Flemish unemployment down for first time in 5 years

The signs are increasing that the economy is picking up. In October the research firm Graydon counted the lowest number of bankrupt businesses in five years, and because the figure also fell in September, the firm sees this as a sign of economic recovery. The economic barometer of the Nationale Bank has also shown a positive break with trends since September. Now Flemish unemployment figures are on the up. This is because unemployment in Flanders has fallen for the first time in 5 years. The Flemish Public Employment Service (VDAB) counted 3,346 or 1.4% fewer unemployed than in October 2004. The drop is mainly visible among unskilled women. Last year these got new jobs via the system of service cheques. Conversely, the number of older and foreign people unemployed has risen, as has the number of long-term unemployed. October 2005 was the first month that again allowed comparison with the same month in 2004, because in October 2004 the unemployment figures underwent some doctoring (FF).

MARK DEWEERDT • DE TIJD • 3 NOVEMBER

Flemish Employment Minister Frank Vandenbroucke (SP.A) sees no cause for jubilation in the unemployment figures. The cautious upturn in the economy is expressed in the drop in the number of highly skilled unemployed [-1.9%] and the number of short-term [less than one year] unemployed [-11.6%]. But while unemployment among young people (below the age of 25) fell slightly in the past year (-0.6%), the army of older unemployed people continues to grow. Last year saw a further 3,455 older unemployed (+3.7%).

Over the next few weeks Vandenbroucke will hold intense talks with social partners on measures for older unemployed people, and has already been given the means to do so by the Flemish Government. Vandenbroucke wants to do the same for young immigrant unemployed people in particular. 16% of job-seekers are of foreign origin. Increasing employment levels among older workers does not mean that more young people cannot also find jobs, he said. Vandenbroucke referred to the youth unemployment action plan of the Federal Government. It is ready to enter into an agreement with 13 local authorities with high youth unemployment and pay 500 euros per unemployed young person for assistance in looking for a job. This will involve 11,000 young people.
Socialist union and party trade blows

MINISTER OF WORK VAN VELTHOVEN STRESSES THAT THERE IS STILL PLENTY OF ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PACT, ON WHICH HEAVY JOBS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR PREMATURE EARLY RETIREMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE CHANGES TO THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE PACT

Xavier Verboven is accusing the SPA of having chosen the side of ‘the middle class’. ‘They clearly think that is where their voters lie. Fine, we’ll see what happens at the elections.’ The interviews, in which harsh words are repeatedly handed about, are unlikely to thaw the icy mood between party and union and refloat the generation pact. Evenings of joint debates between party and union are planned for mid-November to iron out the creases, announced Employment Minister Peter Vanvelthoven (SPA). ‘We have to. We believe our own people can’t stand the fact that the union and the party are fighting in the streets.’ The question is whether it is still possible to pick up the pieces, as Vanvelthoven is also reiterating that the generation pact is not open to renegotiation. Talks with social partners are now only possible on the implementation of the 66 measures, such as the definition of ‘heavy jobs’. The SPA does, however, accept that the pact was poorly explained’ because the spotlight was mainly on early retirement. Nonetheless, the party continues to fully support the generation pact. Vande Lanotte calls it a ‘left-wing manifesto’, Vanvelthoven calls the 66 measures ‘rather tame’. The Employment Minister is waiting ‘for a signal from the trade unions’ that they are willing to resume talks. ‘The only question is whether the unions have the will to negotiate over the pact’s implementation. If they stand by their view that the pact must be abolished, in its entirety, negotiation is impossible.’ This weekend Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) tried to pour oil on troubled waters. In his view, the current stalemate between Purples and the trade unions is fuelling anti-politics. To break the hedgehog positions he is putting forward two plans of action: one to tackle youth unemployment and one designed to make it easier for over-50s who are victims of restructuring to find a new job. The Flemish Government has set aside 15 million euros for the youth action plan. Premier Verhofstadt promptly ‘thanked’ his Flemish colleague, not without irony, for ‘the small contribution’.

WWW.SP.BE
WWW.ABVV.BE

Employers congratulate unions

The trade unions respected the right to work almost everywhere during the strike on Friday 28 October. There was just the one road block [at bus constructor Van Hool] and everywhere those who wanted to work were allowed through. The employers’ organisations Voka and Unizo congratulated the unions on this at their press conference. They continue to maintain that the strike and demonstration were not directed against employers but against the government. But it would be advisable if in future the unions planned their demonstrations for a Sunday, to avoid damaging the economy, says Philippe Muylers of VOKA. The employers’ organisations also emphasised that workers were still incredibly confused about the generation pact. Many workers were striking for things which the generation pact settled or against things it did not contain, claims Muylers [De Standaard, 29 October]. The government still has a lot of information work to do, claim the employers’ organisations.

WWW.VOKA.BE
WWW.UNIZO.BE
CD&V in a bind, Groen! backs strike, Vlaams Belang blows hot and cold

VB CHAIRMAN FRANK VANHECKE IN TURN REFUSED TO CONDEMN THE STRIKE AND EVADERD THE ISSUE IN A PRESS RELEASE ON 25 OCTOBER

T
he government parties were firmly against last Friday’s strikes. In the Socialist movement that even created an internal crisis between union and party. But how are things with the Flemish opposition parties? The CD&V is actually just as much as in a bind. MPs of an ACW stripe were nowhere to be seen at the demonstration, although MP Greta D’Hondt, for years in the frontline of the Christian workers’ movement, could not resist sneering at the ‘provocative’ attitude of Liberal Ministers Dewael and Verhofst
dadt in De Standaard (28 October). But the CD&V is not openly siding with the ACW militants. After all, the party has put forward its own socio-economic plan, which contains even more drastic measures for tackling the ageing population. Nor does it consider offers from the public. Groen! is calling on the Premier to amend the Generation Pact and is asking for the workload to be better spread across the entire career. The party is calling for more tax on income from capital, a greater contribution by the stock exchange. As recently as 1995 former Senator Wim Verreycken called for the high pressure of work and the lack of prospects for young people. Par-
sition on the imminent trade union action against the Generation Pact. On 9 October Parliamentary Party Leader Gerolf Annemans said on VRT that the ABVV strike of two days earlier was ‘unacceptable’. MP Ortwin Depoortere was unhappy that Ghent Mayor Frank Beke (SP.A) failed to take action against pickets. VB MP Freddy Van Gaever said in De Morgen that ‘strikers only discourage investors’. He too did not understand why the police had not intervened during the ABVV strike of 7 October.

VB Chairman Frank Vanhecke in turn refused to condemn the strike and evaded the issue in a press release on 25 October. On the one hand he showed sympathy for the actions and for the anger of many workers. On the other the release ended with the sentence: ‘That does not take away that we regret that this strike action will probably once again affect large and small Flemish businesses.’ (…)
Minister Van Brempt defends 80 km/h for lorries

In June Flemish Transport Minister Kathleen Van Brempt (SP.A) launched the idea of reducing the maximum speed for lorries to 80 km/h. At the time both the coalition partner VLD and the transport sector dismissed the idea as overly hasty. The idea would make roads even more dangerous - the rows of lorries would only become longer, driving more sleep-inducing for drivers - and anyway there was absolutely no evidence that the reduction was environmentally friendly. The Minister promptly commissioned two studies. One on safety, one on the environmental consequences of a speed reduction. The latter is now ready and appears to bear Van Brempt out. The Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO) calculated that reducing the speed for lorries from 90 to 80 km/h for lighter types (3.5 to 16 tonnes) equated to a 10 to 15% reduction in CO2 emissions. For heavier lorries (16 to 40 tonnes) the reduction is a mere 5%. Van Brempt is calling the reduction in the maximum speed a quick win: a minor effort with major consequences in the short term.

Not only does it contribute to the effort Flanders must make to reduce CO2 emissions by 7.5% by 2012 under the Kyoto Protocol. Thanks to the measure the transport sector will also save on its energy bill. The Minister is now waiting for the results of the safety study. After that she will refloat the idea for discussion. She would rather pass on the idea to her fellow party member and transport colleague at federal level, Renaat Landuyt. In that case the speed restriction would not only apply in Flanders. However, the Flemish majority parties, the CD&V and VLD, remain unconvinced, as does the transport sector (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 2 NOVEMBER

The CD&V is calling for an economic analysis. ‘It’s easy to calculate that the economic consequences could be fairly severe,’ says CD&V Party Leader in the Flemish Parliament Ludwig Caluwé. ‘Under the legislation governing driving and rest times, a lorry driver can drive for a maximum of 47 hours a week. Assuming that he can achieve the maximum speed for the whole time, he can cover 4,230 kilometres at 90 km/h. At 80 km/h that becomes 3,760 kilometres, or 12.5% less.’

Production of rapeseed for biofuel increases tenfold

More and more Flemish farmers are attempting to cultivate energy crops that can serve as a basis for biofuels. Sugar beet and grain are possibilities, but are still grown purely for the food industry. But the cultivation of rapeseed is also gradually gaining ground. Farmers can receive an extra premium if their rapeseed is pressed into oil for the production of biodiesel. Under a European directive, 2% of fuels must be biological by the end of this year, and 5.75% by 2010 (FF). The Federal Government has exempted biofuels from duty. In his policy document ‘Agriculture’ the Flemish Agriculture Minister, Yves Leterme (CD&V), promises extra support for the cultivation of energy crops. Interest among farmers is growing quickly. The area of sown rapeseed will rise this winter from 80 to 800 hectares, according to estimates by the Monitoring & Study Department of the Flemish Agricultural and Horticultural Administration. For each hectare of rapeseed the farmer gets 45 euros on top of the normal European agricultural support (on average 350 euros/ha). Flemish farmers want to be ready if our country suddenly starts producing biodiesel on a large scale. The Federal Government, however, has not yet issued a call for tenders with the conditions which candidate suppliers of biofuels must satisfy. Three companies have already announced their interest: Cargill, Oleon and Bioro. With 800 hectares of rapeseed, Flanders still has a long way to go. The bus and tram company De Lijn wants to run 5% of its buses on biodiesel. That will require around 2,800 hectares of rapeseed. To obtain 5% of the total diesel consumption in Flanders from rapeseed oil would require 117,000 hectares. That is almost one fifth of Flanders farm land. A sizeable percentage of the rapeseed required is expected to be imported.

WWW.KATHLEENVANBREMPT.BE
Bekaert Textiles scraps
440 jobs

Production is to move to Turkey and the Czech Republic

As long as employers can still make use of the beneficial early retirement scheme, they are evidently keen to press on with restructuring. The Chairman of the Christian ACV union, Luc Cortebeeck, noticed it a while ago. The news that mattress ticking producer Bekaert Textiles is scrapping 440 jobs seems to confirm that. Two factories will close in Waregem and Oudenaarde before 2008. The unions now want to push along social negotiations at Bekaert. Workers aged 52 and above could still make use of the early retirement scheme. Once the Generation Pact takes effect, that is very likely to become much more difficult. Over the coming weeks the procedure under the Renault Act on mass redundancies will be followed. Bekaert Textiles is part of the Dutch group Gamma Holding and as well as mattress ticking also produces curtain fabric and textile wallpaper. Production is to move to Turkey and the Czech Republic (FF).

GERDA ACKAERT • DE TIJD • 3 NOVEMBER

A far-reaching restructuring plan was announced yesterday at a special works council of the Belgian sites of Bekaert Textiles. By 2008 Bekaert Textiles wants to have largely shifted production of mattress ticking to the Czech Republic and Turkey. Bekaert Textiles already has a site in the Czech Republic. In Turkey the group is planning to build a new factory. As a consequence of the planned relocations, Belgium will be left with just the production of special mattress ticking, concentrated in one factory. This currently takes place in factories in Waregem. According to General Manager Paul De Meulemeester, a relocation of production has been made unavoidable by the difficult market conditions in the mattress industry: ‘In recent years we’ve been hit mainly on far-off export markets with local players, who work with low wage costs and impose all sorts of import restrictions on foreign players’. The European mattress market in turn is suffering from over-capacity due to falling exports outside Europe. ‘That leads to severe price competition, which affects margins. In addition, more and more European mattress manufacturers are moving their production to Eastern Europe, which means they also buy their ticking there locally,’ says De Meulemeester.

Action will also have to be taken in Bekaert Textiles’ second area of activities in Oudenaarde. In the Oudenaarde factory Bekaert Textiles produces curtain fabric, materials for prams and textile wallpaper. The factory in Oudenaarde will be closed. Part of the production will be moved to Waregem, the rest to the Czech Republic.

WWW.BEKAERTTEXTILES.BE

ING under the spell of outsourcing

The job losses are the result of a restructuring of the Operations & IT division, which has to achieve annual cost savings of 190 million euros by 2008.

On 2 November Dutch bank insurer ING announced major job cuts in our country for the second time this year. According to calculations by trade unions, 300 to 340 jobs will disappear in our country, on top of the 50 jobs ING scrapped back in July. The job losses are the result of a restructuring of the Operations & IT division, which has to achieve annual cost savings of 190 million euros by 2008. 4,500 of the 13,000 jobs there will ultimately have to disappear. There will be no simple redundancies, the management promised. But around 2,200 ING employees in Benelux will be forced to switch to a supplier of IT services. The Belgian IT division employs 2,750 people. Finally, ING is not going to extend the contracts of 1,400 temporary workers. The whole restructuring plan fits perfectly into the trend for outsourcing administrative and IT tasks to companies that often operate from India or Eastern Europe. Several months ago Fortis also announced that it wants to scrap 1,200 jobs in support services. The unions are warning of the social consequences of spinning off and outsourcing. After all, workers will mostly lose the favourable work and pay conditions in the banking sector, they believe (FF).

SAAR SINAÆVE • DE TIJD • 3 NOVEMBER

Large industrial groups that close factories and relocate to low-wage countries are no longer the exception. But this movement will of course not be stopped in the white-collar jobs. IT experts can write IT programs just as well in countries such as India, is the reasoning.

There is little doubt that other bank insurers will come up with dramatic outsourcing plans over the coming months, causing hundreds more jobs to be lost. In June Fortis indicated that it wants to scrap 1,200 jobs over the next few years in support services such as IT and personnel policy. The merger of KBC and KBLux has not yet produced a savings plan, but that too is only a matter of time.

But is this trend towards outsourcing also a good idea in the long term, or is it simply the latest fad? What do you do as a banker if within a few years your software knowledge is in India, your insurance policies are drawn up in Poland and you share the asset management of investment funds with another bank? How do you keep that under control? And how do you prevent it from knowing away at the service you provide?

WWW.ING.BE
All pharma companies end 2005 in the red

While the Federal Government is holding the sector responsible as the villain of the piece for the huge rise in health insurance, in the regions of Flanders and Wallonia it is being praised for its efforts in the field of research and development

On 10 October the government decided that the extra turnover tax paid by the pharma industry to health insurance would be converted into a tax that must be paid to the general social security fund. In recent years the tax had risen to around 9% of turnover. The income generated by the tax is used to finance increases in the drugs expenditure of health insurance. Under European accounting standards, however, the tax must largely be charged to the 2005 financial year, so that the industry will lose as much as 17.5% of its turnover for this year. Almost all Belgian pharma companies will therefore end 2005 in the red. Leo Neels, spokesman of Pharma.be, the pharma industry’s pressure group, speaks of a disaster. All pharma companies will end 2005 in the red, the first time in Belgian history. The pharma sector is also being dealt with completely differently in the Regional and the Federal Government, concludes De Standaard (29 October). While the Federal Government is holding the sector responsible as the villain of the piece for the huge rise in health insurance, in the Regions of Flanders and Wallonia it is being praised for its efforts in the field of research and development. In Wallonia it has even been given a key role in the economic Marshall Plan (FF).

GUY TEGENBOS • DE STANDAARD • 29 OCTOBER

Last year a brake was put on the increase in drugs expenditure in health insurance. The spokesman for the pharma industry, Leo Neels, says that the government could have cut the turnover tax for pharma companies to around 2%. But after the budget talks on 10 October, Health Minister Rudy Demotte (PS) suddenly said that he had ‘relinquished’ the tax and that henceforth this would no longer go to health insurance, but to the general social security fund. The pharma companies, which have hated this tax for years, were furious. Instead of cutting the tax, it is being strengthened and ‘henceforth it will not even be used for drug policy, but to pay for pensions and unemployment benefits!’ But for the managers of pharma companies, this was not the end of their blood pressure problems. When their accounting experts received the government texts, they reported that the consequence of this is that under European accounting standards they will have to largely charge this new tax, which they have to pay in 2006, to the 2005 financial year. This means that they will have to pay not only ordinary tax of around 9%, but in total around 17.5% on their turnover in 2005. ‘Not one company can cope with a sudden tax amounting to almost 20% of its turnover,’ says the sector. Almost all companies will therefore end 2005 in the red. Leo Neels of the industry federation Pharma.be claims that the government is improvising extravagantly. And says: ‘Almost all these companies are quoted on the stock exchange. The government doesn’t realise what it’s doing to them!’ Spokespeople for individual companies are saying that the government also does not realise how this comes across in international headquarters. Large investment dossiers are known to be still circulating in several of these headquarters and that Belgium was still in the running for several of them.

WWW.PHARMA.BE

Individuals’ poultry confined to hutches

The FAVV’s server has failed several times because too many people were visiting www.favv.be at the same time to find out if they lived in an area at risk of bird flu

From 31 October not only the poultry of professional breeders but also that owned by private individuals must remain in its hutch as a measure against bird flu. The measure applies in all areas designed risk areas by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen, FAVV). Municipalities that lie within these areas are on a list drawn up by the FAVV in collaboration with universities. These municipalities lie within a radius of one kilometre of the resting and eating places of migratory birds. Those bird species that present the greatest risk of bird flu and that stay in nature reserves are on a black list. This concerns various species of geese, sea-gulls, ducks, teals, peewits and ruffs. The importing of birds also remains banned, together with bird markets and shows. Poultry may still be transported and traded, however. Mayors are giving local police the task of ensuring the ban is observed. As a precaution, the City of Bruges has removed the swans from the Reien and locked them up. Nevertheless, that was not compulsory. The swans are not pets and can move freely. Above all the city wants to avoid their coming into contact with wild birds. The FAVV continues to stress that these measures are still only preventive and that there is no cause for alarm. According to Managing Director Piet Vanhemelsche of the FAVV in De Standaard (29 October), Belgium has rarely been better prepared for a crisis that has not yet occurred. The strategy is in place if the crisis does happen. Since 27 October the FAVV’s server has failed several times because too many people were visiting www.favv.be at the same time to find out if they lived in an area at risk of bird flu. Meanwhile a poster campaign is being run in department stores to explain that there is no risk whatsoever involved in eating chicken and eggs (FF).
Anciaux bites teeth to pieces over literary prize

It looks as if the Minister took his wishes concerning the Golden Owl to be the truth rather too quickly

During his opening speech at the annual book fair in Antwerp (1-11 November, Bouwcentrum), Culture Minister Bert Anciaux (Spirit) casually remarked that the ‘Golden Owl’ - the biggest commercial literature prize in Flanders - would presently be a prize of the Flemish Community. In an interview in De Morgen (2 November) and in De Standaard (2 November) he reveals his plans in somewhat greater detail. The government would make 50,000 euros available and together with boek.be take over the role of Standaard Boekhandel (bookstore chain), which currently organises the prize. Boek.be is the umbrella organisation of publishers and booksellers. But the very next day Standaard Boekhandel reacts with a press release in which the Minister is cordially thanked for the cheque of 50,000 euros, followed by the message that Standaard Boekhandel will still be organising the prize (FF).

JEROEN DE PRETER • DE MORGEN • 3 NOVEMBER

In the row the discussion is focusing on the power of the Minister, and precisely how far this reaches. According to Anciaux, the Golden Owl was at risk of disappearing, and could only be rescued through his intervention. Together with Boek.be the Flemish Community would henceforth finance the prize. With the ‘not illogical’ consequence that the minister himself can, if it should prove necessary, ignore the decision of the juries.

The question is very much whether it will ever come to that. It looks as if the Minister has again too quickly believed that his wishes came true. Thus, according to various sources, including Standaard Boekhandel, there had still not been any talks with the umbrella organisation Boek.be. Yet there clearly had been talks between Anciaux and the bookstore chain. Only the two parties appear to have drawn completely different conclusions from that meeting.

Standaard Boekhandel itself reacted to Anciaux’s comments yesterday by issuing a press release. In it Anciaux is cordially thanked for the financial support. However, the Minister should not expect much more than this word of thanks. ‘The initiative-takers [apart from Standaard Boekhandel also the TV weekly Humo and the VRT network Canvas] will remain responsible for the majority of the financing for the prize,’ said the release. These same initiative-takers also promised they would ‘continue to monitor the independence of the juries’.

The Standaard Boekhandel release caused surprise yesterday at Anciaux’s office. ‘Clear agreements were made,’ says his spokesperson.

‘With Boek.be too. The agreement was that the Flemish Community and Boek.be would adopt the Golden Owl, and Standaard Boekhandel would only be responsible for the organisation. We get the impression that a conflict has since blown up between Boek.be and Standaard Boekhandel of which ultimately we’ll be the victim.’ It looks as if the Minister took his wishes concerning the Golden Owl to be the truth rather too quickly.

WWW.BOEK.BE
WWW.STANDAARDBOEKHANDEL.BE

Eggs and fresh poultry meat on the Belgian market come from healthy animals. Chickens for slaughter are inspected both before and after slaughter in accordance with European legislation,’ reads the message on the posters. Spokesman Geert De Poorter says the poster campaign is necessary because the consumer is clearly worried about meat and eggs. ‘There’s no risk, because we’re still carrying out the normal checks.’ The Federal Food Agency is counting on mayors and their own people to ensure all poultry is kept in hutch es in the risk areas. ‘It is not our intention to organise a witch-hunt, we just expect people to show a sense of civic responsibility. If someone doesn’t keep their chickens in the hut after a verbal warning, penalties such as a summons and the seizure of the animals may follow.’ According to the Stichting Levend Erfgoed, this weekend hundred or perhaps thousands of animals will be slaughtered because of a lack of facilities for keeping them cooped up on a long-term basis. Vogelbescherming Vlaanderen (Bird Wildlife Flanders) also says it has received signals that many private poultry breeders are slaughtering their animals prematurely or even releasing them into nature - dumping - because they are unable to keep them in hutch es.

The Federal Food Agency acknowledges the problem of keeping chickens cooped up for a long time, but says that people do not necessarily have to keep their birds in a garage or coop the whole time. ‘That is not obvious. They can make a space to allow their animals to run around on grass, provided the top is covered with a roof or tarpaulin to avoid droppings from birds flying over and the sides are protected by fine-mesh wire.’

WWW.FAVV.BE
WWW.VOGELBESCHERMING.BE
CULTURE

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE
• Until 10 November: Klapstuk, 12th International Festival Leuven, Dance meets music theatre and visual arts, Stuk, Leuven, www.klapstuk.be 016/320.520
• Until 14 December: Voices from the Sabah with films, concerts, theatre, workshops with Sekouba Traoré (21 October), Theatre ‘Les souvenirs de la danse’, homepage: www.overderpuijs.be, Antwerp, info: 03/248.01.00 www.zuiderpuijs.be
• Until 13 November: Debussy, Stravinsky, Denisov, Pärt, Karmanov and
• 9 November: www.zuiderpershuis.be Antwerp; info: 03/248.01.00
• 10 November: Rodolphe Ignatzaek d'Assinofose trio, Flagey, Brussels, info: www.flagey.be www.audi jazz.be
• 10 November: John Scofield Trio and Roy Har grove & RH Factor, De Warande, Turnhout, info: 014/41.69.91 www.audi jazze.be
• 10 November: Rodoitn’ Ignatzaek d’ Assinofose trio, Sounds Jazz Club, Brussels, info: www.audi jazze.be 02/512.92.50
• 10 November: Desolaiderlangen, (the Thursdays) with deutscher-pilsche, directory 2 songs of love and war, Het Collectief, Marc Vanstraelen (dance), bl indian juniors, Roland Seidel & Achim Stiermann, De Singel, Antwerp, www.desingel.be 03/248.28.28
• 10 November: Tracy Bonham [USA], concert, De Handelsbeurs, Ghent, info: www.handelsbeurs.be 09/265.91.65
• 10 November: Tracy Costello of Johnsons, Ancien ne Belgique, Brussels, info: www.abconcerts.be 02/548.24.24
• 10 November: 4 to December: Raster Noton (Ger), project, De Vooruit, Ghent, info: www.vooruit.be
• 11 November: Danel Quartet with Shostakottitch Integrale, Concertgebouw, Bruges, info: www.concertgebouw.be
• 11 November: The Open Country, Sounds Jazz Club, Brussels, info: www.audi jazze.be 02/512.92.50
• 1 to 11 November: 69th Antwerp Book Fair with 140 book stands, lectures, debates etc. Antwerp Expo, Bosuwecentrum, Antwerp, info www.bookbeur .be
• 9 November: Trevor Pinnock (harpsichord) with Rancuez, Compinhar, Bach, Protestant Chapel, Brussels, info: 050/44.87.12
• 10 November: New York Philharmonic conducted by Lorin Maazel with Olivier Messiaen (Les Offrandes Ouïbibles), Richard Strauss (Tod und Verklärung) and Antonin Dvorak Symphonie no. 9, Bozar, Brussels, info: www.bozar .be
• 12 November: London Symphony Orchestra in love you will never die, Otto. I Censi/spettacolo by Kinkaleri (It), Performance, dance, theatre, Kaaitheater, Brussels, info: www.kaaitheater.be
• 12 November: La Fenice: Vespro a Voce sola with Joan Tubery (Contralto) and Claire Leffliture (soprano), Work by Boevicelli, Tarditti, Cozzolani, Frescobaldi, Montverdi, Legniera, Legniera & Falcond bri, Bijloke, Ghent, info: www.bijloke.be
• 12 November: Devra Graham (solo), Grey DeLisle, John Doe, Peter Case & Michael Weston King. Handelsbeurs, Ghent, info: www.handel beurs.be, 09/265 91 65
• 13 November: Yrill Rybakov (clarinet) and Alexei Lushnijew (piano) with Skyrubin, Berg, Stravinsky, Denisov, Part, Karmanov and Debussy, Bozar, Brussels, info: www.bozar.be

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