**VMMA takes over Canal + from Telenet**

The Flemish Media Company (Vlaamse Mediamaaatschappij, VMMa), parent holding of, among others, VTM, is taking over the rights and production of subscription channel Canal+ Vlaanderen from the cable and telecoms group Telenet. VMMa is thereby boosting its clout in its competitive battle with the public broadcaster VRT. Negotiations on a possible take-over began six months ago. Telenet is a distributor and therefore no longer wanted to make programmes, especially because it has its hands full with the advent of digital television. The take-over is also a good thing for the VMMA as regards negotiations over football rights with the Profliga. Last year Canal+ had 142,000 subscribers (FF).

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With the take-over of Canal + the VMMA is now also entering the world of subscription television. Canal + is the first and currently only digital platform operating in Flanders. In combination with its ‘open networks’ (VTM, Kanaal 2, Jim) that offers new perspectives, among other things in the production of fiction and sport. Canal + not only fits in with the diversification of activities, the VMMA is also diversifying its income. Up to now the broadcaster was entirely dependent on income from advertising. That makes the media company vulnerable to fluctuations. Now the VMMA is tapping into a new source of income via the subscriptions of Canal +. With this transaction, Telenet wants to focus solely on its role as distributor. In its own words, the telecoms operator has chosen a Flemish partner with know-how in the making of programmes. The VMMA must also ensure that local productions are retained. For Canal + subscribers almost nothing will change. ‘In the future the range of programmes available will be further improved, taking their needs into account,’ says the VMMA. Telenet will remain responsible for decoders and subscription billing.

The workers who are responsible for producing programmes on the film and live football channels will also be taken over by the VMMA. The total number of people involved is 53. VMMA spokesman Mark Vanlombeek is not precluding the subscription channel being given a new Flemish name (table p. 2).

WWW.VUMMA.BE/WWW.CANALPLUS.BE
WWW.TELENET.BE

**INTRODUCTION**

Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde not split, Flemish Front slip’ resumed more or less the headlines in several newspapers. The decision to suspend the discussion of the bills in the Chamber Internal Affairs Committee until 23 February has driven a wedge between SPA-VLA and the CD&V-N-VA on the other. Minister for Institutional Reform Johan Vandeleur (SPA) and his colleague Didier Reynders (MR) announced that the real discussion on the BHV question will take place in the ministerial working party and that furthermore MPs should not expect a detailed report on how talks between Flemish ministers, as that would be the best guarantee of torpedoing the discussions, he added.

Nudging the negotiators in the ministerial working party has significantly reduced the risk of a Federal Government crisis. The governing Liberal-Socialist coalition is thus avoiding a Flemish bill with one another, suggests De Standaard, and stop trying to be the best Fleming for the cameras.

Leo Bonite • De Standaard • 28 January

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**Focus on FLANDERS**

THE DUTCH SPEAKING PART OF BELGIUM
PRESS REVIEW
WEEKLY, DOES NOT APPEAR IN JULY • NUMBER 4 • 22 JANUARY - 28 JANUARY 2005

**focus on FLANDERS** • 22 January - 28 January 2005 • Number 4

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Frank Vandeaveeye | editor in chief
Psychological warfare is how De Tijd (22 January) described the actions of Francophone and Fleming politicians at the weekend. Last week all parties still agreed that the discussions on the splitting of the Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde constituency would begin on Wednesday 26 January in the Chamber Home Affairs Committee. Francophone and Flemish politicians accepted that on condition that the members of the Committee were also reported about the progress in the parallel discussions being held in the working party of ministers headed by Federal Ministers Vande Lanotte (SP.A) and Reynders (MR). As a result CD&V parliamentary faction leader, Pieter De Crem, who was pushing for a discussion of the bills, got what he wanted. But only a few days later PS Parliamentary Party leader Giet warned that his party would leave the Committee if the CD&V/N-VA continued to push everyone around. Minister Reynders, not only chairman of the ministers’ conference on BHV but also of the Liberal MR, also proved particularly annoyed at the ‘aggressive’ way in which the Flemish parties were conducting the discussions on the B-H-V split in the Committee. The Vlaams Belang in particular, which was continually shouting out and goading everyone, was really getting on his nerves. He saw a committee that makes an issue of the confrontation between Francophones and Flemings in this way right in front of the cameras as problematic (De Standaard, 22 January). Instead he is placing all his hope on the emergence of a compromise in the interministerial working party. And it became increasingly clear that the Flemish Liberal and Socialist parties, which participate in the majority at federal level, believed more strongly in such a compromise. They no longer allowed the CD&V-N-VA to impose an agenda on them. Even though the N-VA Chairman Bart De Wever reminded them of the Flemish coalition agreement, in which all Flemish parties agreed to ‘immediately’ split the constituency. Eric Van Rompuy, leading CD&V candidate in the BHV constituency, even threatened to blow up the Flemish Government, of which his cartel is part, if the VLD or SPA aimed at breaking the Flemish front.

If the Francophone members left the Committee, the Flemish members could simply continue with the discussion of and vote on the bill, since they have a majority. But then the Francophones would invoke the alarm procedure and the problem dossier would return to the Federal Government, which would most likely not survive the conflict. Meanwhile the Francophones once again made it clear that they are united against the split by approving a resolution in the Parliament of the French Community on 25 January which consolidates the inextricable link between the French Community and the Francophones in the Flemish municipalities around Brussels.

In the meantime, ex-Premier Jean-Luc Dehaene (CD&V) is wondering aloud when Premier Verhofstadt will come up with proposals (Het Laatste Nieuws, 24 January). Dehaene, who in the past led state reform negotiations himself, feels that the government must not let itself be pushed about and must seek a compromise in discreet discussions under the leadership of the Prime Minister. On 25 January Vice-Premier Johan Vande Lanotte and Premier Verhofstadt clearly intend following this path. Both feel a solution to Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde is possible, at least if negotiations are held within the Interministerial Conference and not in the public forum of the Chamber Committee.

‘Community problems have never yet been resolved in the public forum,’ Vande Lanotte let slip. For that, negotiations are required behind the screens, not in Parliament. ‘It can then be sorted out in a matter of weeks,’ he predicted. Premier Verhofstadt spoke similar words at the New Year’s Reception of King Albert for all dignitaries: ‘This matter will only be defused by an agreement between the two main linguistic communities,’ said the Premier. Verhofstadt sees the Interministerial Conference as the ideal place for negotiations on BHV. ‘In any case, the government does not intend letting itself be hurried by some people when it can be questioned whether they actually want a solution, or want to use this dossier to create political instability.’ Verhofstadt’s speech met with mixed reactions. ‘Misplaced,’ chorused CD&Vers. According to Chairman Jo Van Deurzen, it is unheard of for the address to the powers to be abused for party-political ends.

FF EDITOR

Brussel-Halle-Vilvoorde divides the country

‘This matter will only be defused by an agreement between the two main linguistic communities,’ said Prime Minister Verhofstadt at the King’s new year’s reception.

PETER DE BACKER • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 26 JANUARY
VLD throws Hugo Coveliers out of party and rejects collaboration with VB

At a meeting of the collective parliamentary parties and the party council of the Liberal VLD it was decided that Senator Hugo Coveliers would no longer form part of the party executive. According to Chairman Bart Somers, Hugo Coveliers, who in recent months had made a habit of undermining his party’s leaders in interviews, has crossed certain ethical boundaries. In particular, insinuations over the role of the former party chairman Karel De Gucht in the suicide of VLD dissident Ward Beyesen was a bridge too far for many VLD members. Coveliers could, however, remain a member of the party and the senate party of the VLD, but would be thrown out of the party if he continued to openly attack his party, Somers warned. The senator, who is currently arguing an assises case, replied that he wanted to consider whether he still wanted to be part of the party (Het Laatste Nieuws, 27 January). The next day he took a swipe at Chairman Somers in Het Nieuwsblad (26 January), called his party socialist and authoritarian and continued to oppose party guidelines in calls for a collaboration with the Vlaams Belang. Several Hours later Chairman Somers initiated the procedure to expel Coveliers from the party. Also on the agenda of the meeting was the attitude of the VLD towards the Vlaams Belang in the run-up to the local elections of 2006 (FF).

GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN • 27 JANUARY

Bart Somers: ‘99% of those present accepted my position of never collaborat-
**VLD and SP.A launch new ideas on new year’s reception**

**S**tеваert wants to enshrine the social security in the constitution, Somers want to fix pension after 40 years’ work

Last weekend the governing SP.A and VLD held their New Year’s Reception. As is the custom each year, the occasion was used to launch a number of new ideas. Sometimes, however, it is unclear who has thought them up. SP.A Chairman Stevaert, for example, launched the idea of abolishing the collection of an annual premium of 25 euros for health insurance and taking this into account in the tax cut to be granted Flemish workers from 2007. This fits in with his fight against fixed taxes. It would also save him a vast amount (2.5 million euros) in administrative costs charged by the health insurance funds for collecting the premium. At the end of 2003, 4.1 million Flemings had a care insurance. Contributions provided 93 million euros, whereas expenditure was 133 million euros. The difference will be made up by an allocation. CD&V Welfare Minister Inge Vervotte supports the idea, but claims that she herself launched it on Friday 21 January at the Flemish Government’s Council of Ministers. At his party’s reception Stevaert also called for social security to be enshrined in the constitution. If ever there is a government without Socialists, social security will be attacked, Stevaert warned. The Federal Transport Minister, Renaat Landuyt, has been given the task of doing the thinking on this enshrinement for the ideological party conference later this year, which was given a ‘Pro’-logo that stands for ‘progressive and positive’. The Liberal VLD also held its New Year’s Reception. In 2005 the VLD wants to return to its core activity, economic challenges, claims Chairman Bart Somers. Somers points out that his party stands for ‘freedom’. He also wants to ‘set free’ work by removing all mechanisms that discourage work as far as possible. He also wants to abolish the distinction between the statuses of worker and employee and grant a pension after 40 years’ work, irrespective of the age of the beneficiary. A VLD conference is to be held in May under the banner ‘more freedom, more welfare’. The VLD spoke out against Steve Stevaert’s idea of incorporating care insurance into Flemish tax cuts. ‘People have to know what everything costs,’ said VLD spokesman Tom Ongenae.

FF EDITOR

**Spirit changes its stance regarding the referendum**

The vld’s proposal no longer has a majority in the chamber

Spirit, the Left-Liberal cartel partner of the SP.A, has unexpectedly changed its stance regarding the organisation of a plebiscite on a European constitution. On 14 December in the Chamber Constitutional Reform Committee it voted in favour of the principle of a referendum. This gave the proposal a slight majority of 9 to 8. The Flemish and Francophone Liberals voted for the proposal, the Socialists against. As a result, Spirit voted differently from its coalition partner, the SP.A. But on 23 January the party leadership suddenly decided that the party had revised its position, which means the VLD’s proposal no longer has a majority in the Chamber. Spirit says it wants to avoid the public debate being put under pressure by the Vlaams Belang. The far right party wants to shift the focus of the plebiscite from the European constitution to Turkey’s accession to the European Union, claims Chairman Geert Lambert (FF).

The cause of the sudden about-turn is Spirit’s fear of a campaign by the Vlaams Belang against Turkey. ‘Our basic democratic principles haven’t changed,’ says Party Chairman Geert Lambert. ‘But we misjudged how some parties, specifically the VB, would abuse the campaign.’ With this change of course Spirit has brought itself back into line with its cartel partner, the SP.A. In addition, a potential bomb under the Verhofstadt government has been expertly defused. The PS in particular is dead against a national referendum and would lay the blame squarely at the door of Premier Guy Verhofstadt’s VLD should one be held. ‘A misjudgement’, Lambert calls the earlier support for the referendum. ‘We will not let the VB determine our agenda, but we also don’t want them to be able to abuse democratic resources, in which we firmly believe. Our intention was to start a broad debate on Europe, but we mustn’t be naive either.’

Spirit is not dismissing the idea of a large-scale information campaign. ‘We want to send a folder to every household, consisting of newspaper articles, that brings Europe closer to the people,’ says Lambert. Lambert admits that their Socialist cartel partner pulled one over on them, but denies that that determined the decision. ‘Our aim, a debate on Europe, has not changed, only the means of achieving it.’

FF EDITOR

**Focus on Flanders**

The vld’s proposal no longer has a majority in the chamber

Following a debate in the competent committee on 25 January, in which Spirit was swamped by accusations of ‘switching sides’, it was decided to meet again to debate a possible amendment to the constitution to allow a referendum. The proposal was tabled by the VLD, MR and Vlaams Belang. In so doing these parties want to show that the SP.A’s objection to the referendum - namely that a referendum is unconstitutional - is not the real reason behind the party’s opposition. According to De Standaard (26 January), it is already clear that the amendment to the constitution will be dismissed and that the referendum will be rejected by 76 votes to 74 in the plenary session of the Chamber.
Dutch lessons compulsory for tenants of social houses or flats

The measure will not apply to people with a job and current tenants

Minister for Housing and Naturalisation Marino Keulen (VLD) wants to allow social housing associations to demand of potential tenants as of next year that they have or acquire a basic knowledge of Dutch. The measure will not apply to people with a job and current tenants of social houses or flats. Just like all social tenants, non-Dutch-speaking unemployed newcomers who sign up for social housing will be given a temporary trial lease agreement of two years and must start a course in Dutch within this period. The trial contract is also aimed at checking whether tenants can function socially and whether they are complying with other obligations and rules. The measure builds on the proposal made by three Antwerp housing associations at the end of last year. According to the Minister, the aim is to improve quality of life and relations in social housing blocks. Meanwhile, the Centre for Equal Opportunities has already put forward some objections. According to Director Jozef De Witte, the aim must not be to also make the urban percentage of foreigners the norm for the percentage of foreigners in social housing complexes. The norm that must be applied is the need for social housing, says De Witte, even if this exceeds its average availability. The criticism of Walloon Housing Minister Antoine (CDH) is less subtle. He is threatening to go to the Council of State to protect the rights of Francophones if Flanders introduces linguistic discrimination (FF).

Opinion

BART STURTEWAGEN • DE STANDAARD •
26 JANUARY

The ease with which Mr Antoine reaches the conclusion that Keulen’s proposal can be inspired by nothing other than the desire to discriminate against people and throw them onto the street is exasperating. The simplism with which a Flemish minister and by extension the entire Flemish community is accused of being of a racist disposition is damaging. That does not take away the fact that a fundamental difference of opinion may exist over this proposed measure. That residents of social districts and housing blocks might yet understand one another a little would undoubtedly benefit their quality of life. But then it must be clear that that is the intention and nothing more. The language requirement must not be a crowbar with which to limit the number of foreigners in a social housing project. Those are two different things. If you mix the two up, you will clearly get insinuations. Keulen’s plan must be a further incentive for anyone who is settling here permanently to learn Dutch. No more, no less.

Wind farm and discount on electricity bill for businesses saved

The C-Power wind farm on the Thornton Bank has been given a number of guarantees designed to secure its future

From July 2005 businesses that use more than 20,000 megawatt-hours of electricity will receive discounts on their electricity bills. The saving can be up to 250,000 euros. The measure will cost the government 38 million euros a year, but this lost revenue will be offset by the increase in duty on motor fuels and coal. But because the discount for businesses threatened to be undermined by the requirement that a certain amount of the electricity in question had to be obtained from green energy (such as wind power), the discount on electricity bills for businesses will be raised from 2008. Energy Minister Verwilghen (VLD) has therefore got his way. His proposal to cut VAT on electricity from 21% to 6% was immediately labelled unfeasible by Minister Reynders (MR), who points to the European legislation banning such a cut. Johan Vande Lanotte (SP.A), Minister for the North Sea and a big fan of wind power, also got everything he wanted. The C-Power wind farm on Thornton Bank 30 km off the Belgian coast has been given a number of guarantees designed to secure its future. One third of the costs of laying an undersea power cable connecting the wind turbines to the mainland will be paid for by consumers via the high-voltage tariff. C-Power can sell green energy certificates to the high-voltage company Elia at 107 euros per megawatt. And a solution was also found to the problem of balancing or access to the electricity market via the high-voltage network. Because of the changeable production of such a wind farm, which is dependent on the wind, the operator must be able to compensate for fluctuations in its production with purchases on the electricity market. C-Power has now been given approval to depart by 30% from the predetermined production agreement.
Bourgeois dreams of ‘House of Flanders’ in New York

Bourgeois hopes to finance his House of Flanders with a public-private collaboration

Since Flanders acquired the full capability to apply its own foreign policy, the urge to consolidate collaboration between the various Flemish networks for, for example, the promotion of Flemish culture, export and tourism and their representations abroad. In a number of capitals these networks are now housed under one roof. That is the case in Berlin, London, Paris, Vienna and The Hague. If it were up to Minister for Administrative Affairs, Foreign Policy, Media and Tourism Geert Bourgeois (N-VA), there would also be a House of Flanders in New York. Last week the Minister was on a visit to the Big Apple, where he launched the idea at the opening of the exhibition ‘Peter Paul Rubens: The Drawings’ in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art. Both the Flemish Government and Fortis put forward a substantial amount (around 150,000 euros each) to finance this exhibition. Bourgeois also hopes to finance his House of Flanders with a similar public-private collaboration and in this way ‘put Flanders on the map’ (FF).

BART BRINCKMAN • DE STANDAARD • 22 JANUARY

Bourgeois hopes that in addition to Fortis other Belgian (Flemish?) companies are interested enough in a representation in New York (such as KBC, Bekaert and Interbrew) to sign up to the project. The House of Flanders must be a fact by the end of this period of government (2009).

In New York Bourgeois proved that he has taken his Foreign Policy mandate to heart. The former N-VA Chairman wants to promote Flanders much more actively abroad. His entourage was extremely unhappy about the lack of decisiveness shown by former Flemish Foreign Policy ministers. The mandates [foreign policy, tourism, export, ed.] passed through numerous hands during the last period of government. And yet the Flemish and Belgian colony in New York was not immediately delighted by the prospect. Thus the Belgian Consul-General in New York, Renilde Loeckx, delicately pointed out that Belgium already has the best possible visiting card. The quiet apartment on Fifth Avenue, with a fantastic view of Central Park, is in fact magnificently situated. ‘And that Belgian house is also your house,’ she told the Minister.

Staff at the Belgian Tourist Office (in New York the Flemings, Walloons and Brusselers are housed together) also appeared less than happy. It is extremely difficult working in a country where ‘Belgium’ is largely thought of as a town in Germany. Introducing Flanders as a brand name will not make their job any easier. Hardly had Bourgeois finished speaking before people began looking back with nostalgia to his predecessor (in Tourism, ed.) Renaat Landuyt (SP.A). He left everything as it was.

Towards a Belgian-American collaboration on the Red Star Line?

During his visit to New York, Minister Bourgeois also went to the Ellis Island Museum of Immigration. Ellis Island lies several hundred metres off the coast of Manhattan and was the selection point for 12 million European immigrants who entered the country via Ellis Island at the beginning of the twentieth century. What is less well-known in the US is that of these, two million boarded ship in Antwerp and made the transatlantic voyage with the Red Star Line. Last year the city of Antwerp decided to purchase the former Red Star Line buildings and erect a ‘Memorial’ there. Fund-raising also began in the US via the King Baudouin Foundation US. Descendants of the immigrants who migrated via the Antwerp-New York line are being asked to make a contribution.

Antwerp is dreaming of a structural collaboration with New York, which could obviously give a boost to the fund-raising for those buildings yet to be renovated. But this collaboration can clearly also attract American tourists. With his visit to the Ellis Island Museum the Minister wanted to exert some diplomatic influence on the museum’s management. The museum is one of the most frequently visited tourist attractions in the USA.

WWW.ELLISISLAND.ORG

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EVOLUTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF FLEMISH POLITICAL PARTIES

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>VLD</th>
<th>SP.A</th>
<th>Vlaams Belang</th>
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Focus on Flanders • 22 January - 28 January 2005 • Number 4
The Belgian consortium Tsunami 12-12 is refusing to accept donations from the Vlaams Belang, read the headline in De Morgen on 21 January. In so doing, the consortium has reacted against the public attack by the VB on Oxfam-Solidarity, which forms part of the consortium along with Handicap International, the Red cross, Caritas International and Unicef Belgium. VB Chairman Frank Vanhecke had depicted Oxfam as a ‘far-left’ organisation. Initially the VB even asked its members to send donations to the non-profit organisation Volk in Nood, an unrecognised non-governmental organisation which is not even active in South-East Asia. ‘Their party is at odds with our vision and practice of international solidarity,’ said the spokesman for the umbrella organisation. Unforgivable and totally indefensible for an organisation that is thought to be above differences of opinion, is how De Standaard (22 January) described the attitude of Tsunami 12-12. The paper also felt that it was in bad taste by the Vlaams Belang to launch an attack on one of the consortium members, Oxfam. The communication error by Tsunami 12-12’s spokesman subsequently appeared to be due to a misunderstanding (FF).

Red Cross-Flanders, for example, announced that the consortium could not adopt such a stance because it conflicted with the principle of neutrality. ‘Among other things, neutrality means that the Red Cross cannot express preferences on a political, religious or racial level,’ said the organisation. ‘As long as donations are acquired legally and no conditions are imposed that conflict with the basic principles of the Red Cross, we will accept those donations.’ However, Oxfam-Solidarity and Unicef Belgium are standing by their decision not to accept identifiable donations from the VB. According to Philippe Vandekerckhove, Director-General of Red Cross-Flanders, the communication error still damaged the image of the Tsunami 12-12 campaign. ‘Unfortunately, after a commendable campaign that transcended cynicism, the prevailing impression is now one of bickering as to how the money is to be distributed,’ he says. The telephone exchanges of the member organisations were inundated with calls from angry or confused donors asking for their money back.

New York discovers drawings of Peter Paul Rubens

For Foreign Policy Minister Geert Bourgeois, who opened the exhibition, this is the best conceivable way to ‘put Flanders on the map in the USA’

Last weekend Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640): The Drawings opened in the Metropolitan Museum in New York. With 115 drawings, including twelve recent discoveries, it is the first major retrospective in the United States devoted to the graphic work of Rubens. For the exhibition the New York museum worked together with the Albertina in Vienna, which owns seventy of the master's works and where the exhibition could be seen last year. Thirty works have made the trip from Vienna to New York. The rest of the 115 drawings come from various European, Russian and American collections. The critic in The New York Times, Michael Kimmelman, could not find the words to describe the genius of Rubens and praise the exhibition, which was made possible by the financial contribution of the Flemish Government and the American branch. For Flemish Foreign Policy Minister Geert Bourgeois (N-VA), who opened the exhibition, this is the best conceivable investment to ‘put Flanders on the map in the USA’. In any event, he hopes that it will awaken a hunger for more Flemish art among Americans (FF).

Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640): The Drawings spans not only the entire career of the Antwerp artist, the exhibition also shows all the areas in which he was active as a draughtsman: Biblical scenes, elegant portraits of noblemen and women, animal studies, landscapes, anatomical studies and copies of antique sculptures. More than his great paintings, the drawings of Rubens appeal to a contemporary public because they are simply 'more modern', or at least appear to be. We see the artist at work on his own, without his many assistants. He looks, records, draws from models and puts details on paper that can later be used for paintings. He seeks and conceives solutions to compositional problems. The drawings are mostly quickly sketched, often wholly or partly incomplete. We can fill in and add details ourselves, we like that. But we should always bear in mind that Rubens never viewed his drawings as finished products that could be exhibited in their own right. An exhibition like the one in New York would probably have shocked him. For Rubens, drawings were the first step in an artistic process, a drawing was a draft for a painting, one or two notes that he put down on paper quickly with chalk or pen. There then followed a more developed drawing or a sketch in oils, which in turn was actually a magnificent small painting. The next step was that Rubens made detailed studies of, for example, the human figures in the composition. For this he sometimes drew from a live model. Using the compositional sketches and certain developed detailed studies, pupils and assistants could begin work in the studio. At the end of the process Rubens re-emerged: he carried out his own checks, corrected or revised a number of elements of the painting, depending on the client and above all the price be-
Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

• 31 January: Eliane Elias quartet, Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: www.abconcerts.be 02/548.14.24
• 2 to 4 February: Jan Fabre with choreography on Angel of Death. Elle était et elle est et Estan donées, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 2 February: Folk Kwadaat, Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: www.handelsbeurs.be
• 2 and 4 February: Obatala and Tony Allen, Ancienne Belgique (www.abconcerts.be) and Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
• 3 February: Artemis Quartet with Schumann, Berg and Haydn, Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: www.handelsbeurs.be
• 3 February: Breaking through the roof of its house, Christelle Fillod and Yukiko Shinozaki (dance), De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 4 February: Le poème harmonique with Il Faso, Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.bijloke.be
• 5 February: Arditti Quartet with Iannis Xenakis, Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.bijloke.be
• 5 February: City Queens, Vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be 09/267.28.28
• 6 February: Beethoven Happening with deFilharmonie with Arc Sonori and Chamber choir Octopus conducted by Philippe Herreweghe, Mereestille and Glückliche Fahrt, Opus 112, Missa Solemnis, Leipziger Streichquartett with quartets, Michael Volle, Ronald Brautigam, An die Ferne Geliebte, Pieter Wispelwey and Dejan Lazic De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 7 February: Orchestra and Choir of the Age of Enlightenment conducted by Roger Norrington with JS Bach, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be
• 9 February: A Campagnia with Corsican polyphonic songs, Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.bijloke.be
• 10 February: Manecas Costa (Guinean Bissau), Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
• 10 February: Audistore and Eavesdropper (electronic music), Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be
• 11 February: Borodin Quartet and Yuri Bashmet with Brahms, Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: www.handelsbeurs.be
• 11 February: Ensemble Babakhanov (Uzbekistan), Zuiderpershuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
• 11 February: Ensemble 415 with JS and PE Bach, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be
• 12 February: Eva Ayllon and Waldemar Bastos (Peru), Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: www.handelsbeurs.be
• 19 February: La Barbiere, De Singel, Antwerp; info: 03/248.28.28 www.desingel.be
• 20 February: Dedicated to a proposition, Extra City, Antwerp; info: 0484/42.10.70
• Until 28 February: Fake/not Fake, Jef Vander Veken, restorer of the Flemish Primitives, Groeningh, Bruges; info: www.brugge.be/musea
• Until 10 April: Retrospective Floris Jespers, exhibition, PMMK, Ostend; info: 059/50.81.18 www.pmmk.be
• 21 to 30 January: Art and Antiques fair, St Peters abbey, Ghent
• Until 27 February: Dear ICC, aspects of contemporary art in Belgium, exhibition, Muhka, Antwerp; info: www.muhka.be
• Until 3 April: Anton Corbijn, exhibition, Fotomuseum, Antwerp; info: 03/242.93.00 www.fotomuseum.be
• Until 27 February: Jazz in Little Belgium, MIM-museum (musical instruments), Brussels; info: www.mim.fgov.be

EXPO

• Until 27 February: Tatu-Tattoo, exhibition, Royal Museum for Art and History, Cinquantenaire, Brussels; info: 02/741.72.11 or www.kmkg.be
• Until 4 May: Rudolf Lange, war witness, In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres; info: www.inflandersfields.be
• Until 28 February: Maarten Van Severen, exhibition, Design Museum, Ghent; info: http://design.museum.gent.be
• Until 30 January: Malgyn Muses, when fashion turns back, Fashion Museum (MOMU), Antwerp; info: www.momu.be
• Until 13 March: The Heart, exhibition, Museum Dr Guislain, Ghent; info: www.museumdrguislain.be
• Until 29 January: Panamarenko with Hinky Pinky Prova, Antwerp: Luchtschipbouw, Antwerp; info: 03/271.06.67

CULTURE

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