More blue on the street becomes reality

On the second day of the Super-Council of Ministers on Justice and Security the main sticking points were addressed: the lack of police on the street, the sluggishness of the judicial system and prison overcrowding. To allow the judicial system to operate more efficiently, Justice Minister Onkelinx (PS) wants to reduce judges of their administrative burden. She wants to relieve prisons by, among other things, replacing sentences of between six months and three years with electronic tagging by means of an ankleband. From September 2005 each judicial district will get its own criminal implementation court which will monitor the progress of the convicted. Home Affairs Minister Patrick Dewael wants to reduce the Council of State’s backlog and work through asylum applications in one year. It currently takes around three years to work through an asylum dossier. He will fulfill the government’s promise to provide ‘more blue on the street’ with extra street patrols, with 3,200 extra officers being deployed by 2007. All the additional measures will cost a total of around 128 million euros (FF).

PETER DE BACKER • HET NIEUWSBLAD
1 APRIL

‘Currently, people often only see police officers on the street if they are writing out tickets,’ says Home Affairs Minister Dewael. ‘But there should be more of them where people really need them, to prevent crime and to act as points of contact, as local policemen used to do.’ This year thousands more officers will be seen on the streets.

No extra officers will be recruited, but many will see themselves being redeployed. Officers currently working in offices, kitchens or garages will be put back on the streets. Because the transfer of prisoners to courts will henceforth be the responsibility of the security corps (mainly the military), 410 officers will be freed up. A newly created intervention force will deploy 700 officers of the federal police to local police districts where they are most needed. Dewael also hopes to free up officers by introducing more flexible working hours, expanding the tasks of auxiliary officers, tackling absenteeism and simplifying administrative work. By highlighting the figure of 3,232, Dewael at least hopes to achieve the objective of the coalition agreement, which was estimated at 2,500 officers.

www.Politie.be
www.Fgov.be

INTRODUCTION

On 25 March the finance ministers of the twelve euro countries elected a new member for the six-man management committee of the European Central Bank (ECB). The preference was for the Spaniard José-Manuel Gonzalez-Paramo, who will replace his fellow-républicain, Frédéric Onkelinx Domingo-Solans. The Belgian candidate Peter Praet therefore saw the appointment pass right under his nose. It was a third time for Praet to push for a job. In 1998 he had submitted a candidate for the ECB in vain. And yet Praet’s chances were better than ever. With his experience as chief economist for Fortis and the European Commission, he could be able to demand the job. Praet was able to submit the best patents of nobility, but that was of little use against the coup of the four largest European countries, who won the day with the backing of Austria and Portugal and thanks to their considerable voting weight. Belgium now fears that the appointment of González-Paramo will create a precedent for giving the larger EU countries a permanent seat in the ECB, leaving the eight smaller countries to fight over the remaining two seats. According to De Tijd (27 March) and De Standaard (27 March), Belgium has German and French bargaining behind the scenes to thank for its failure. By supporting a Spanish candidate, Germany wanted to create a precedent so that it could replace the German Otmar Issing by another German in 2006. French President Chirac had a score to settle with Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Bot, who put himself forward for the chairmanship of the IMF. Chirac therefore put forward his own candidate for the post, so that Spain again set its heart on the ECB. At a press conference the Belgian prime minister Verhofstadt announced that he would place the question of appointments on the agenda at the EU’s European summit in Ireland. Verhofstadt said that the equilibrium was not being respected, and received the support of Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Bot and Luxembourg Premier Junker. When the ECB was set up in 1998 it was supposedly agreed that a country that dropped from the management could not submit a new candidate. De Standaard reports that this was noted in the minutes of the negotiations on the Treaty of Maastricht. De Tijd warns that this informal coup by the larger countries could set a dangerous precedent. If nobility becomes more important than quality then the future of Europe can no longer be guaranteed, with or without a constitution, concludes the paper. In some European circles, however, Verhofstadt’s reaction has been interpreted as a demand for compensation. After all, the chair of the European Commission will be allocated at the European summit in June. Only Trends (1 April) dares to question the genuineness of the Belgian indignation. Either Belgium has a credibility problem or the government made too little effort within the European house, or the premier let his highly personal European agenda take precedence and Praet was sacrificed as a result, the magazine concludes.

Frank Vandecaveye | editor in chief

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More blue on the street

Focus on FLANDERS
THE DUTCH SPEAKING PART OF BELGIUM
PRESS REVIEW
weekly, does not appear in July • number 13 • 27 March – 1 April

focus on FLANDERS • 27 March - 1 April • Number 13
Federal government tackles overcrowding of prisons

Too many places are taken up by prisoners who are in detention on remand and internees who have been declared of unsound mind

The government wants to put an end to the overcrowding of prisons with a more efficient criminal policy. 9,400 prisoners are currently serving custodial sentences, while there is actually only room for 8,100. An untenable situation, says Justice Minister Onkelinx (PS). Too many places are taken up by prisoners who are in detention on remand and internees who have been declared of unsound mind do not belong there, she feels (FF).

PETER DE BACKER • HET NIEUWSBLAD
1 APRIL

As many as 35 to 40% of prisoners are in detention on remand. To reduce that number, the legal investigation process must be accelerated. This can be achieved by bringing murder and manslaughter suspects before the court’s indictment division every three months instead of every month, as is currently the case; if the examining magistrate rescinds an arrest warrant, the Public Prosecutor’s Office is also given less chance to appeal. ‘We must boost confidence in examining magistrates,’ says Minister Onkelinx. Prisoners of foreign nationality with no fixed abode in Belgium must serve their sentence in their own country. Around 10% of prisoners are internees who have been declared of unsound mind. ‘They are physically sick and so don’t belong in an ordinary prison,’ says Onkelinx. A closed centre for detainees is therefore to be set up on Antwerp’s left bank (although nothing concrete has been decided, says Mayor of Antwerp Patrick Janssens, ed.) that will have 400 places. In 2002, 8,030 custodial sentences of less than six months were passed. But in practice these convicts were not sent to the cells, due to the acute shortage of space. ‘Bad for the feeling of insecurity,’ claims Onkelinx. Minor custodial sentences will therefore be converted to fines according to capacity or community service.

To ensure that all fines are paid, there will be a special supervisory agency. House-arrest under electronic supervision with ankle-bands will become a sentence in its own right as an alternative to prison sentences of six months to three years.

National security plan and fight against terrorism

Dewael and Onkelinx unveiled a national security plan designed to guarantee better co-ordination of police and the legal system

On 30 March in the official residence of Premier Verhofstadt (VLD) the starting signal was given for the third Super-Council of Ministers, this time on Justice and Security with a prominent role for the Minister for Internal Affairs, Patrick Dewael (VLD) and Minister for Justice Laurette Onkelinx (PS). The agenda included an evaluation of the police reform, a new national security plan, measures to combat social and fiscal fraud and a more integrated national security plan designed to guarantee better co-ordination of police and the legal system. It is intended to replace the scattered initiatives of the various police forces (FF).

WIM VANDE VELDEN • DE TIJD • 31 MARCH

On Tuesday the government approved the ‘Framework Policy Document on Integral Security’ and the ‘national security plan’. These list and explain the priorities in the fight against crime. For the first time the security plans of judicial authorities and police will be harmonised, so that they have the same priorities in the fight against crime, emphasised Premier Guy Verhofstadt, Internal Affairs Minister Patrick Dewael (VLD) and his colleague in Justice, Laurette Onkelinx (PS) at a press conference. The improved harmonisation of police and judicial authorities must result in an even more co-ordinated fight against wandering gangs. The so-called ‘fully integrated police actions’ (FIPAs) will be followed more closely by the judicial authorities. It is also the intention to implement the actions across district borders. There will be actions across the whole of Flanders and Belgium against the wandering gangs, which are often of Eastern European origin. Co-operation across national borders will also be increased straight away. Mixed investigation teams will be a possibility.

PETER DE BACKER • HET NIEUWSBLAD
31 MARCH

The recent attacks in Madrid ensured that the government also extensively discussed its approach to terrorism. The anti-terror unit in Brussels is to get an additional 30 investigators, those in Antwerp and Charleroi 2 each and Liège 2. Three investigators will be charged with investigating the sources of financing for terrorism and state security service will be given the option of telephone tapping. A mobile crisis unit will be set up which can intervene as closely as possible to the point of action in the event of skyjacks or serious attacks. For kidnaps there will be a policy cell headed by the Premier.
New poll confirms opposition gains in Flanders

The poll conducted by La Libre Belgique/RTL/VTM/Het Laatste Nieuws was awaited with bated breath. This poll, which is carried out not by telephone but by means of face-to-face interviews, is still viewed by politicians and insiders as the most reliable. In any event more reliable than Le Soir’s, the latest of which predicted a right thrashing for the Purple government parties. Even though the Purples’ loss is much smaller, the Libre/VTM poll, carried out between 10 and 22 March, confirms the trends that were already visible in Le Soir’s poll (beginning of March) and even earlier in that of VRT/De Standaard (beginning of February): the CD&V-N-VA becomes the biggest political group (+0.9%). The liberal VLD (-2.8%) is dealt a blow and the Vlaams Blok (+3.8%) makes the biggest gains. Even worse, the Blok appears to be heading for a victory similar to the one on that black day of 24 November 1991, claims Het Laatste Nieuws (29 March). For Groen! the poll is no good news. In contrast to Le Soir’s poll, the party fails to achieve the electoral threshold (4%, +0.2%). Jean-Luc Dehaene (CD&V, popularity index 33) figures at the top of the popularity poll. Steve Stevaert (SP.A, index 32) and Guy Verhofstadt (VLD, index 30) have lost a great deal of personal popularity. But that in fact applies to all popular politicians, apart from Yves Leterme (CD&V, index 16), Inge Vervotte (CD&V, index 15) and Marc Verwilghen (VLD, index 15) and the new VLD Chairman Dirk Sterckx. This undoubtedly has to do with the declining confidence in the Federal Government (FF).

The first Super-Council of Ministers in the fight against social fraud was already targeted the serious social fraud of employers who have not registered at least 5 workers. More tax officers will be seconded to the Federal Police and Public Procurators’ Offices to help fight fiscal and financial fraud (FF).

BART EECKHOUT • DE MORGEN • 31 MARCH

In each judicial district there will be a division of the court of justice specialising in social criminal law. In this way the Purple government wants to make the fight against social fraud more efficient. Ministers Laurette Onkelinx [PS, Justice], Frank Vandenbroucke [SPA, Employment] and Rudy Demotte [PS, Social Affairs] also agreed to tackle five forms of social crime as a priority. That the fight against social fraud would be stepped up had already been agreed at the first Super-Council of Ministers in Gembloux. Then the plan of action was left rather vague, above all at the instigation of the PS, which feared a witch-hunt. Now Minister Vandenbroucke has clearly brought his PS colleagues on board.

Five violations of social legislation will be prosecuted by the Public Prosecutors’ Offices as a priority. Anyone who allows at least five people to work illicitly will be dealt with as a priority, as will anyone who allows at least three foreigners work without the necessary permits. The exploitation of victims of people-smuggling will also be dealt with severely, just as serious industrial accidents or illnesses as a result of a failure to comply with labour legislation. Those who obstruct social inspections will also be prosecuted as a matter of priority. In addition, the government is also preparing a major reform of social criminal law. A committee set up to this effect will deliver its report in two weeks.

The new poll confirms the trends already visible in the previous polls

VOTING INTENTIONS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>May 2003</th>
<th>December 2003</th>
<th>March 2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CD&amp;V/N-VA</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP.A/SPRIT</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLAAMS BLOK</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLD/VIVANT</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROEN!</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Het Laatste Nieuws
**The CD&V-N-VA motto: the positive alternative**

Reactions at party headquarters to the La Libre/VTM opinion poll were without exception optimistic, even with the big loser, the VLD. The new Chairman Dirk Sterckx is happy to compare the result (-2.8% compared to federal elections) with the Le Soir poll, in which his party finished below 20%. According to him, this demonstrates that the party is sufficiently resilient to get back on its feet again. His party has already won enough opinion polls and lost elections in the past. This time it will be exactly the opposite, he promises. His Red government partner Steve Stevaert is very happy with his party’s loss of 0.4%. But he wants to let the voter decide on the future coalition partner later. Groen! Chairwoman Vera Dua is making achieving the electoral threshold (280,000 votes) the main issue of the elections. With 4% she is still 1% or some 50 to 60,000 votes short of her target. Cartel partners Geert Bourgeois (N-VA) and Yves Leterme (CD&V) are continuing to present their cartel as the positive alternative to the Purples. Their first objective is therefore to break the socialist-liberal coalition (with greens on the Flemish level). The Vlaams Blok sees the results of this poll as a clear thrashing for the cartel apart from the governing Purples, with more and more conviction towards the alternative to the Purple coalition. That people who want to break the Purple government do not have to turn to a protest vote for the Vlaams Blok.

Leterme uttering these words. ‘We want to break the Purples. We are the positive alternative,’ appeared again yesterday in all the papers that wanted to gauge the delight in the mind of Leterme after yet another opinion poll victory. The CD&V entered the pre-campaign for the elections with ‘respect’ as its motto, or ‘brand promise’, as this is currently known in marketing circles. The real, hidden motto, however, is ‘positive alternative’. The phrase has the big advantage of being conceptually vague. Both the CD&V and N-VA can use it without running the risk of exposing the differences in content between the two parties.

Both the words ‘positive’ and ‘alternative’ are important in this brand promise. The adjective ‘positive’ is intended to contrast with the far-right Vlaams Blok. According to Herman Van Rompuy (CD&V) in De Morgen recently, the biggest virtue of the Flemish cartel is ‘the prospect that there is finally a democratic alternative to the Purple coalition. That people who want to break the Purple government do not have to turn to a protest vote for the Vlaams Blok’.

The word ‘alternative’ in turn sets the cartel apart from the governing Purples, by the CD&V-N-VA invariably thought of with the epithet ‘quarrelsome’. As Geert Bourgeois says in Het Nieuwsblad in a double interview with Leterme: ‘People are fed up with all that bickering and squabbling.’

In 1999, after twelve years in opposition, the VLD put itself forward as a democratic alternative to the Purples.

The Purple competition knows from its own experience that the phrase ‘positive alternative’ can yield electoral fruits. Hence the stubbornness of their resistance. Premier Guy Verhofstadt [VLD] is letting no opportunity go unused to claim that the opposition has ‘no alternative’. SPA Chairman Steve Stevaert is in turn warning of the ‘conservative cartel’ of the CD&V and N-VA.

It will be interesting to see who wins this marketing war on 13 June.
In the VLD’s Brussels party headquarters there was a ‘Big party’ on the programme, with an address by Chairman Dirk Sterckx, who had to warm up his supporters for the imminent election campaign. Central to this campaign is a new tax cut. Sterckx wants the Flemish Government to grant a discount on that part of the revenue from personal income tax that is transferred to Flanders by the Lambermont state reforms. He also referred to the achievements for which the Flemish Government mainly had the contribution of the(293,851),(485,935)

De Vits used the party forum to immediately launch the attack on Jean-Luc Dehaene (CD&V). ‘A vote for him is unfortunately a vote for a European faction that also includes the Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, the party of the outgoing Spanish Premier José María Aznar and the British Conservatives.’ With her trade union background De Vits must above all seek the support of the Christian Workers’ Movement (ACW) for the SP.A, as again became clear on Sunday. De Vits: ‘Certainly at a European level we need a progressive collaboration. The European confederation, in which Socialist, Christian and other trade unions work together, has shown that is possible.’ The ACV’s supporters do not appear inclined to swap Dehaene for De Vits as a political figurehead. Yesterday, De Vits remained cautious: ‘I have had talks with the Socialist, Liberal and Christian trade unions. All three can see their other trade unions work together, has shown that is possible.’

The Flemish Labour market

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Disabled sector will be paid on time, promise ministers

THE COMMITMENTS OF DECEMBER WOULD BE MET, SOMERS AND BYTTEBIER STRESSED AT A PRESS BRIEFING

On 26 March the disabled sector demonstrated in Brussels’ Place des Martyrs outside the offices of Minister-President Somers (VLD) to urge him and Welfare Minister Byttebier (Groen!) to implement in full the draft agreement concluded at the beginning of December 2003. That agreement was concluded when it appeared last year that there was suddenly no more money in the Flemish Fund for the Social Integration of Persons with a Disability to pay the wages of the staff in the institutions. The demonstration achieved its objectives. The recent mistaken communication from ministers on wrongful registrations on waiting-lists for disabled care had made the demonstrators even more pugnacious. The commitments of December would be met, Somers and Byttebier stressed at a press briefing. 20 million euros, released in the recent budgetary control, was enough to cover the arrears, said Byttebier. 22.5 million euros had already been spent on wage arrears from December. Minister-President Bart Somers afterwards held talks with the demonstrators’ spokesman, who was satisfied with the outcome (FF).

GUY TEGENBOS/ISABEL ALBERS • DE STANDAARD • 27 MARCH

Henceforth the government is to introduce a mechanism to set aside the money for paying wages from the beginning of the year. Somers again emphasised ‘that no government has ever invested as much in disabled care as this one’. Finally he called on ‘everyone’ to stop the ‘party-political polarisation on the back of the disabled’. He also announced further dialogue with the sector. And this will be needed, because the government’s promises, seen as positive by the sector, risk going hand in hand with something that can create cash-flow problems for the sector.

The sector actually lives on advances; the final payments only follow a long time later. These monthly advances are, however, somewhat higher than 1/12 of the last known final amount, because everyone knows that this will be too little. Nevertheless, that is not a right, but a practice. It looks as if the correct payment promised by the Flemish Government will go hand in hand with the abolition of this practice so that henceforth institutions will only receive the official amounts of the advances. They will get their last money – the final payment – more quickly, but their advances will be more limited. This can create cash-flow problems. This is suddenly causing the sector to panic again. The sector wants to discuss this and other things with Somers.

According to Frank Cuyt, spokesman of the platform that organised the ‘correct payment’ demonstration, the meeting with Somers was satisfactory. All of December’s promises were reiterated and confirmed, apart from one: that of the payment of interest on arrears if the final payment has not been made after 900 days. The government is unlikely to risk promising that because it is worried that other sectors will also make the same demand.

WWW.VLAAMSFONDS.BE

Integration courses are met with undercapacity

On 1 April the Integration decree for newcomers takes effect. Every newcomer who registers with a reception centre will then be obliged to follow a course with lessons in Dutch, a course in social orientation and career guidance. Exempt from this are immigrants who come to Belgium as part of family reunification and Moroccan or Turkish men and women who come to Belgium to marry a Belgian-Moroccan or Belgian-Turkish woman. Because there was insufficient training and education potential in Flanders to cope with the estimated 15,000 newcomers, the group was split into semi- and unskilled workers and highly skilled workers. Semi- and unskilled workers will receive 240 hours of Dutch, career and social orientation. Highly skilled workers must make do with 120 hours of Dutch and will go straight into vocational training.

Last year reception centres in Flemish cities organised 3,776 integration courses. These reception centres are now complaining that there are insufficient resources to cope with the influx after 1 April (De Standaard, 27 March). The reception centres say that just as much money for more students will mean a drop in quality. There are already waiting-lists in the centres for basic education, which teach the semi- and unskilled workers Dutch. And many centres apparently do not have adequate premises and teachers.

The fact that the whole operation is split between three ministers does not make things any easier. The Minister for Education is responsible for the Dutch lessons. The Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training (VDAB) is responsible for career guidance, while Welfare Minister Byttebier (Groen!) is in charge of the reception centres. Education Minister Vanderpoorten also has to urgently find 3 million euros. The requirement that newcomers must follow a course within three months of registering also threatens to remain a dead letter. For example, no new Dutch courses are due to start between 1 March and 1 September in Ghent, says one reception centre worker there.

WWW.INBURGERING.BE
Focus on Flanders • 27 March - 1 April • Number 13

**KB Lux takes over private banker Puilaetco**

**FF EDITOR**

KB Lux, the Luxembourg sister bank of KBC, is taking over the Belgian private bank Puilaetco, reports *De Tijd* on 1 April. In addition to KB Lux, PNB Paribas and ABN Amro were also interested in a take-over. The take-over of Puilaetco fits into KB Lux’s plan to develop a European network of private bankers. Today the group is already present in eleven countries. Because KBC already has twenty private bank branches in Belgium, the sister banks will therefore be competitors, claims *De Tijd*. Both are subsidiaries of the Almanji holding company. Puilaetco has branches in Liège and Brussels and would merge with the branches of Theo Glissen in Antwerp, also a KB Lux subsidiary. Puilaetco employs 165 people and at the end of 2003 had assets of 3.4 billion euros.

[www.puilaetco.be](http://www.puilaetco.be)  
[www.kblux.com](http://www.kblux.com)

**Belgacom floatation bringst 146.6 million shares onto the market**

**FF EDITOR**

Four days after the first listing of the Belgacom share the over-allotment option to sell 13.3 million additional shares had already been exercised. Of these, 3.75 million were held by Dexia and just as many by KBC. The extra shares are intended to stabilise trading. In total, 146.4 million shares were placed on the market, good for 3.59 billion euros. The Belgacom share ended its first week on the stock exchange at 25.09 euros. That is 2.4% higher than the introductory price of 24.5 euros. In the Bel-20 index the Belgacom share moved up to fifth place, behind Fortis, Dexia, Electrabel, KBC and Solvay, with a weight of 4.96%.

[www.belgacom.be](http://www.belgacom.be)

**ECONOMY AND CULTURE**

**COMPANIES**

**CONFIDENCE IN THE INSTITUTIONS (IN %)**

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**DESIGN**

Belgium becomes international design centre for a year

**From May five Vitra Design Museum exhibitions will run in Belgium for twelve months, namely in Brussels, Knokke-Heist, Hornu, Hasselt and Ghent**

From mid-May Belgium will become the design centre of Europe for a year. Five institutions and cultural centres in Brussels, Ghent, Knokke-Heist, Hasselt and Hornu will collaborate with the Vitra Design Museum (VDM) in Well-am-Rhein, in Germany. The Vitra Design Museum is one of the most important design institutions in the world. The museum, since 1989 housed in a building by Frank O. Gehry, has a collection of 3,000 objects that sheds light on the history of industrially manufactured furniture, from pioneer Thonet at the beginning of the nineteenth century to Philippe Starck. But the VDM is more than a receptive museum; its main activity is actually the production of design and architecture exhibitions that tour the world. In 2001 the VDM exhibition ‘100 chairs’ was on show in Ghent Design Museum. From May, however, live such VDM exhibitions will run in Belgium for twelve months, namely in Brussels, Knokke-Heist, Hornu, Hasselt and Ghent. Never before have five top VDM exhibitions been seen in a single country (FF).

**NICA BROUCKE • DE MORGEN • 31 MARCH**

For the first time, five Belgian cultural institutions that regularly organise architecture and design exhibitions are also collaborating across (linguistic) borders. Where possible the existing VDM exhibitions are also being given an individual, local touch. All this ties in, not entirely by chance, with twenty years of Vitra, the manufacturer and vendor of office and home furniture, on the Belgian market. Yesterday, however, the organisers emphasised at the presentation of their ambitious project that the commercial division of Vitra ‘was completely separate from the - autonomous and entirely self-supporting - design museum of the same name’.

On 13 May the Centre for City, Architecture and Landscape (CIVA) will break the ice with an exhibition on Marcel Breuer [1902-1981]. This Hungarian began his career with Bauhaus in Berlin and in 1925 produced his famous revolutionary invention: the tubular steel chair, even now still seen as his major contribution to the history of design. But his architectural projects (the headquarters of Unesco in Paris, the Whitney Museum in New York) are also milestones.

From 5 September, Knokke-Heist Scharpoord Cultural Centre will unveil Visiona II, or the fantasy landscape of the Dane Verner Panton [1926-1998], the first to devise a chair in a single piece, the famous S-shaped Panton Chair. The choice of Scharpoord to take the plunge with Panton was an easy one. After all, the tables and chairs in the cafeteria are by him.

From 19 September the MAC’s Grand Hornu will turn the spotlight on light-
ing designer Ingo Maurer. This German is fascinated, almost obsessed, by electric light. For his objects, in which humour and poetry are key ingredients, he uses both the latest technology and everyday items.

The Kunstencentrum Z33 in Hasselt is hosting the exhibition Living In Motion from 27 November. Here nomadic life and living (in the past, present and future) in the broad sense (from a Mongolian yurt to a Swiss pocket-knife) is central. This will run at the same time as Living In Limburg - young designers, an exhibition with designers from the euro region.

Finally, from 18 March 2005 Ghent Design Museum is showing the spectacular Airworld, an exhibition on architecture and design in aviation (from airport buildings to on-board plans). Expanded for the occasion with a special Sabena section. The last two exhibitions have never before been seen outside Weil-am-Rhein.

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