail, SMS and electronic invoicing are increasingly supplanting the delivery of letters by post, and the liberalisation of the European market is just around the corner. Only for mail weighing less than 100 g does The Post still have a monopoly, but that too will soon disappear. In the meantime, customers are complaining: letters and newspapers arrive too late at their destinations, parcels go astray, and the priority stamp (an idea of managing director Johny Thijs) is not achieving its target. Only 84% rather than the promised 92% of priority parcels are reaching the addressee the following working day. This prompted Public Enterprises Minister Johan Vande Lanotte (SPA), who has to ensure that the management contract between The Post and the government is complied with, immediately to ask Thijs to abolish it. The minister also wants The Post finally to achieve financial equilibrium in 2004 and wants to see an improvement in the quality of the service.
Concentra posts a profit in first half year

The listed media group Concentra posted a net profit of EUR 5.54 million (up 31%) in the first half of the year. Operating profit rose to EUR 1.92 million, compared with a loss of EUR 2.76 million a year previously. The newspapers Het Belang van Limburg and Gazet van Antwerpen are doing extremely well, as are the group’s free local papers. The free paper Metro, which is mainly read by commuters travelling by train, is on course. The trading loss (EBIT) has been halved, to stand at EUR 0.82 million. The printing business Concentra Grafic (EUR -0.87 million) is still posting a loss after the merger company, in which Rouarta was the other partner, was closed down. A slight loss of EUR 0.37 million was also recorded by the regional television channels TVL, Kanaal 3 and ATV. However, Concentra is still saddled with a group of dissatisfied minority shareholders around the holding company Imperial Invest and the Collin family, which acquired a stake in Concentra’s capital in 2000. After the collapse of the share price of technology company Ubizen, it appears that they felt that the Baert family, the principal shareholder in Concentra, had far too great a share in the capital. Therefore they brought in the Deminor lawyers’ firm to work out a way of pulling out of Concentra. Concentra also had detailed analyses made of the withdrawal possibilities and is expecting an agreement before the end of the year, according to chairman Willy Lenaers, quoted in De Financieel-Economische Tijd (25 September).

www.concentra.be

Autumn heralds a wealth of Italian culture in Belgium

As a leitmotiv the organisers chose the theme of rebirth: how art has constantly renewed itself since the renaissance

The aim of Europalia, now in its 32nd year, is to offer the Belgian (and European) public an overview of the cultural heritage of a particular country. In the case of the heritage and cultural history of a country such as Italy (the guest country this year), to say that there is plenty of choice is of course an understatement. The programme will therefore run for a full year. In addition to the performing arts programme, with highlights including the Orchestra of La Scala conducted by Riccardo Muti, Cecilia Bartoli with her Salieri programme and the Piccolo Teatro of the late Giorgio Strehler, Europalia is putting on no fewer than 27 exhibitions. As a leitmotiv the organisers chose the theme of rebirth: how art has constantly renewed itself since the renaissance. De Standaard selected ten promising exhibitions, which will be running this autumn (FP).

GEERT VANDERSPEETEN • ZIP/DE STANDAARD • 24 SEPTEMBER

1. The Court of the Estes. Ferrara is a little-known cultural city in Northern Italy. A dynasty of dukes, from the swiftly nouveau-riche clan of the Estes, sought elegance and refinement here in the 15th century. The culture of luxury and rich banquets, a high point of the renaissance, is evoked in more than 250 objets d’art (Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, 3 Oct. - 11 Jan.)
2. Da Pompei a Roma. On 24 August in the year 79 thousands of inhabitants were caught startled and unawares by glowing clouds of ash and raining pumice stones. One of the most interesting sites in Italian history lies buried under the lava. Europalia promises virtual reconstructions and display cases with art treasures from old and recent excavations, including dozens of frescoes and two reconstructed rooms (Royal Museums of Art and History, Parque du Cinquantenaire, Brussels, 9 Oct. - 8 Feb.)
3. Venus unveiled. Titian according to Umberto Eco: a play of sensual motifs and mysterious details. On the basis of one painting, Urbino’s Venus, the literary detective unravels the symbolism of the sixteenth century (Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, 11 Oct. - 11 Jan.)
4. Futurism. Just before the First World War, the radical ‘futurist manifesto’ of the poet Marinetti marked the starting shot for a revolutionary period in art. She wanted to capture the seething life of fever and speed in works of art. The futurists glorified machine and movement in often passionate paintings (Museum of Ixelles, 16 Oct. - 4 Jan.)
5. La Capella degli scrovegni. The famous chapel in Padua with frescoes by the mediaeval master Giotto reopened last year after a lengthy restoration. In Brussels a life-size reconstruction is on display, together with one of the few panel paintings by the master (CC ING, Brussels, 22 Oct. to 11 Jan.)
6. Anversa e Genova. In the seventeenth century it was not just merchants who travelled between Antwerp and Genoa, but also artists such as Rubens and Van Dyck. Their influence was considerable. The beauty and splendour of baroque painting in Genoa is exposed in Antwerp’s Royal Museum for Fine Arts (KM SK) (KM 5K, Antwerp, 4 Oct. to 4 Jan.)
7. The nineteen fifties. The nineteen fifties in Rome stand for bleak neorealism, but also the dolce vita and the launch of the Fiat 500. (MDBA, Mons, 12 Oct. to 4 Jan.)
8. Morandi. The still life, literally a nature morte, is for Morandi an opportunity for meditation about life and death. Bruges is hosting an overview of his work, together with still-lifes by Italian contemporaries between 1919 and 1960 (Groeningemuseum, Bruges, 7 Oct. to 4 Jan.)
9. Italian design. Italian design is trendy, challenging and experimental. A selection from the Milan triennial, from 1930 to the present day (Le Grand Houm, Mons, 12 Oct. to 1 Feb.)
10. Michelangelo Pistoletto. The Italian artist was a pioneer of Arte Povera. His artistic project: Citadellarte is at once a political movement and an alternative economic system. The Muhka outlines the project and exhibits a number of Pistoletto’s key works (Muhka, Antwerp, 4 Oct. to 30 Nov.)

www.europalia.be
Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

• 20 September to 4 October: Luisa Miller by G. Verdi, director: Guy Joosten, Flanders Opera, Antwerp; info: 070/22.02.02 www.vlaamseopera.be
• 2 October Willard Grant Conspiracy, Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: 09/265.91.65 www.handelsbeurs.be
• 3 October: Sandi Dillon & Elliot Murphy Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: 09/265.91.65 www.handelsbeurs.be
• 4 October: Lemon & Steve Wynn and the Miracle 3 Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: 09/265.91.65 www.handelsbeurs.be
• 5 October: Morgan Heritage (reggae) Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: 09/265.91.65 www.handelsbeurs.be
• 3 and 4 October: The woman who walked into doors by Kris Defoort and Guy Casiens after the novel by Roddy Doyle, Prometheus Ensemble and Dreamtime; Flanders Opera, Ghent; info: www.vlaamseopera.be
• 1 and 3 October: Lunch concert with Italianità, piano trio by Trio Amadet, Flanders Opera, Ghent and Antwerp; info: www.vlaamseopera.be
• 4 October: François Verhaegen-Toral Trio, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be
• 5 October: New Tango Duo (Arg), Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
• 9 October: Eavesdropper & Neotropic, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be
• 3 October: Sonatori de la gioiosa marca conducted by Sergio Azzolini with compositions by Vivaldi, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 6 October: Choir and orchestra La Petite Bande conducted by Sigiswald Kuyken; Concertant Die Zaubermöwe by WA Mozart, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 7 October: Beethoven Academy conducted by Jan Caeyers with Brahms and Chopin, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be

EXPO

• From 22 March to 17 January: Jacques Brd, ‘The right to dream’, exhibition, Schildeknaapstraat 50, Brussels; reservation required; info: www.jacquesbrd.be 02/511.10.20
• Until 9 November: Guided by Heroes, exhibition, 233, Hasselt
• Until 18 December: The museum evenings, every Thursday; www.museumvereniging.be
• Until 26 October: Maya-textile, mirror of a world vision, etnographical museum, Antwerp; info: 03/220.86.00
• Until 9 November: L’Amour toujours, Wedding pictures from the 20th Century in Antwerp, Museum van Volkskunde, Antwerp; info: 03/248.15.77
• Until 11 September to 30 November: Urban Dramas, photo and film exhibition on urban life, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• Until 2 November: Fashion, evening and party dress, exhibition, CC, Knokke-Heist; info: 050/630.430
• Until 28 March: Genovaversaesceversa, exhibition about Fashion, Antwerp and Genova, Fashion Museum, Antwerp; info: 03/470.27.70 www.momu.be
• Until 9 November: John Isaacs (UK), exhibition with sculptures, installations and video-shows, CC, Bruges www.west-vlaanderen.be/brok
• Until 29 February: Vietnam, Art and culture from Prehistorian times to today, exhibition, Royal Museum of Art and History, Jubelpark, Brussels; info: www.kmkg-mrah.be
• 3 October to 11 January: Europalia, Italy: a particular Renaissance, Ferarra and the dukes of Este, exhibition, PSK, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• Until 10 January: Nel Mezzo del cammin... Dante in seven centuries of texts and images, Bibliotheca Wittocckiana, Brussels;
  info: 02/770.53.33 www.europalia.be
• Until 30 November: Il Nuovo Rit-tratto d’Europa, new horizons of Italian contemporary art, exhibition, Anciennes Ecuries Royales, Brussels; info: 02/550.22.55 www.europalia.be
• Until 15 November: Questions of women, Jef Geys, exhibition, Kunsthalle, Loppem; info: www.kunsthalleoppem.be
• Until 12 October: Contour, contemporary video art, public spaces in Mechelen; info: www.contourmecelen.be
• Until 16 November: Travellings by Ann Veronica Janssens, Open Air Museum Middelheim, Antwerp

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