Generation Pact: what will the unions decide?

The inner cabinet of the Federal Government will today report to trade unions and employers on the changes it has made to the Generation Pact. This will also include a concession to the metalworkers' union, which demonstrated again this week in Brussels. The gradual increasing of the early retirement age [55 after a 38-year career] for metalworkers is being postponed until 2010 and then gradually increased to 58 in 2015. The Liberals and Socialists were unable to agree on a concession for female office workers who work part-time or have taken time-credit and will not therefore complete a 38-year career in order to be eligible for early retirement at 58. This point is being passed on to a working party of employers and trade unions.

Opinion

YVES DESMET - DE MORGEN - 18 NOVEMBER

More strikes will not hurt the government, but his party, says Vande Lanotte. After all, in this way the power base of the SPA will be eroded within the coalition. And there are no real alternatives. The opposition CD&V party has remained deafeningly quiet in this question, because it also realises that it can do no different, even more, that according to some Christian Democrat voices it must go one step further. That means, says some Lanotte, that to take action against the Generation Pact is de facto to take action against the SPA. Perhaps he will get it explained to the Socialist trade union leader Xavier Verboven, but the question is whether Verboven will want it explained to his supporters. In any event, over the next few hours and days we will know whether the unions are standing by the adage that everything is unchangeable in this society, or whether they want to be involved in the biggest challenge facing our welfare state, namely to keep it affordable.
Government to negotiate with pharma sector after failed investment

The Belgian site of the American pharma group Pfizer in Puurs, the second largest site outside the US, has missed out on an investment of 185 million euros and 100 extra jobs. The management of Pfizer, the biggest pharmaceutical group in the world, decided to scrap the investment because ‘the government is too negative towards the pharma sector’. The investment involved a new freeze-dry centre for sterile products (145 million euros) and another smaller investment of 40 million euros. In De Tijd (12 November), Director Heiman blames the continuously high tax burden and insinuations of the government towards the pharma sector for the American group’s decision. In a reaction from the Far East the spokesperson of Premier Verhofstadt agreed that the government should in fact have made serious cuts in the drugs budget to bring health insurance expenditure under control. This week the management of the Belgian Pfizer site, Leo Neels from the sector association Pharma.be and the government will negotiate a strategy to safeguard the pharma sector. In Belgium Pfizer has a European distribution centre (Nossegem), a factory for gelatine capsules (Bornem) and a production site for sterile drugs (Puurs). In addition, Belgium is after the UK the most important country for clinical research with the same respect. The pharma sector employs 26,000 people, and accounts for 60% of investment in research and development within the Belgian private sector. ‘Surely two points that are high on the agenda?’ Neels points out. He does not have the feeling, however, that the policy-makers take that into account. ‘We find ourselves in an absurd situation. The Federal Government feels very strongly about the knowledge economy, the Walloon Government sees the pharma industry as one of its five top sectors and Flanders are wholly in favour of innovation. But they don’t act on it.’ Neels is referring to the Federal Government’s recent budget decision which affects the pharma sector. The team of Premier Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) agreed with the proposal of Rudy Demotte (PS), the Federal Minister for Social Affairs, to have the pharma sector pay another turnover tax of 190 million euros. In 2006 that money will not be given over to drugs policy, but to make good the social security deficit. ‘It’s absurd that we’re responsible for funding pensions,’ says Neels. Next week he will submit an alternative plan to the Federal Government. ‘We realise the government doesn’t have any budgetary leeway to reverse its decision. But we have an alternative for Premier Verhofstadt that doesn’t impact on the budget.’ He adds that the drugs industry has already made many budgetary efforts in recent years. The sector also had to deal with government decisions making drugs cheaper, as a result of which patients had to pay more out of their own pockets, and the costs of innovative drugs were not immediately recouped. These measures meant that sales of drugs fell. The Federal Government sees the pharma sector not only as an easy milk cow, claims Neels. It also sells the sector short when allocating tax cuts. The government reserves a mere 10 million euros for tax cuts for researchers. ‘Total out of the question,’ is the verdict of the Pharma.be boss. He finds it all the more distressing because Belgium is one of the top countries in the world in the fields of science and research. WWW.PHARMA.BE

Government denies accusations of pharma lobby group

EVELYNE HENS • DE TIJD • 12 NOVEMBER

The car sector enjoys a good reputation among Belgian policy-makers, claims Neels. The sector receives a great deal of interest, and the tax cuts for shift work are largely tailored to it as well. ‘A healthy, responsible attitude,’ says Leo Neels. But he also wonders why the pharma sector cannot be treated with the same respect. The pharma sector employs 26,000 people, and accounts for 60% of investment in research and development within the Belgian private sector. ‘Surely two points that are high on the agenda?’ Neels points out. He does not have the feeling, however, that the policy-makers take that into account. ‘We find ourselves in an absurd situation. The Federal Government feels very strongly about the knowledge economy, the Walloon Government sees the pharma industry as one of its five top sectors and Flanders are wholly in favour of innovation. But they don’t act on it.’ Neels is referring to the Federal Government’s recent budget decision which affects the pharma sector. The team of Premier Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) agreed with the proposal of Rudy Demotte (PS), the Federal Minister for Social Affairs, to have the pharma sector pay another turnover tax of 190 million euros. In 2006 that money will not be given over to drugs policy, but to make good the social security deficit. ‘It’s absurd that we’re responsible for funding pensions,’ says Neels. Next week he will submit an alternative plan to the Federal Government. ‘We realise the government doesn’t have any budgetary leeway to reverse its decision. But we have an alternative for Premier Verhofstadt that doesn’t impact on the budget.’ He adds that the drugs industry has already made many budgetary efforts in recent years. The sector also had to deal with government decisions making drugs cheaper, as a result of which patients had to pay more out of their own pockets, and the costs of innovative drugs were not immediately recouped. These measures meant that sales of drugs fell. The Federal Government sees the pharma sector not only as an easy milk cow, claims Neels. It also sells the sector short when allocating tax cuts. The government reserves a mere 10 million euros for tax cuts for researchers. ‘Total out of the question,’ is the verdict of the Pharma.be boss. He finds it all the more distressing because Belgium is one of the top countries in the world in the fields of science and research. WWW.PHARMA.BE

PHARMA
Belgians want to work longer in return for flexibility

This willingness is far more pronounced in Flanders (77%) than in Francophone Belgium (58%)

Seven out of ten Belgian employees are prepared to work longer provided they can also work more flexibly. However, this willingness is far more pronounced in Flanders (77%) than in Francophone Belgium (58%). These are some of the findings of an international work trends survey by the international temping group Manpower, in which 992 Belgian employees - with an over-representation of office workers, executives and managers, that is - were questioned. Belgium is thus on the European average. 68% of Belgians questioned are prepared to continue working later on in life, and half even agree with a longer working week. This willingness to work longer could have something to do with the fact that more than half of those questioned fear they will not be able to cope financially if they stop working at the average retirement age. What is also striking is that Belgian employees are less afraid of losing their job than employees in other European countries, and are also less afraid of falling victim to the delocalisation of their firm. They also have a positive attitude towards the free movement of labour within the EU and of all European employees are the most outspoken supporters of home-working. Jacques Vilrokx, Professor of Labour Sociology at the Free University of Brussels, adds a couple of comments to the survey (FF).

JANINE MEIJER • DE MORGEN • 15 NOVEMBER

‘The Manpower survey is not representative of the entire Belgian population,’ claims Vilrokx. ‘Office workers and executives from the financial sector and large IT companies are over-represented. Nevertheless, the survey is useful. It shows that autonomous and nomadic working is becoming more and more important in the quest to combine work and private life. People are more willing to work longer, but they also want more say in the division of working hours and where they work.’

Many of those questioned in the survey are positive about the free movement of labour within the EU, but Vilrokx fears the outcome would have been rather different had more workers been involved in the survey. At the same time, the arrival of workers from Poland must not be exaggerated, he claims: ‘It does not fundamentally affect our labour market. Only certain sectors such as construction are really involved.’

In the Netherlands, 60% of employees work on a part-time contract or via a temping agency, but Vilrokx claims this flexibility will never assume such proportions in Belgium: ‘The services sector is a pioneer in flexible working. Since the services sector’s share of the economy is on the increase, flexible forms of working will also increase. However, the fact that many people in the Netherlands work part-time has to do with the late arrival of Dutch women on the labour market. We have a much longer tradition of women working. The number of flexible contracts will therefore continue to increase here, but will never assume the same proportions as in the Netherlands.’

WWW.MANPOWER.BE

Li-Ka-Shing builds distribution centre in Vilvoorde

Premier Guy Verhofstadt (VLD) was glad to be able to present a concrete result of his business trip to Asia on Friday 11 November in Hong Kong. The Chinese business tycoon Li Ka-Shing informed him that he wants to open a distribution centre in Vilvoorde for his retail group AS Watson, among other things a shareholder in the chemist’s chain Kruidvat and the perfume stores ICI Paris XL. The investment is said to be worth 40 million euros and will create around one hundred jobs. The distribution centre will be on the old Renault site and will apparently occupy 13,000 m². According to the Premier, Li Ka-Shing, who also controls the groups Hutchison Wompoa and Cheung Kong Limited, is also looking into other investments in Belgium (FF).

ISABEL ALBERS • DE STANDAARD • 12 NOVEMBER

According to Verhofstadt, the fact that Li Ka-Shing is definitely investigating other major investments in Belgium is even more important than the distribution centre. The Hong Kong businessman is to visit Belgium at the beginning of next year. ‘That could lead to a European headquarters being established in Belgium. I want to involve those regions responsible for foreign trade and investment in these talks.’ For Verhofstadt, the concrete commitment is the icing on the cake of his trip to Asia. ‘Fascinating and satisfying,’ is how he describes his talks with potential investors. The real reason for his visit is the introduction early next year of a new fiscally advantageous system for companies, the notional interest deduction.

‘The financial crisis in South-East Asia is over. Most countries now have the same rate of growth as five years ago. Many investment banks and business centres now know what we have to offer. This must be followed up over the next few months,’ says the Premier. According to Verhofstadt and Finance Minister Didier Reynders (MR), the engineering firm Jorde International and the Chinese Lico are also interested in a distribution centre. No concrete undertakings have yet been given. MTRC, Hong Kong’s metro and transport company, is apparently also studying the development of activities in Belgium.

WWW.PREMIER.FGOV.BE
WWW.ASWATSON.COM
The TV facilities company Alfacam has managed to land a mega-contract. Alfacam will become the biggest technical production company for the TV images of the Olympic Games of 2008 in Beijing. The company will head to China with more than 100 technicians, 18 mobile recording studios and 200 TV cameras, where it will capture all the main disciplines at various locations, including the opening and closing ceremonies. The contract is worth around 12 million euros and according to Alfacam’s spokesperson is the biggest facilities contract for a single event in television history. Alfacam is a pioneer in the field of High-Definition TV (HDTV). This delivers razor-sharp images made up of 1,080 lines. Now more and more broadcasters have also announced their desire to broadcast in HDTV, the HDTV boom is expected shortly. To receive HDTV, the viewer needs a digital TV set (FF).

RONALD MEEUS • DE MORGEN • 12 NOVEMBER

‘It’s the biggest facilities contract for a single event in television history,’ spokesperson Yves Panneels points out. ‘We knew we’d be able to do some of the recordings, but in the end we’ve become the biggest supplier of infrastructure.

The organisers therefore intend recording everything in high definition for the first time. ‘We’re the only ones in the world who can provide them with the capacity they need.’ The company will head to China with more than one hundred employees and eighteen buses from Lier bus manufacturer Van Hool that have been converted into recording studios, where it will record in just as many different locations. These recordings will then be placed in a ‘feed’, where they will be picked up by television channels worldwide. As well as Alfacam there will be other recording companies in Beijing, but according to Panneels Alfacam will be present at all the main disciplines, including the opening and closing ceremonies. They will miss out around 10%, including archery and beach volleyball. ‘Everything has its limits,’ says Panneels. ‘We’ve got other clients too. If we moved our entire set-up over there, we’d not have any work here in Europe.’

www.alfacam.be

The Flemish mission to China was not a model of team spirit. That is the least that can be said following the criticism that appeared in De Standaard (17 November) and Het Nieuwsblad (17 November) on the occasion of the joint China trip of Minister-President Leterme (CD&V) and Flemish Export Minister Fientje Moerman (VLD). The difference in approach between the Minister-President and the Export Minister was striking. Leterme undertook a study trip and concentrated mainly on praising Flanders as a tourist destination and on the collaboration between Chinese shipping companies and Flemish ports. Leterme was therefore unable to produce many concrete results and his approach lacked efficiency, claims Het Nieuwsblad. Fientje Moerman worked on a much more dossier-oriented basis, made use of contacts with the local representatives of Flanders Investment & Trade and had the Flemish businessmen and women from the bio, environmental and port industries who went with her carefully screened, for which she received a great deal of praise from business circles.

Although the collaboration between Leterme’s team and that of Moerman left much to be desired, they did agree on one thing, namely that the presentation of a region like Flanders in a country like China remains a problem. They both felt the issue urgently needed addressing (FF).

WIM WINCKELMANS • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 17 NOVEMBER

There was, however, a clear objective to the contacts to promote Flemish ports and container transporters: to bring extra traffic to Flanders. Leterme therefore had the ports of Zeebrugge and Antwerp along to accompany him. But it remains to be seen whether the Flemish government leader was able to convince the Chinese and Singaporean that all those containers can also be transported inland from the port without delay.

On top of that is the fact that two missions crossed in China, one more official and political by the Minister-President, one economical by his Vice-President. In practice the two became entwined, and that led to vicious comments back and forth between the two offices. Leterme himself, however, tried to keep the two separate. A double mission is an experiment that is unlikely to be repeated. It leads to misunderstandings and backbiting among Flemings. It also creates confusion among the Chinese discussion partners, and these are already having difficulties with the surfeit of official delegations wanting to visit their country. Certainly regional delegations are easily lobbed off. In most cases the Flemish ministers actually got no further than the Chinese deputy minister, deputy governor or deputy mayor.

So was the entire mission a failure? At present it is difficult to say. Leterme undoubtedly achieved something for our ports and dredging companies. Our contacts in the north-east of China have been strengthened. Moerman explained Flemish plans in China and made contacts possible between Flemish and Chinese technological firms. It remains to be seen whether all this will produce favourable results.

www.flandersinvestmentandtrade.com
In the past few days streetworkers have received a great deal of praise. When, for example, on the evening of Saturday 12 November foreign youths in Brussels had incited each other to action via SMS and the Internet, it was the streetworkers who were able to calm things down, thus avoiding any real disturbance. That it remained relatively calm in Flemish towns and Brussels apart from a small amount of copycat behaviour, is in part due to their intervention, claim local authorities. Several Brussels and Flemish municipal councils have therefore announced that they will be increasing their number or even starting up new projects. However, the Vlaams Straathoekwerk Overleg [Vlastrov] believes that first of all it urgently needs a clear status for its workers. Streetworking is currently paid for to the tune of 80% by Home Affairs (Federal) and 20% by Welfare (Flanders). Towns are given a budget to develop a project via security contracts [FF].

Security experts, police and politicians. These days they are all making a great song and dance about the useful work being done by streetworkers to avoid possible incidents and disturbances involving foreign youths. The umbrella organisation for Flemish streetworkers wants to use these positive reactions to finally demand a clear framework. ‘Some streetworkers are currently having to fight to be able to do their job properly,’ says Cis Dewaele, coordinator of the Vlaams Straathoekwerk Overleg [Vlastrov]. By definition, streetworking should be low profile. ‘Unconditionally going out onto the streets to forge ties with those groups who are alienated from society,’ the coordinator of Vlastrov sums up the particular nature of the job. ‘Not to solve their problems, but to listen to them.’ This gives them the feeling that they also count, that they also belong. That close contact can lead to the problems being addressed, but only if this person is ready to do so at that time. It goes without saying that this is a long-winded job. Cis Dewaele therefore questions the fact that some local authorities now want to attract several streetworkers from us quickly following the disturbances in France and the copycat behaviour. ‘It often takes years before you can see real results with streetworking. And then these results are difficult to set down in records.’

‘The work we do is sometimes difficult to sell,’ says Cis Dewaele. ‘Local authorities tend to impose specific conditions on streetworkers. They want results as quickly as possible and attach the financing of the project to that. Streetworkers no longer get the time to really hang around on the streets and establish relationships, as a consequence of which they risk being reduced to just another ‘organiser’, who organises football matches, for example, for ‘difficult youths’. Sometimes streetworkers really have to fight to be able to do their job properly.’ Streetworking therefore urgently needs clear recognition. ‘At present anyone working on the street can call themselves a streetworker, but the job is in fact something very specific.’

How to increase employment chances for immigrants?

Flemish Employment Minister Frank Vandenbroucke [SP.A] wants to invest more in employment opportunities for foreigners. Unemployment among foreigners is alarmingly high, and so the Minister wants to invest even more in the budgets of the employers’ organisations UNIZO and VOKA in order that they can convince their members to recruit more foreigners. Opportunities for foreigners must also be given greater prominence in the actions of the government agency for employment, the VDAB.

Vandenbroucke is, however, against the proposal of the Minorities Forum which held a conference on 12 November to enable anonymous applications in order to avoid discrimination. Immigrant organisations are supported in this demand by the Centre against Racism. According to Director Jozef De Witte, tests show that the name [Yahyah, Mohammed] is often enough to eliminate the candidate. According to this same De Witte, the best way to force companies to acknowledge colour is to have them produce an annual diversity report detailing their efforts to recruit foreigners.

Integration courses in Flanders are being tightened up and generalised. Flemish Integration Minister Marino Keulen [VLD] is preparing a new integration decree adapting the previous decree, which dates from the previous Purple-Green Government, on certain crucial points [De Standaard, 14 November]. Henceforth, newcomers who refuse to take a course will receive an administrative fine. At present this is a matter for the courts. However, due to the overload the public prosecutor’s offices dismiss most of these cases because they have other priorities.

Keulen also wants to impose integration courses on those building or bringing families back together. On the Philippine bride of a Flemish man or the Moroccan husband of a Flemish woman, say. Unemployed immigrants who have been living here for some time can also expect to be subjected to a compulsory course in the near future. Finally, Keulen also wants to have those taking the courses pay for the integration process, unless they are living on benefit.

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Minister Vanden Bossche wants big clean-up in property sector

The Belgian Real Estate Confederation believes the image of the entire sector has been damaged

Four out of five estate agents are failing to comply with the rules of the Commercial Practices Act when mediating in a house sale, according to a study by Federal Consumer Affairs Minister Freya Vanden Bossche (SPA). Of the 528 agents examined, 430 received a warning to bring themselves back into line by the time of the next inspection. According to Vanden Bossche, bad practices are widespread: they vary from excessive commissions, unilateral compensation clauses and exclusivity clauses to incomplete price indications. Vanden Bossche intends auditing all other agents and is calling on the sector to put its affairs in order itself. The consumers’ organisation Test-Aankoop confirms Vanden Bossche’s findings. From its own survey last year the organisation reached the same conclusions and has for some time been calling for the introduction of a standard contract. The property sector has reacted furiously and is threatening legal action. The Belgian Real Estate Confederation believes the image of the entire sector has been damaged (FF).

WILLY BERTIAU • DE TIJD • 16 NOVEMBER

The professional association of estate agents CIB Vlaanderen claims that the Minister is not distinguishing between her personal wishes and the correct application of the Commercial Practices Act. The Confederation claims that the charges sometimes have nothing to do with a violation of a law or a code of professional ethics. The CIB is supported in this by the rulings of the courts, which have sometimes found in favour of the estate agents in disputes.

Hendrik-Jan Ombelets, Head of Communications at the Flemish Real Estate Federation [Vlaamse Vastgoed Federatie, VVF], claims that four out of five customers of estate agents are satisfied customers. He confirms that courts often find in favour of estate agents in disputes. And he points out that instead of agents, customers have been fraudulent more than once.

At the Professional Institute of the Real Estate Sector [Beroepsinstituut van de Vastgoedsector, BIV] Vice-Chairman Frank Thiers notes with surprise that Van den Bossche goes to the press first before talking with the sector. He adds that the survey included only 500 of the 8,500 agents. According to Thiers, each case must be examined on its merits in order to be able to reach a correct decision. He points out that the BIV is working hard on a code of professional ethics which covers most of the Minister’s grievances. The text is with the agents.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Antwerp professor becomes senior international judge

‘On 17 November Antwerp Professor of International Law Chris Vanden Wyngaert was sworn in as a permanent judge at the international Yugoslavia tribunal. She was put forward by the Belgian government and selected as the first Western candidate by the general assembly of the United Nations. The Yugoslavia tribunal is based in The Hague and looking into war crimes committed during the Balkan War in the 1990s. She will not be involved in the massive trial against the Serbian President Milosevic. As an independent judge she has already worked on a trial concerning the destruction of cultural patrimony in Dubrovnik and on a case against Albanian Kosovars, who had set up a concentration camp where they abused Serbs. According to Het Laatste Nieuws (17 November), she has become the most senior Belgian official in an international position.'
The insidious reform of film and literature policy

Aniaux inherited both the VAF and the VFL when he became Minister for Culture in 1999. It looks as if he does not intend transferring both institutions to his successor intact.

Last week film intendant Luckas Vander Taelen was dismissed by the Board of Directors of the Flemish Audiovisual Fund (VAF). According to Knack, this was linked to a certain amount of rabble-rousing. Vander Taelen had given Flemish film a new panache, but that was not to the liking of Culture Minister Bert Anciaux (Spirit), since he wanted to be the one to decide which films received subsidies and which did not. He therefore put pressure on the Board of Directors to dismiss Vander Taelen, it was claimed. In the midst of these tall stories everyone has lost sight of the basic principles of the VAF, claims Knack. These stipulate that government and fund enter into a management agreement and that the minister distributes the allocation (12.5 million euros). And in a democracy it is still the minister who determines film policy, not an intendant who takes advice from experts whose names are not even made public (FF).

Anciaux has a clear vision of cultural and film policy. He wants to generate private flows of money via a cultural investment company. Fiscal mechanisms must make it attractive for private investors to invest in films, musicals, books and CDs. If the project makes a profit, some of that money will pass to the government. If it makes a loss, the government will offer the investor full or partial protection. The film sector is the only one that currently applies this sort of mechanism: the tax shelter, for example (since January 2003 investors have been able to benefit from a tax exemption of 150% on the amount they pay to Belgian audiovisual work, ed.). Via this route 5 million euros has already been pumped into Flemish film in barely one year. That is almost half the total film budget. Anciaux, however, wants to separate private flows of money from public ones. Ideally ‘commercial’ productions (mainstream films) would be made with private funds and documentaries, director’s films and short films would be made with government money (direct subsidies). For that matter, he wants to implement this separation throughout the culture sector. In this respect the VAF is the embryo from which the cultural investment company must grow. Vander Taelen would normally have to resign if he could not get along with the policy of his guardianship minister. Instead, he allowed himself to be dismissed. He probably had financial reasons for doing so. ‘Bert Anciaux is no great fan of funds,’ he said following his dismissal. He is probably right. The whole operation that must result in the setting up of a cultural investment company seems aimed at making both the VAF and the Flemish Fund for Literature (VLF) superfluous. If the VAF only has to subsidise ‘art films’, it will shrivel into a film committee and that can function perfectly (like other advisory committees) within the Arts Decree (the framework for subsidised art with subsidy conditions for each branch of the arts, ed.). The VFL should also be starting to worry. Last month Anciaux said that comic-strip drawers could now apply for work grants via the Arts Decree. However, comic-strip policy comes under the Flemish Fund for Literature.

Aniaux inherited both the VAF and the VFL when he became Minister for Culture in 1999. It looks as if he does not intend transferring both institutions to his successor intact. The fact that no successor to Vander Taelen is being sought should be taken as a warning.

KARL VANDEN BROECK • KNACK • 16 NOVEMBER

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**Fusion on Flanders offers a weekly overview on articles from the Flemish press and appears in English, French and German. This newsletter is published by Uitgeverij Lannoo, Rik Van Caesenaert (Managing director, De Morgen), Jeroen De Boeck (Editor in chief: Frank Vandecaveye)

**Focus on Flanders**

**MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE**

- 18 to 26 November: Rare Works 1: ‘royal and ’Burqasaline’, Jan Decorte & Boet vzw, theatre in English and French, Kazerne, Brussels; info: 09/267.28.28
- 22 November: Katia Labeque Band, Vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be 09/267.28.28
- 22 November: Chiot of the Russian Army, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be
- 22 November: John Cage – 44 Harmonies by BLUNDMAN & Goeyvaerts Consort, Kaaitheater, Brussels; info: www.kzaaitheater.be
- 22 November: Thomas Fersen Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: www.abconcercts.be 02/548.24.24
- 22 November: Thomas Fersen Ancienne Belgique, Brussels; info: www.abconcerts.be 02/548.24.24
- 25 and 26 and 29 and 30 November: Annual by Mark Tomos/Clas I DA, dance, Kaaitheater, Brussels; info: www.kaaitheater.be and Vooruit, Ghent; info: www.vooruit.be
- 25 November: Yoko Ono’s second concert conducted by Flo- tan Heyerick with Carissimi and Scarlatti – STAATSKONCERT, Mathusalem, Ghent; info: www.mathusalem.be
- 25 November: Prezak Quartet with Mozart, Janko-van and Beethoven, De Singel, Antwerp; info: www.desingel.be 03/248.28.28
- 25 November: Richard Bonn (Cameron), Handelsbeurs, Ghent; info: www.handelsbeurs.be
- 25 November: Mikhail Orlovsky violin - Sonya Orlovsky piano with van Beethoven, Schubert and Cesar Franck Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 03/07 82 00
- Until 23 November: Nabucco by Giuseppe Verdi, directed by Bruno Caproni, Flanders Opera, Koninig Elisabethzaal, Antwerp; info: www.vlaamsopera.be
- Until 23 November: Ihkwani Safaa Musical Club (Zimbabwe), Zuiderepshuis, Antwerp; info: www.zuiderpershuis.be
- Until 26 and 27 November: International Jewish