Senate chairwoman Lizin can stay on

The Chairwoman of the Senate, Anne-Marie Lizin (PS), can keep her job, after having offered her excuses as many as seven times in the special Senate session on 17 March. Lizin was asked to justify a letter in which she tried to influence a Liège magistrate in a divorce case. Such an intervention is a blatant violation of the separation of powers. The opposition CD&V, Vlaams Belang and Ecolo therefore asked that the Senate Chairwoman should take the honourable way out and resign under her own steam. Initially the governing MR was also extremely critical of Lizin and advised her to step down. After Lizin had spent two hours on the rack, her party asked for a deliberation with the other majority parties, the VLD, SPA and MR. It then suddenly emerged that the MR could accept Lizin’s excuses all the same. The Senate Chairwoman could stay, but a code of ethics would be drawn up to avoid a repetition of such events in the future (FF).

Opinion

BART STURTEWAGEN • DE STANDAARD • 18 MARCH

The damage to the Senate Chairwoman herself remains limited. Nor have her voters ever held her to account for her earlier faux pas in her uncontrolled fight against all manner of injustices. Her party has been worse hit by the episode. With her unacceptable approach to politics she has dented the carefully constructed modernised image of the PS. Her electoral weight made it impractical to call her to account for this. What remains is the assessment of the way in which the party has handled this crisis. This was characterised by a paucity of arguments and an abundance of pure power-wielding. All those who are so quick to broadcast the fact that the PS is the only real power in this country and make it responsible for everything that goes wrong were given a further free lasting example. The spectacular way in which the MR changed tack in the Senate underlines this perception. Apart from admitting her mistake and apologising, Lizin should have been forced to resign. Following that gesture the majority could just have easily closed ranks. But then the aftertaste of this episode had become less bitter.

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Frank Vandecaveye | editor in chief
The flamboyant Senate Chairwoman Anne-Marie Lizin (PS), also Mayor of Hoei, has got herself into a fix with a letter to a Liège judge. In the letter she tries to intervene in a ‘nasty divorce’. The judge found that to be a violation of the principle of the separation of judicial and administrative power, made the letter public and washed his hands of the case. Under pressure from Justice Minister and fellow party member Onkelinx, Lizin made her excuses to the judge, but the damage was done. Lizin defends herself by claiming that she wrote the letter as Mayor and not as Senate Chairwoman. The opposition parties together with the MR called for the matter to be debated in the plenary session of the Senate. According to them it involves a violation of the constitution and that is disastrous for the image of the Senate. Her party and her party Chairman Elio Di Rupo continued to maintain that she had committed the error in her capacity as Mayor and that the Senate did not therefore need to debate the matter. But in the end Lizin herself realised that the debate was unavoidable. On 17 March she had to justify her intervention before the entire Senate. Meanwhile Home Affairs Minister Dewael (VLD), as the Minister with responsibility for mayors, is asking for a report from the Governor of Liège on the incident. Based on this he will decide whether to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Lizin (FF).

Opinion

BART EECKHOUT • DE MORGEN • 15 MARCH

Officially the chairmanship of the Senate is the second highest office in our country’s political hierarchy. That makes Mrs Lizin, after Chamber Chairman Herman De Croo, the country’s second citizen. It is not asking too much to demand unimpeachable political and ethical behaviour from someone in that position. At the very least a politician who also chairs the Senate may be expected to be familiar with key concepts from our constitutional state such as the separation of powers and the independent position of judges. With her letter Anne-Marie Lizin has shown that she does not come up to these high but not excessive standards. The new generation of top politicians has put an end to the blurring of standards that characterised certain of their predecessors. The major scandals of recent years involve a Visa card used by royalty or a somewhat over-sized bathroom in a cabinet. Even the general public sees this nuance and no longer automatically associates politics with corruption, so studies tell us. A caricature was often made of the new political culture before being destroyed. But the new culture has now arrived, and that makes the Lizin affair an unacceptable outgrowth of an old system.

Belgians increasingly turn away from minor corruption

FF EDITORIAL TEAM

A study carried out by KULeuven reveals that Belgians believe less and less that there is much corruption in this country (De Morgen, 15 March). In terms of the perception of corruption we are in the European middle group, claims investigator Steven Vande Walle, in the company of Germany, Austria and the United Kingdom. Belgians are increasingly unconvincing that a deal can always be made. Since 1999 confidence has risen from 5.5 to 7.5 on a scale of 10. However, another study carried out by the Institute for the Civil Service (Instituut voor de Overheid) shows that 56.2% of Flemings believe you need a long arm if you want to get something done by the government or the administration. Just less than one quarter believe civil servants are more corrupt than ordinary citizens, 42.4% believe politicians are more corrupt than ordinary citizens. It is mainly poorly educated people and the over-50s who are convinced you need a long arm. The acceptability of corruption has also taken a dive. Three-quarters of Belgians find bribes for politicians totally unacceptable. Everyone is convinced that they would never stoop so low themselves. More remarkably, however, 27% are convinced that others are doing so.
**FOCUS ON FLANDERS • 12 MARCH - 18 MARCH 2005 • NUMBER 11**

**Politics and Education**

**Flemish government modernises local government**

**MINISTER KEULEN IS PROUD OF THE NEW DRAFT. HE FEELS THAT IT ALLOWS LOCAL COUNCILS TO GOVERN WITH GREATER AUTONOMY AND DEMOCRACY**

After four months of discussion the Flemish Government has finally completed the draft of a new Municipalities Decree designed to modernise the old Municipalities Act. Since 2002, the municipalities have had all been a Flemish responsibility. The new Decree gives local councils greater autonomy, consolidates the position of the OCMW chairman and allows another council member to chair council meetings in place of the mayor. Nevertheless, this draft does not touch the direct election of the mayor and a ban on combining the offices of alderman or mayor with membership of the Flemish or Federal Parliament. According to Marino Keulen (VLs), the Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, the discussion points form the subject of a local election decree. The Minister is nevertheless proud of the new draft. He feels that it allows local councils to govern with greater autonomy and democracy. Following advice from the Council of State and approval by the Flemish Parliament the Decree should come into force by this summer (FF).

**MARK DEWEERDT • DE TIJD • 16 MARCH**

More than was allowed by the Municipalities Act, the Municipalities Decree is intended to give local councils greater autonomy to implement their own factual, personal and financial policy. A smaller municipality can organise itself differently and function differently from a large town.

According to the draft decree, the mayor no longer automatically chairs the council. The council elects its chairperson itself. This can be the mayor, but also an alderman or another council member. It is assumed that council debates will be livelier if a council member is chairing the meeting.

The last Flemish government wanted to reduce the number of aldermen. The Leterme government will not enforce that, but is giving local councils the option to do so. The current number of aldermen, dependent on the size of the municipality, will be included as an upper limit in the Municipalities Decree.

**Diplomas and Employment**

**Vandenbroucke: high-level diploma does not guarantee a job**

**FF EDITOR**

Of the 75,581 young people who graduated in June 2003, 11,717 (15.5%) were still without a job one year later, reports the employment office VDAB, which monitored all school-leavers for one year. What is striking is that young people who have received technical (TSO) or vocational (BSO) training sometimes find a job more easily than university graduates from areas such as political and social sciences, the arts, history or philosophy. According to Education and Employment Minister Vandenbroucke (SP.A), we have to get away from the idea that a high-level diploma guarantees a job. A TSO or BSO diploma also offers far greater chances of a job than a General Secondary Education (ASO) diploma and definitely than a diploma in Artistic Secondary Education (25.5% unemployed after one year).

Nevertheless, the chance of school-leavers being unemployed for long periods is still greatest if they have not completed any formal education. 26% of school-leavers without a diploma from technical education and 35% from vocational education are still without a job after one year. Graduates from part-time vocational education, where half the time is spent at school and the other half on training courses, also score poorly. These are mostly severely demotivated young people, who in 50% of cases are also unable to secure a place on a training course. The area of trade (offices, sales) in TSO and BSO also scores very badly. According to the Minister this is because the content of the courses no longer meets the needs of the labour market (Het Laatste Nieuws, 12 March). The top five on the list of best-scoring areas are dentistry, medicine, chemistry, healthcare [nurses, short-term higher education] and civil engineers.

When the study was presented Vandenbroucke also linked several political conclusions to the results. It is not possible to tailor education perfectly to the labour market, since it remains difficult to predict which sectors of the economy will perform well. Also, education is more than preparation for a job. It is also about personality development and the teaching of attitudes, says the Minister. And finally he wants in general against diploma fetishism. After all, is it becoming less and less important what you studied at the age of 18 or 19, and more and more important whether you are prepared to receive continual education throughout your working life (De Morgen, 12 March), says the Minister.

**WWW.VDAB.BE**
Deepening of Scheldt must be finished in 2009

The entire project costs 550 million euros of which Flanders will pay 80%

On 11 March the memorandum on the development of the Western Scheldt, including the deepening of the channel, was signed by the Flemish Minister for Public Works Kris Peeters (CD&V) and his Dutch colleagues for Waterways and Transport Karla Peijs and for Agriculture and the Environment Kees Veerman. That is excellent news for the port of Antwerp, which will be able to take larger ships thanks to the deepening of the channel to 13.1 metres. Accessibility to the ports of Terneuzen, Vlissingen and Ghent will also be improved. The agreement also includes a section on nature conservation and revaluation and one on safety. This last section contains measures to prevent floods, especially on the Flemish side of the Sea Scheldt. The cost of the entire project is not small: 550 million euros in total, of which Flanders will pay 80%. The dredging work to deepen the channel will cost 160 million, and will be paid for in full by Flanders. If everything goes to plan, it will begin in 2007 and be completed by 2009 (FF).

PASCAL SERTYN • DE STANDAARD • 12 MARCH

For Flanders, the deepening of the Western Scheldt between its mouth and Antwerp to 13.1 metres is the most important aspect of the agreement. In exchange, the Netherlands gets the prospect of better road access from the Western Scheldt Tunnel onto Belgian territory. After the Council of Ministers on 11 March, Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) emphasised that this agreement with the Netherlands secured the economic interest of Antwerp's port. The purpose of deepening the Scheldt to facilitate the arrival and departure of large container ships. Work is scheduled to begin in 2007.

Rudy De Meyer of the Antwerp port employers’ organisation Alport acknowledged that a major step had been taken, but at the same time pointed out that everything still had to be enshrined in a treaty. He also pointed out that it was now essential to reach effective agreements on the licensing procedures to be on schedule for carrying out the deepening. The boss of the port of Antwerp, Eddy Bruyninckx, calls the agreement a serious undertaking between the two countries, which also contains a series of guarantees in relation to deadlines and procedures. But it will be a ‘tough task’ to make sure that everything continues to run smoothly so that the deepening can actually take place in 2007.

Alongside the deepening of the Scheldt, the memorandum also contains a whole host of other agreements. Around 1,000 hectares of new nature will be created. The risk of flooding will also be further stemmed. That is particularly important on the Flemish side. It comprises both raising the height of dikes and the creation of flood areas. Finally, the memorandum also includes agreements on, among other things, pilotage on the Western Scheldt, disaster relief, a better traffic link for Zeeland’s ports to the Flemish road network and the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal. In the Netherlands, however, the government still has to submit the decisions to the Dutch Lower Chamber.

WWW.ANTWERP.BE

Agreement on HST link ensures breakthrough

Officially both the Netherlands and Flanders are continuing to deny that the dossiers on the deepening of the Scheldt and the HST link between Brussels and Amsterdam were related. But merely days before the signing of the memorandum, Belgium - the Federal Government - and the Netherlands reached an agreement on the HST. The Minister with responsibility for the Belgian Railways, Johan Vande Lanotte (SP.A), admitted that both dossiers were riveted together (FF).

KATRIEN VERSTRAETE • DE TIJD • 12 MARCH

The Netherlands asked that Belgium guarantee a quicker journey time. But because this promise could not be entirely kept, the Netherlands is now getting direct train links between Breda, The Hague and Brussels. Belgium must also try and further cut journey times with additional infrastructure work. In the event of delays the NMBS (Belgian railways) will receive less money from the HSL revenue and the Dutch Railways more. In exchange, the Netherlands will not take the NMBS to court if journey times are not met.

WWW.NMBS.BE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS WITH EMPLOYMENT OFFICE RVA</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNEMPLOYED JOB SEEKERS</td>
<td>486,489</td>
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<td>252,576</td>
<td>261,037</td>
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<tr>
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<td>136,907</td>
<td>146,417</td>
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<td>107,915</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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Source: TID Graphics
Main shareholder stands down from Picanol’s board of directors

The shareholders’ meeting of loom manufacturer Picanol, based in Ypres in West Flanders, on 16 March saw an end to the row between minority shareholders and the main shareholder, the Steverlynck family. Patrick Steverlynck, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and his nephews Yves and Michel are standing down from the Board. The minority shareholders therefore seem to have largely won the battle. Earlier, extravagant pay had led to the resignation of former Managing Director Jan Coene and now also the position of Patrick, Yves and Michel Steverlynck untenable. A few months ago it became apparent that in three years Coene had raked in the record sum of 22 million euros in bonuses, salary, share options and expenses. Then last week PriceWaterhouseCoopers published its report, which revealed that for years the Steverlynck family had been submitting liberal expenses claims for the maintenance of their chateau, for receiving clients, for hunting parties (220,000 euros), holidays and private staff. Deminor, the solicitors who defended the rights of the minority shareholders, was mainly concerned by what he called the dawdling and less than energetic intervention of the Board of Directors. According to Vandekerckhove, the PwC study was a costly measure for nothing. The family minority shareholders had highlighted most of the malpractices highlighted by the PwC study at last year’s shareholders’ meeting. Despite the fierce debates, the shareholders discharged all the directors. That means that the company can no longer make a liability claim for any errors in the 2004 financial year. The shareholders’ meeting also appointed Chris Dewull as new Managing Director.

www.picanol.be

CONSOLIDATION OF BELGIAN MARKET OF ASSET BANKERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998/2000</td>
<td>French CCF acquires bank Deaway, which is taken over later on by British-Hong Kong banking group HSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>French société générale takes over bank De Martelaere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Dutch delta Lloyd acquires bank Nagelmaekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>De Buck Asset bankers becomes part of brussels Bank Degroof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>KB Lux takes over brussels asset banker Puilaetco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>ABN AMRO takes over Antwerp asset banker Corluy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECONOMY

ABN AMRO takes over asset banker Corluy

The Dutch bank ABN Amro has taken over the Antwerp-based Bank Corluy. Corluy is a so-called asset banker, most of whose customers are wealthy individuals. The news came as something of a surprise. It had long been known that minority shareholder Mercator Insurance wanted to dispose of its 37.5% interest. The Corluy family was ready to acquire control of the bank. But Mercator’s persistent doubts finally made the family decide to sell up in full to ABN Amro. The Dutch promised to retain the brand name Bank Corluy, nor will the jobs of the 90 employees be in danger. The Antwerp bank manages assets worth 2.4 billion euros (FF).

For ABN AMRO, the fifth largest bank in Europe, Bank Corluy was an unmissable chance to buy. Although the Dutch banking group also has a profitable merchant bank and a diamond bank in Belgium, for years it has been working to develop an asset manager for wealthy individuals. Since 2003, therefore, ABN Amro has also actively targeted wealthy Belgians and no longer Dutch or French living in Belgium. In concrete terms ABN AMRO wants to triple the assets managed as quickly as possible to 10 billion euros. The network of offices is also reasonably complementary. The only overlap is in Antwerp. There ABN Amro is moving its front-office to Colruy’s head office on the Belgische. But this purchase has not satisfied ABN AMRO’s hunger for take-overs. The Dutch will continue to look for other targets in our country. They have to admit, however, that these are now thin on the ground. Last year almost every major independent asset banker was swallowed up by a large financial group. In many respects, therefore, Bank Corluy is the final piece in the consolidation of asset banking in Belgium.

www.corluy.be

focus on flanders • 12 March - 18 March 2005 • Number 11
Service cheques are a success, but flop in Brussels

The introduction of service cheques on the labour market appears to have been a great success. Federal Employment Minister Freya Vanden Bossche (SP.A) recently reported that the formula had already enabled some 10,800 unemployed people to find work via the system. The system was set up to help unskilled workers find jobs and to offer an alternative to the widespread moonlighting in domestic jobs. With a service cheque a private individual can hire a domestic help for 6.7 euros an hour. The government adds a further 14.8 euros to this. 75% of workers who are paid with service cheques found their job via a temping agency. They account for 40% of the number of hours worked. In addition, it is mainly cleaning firms and organisations within the social economy that organise the work on offer. The aim was to create 25,000 jobs by 2007, but according to Federgon, the federation of temping agencies, this target can be met in 2005. It is also striking that 78% of the offer of temping agencies is in Flanders, compared to only 16.4% in Wallonia and 5.3% in Brussels. Federgon has an explanation for the very low figure in Brussels (FF).

EMMANUEL VANBRUSSEL • DE MORGEN •
15 MARCH

Service cheques are enormously popular in Flanders, enjoy moderate success in Wallonia and are a flop in Brussels, according to Federgon's statistics. Nevertheless, with more than 94,000 unemployed job-seekers, unemployment in the Brussels Region is very high. Federgon attributes the low Brussels figure to the increase in moonlighting in the Region. Herwig Muyldermans, General Manager of Federgon: ‘We have to call it as we see it. Brussels is being inundated with thousands of Polish cleaning ladies. They are good workers, have an excellent reputation and are therefore doing well in the market.’ The Polish influx has increased the numbers of cleaners available, pushing down prices on the black market. Muyldermans also makes a connection with the construction sector. Muyldermans: ‘While the wife is a cleaning lady, the husband works illegally in construction.’ Poland has been a member of the European Union since its accession in May last year. At the time it was agreed that Polish workers could not move freely as workers in Belgium until 2007. But both the temping and construction sectors are finding that Polish construction workers are already entering our country en masse to work illegally. ‘That's a distorted situation. We have to regulate the Polish moonlighters as quickly as possible,’ says Muyldermans. According to Federgon, there is also something wrong with the government’s communication with the unemployed people of Brussels. But a change for the better is imminent. Brussels Labour Minister Benoît Cerexhe (cdH) is to write to 50,000 Brussels job-seekers explaining the benefits of the system.

WWW.FEDERGON.BE

Molenbeek breeding-ground for Jihad fighters?

A journalist of Het Nieuwsblad, of Moroccan origin, describes Molenbeek as a genuine Moslem state, where young people are being radicalised at a rapid rate

On 14 March Het Nieuwsblad began publishing a series of articles by a woman journalist who spent several months living undercover in the Moslem community of the Brussels municipality of Sint-Jansmolenbeek. The journalist, of Moroccan origin, describes Molenbeek as a genuine Moslem state, where young people are being radicalised at a rapid rate and where the Belgian government no longer has any authority. Mosques are concealed behind gates and doors and are invisible to outsiders. The lack of Arabic-speaking police officers and infiltrators ensures that extremism can spread unhindered and that young people are being turned on to Jihad. Philippe Mouraux (PS), Mayor of Molenbeek, dismisses the journalist’s story as nonsense. Young foreigners often use forceful language, but therefore do not yet put their words into action, the Mayor claims. Koen Dassen, Head of State Security, stresses that Molenbeek is in fact under control and that the security forces can react with sufficient speed to signs of a terrorist threat. Loredana Marchi, who has worked in the municipal centre for integration for 25 years, finds the journalist implausible (De Standaard). It is completely inconceivable that extremists with plans would take such a young woman into their confidence. According to her, she has mainly listened to young people who act tough and talk the most hot air. Molenbeek does not need sensational journalism. Molenbeek needs jobs, claims the integration worker (FF).

GUNTHER VANPRAET • HET NIEUWSBLAD •
12 MARCH

Investigative journalist Hind Fraidi: ‘I’m amazed by what I discovered. I found that many Brussels Moslems are not the least bit interested in integration. They see Belgians as non-believers and have no affection for our country. They see Molenbeek as a Moslem enclave where they hold sway and where Belgians are no longer welcome. Hundreds of young adults spend years studying the unaltered Koran - at the expense of Saudi financial backers, because studying is their only vocational activity. ‘These are future young Moslem leaders. Then you have a large group of young people who have little prospect of a future in our country because of the lack of training and work. They form a breeding-ground for hundreds of Jihad fighters who are prepared to carry out attacks and fight a holy war against the non-believers. There is no immediate danger of attacks in Belgium. They see our country as a safe house where they are left in peace and from where they can plan all manner of attacks and activities abroad with few risks. This does not put them in any danger. There is also no large, well-organised Moslem Terror structure in our country, but a whole series of extremist cells. This makes it difficult for our police to keep tabs on them.’
Bozar targets 1 million visitors in new season 2005-2006

THE PROGRAMMING IS BASED AROUND EUROPALIA RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA

In 2005 Bozar, the former Palace of Fine Arts in Brussels, will cross the threshold of one million visitors, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Etienne Davignon believes. That was not the case in 2004, despite the 3,450 activities that were organised there. However, Bozar was temporarily closed due to renovation work in the summer. A new exhibition area, a new restaurant and improved acoustics in the Victor Horta Hall and three new multipurpose halls are designed to improve visitor comfort. The programming for the 2005-2006 season is based around Europalia Russia and Austria, which is the centre of attention with the 250th anniversary of Mozart and the Presidency of the EU in 2006. But Bozar is also collaborating on a project with Flemish museums on Flemish art collections (FF).

BRUNO DEPOVER • DE MORGEN • 16 MARCH

Europalia Russia will be the star of the new Bozar Expo season. In the autumn an exhibition will open on the Russian avant-garde with big names such as Tatlin, Kandinsky and Malevitsj and there will be a second exhibition, ‘From Tsar to Emperor’, on Saint Petersburg and Moscow. There will also be an installation of Sergej Bratkov that attacks the contemporary Russian social and political situation.

During the summer Bozar, together with other Belgian museums, will launch a series of exhibitions designed to stimulate the debate over Belgian art collections. Under the title of ‘Ensor to Bosch’ the Flemish art collection - the partnership between Bruges Groeninge Museum, Antwerp Royal Museum of Fine Art and Ghent Museum of Fine Art - shows the genesis of the three most important Flemish museums. The exhibition emphasises the interaction between taste and art, fashion and mentality, ancient and modern art. It reconstructs the preferences of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century collectors in Flanders and examines the key role of the French occupation. Alongside top works by Bosch, Van Dijck and Ensor, unknown works from the repositories will also be on display. Another historical exhibition with an innovative approach is based around the Vienna Werkstätte. Josef Hoffmann and Kolo Moser were the figureheads of the Austrian movement that wanted to reconcile the fine and applied arts to create a sort of total art at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The spring of 2006 will also see the start of the international project ‘Woman, Women’, which will take place at various locations in Brussels, such as the Kunstberg and Thurn & Taxis. ‘Family affairs’ will examine what impact brothers and sisters have on the development of artistic identity. Alongside the Duchamp brothers, Klimt and Hals there will also be work by Pieter and Jan Breughel. ‘In 2006 we will mainly be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Mozart,’ says Christian Renard of Bozar Music, with the execution of all the violin concertos and the entire piano concertos. The occasion of Austria’s EU Presidency will also see Biber, a recital by Alfred Brendel and the first appearance in Belgium of Christian Thielemann at the head of the Vienna Philharmonic. However, the high point of the musical programme will be the integral version of Molière’s Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, which will include Lully’s complete ballet and music.

WWW.BOZAR.BE

Verhofstadt recalls anti-terrorism efforts

FF EDITOR

On 11 March, one year after the attack in Madrid, Premier Verhofstadt announced the measures the government has taken since then against the threat of terrorism. Thus, the European warrant of arrest was used six times in practice in Belgium, each time in connection with terrorism dossiers. The Premier also announced the setting up of the Co-ordination Body for Threat Analysis (Coördinatieorgaan voor Dreigingsanalyse - Coda), the successor to the Anti-Terrorist Group. The task of Coda’s 70 specialists is to monitor the threat of terrorism in the country. There will also be an examining magistrate who will be responsible specifically for terrorism dossiers. In the meantime the Federal Public Prosecutor’s Office has already dealt with 123 terrorism dossiers and 23 people are being held in Belgian prisons on suspicion of having played a role in one of the dossiers.

BEKAERT CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL RESULTS 2004 (in million Euro)

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