Mieke Vogels advocates review of family reunification

Flemish Integration Minister Marino Keulen (VLD) wants to iron out a few inconsistencies in the integration policy. He wants to make the Dutch course obligatory for newcomers who come to Flanders on account of a marriage or family reunification, and for immigrants who have already been living here for longer and do not know Dutch. He wants asylum seekers whose application has been declared admissible to be exempt of this obligation. Indeed, seven out of ten eventually have to leave the country again, However, more surprising were the comments made by former Welfare Minister Mieke Vogels (Groen!). She argued in De Standaard that Belgium must urgently give a signal that it not the promised land. Since the immigration freeze in 1974, family reunification has been one of the most common forms of legal immigration. Last year, via embassies and consulates, the Aliens Department recorded 4,415 family reunification files involving non-EU subjects and 2,987 files for reunification with Belgians or EU citizens. An estimated 18,000 applications were submitted through the municipalities.

The legislation makes provision for two major channels. If the person living in Belgium is a non-EU citizen, he or she can have his or her spouse and children aged under eighteen come over. If the person living in Belgium is of Belgian nationality or an EU citizen, he or she may also have his or her grandchildren, parents and grandparents come over, in addition to the spouse and children. They must be dependent on the family at the time of application for their residence permit. But the law says nothing about the future situation, and that’s where the shoe pinches, according to Vogels. ‘They do indeed say that they’ll have their parents staying with them, but six months later they’re at the OCMW claiming that it’s no longer working and the parents need support and accommodation.’

Speaking from her experience in the field as an Antwerp OCMW councillor, Vogels says that Belgium must urgently give a signal that it is no longer the promised land. Since the immigration freeze in 1974, family reunification has been one of the most common forms of legal immigration. Last year, via embassies and consulates, the Aliens Department recorded 4,415 family reunification files involving non-EU subjects and 2,987 files for reunification with Belgians or EU citizens. An estimated 18,000 applications were submitted through the municipalities.

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Money and more flexible linguistic laws for Brussels in exchange for split?

Verhofstadt wants to steal a march on unilateral Flemish initiatives and therefore wants to come up with a compromise himself

With a forceful policy statement, federal Prime Minister Verhofstadt wants to relaunch his purple government on 21 September. But the days leading up to that date promise to be extremely difficult. All papers agree on that. In the weekend of 11/12 September, leading figures of the SP.A already hinted that the upping of the stakes between the French-speaking government parties MR and PS made a community agreement on the splitting of the electoral district of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde very difficult. Nonetheless the SP.A wants this dispute to be out of the way before the socio-economic problems come onto the agenda. Seeing the government fall will not do any of the government parties any good. And PS chairman Di Rupo has already announced that he does not want a political crisis on account of ‘linguistic community symbols’. A similar signal came after talks between the French-speaking party leaders on 14 September. Di Rupo, Reyners (MR), Milquet (CDH) and Javaux (Ecolo) regard the split as unacceptable and see no reason for the matter to be wound up hurriedly. However, they leave an opening. They suggest incorporating the matter in a balanced, more wide-ranging negotiating package. However, the Flemish Government is stepping up the urgency, and itself wants to table a bill in the federal parliament next month. Verhofstadt in turn wants to steal a march on unilateral Flemish initiatives and therefore wants to come up with a compromise himself. De Morgen claims that it knows that the Prime Minister has in mind an injection of funds in the Brussels Region and a relaxation of the linguistic legislation in exchange for the split (FF).

BART EECKHOUT • DE MORGEN • 15 SEPTEMBER

The key to the splitting of the constituency of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde lies in the Brussels region. An additional injection of funds for the needy region is part of the ‘dues’ that Premier Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) wants to pay the Francophones for the split. The region can reportedly already count on a refinancing as a change for the split of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. The figure of EUR 2 billion is doing the rounds. However, it doesn’t stop at that. Thought is being given to a relaxation of the linguistic legislation in the capital. The compulsory bilingual status of civil servants in the region has been the cause of friction for years. That obligation is reportedly now to be relaxed: from now on not all members of staff would have to be bilingual, but in the future it would be sufficient for the department as a whole to operate on a bilingual basis. Depending on the percentage of Dutch-speaking customers the departments would also have to have Dutch-speaking staff. At the same time much more money would be earmarked for linguistic bonuses for civil servants who learn Dutch.

We shall have to wait and see whether this line of thinking will be successful. The issue of language in the capital is especially sensitive on the Flemish side. An agreement is therefore not yet in the bag.

DHL: it’s the politician’s move

Brussels Minister-President Charles Picqué (PS) is of the view that the jobs created by the extension of DHL’s European hub would not be sufficient to compensate for the increasing noise pollution

According to federal Transport Minister Renaat Landuyt (SP.A), all options in the matter remain open (Het Laatste Nieuws, 15 September). First the Brussels and Flemish Regions must reach agreement on noise pollution and night flights. Only then can the federal government take a position on the issue. Premier Verhofstadt has already called on the Brussels government to sign an agreement on standards for noise levels with the Flemish Authorities, but this Brussels government has a coalition agreement stating that noise pollution must be reduced and that in no case the number of night flights may be increased. Verhofstadt has to submit a proposal to DHL’s parent company, Deutsche Post in Bonn, before the end of September.

FF EDITOR

The two other questions that call for a solution are, for that matter, also community-related: the contribution made by Flanders and Wallonia to the reduction of the national debt, and the extension of the courier firm DHL at the airport at Zaventem. On the former matter, the Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) and the Walloon minister-president Jean-Claude Van Cauwenbergh (PS) are diametrically opposed. Leterme wants Flanders no longer to redeem the national debt on its own, whilst Van Cauwenbergh feels that the budgetary orthodoxy is best abandoned. As regards DHL, Flanders met with a ‘no’ from Brussels Minister-President Charles Picqué (PS). He is of the view that the jobs created by the extension of DHL’s European hub would not be sufficient to compensate for the increasing noise pollution that Brussels residents would experience as a result of the greater number of night flights (up from 17,000 to 35,000 per year).

What is more, the airport operator BIAc’s environmental permit only authorises 25,000 night flights. Picqué also pointed to the devaluation of real estate due to aircraft flying overhead.

DHL

www.brussels.irisnet.be
www.vlaanderen.be
www.dhl.be
DHL: Zaventem still has major points in its favour

DHL’s main activity is concentrated around Amsterdam, Brussels and Cologne, with offshoots to Barcelona and Milan

A somewhat premature headline ‘DHL to leave’ on the front page of the Het Nieuwsblad of 14 September provoked a surge of worry and fatalism among DHL employees. In the night of 14/15 September they even briefly downed tools. However, Xavier De Buck, DHL commercial manager, reassured them. The parent company Deutsche Post has yet to take a decision and would only do so at the end of November. However, DHL is expecting an answer from the government at the end of September. DP is of course keeping alternative locations up its sleeve for the new DHL sorting centre: Leipzig in the former East Germany and Vatry near Reims in the North of France. Leipzig is a strong rival, but Zaventem in the wake of the enlargement of the EU would come on top of that. The German federal Economic Affairs Minister Wolfgang Clement ‘assumes’ that DHL will be coming. Leipzig would become a bridgehead in an Eastern European market that is awaiting a boom in the wake of the enlargement of the EU.

As regards infrastructure, Leipzig is a step ahead of Vatry, since it has airstrips and connections by road and rail. A move by DHL of its European sorting centre to Leipzig would not necessarily signal the death knell for the activities at Zaventem. The move would take years to be implemented. Then there would perhaps be a smaller hub, which would see some jobs go, but not all of them. The hub at Zaventem presently provides jobs for 2,850 people. In the maximum growth scenario, that number could rise to 6,800 in 2012 and 9,456 in 2023, according to figures from the Free University of Brussels. On the other side of the coin, flights would, in the case of a move to Leipzig, first fly over their destination and then have to be carried back to it. For an express service such as DHL, that is detrimental: with 2 hours gained, you can secure market share. North America is, together with Western Europe and Southeast Asia, one of the three markets where the battle between the courier services is decided. From Leipzig, DHL would have to compete with FedEx in Paris, UPS in Cologne and TNT in Bierset (near Liege) - a competitive disadvantage of one hour.

There are other factors. A courier often uses passenger flights to carry some of its parcels. That sort of transport does not form the bulk of DHL’s transport, but the courier company has established far-reaching synergies with other airlines that fly in and out of Zaventem. That is also a major asset for the Belgian airport (which Leipzig does not have, ed.).

According to insiders, 300 km is the distance that has to be bridged by road in order to develop an efficient courier service. A major part of the volume of parcels is still carried by lorry: DHL uses some 250 per day at Zaventem. Leipzig, which is often mentioned as the alternative for the super-hub in Zaventem, is 700 kilometres from Brussels. DHL’s main activity is concentrated around Amsterdam, Brussels and Cologne, with offshoots to Barcelona and Milan, the so-called blue banana business zone. If you shift the most important sorting centre 500 km eastwards, that also means that you’re shifting the parcels by two hours within the economic zone. For just-in-time deliveries by lorry, that does not appear to be an expedient choice. Brussels is also nearer America than Leipzig. Deliveries from transatlantic

**READERSHIP OF BELGIAN NEWSPAPERS**

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The Vlaams Blok will change its name if the Court of Cassation ratifies the conviction for racism on 9 November against three non-profit organisations that the Blok uses as a cover. That is the final decision the Blok’s party council has taken at a meeting in Aartselaar on 11 September. As a matter of fact, the far right wing party is not choosing a new direction. The slogan ‘eigen volk eerst’ (own people first) will be kept. The election manifesto for 2003 (federal elections) and 2004 (Flemish elections) continues to be the party’s programme. There is therefore no talk of more moderate standpoints. This also brings to an end (for the time being) the internal debate on whether the party should retain its name. Filip De Man, an advocate of the hard line, in favour of keeping the name Vlaams Blok, and very briefly a dissident, showed himself to be satisfied after the meeting. If the conviction is not confirmed, the name Vlaams Blok will be retained, so he can live with that position. The party statutes and declaration of principles dating from 1977 are to be adapted. Style and use of language will be fine-tuned somewhat, but the other parties see no reason to review their position vis-à-vis the Blok (FF).

WIM VANDE VELDEN • DE TIJD • 13 SEPTEMBER

Blok chairman Frank Vanhecke made a conspicuous call on the judges of the Court of Cassation to nullify, in the name of democracy, the ‘party ban on the largest party in the country’. In the run-up to Saturday’s party council meeting, a vigorous debate erupted within the party on the future of the Vlaams Blok. MP Filip De Man felt that it was not necessary for the sharp edges of the Vlaams Blok to be further filed down. He also wanted to hear nothing of a new party name and new statutes. De Man reckoned that the party leaders were ‘scaredy-cats’ because they appeared to be prepared to add still more water to the wine, under pressure from the regime. Vanhecke said that the debate had been ‘poisoned’ as a result of this. It looked as though an internecine struggle was under way in the Blok between the old and the new, or extremists and moderates. During the party council meeting Vanhecke gave to understand that this had put him out. Filip Dewinter also conceded that the row had done the party no good. ‘Ambiguity has been created’, he said. It was striking how Dewinter, in his typical style, pulled out all the stops in denouncing the multicultural society. Even a change of style seems to be out of the question.

After the party council meeting De Man showed himself to be satisfied. No sharp edges are going to be filed down, and if the Vlaams Blok is not censured, there will be no change of name. ‘I’ve been reassured’, he said. He did admit that he had suffered a defeat, because he confirmed that there would be a new party name if the Court of Cassation ratifies the racism conviction. ‘But it has been promised that this new name will be in keeping with the old one as far as possible’. The fact that the Blok leadership stressed in the communication, in the wake of De Man’s action, that nothing would change if a new party name were to be launched in the new future, made it easier for the traditional parties to react. ‘It’s old wine in new bottles’, was how all party headquarters reacted in chorus. The other parties therefore see no reason to change their stance vis-à-vis the party found guilty of racism. Indeed, the Vlaams Blok is itself providing the ammunition with which to keep the cordon sanitaire intact.

‘Flemish Leage’ most probable new name

De Standaard [14 September] reckons that ‘Vlaamse Liga’ (Flemish League) is the most probable new name for the Vlaams Blok. On 7 September the Vlaams Blok’s webmaster registered that domain name. The paper recalls that Vlaamse Liga calls to mind the Italian Lega Nord, the party of Umberto Bossi, with which the Blok maintains good contacts. Other possible names such as Vlaams Blok Plus, Nieuw Vlaams Blok, Vlaamse Volkspartij or Nieuwe Vlaamse Volkspartij have already been registered, some of them by opponents of the Blok.

CD&V holds open elections for party chairmanship

The Christian-Democratic CD&V will be holding open elections for the party chairmanship for the first time in 32 years. Acting chairman Jo Vandeurzen is running as candidate. Pieter De Crem, the current chairman of the parliamentary party, is considering running, as is Etienne Schouppe, known mainly as the former CEO of the Belgian Railways (NMBS). Both Vandeurzen and Schouppe come from the Christian labour movement ACW, as did Flemish Minister-President Leterme, for that matter. Vandeurzen has the support of the party leadership, emanates calm and is a model of reliability, although he lacks charisma. De Crem is his opposite: flamboyant, media-savvy and a good deal more right wing. However, the ACW and former leader Jean-Luc Dehaene have a problem with table-hopper De Crem. Should De Crem withdraw, Eric Van Rompuy, who can also be counted on the right wing of the party, would consider running. Van Rompuy, the former parliamentary party leader of his party in the Flemish Parliament and former minister, feels overlooked since he missed out on a ministerial post. On 29 October we will know who the new CD&V chairman will be.
The last time that the CD&V members were given such a choice dates back to the year 1972, when the then 36-year-old Wilfried Martens was elected. Since then the party has always put forward a consensus candidate, so this occasion marks a change. Interim chairman Jo Vandeurzen has the support of Minister-President Yves Leterme, but he says that he himself has urged that “the internal democracy” in the party be allowed to function. The competition is already starting to strain at the leash, in the form of parliamentary party leader Pieter De Crem. Officially he is waiting until 24 September before clarifying his candidacy. If De Crem were to pull out for any reason, Eric Van Rompuy will be ready. Van Rompuy once again urged this weekend that an alternative candidate should run against Vandeurzen. Now that De Crem appears to be fulfilling that role Van Rompuy himself is no longer running, but were De Crem to withdraw, Van Rompuy considers that he himself might still run. And then there is a third hound in the pack, going by the name of Etienne Schouppe. The former railways boss had already previously stated that he would not want to get under Vandeurzen’s feet, but now that no consensus has been found for the latter, he is again considering presenting his candidacy.

So for the time being only Vandeurzen has shown his cards. He feels that the CD&V must stress the importance of a strong economy and better management. The competition is already starting to strain at the leash, in the form of parliamentary party leader Pieter De Crem. Officially he is waiting until 24 September before clarifying his candidacy. If De Crem were to pull out for any reason, Eric Van Rompuy will be ready. Van Rompuy once again urged this weekend that an alternative candidate should run against Vandeurzen. Now that De Crem appears to be fulfilling that role Van Rompuy himself is no longer running, but were De Crem to withdraw, Van Rompuy considers that he himself might still run. And then there is a third hound in the pack, going by the name of Etienne Schouppe. The former railways boss had already previously stated that he would not want to get under Vandeurzen’s feet, but now that no consensus has been found for the latter, he is again considering presenting his candidacy.

So for the time being only Vandeurzen has shown his cards. He feels that the CD&V must stress the importance of a strong economy and better management. A new CD&V chairman must ensure that the Flemish Government, under the leadership of CD&V member Yves Leterme, plays a prominent role in that.

WWW.CDENV.BE
Tax amnesty is a flop

Reynders estimates that the EBA will bring in EUR 200 to 300 million this year - much less than the projected revenue of EUR 850 million that the government had counted on.

The federal Finance Minister Didier Reynders (MR) has admitted for the first time that the tax amnesty measures have not been a success. The once-only exemption declaration should allow Belgians with foreign accounts to regularise their undeclared funds subject to fines at a rate of 6 to 9%. Reynders estimates that the EBA will bring in EUR 200 to 300 million this year - much less than the projected revenue of EUR 850 million that the government had counted on. In the autumn he will be launching a new campaign, warning Belgians of the huge fines awaiting them in 2005, if they fail to regularise their undeclared money this year. However, as of September the banks are noticing a change. They are reporting sharp increases in the number of dossiers submitted, reports De Tijd (11 September).

JOHAN CORTHOOUTS • DE MORGEN • 11 SEPTEMBER

CD&V, which sits on the opposition benches in the federal parliament, sees the figures as a confirmation that it was right. ‘We have always said that revenue of EUR 850 million was unrealistic’, reacted Hendrik Bogaert, MP (CD&V). ‘The law is full of technical shortcomings. It has been adapted no less than five times. How can you expect people to have faith in it, and to declare their undeclared money?’

The Flemish Christian-Democrats are asking the SPA, who went along with the tax amnesty very reluctantly, to torpedo the law. ‘The SPA supported the law with the argument that if the money were not secured from the frauds, other taxpayers would have to pay more tax. The fundamental argument that they made for this is not compensated for by the low revenue from the tax amnesty’, says Bogaert. ‘We are asking the SPA to discontinue the whole operation’.

In the SPA Reynders’ statement has come as an especially hard blow. Parliamentary party leader Dirk Van der Maelen (SP.A) says that he is sorry that his party lent its support to the tax amnesty. ‘If we had known beforehand that the revenue was going to be so low, we would have done better not to have gone along with it. The game is not worth the candle’.

There are various reasons for the tax amnesty having turned out to be a flop. There was no unambiguous amnesty regulation for evaded inheritance tax in Flanders. There isn’t now, either. The amnesty regulation was not watertight, either, for company managers wanting to bring undeclared funds back to Belgium. Even when a declaration is made, there remains the possibility of the judicial authorities instigating criminal proceedings.

‘The whole operation lacks the necessary legal security’, says Bart Coopman, tax advisor with the lawyers’ firm De Broeck Van Laere Van Camp Coopman. ‘People are hiding behind the complex legislation so as to avoid surfacing with their undeclared funds’. With a large-scale campaign in the autumn, the federal government still hopes to win over the tax frauds. But there is considerable doubt as to whether this operation will reap much reward. According to Coopman, the chance of catching the frauds is small whilst the European savings directive, which comes into effect next year and is intended to close the loopholes for frauds in Europe, can be side-stepped.

CD&V expects plenty more fireworks on this whole subject over the coming weeks. ‘The federal government agreed that EUR 75 million would be channelled through to the regions and communities. Whatever the eventual revenue from the tax amnesty is, we are asking the federal government for the money to be paid’, says Bogaert.

Barco acquires company specialising in 3D medical imaging

The Flemish listed image-processing group Barco has taken over the Scottish company Voxar, reports De Tijd (16 September). Voxar is specialised in software for 3D visualisation in radiology. The Voxar software makes it possible to convert two-dimensional photos taken by medical scanners into three-dimensional images. At the moment most hospital radiology departments only have one 3D workstation installed. The combination of the Barco and Voxar technologies means that from now on all workstations can be afforded 3D possibilities. In this way Barco is making a breakthrough in the fast-growing medical 3D-imaging segment. Barco is paying EUR 39 million for Voxar. Voxar’s 80 employees will all be given jobs in the new company structure, namely in the Medical Imaging Systems business unit.

www.barco.be

AVERAGE REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS

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Specialising in 3D medical imaging

FF EDITORIAL STAFF

Barco acquires company specialising in 3D medical imaging

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De Post loses turnover due to decline in letter post

De Post is despatching around 400,000 fewer letters every day than roughly two years ago. Last year the number of nationally and internationally franked letters fell by 10%, the number of business letters (including bills) fell by 7%, and direct mail advertising leaflets fell by 0.5%. It is not just the growing e-mail and SMS traffic that is responsible for this, but also the recession. For the Belgian Post the loss is a major blow, since traditional letter post still represents 81% of its total turnover (FF).

Johan Rasking • De Standaard • 13 September

Thanks to the price increases implemented (the priority stamp), the impact on De Post’s income is relatively small. Last year income from national correspondence fell from EUR 1.18 billion to 1.14 billion, a drop of EUR 40 million.

And yet the loss in letters is a hard blow in the long run. The traditional mail business provides for 81% of the turnover, as opposed to only 12% from the sale of postal and financial products and 4% from commercial parcel service and express post. In this respect De Post differs from its competitors in Germany and the Netherlands, since at Deutsche Post and the Dutch TPG letter post accounts for barely 30 to 35% of turnover.

Remarkably enough, the Belgian postal services company is losing ground in the market segments in which it has a monopoly (traditional letter post), and is gaining ground in liberalised markets, as proven by a higher market share in contracts for door-to-door delivery of leaflets. The volume of express letters sent by Taxipost has also grown faster than the market.

A far-reaching commercial approach should help turn the tide, says Bernard Delvaux, Mail manager at De Post. Financing speaking, companies are particularly important customers of De Post, and this can be seen in the income figures. No less than 85% of all postal items are sent by companies. The 330 largest business customers account for 37% of the total turnover. The other 35,000 business customers account for 48%. The 4.7 million ‘residential customers’ bring in just 15% of sales.

www.depost.be

Exhibitions on Permeke and Raveel in the Netherlands

A FEW FLEMISH GOVERNMENTS AGO, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED ‘CULTURAL AMBASSADORS’

Two painters who have left their mark on 20th-century Flemish painting are the subjects of retrospective exhibitions to be opened shortly in the Netherlands. The Municipal Museum of The Hague will be showcasing the oeuvre of Constant Permeke (1886-1952). Permeke, chiefly known for his monumental scenes featuring Flemish fishermen and farmers, is the most important exponent of Flemish rural expressionism. Although Permeke enjoyed considerable recognition during his lifetime, he has lost fame and impact in recent decades. De Standaard wonders whether the exhibition in The Hague can do something towards remedying that. Roger Raveel, meanwhile, is the subject of a retrospective in the Cobra Museum for Modern Art in Amstelveen. According to some experts, Raveel is perhaps the most important living Flemish painter. He was a contemporary of Cobra painters such as Asger Jorn, Karel Appel and Corneille, but did not let himself be led by the whimsical flights of fancy typifying that movement. He observed the world from his village in Machelen-aan-de-Leie and lets abstract geometric forms filter into his figurative paintings like spiritual creations of man, with a nod to the great abstracts such as Mondriaan or Kandinsky (FF).

Jan Van Hove • De Standaard • 15 September

It cannot be denied that Permeke, who dominated our art world as a giant during his lifetime and also enjoyed fame abroad, has for more and more people become an unfamiliar and distant figure. It remains to be seen whether the retrospective devoted to the leading exponent of Flemish expressionism this autumn in the Municipal Museum of The Hague will do much to change that. Permeke’s work gives a view of the life of the simple folk he observed. Permeke painted the sower in the field, the farmer with his pigs in the pen, the porridge eaters and coffee drinkers in silence at the table. With his expressive distortions, he lends these figures, and the landscape in which they are placed, a monumental force. The dark, brown tones leave no doubt that his art has its roots in rich Flemish soil. Permeke gives us a vision of an almost mythical primitive life. It was reality as he felt it, and which he simultaneously raised to a universal level.

However strange Permeke’s world may appear to children of the computer age, it is certainly one worth getting acquainted with. For Flemish art lovers, too, it is also a unique opportunity to discover or rediscover this work. The Cobra Museum in Amstelveen has also opted for a Belgian artist for the autumn. It is presenting a fine overview of the early (and according to most critics, the best) work of Roger Raveel. Some eighty paintings from the period 1948-1967 are on display. Roger Raveel (1921) emerged in the same period as the artists of the Cobra group, whom he knew well for that matter, but his approach differed fundamentally from theirs. Raveel always remained true to his own rural world. His entire oeuvre comes from Machelen-aan-de-Leie, and his motifs are the gardens and houses, and the people and animals that he saw every day.

In many paintings the elements from reality are combined with abstract motifs such as the square, which Raveel regards as a spiritual creation of man par excellence. He uses this to refer to the invisible forces that are at work in the modern world, such as radio waves or electric current. Raveel’s work is
the antithesis of picturesque. It shows how profoundly the Flemish countryside changed after the Second World War. Raveel saw the poetry of a concrete wall. He is a master of colour, which radiates with unprecedented intensity in his works.

With the Raveel and Permeke retrospectives, the Netherlands has the chance to view two Flemish masters at their best. A few Flemish governments ago, they would have been called ‘cultural ambassadors’.

**EXPO**

- **Until 17 October**: Animals in Architecture, Museum of Architecture, Brussels
- **Until 3 October**: Marcel Breuer, Design & Architecture, exhibition CIVA, Brussels; info: www.civa.be
- **Until 26 September**: Olympic Games for animals, Museum of natural sciences, Brussels; info: 02/627.42.38 www.natuurwetenschappen.be
- **Until 26 September**: The Thomas Neyrinck Collection, exhibition, Belleveumusea, Brussels; info: 070/23.37.28
- **Until 27 September**: The fall of the New Troy, exhibition Venetiase Gaanderijen, Ostend; info: 059/56.20.15
- **Until 3 October**: Armando, exhibition, Museum Constant Permeke, Jabbeke
- **Until 10 September**: Open air exhibition with sculptures by Rik Poot in Vilvoorde; www.vilvoorde.be
- **Until 25 September**: Installation for 9 personalities in 1 body, exhibition by Marie Julia Bollansée, Kunsthalle Lophem, Loppem; info: 0477/832.370 www.kunsthallelophem.be

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**CULTURE**

**Diary**

**MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE**

- **Until 22 September**: Klara Festival, Brussels with Bayerisches Staatsorchester, Anima Eterna, Hermes Ensemble, Orchestre des Champs-Elysées, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Flemish Radio Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic and Britten Synfonia, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.klarafestival.be www.bozar.be
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- **21 to 23 September**: Tempus Fugit, Ballets C. de la B./Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Naith Cherradi, dance, De Singel, Antwerp, info: www.desingel.be 03/248.28.28
- **20 September**: Jim Rose Circus, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: www.abconcerts.be 02/548.24.24
- **21 September**: Ballin’ the Jack does the Marx Brothers, Vooruit Geluid, Ghent; info: 09/267.28.28 www.vooruit.be
- **23 September**: Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Thomas Harding; Mahler, 10th symphony, info: www.concertgebouw.be 09/233.77.88 www.handelsbeurs.be
- **18 and 19 September**: This year’s Open Monument Weekend in Brussels focuses on Modernism and Art Deco; info: www.openmonumentendag.be
- **21 September**: Bryan Adams, Sportpaleis, Antwerp; info: 0900/260.60
- **21, 22 and 23 September**: Budapest Festival Orchestra and Collegium Vocale conducted by Ivan Fischer with Stravinsky and Bartok, Ghent, Sint-Baafs cathedral; info: 09/233.77.88
- **23 September**: Sato the Jack does the Marx Brothers, Vooruit Geluid, Ghent; info: 09/267.28.28 www.vooruit.be
- **22 September**: Arcadie Quartet with Bartok, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
- **22 to 25 September**: Isabella’s Room by Jan Lauwers & Need Company, theatre, kaaitheaterstudio’s, Brussels; info: www.kaaitheater.be
- **23 September**: Jaramar (Mexico), Zuiderspierhuis, Antwerp, info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
- **23 September**: Wayn Traub – Wayn wash III, theatre, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
- **25 September**: Muszkytas & Martha Sebestyen & Tek (Hungary), Zuiderspierhuis, Antwerp, info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
- **28 September**: Baba Sissoko (Mali), Vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be 09/267.24.24
- **28 September**: Kocian Quartet with Dvorak, De Singel, Antwerp, info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
- **28 and 29 September**: Observing the observers by Alexandr Petlula, performance; Kaaitheaterstudio’s, Brussels; info: www.kaaitheater.be
- **29 September**: Satellite City/Maxon Blewitt (Vooruit Geluid), Vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be 09/267.24.24