 Presidents fear for 1,000 to 2,000 jobs at Agfa-Gevaert

The imaging group Agfa-Gevaert must save 250 million euros a year through restructuring by 2008. The group is being forced into the move by the accelerated digitisation of imaging. The firm will be split into three independent entities: graphic products for printers and press companies, medical imaging for hospitals (digital X-rays) and film products, which will come under the holding company Agfa-Gevaert. This will be the third major restructuring round in a few years. The Horizon restructuring plan in 2002 scrapped 4,000 jobs. In 2004 a new round of restructuring got rid of a further 1,000 jobs. Trade unions now fear 1,000 to 2,000 jobs will be lost. However, the management’s social plan will only be ready at the end of August. Agfa-Gevaert currently employs 14,500 people. In 2005 turnover amounted to 3.3 billion euros. This has to rise to 4.3 billion in 2008 (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 23 JUNE

The imminent restructuring at Agfa-Gevaert has produced a variety of reactions. Investors appear to be extremely satisfied with the imaging group’s intentions. They bought shares en masse, pushing the price up by more than 9% to 19.5 euros.

Agfa-Gevaert mainly wants to cut costs in general services and the production of traditional film products such as X-rays and printing plates. For decades Agfa was one of the most prominent producers and sellers of these analog film products. But customers are now rapidly switching over to digital imaging. A further problem for Agfa was the sharp rise in the price of silver aluminium.

The management has decided that from now on the medical and graphic imaging divisions will only develop and sell digital solutions. Among other things, this will involve software for viewing radiological images on screen in hospitals. The classic film production is being moved to a third subsidiary, Agfa Materials. It comes down to a large proportion of the Belgian plants – especially in Mortsel where 4,300 people work – being moved to this division. That could be a real struggle for the staff of Agfa Materials. The management has made it perfectly clear that the production costs of traditional products must be cut. www.agfa.com

DAILY NEWS ON WWW.FOCUSONFLANDERS.BE
Hold the applause for Axa/Winterthur

**Alfred Bouckaert**, responsible for the region of Northern Europe at Axa, stresses that there is no need to expect a social bloodbath.

Axa, Europe’s biggest insurance company, is taking over its Swiss competitor Winterthur. This is a mega-merger. A glance at the figures of both insurance giants says it all. Last year Winterthur turned over 18.3 billion euros. Axa is four times again as big. Its turnover amounted to 74.3 billion euros. The French insurance group is paying 7.9 billion euros for the takeover. At a press conference today the group outlined the consequences for the Belgian market. Alfred Bouckaert, responsible for the region of Northern Europe at Axa, stresses that there is no need to expect a social bloodbath. Certainly not in the property insurance division, which is highly labour-intensive and where the merger company has a market share of 25%. However, if a staff surplus does arise, this will be absorbed by job rotations within the group. The boss of Northern Europe also sees few problems in the overlap in the second broker networks of Axa and Winterthur in Belgium. According to Trends, Bouckaert does not sound convincing (FF).

**Opinion**

**SAAR SINNAEVE • TRENDS • 22 JUNE**

The take-over is painful for Belgium. Consolidation is attractive on paper, but in reality a bitter pill to swallow. Axa employs around 5,700 people in Belgium. Winterthur a little over 1,500. It goes without saying that in the future there will be two actors for some roles. One too many, in other words. A quick calculation shows that Axa and Winterthur together employ almost 7,300 people. Fortis employs 5,000. And Fortis is the biggest insurance company in the country, well before Axa/Winterthur. Alfred Bouckaert, CEO of Axa Northern Europe, denies in every possible way that the merger will result in a social bloodbath, but that does not sound plausible. Especially in these times, now cost-efficiency is high on the list of every manager. The trade unions, meanwhile, are steeling themselves. They are jointly putting their views down on paper. It is a question of being suitably well-armed in the negotiations that will appear frequently on the agenda in the coming months. After all, Axa wants the integration of Winterthur to be over and done with by the end of the year. And the take-over has a further flip-side in Belgium. Together with Winterthur, Axa holds a market share of slightly more than 23% in property insurance (car and fire insurance). Straight away the four biggest insurance companies, Fortis, KBC, Ethias and Axa/Winterthur, will hold 60% of the market. It will be interesting to see what the competition authorities have to say about this.

[www.axa.be](http://www.axa.be)  
[www.winterthur.be](http://www.winterthur.be)

Shipowner Exmar concludes mega-deal in Iran

Exmar hopes to play a role in the export of liquid gas

The Antwerp shipping company Exmar wants to order twelve gas tankers from the Iranian shipbuilding yard Sadra, for which it has signed an agreement in principle. The contract is worth 2 to 2.5 billion dollars. With this order the company has attracted international interest, since it is not often that a European company places an order worth billions of dollars in Iran. For Exmar CEO Nicolas Saverys the agreement is a logical step after negotiations that have lasted two years. He expects Iran to develop into the third largest exporter of natural gas in the world and, with his fleet of gas tankers, he hopes to play a role in the export of liquid gas. A condition for participation in the project was that the ships had to be built in Iran. The oil companies Shell, Total, Repsol and Petronas are also involved in the project. They are investing in gas liquefaction plants. There is considerable international interest in the Iranian gas sector, despite the American sanctions against the country (FF).

**PASCAL SERTYN • DE STANDAARD • 21 JUNE**

The Belgian gas shipping company itself has two conditions linked to the Iranian agreement. The shipbuilding yard that will build the tankers must be technologically capable of successfully completing such an assignment. And Exmar is also linking the building of the ships to the timing of the extension of the Iranian South Pars gas field. The fulfilment of this second condition depends in large measure on the political climate in Iran, which is currently very tense owing to the nuclear programme that the authorities in Teheran have outlined. Various European oil companies such as Total and Repsol are involved in the development of the South Pars gas field, and they make no secret of the fact that the investment climate is anything but favourable due to the increased tension between the Western world and Iran. For Iran the South Pars gas field is very important if it wants to set itself up, as planned, as one of the world’s largest gas producers. To export the Iranian natural gas, Exmar is planning to build traditional LNG tankers. These should be sailing from 2011. According to the planning, from that point on a large LNG tanker would have to be used every six months. CEO Saverys opted to invest in the development of a new kind of LNG tanker. These are ships that can already regasify their load of liquid gas on board. Such ships can also bring loads to places that do not have any transhipment installations available.
The school bonus: a matter of money and powers

A ccording to Het Laatste Nieuws (19 June) on Sunday 18 June all federal governing parties were in agreement that in September a school bonus of between EUR 50 and EUR 125 would be introduced for all parents of school-going children. It was the Flemish Liberals (VLD) and French-speaking Socialists (PS) who asked for the measure. All newspaper commentators agree completely that the move is a sweetener just before the municipal elections in October. In the VRT programme De Zevende Dag, Flemish Education Minister Vandenbroucke (SP.A) gave his opinion on the bonus, despite not having been asked about it. His view was that if the federal government had surplus funds, which he doubted, that money would be better spent creating reserves to pay for pensions in the future. Vandenbroucke promises comparable bonuses from his own Flemish education budget, but these are only for less well-off families. The idea of paying a federal school bonus comes from the PS. Het Nieuwsblad is of the view that the federal PS ministers want a federal bonus because the Walloon Government does not have the money for it. With his comments Vandenbroucke crossed party colleague and federal budget minister Freya Vanden Bossche, who had already spoken out in favour of a federal bonus, to give ‘families’ spending power’ an extra shot in the arm. The next day chairman Johan Vande Lanotte tried to iron out the differences between his federal and Flemish ministers. His party’s standpoint is now that there will be no definitive decision until the money is found in the federal budget. Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) also gave his opinion in Het Nieuwsblad (20 June) and plainly took the side of ‘his’ minister Vandenbroucke. He did not neglect to point out that education is a competency of the Flemish Community (FF).

WIM WINCKELMANS • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 20 JUNE

The schooling subsidy is increasingly becoming a point of contention between the Flemish and the Federal government. Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) said yesterday that he shared the opinion of Vandenbroucke. ‘It is absolutely essential that the public debt be written off,’ states Leterme. ‘For this reason, last year we were prepared to accept a more stringent budgetary standard for the Flemish Government if that meant we were thereby able to help the Federal Government. And if after that is still some money left over, I also have no objections against there being some consideration given to families. My federal colleagues must decide on that matter for themselves.’

Leterme evidently has doubts over whether any money will truly be left over. ‘The difference between the plans of the Federal Government and those of our own is that funding for the schooling allowance is already provided for in our long-term budget,’ he explains. ‘We are also making no promises for the elections of 8 October. We are not too good at doing that. The schooling allowance will only be in place from 2008.’

In addition, Leterme states that, in the plans to allocate a schooling allowance for children attending school, the word school is mentioned on two occasions: the competence of Flemish minister Vandenbroucke. ‘It would be best if the Federal Government did not become too involved on our ground,’ states the Minister-President. He feels that ‘the French Community is counting on the Federal Government settling the matter of the schooling allowance for them.’

**Figures Agfa-Gevaert (2005)**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>IN MILLION EUROS</th>
<th>AGFA GRAPHICS</th>
<th>AGFA HEALTHCARE</th>
<th>AGFA MATERIALS</th>
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<td>Cash flow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>7,145</td>
<td>7,197</td>
<td>488</td>
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SOURCE: TID GRAPHICS

Belgian authorities have hosts of illegal immigrants foot the bill

Those Belgians who stand surety for illegal immigrants entering Belgium by means of a tourist visa will in future think twice before doing so. If the refugees fail to return home following the expiry of their visa, and stay on illegally in Belgium, the authorities may henceforth invoice the arrest of the unlawful resident to their Belgian host. This is set down in a new Royal Decree, reports De Standaard (22 June) Minister of Internal Affairs Patrick Dewael [VLD] and Minister for Social Integration Christian Dupont (PS), have decided to charge a sum of 30 euros per day for each day the unlawful resident is required to stay in a confinement centre. This amount may be higher if they are repatriated with police involvement. Even in cases where illegal medical assistance is granted at social service expense, the host also stands to foot the bill. The new RD does not, however, apply in cases where persons respond to an appeal for the housing of refugees within a context of ‘humanitarian aid’.

**IMMIGRATION POLICY**
Pensions Minister Bruno Tobback has a new proposal for a pension bonus

Wages are indexed (coupled to price movements) and also rise. Pensions are only indexed. This means that every year the gap between the purchasing power of pensioners and working people grows. Pensions Minister Bruno Tobback (SPA) wants to gradually close that gap. Next year anyone on a minimum pension will receive a bonus of EUR 100 on average. For other pensioners things will be rather slower. Anyone who has worked between 10 and 20 years and has been retired for five years, has to make do with half. It is thus an annual bonus, which is completely tax free. Only when it exceeds EUR 600 after a number of years does it become taxable. Tobback is thereby honouring the Socialist principle of ‘cents instead of percents’. In a percentage increase someone with a higher pension gets more than someone with a low pension, whereas his proposal involves lump-sum increases. The idea was not really greeted with enthusiasm, either by the trade unions or by the Liberal partners (VLD) in office. Minister Dewael (VLD) clearly pointed out that this was a personal proposal which no political consensus has yet been reached for their implementation. The politicians ‘want’ everything, but for the time being are not ‘doing’ it yet. That nonetheless not insignificant distinction is not always clear in the minds of the public. For when the idea is then not implemented - and in pre-election periods nice ideas always run the risk of being torpedoed by enemies and even more so by friends -, voters consider this as yet another promise that has not been kept. And that has a rather counter-productive effect.

What also arouses suspicion is the speed with which it all has to happen: the school bonus would have to be introduced in September already, before the municipal elections, although sources at the competent departmental office report that this is not technically feasible. That does not exactly give an image of sound administration. It all has to happen so fast that the normal consultation procedures are even pushed aside for a while. The pension bonus, for example, would normally have to be discussed with the social partners, but Bruno Tobback is happily riding roughshod over that. But the worst thing is that it stands out a mile that these are all gifts with a purely electoral hue.

At the moment it’s all about giving gifts to groups that don’t really need them, in the hope of securing their vote, at the expense of the financing of pensions and the social security system for coming generations.

Flemish minister Peeters opposed to lorry overtaking ban

FF EDITOR

Flemish Minister for Public Works Kris Peeters (CD&V) is strongly opposed to the general overtaking ban on Flemish motorways with 2 x 2 lanes. Said ban on overtaking, as recently approved by a meeting of the Council of Ministers, will be in force on all Flemish motorways 24 hours a day.

Peeters openly expresses doubts over the need for this measure. He considers the federal legislation to be excessive. A ‘reasonable’ overtaking ban for lorries is already in place in Flanders. It applies for a short section of the Brussels ring road and on the E314 in Leuven. Moreover, there is an overtaking ban for lorries on a number of other 2 x 2 road sections, but only during peak hours and on short motorway sections.

‘Is a lorry no longer permitted to overtake a car at two o’clock in the morning?’ wonders the Flemish minister. Peeters intends to make use of his powers as the manager of Flemish motorways to introduce a number of exceptions to the federal overtaking ban.

WWW.MINISTERKRISPEETERS.BE

Alcolock as an alternative punishment for drink drivers

FF EDITOR

Federal Transport Minister Renaat Landuyt (SPA) wants to introduce the alcolock as an alternative punishment for stubborn drivers who nonetheless get behind the wheel when they have been drinking, reports Het Nieuwsblad (20 June]. The alcolock is a lock in the form of a breath test device that blocks the car if the driver has more than 0.05 percent of alcohol in his blood. In an experiment with 40 test people who had been caught several times behind the wheel with a high alcohol content in their blood, the results proved encouraging. To rule out ‘improper use’ (having a sober friend do the breath test), a second control is carried out five minutes after the car has moved off. All breath tests are recorded by a computer. The device is also checked every month by a civil servant from the justice department.

Minister Landuyt thinks that the alcolock is suitable as an alternative punishment, because a driving ban for stubborn drink drivers appears not always to be an efficient solution.
**VRT receives a lot less than what was asked for**

**The commercial channels can now again broadcast commercials before and after children's programmes**

**FF EDITOR**

VRT's chief executive officer Tony Mary is disappointed. He had plans to strengthen the public broadcasting company with the addition of eight digital channels. For that he needed an extra EUR 180 million per year, of which some EUR120 million would be in the form of an allocation from the Flemish Government. But he will not be getting that. This has emerged from the key features of the new management agreement establishing the public broadcasting company's funding until 2011.

Media Minister Bourgeois (N-VA) has given the go-ahead for one digital culture channel. But the VRT has to set that up in cooperation with the private sector.

Mary also has to make do with an allocation which is increased at an even slower rate. This year and next year it will rise by 4%, but from then on the increase will be less. Whilst in 2006 it still amounts to EUR 286.3 million, by 2011 it will only have risen to EUR 293.3 million. Revenue from sponsorship is also being cut: from EUR 8.7 million at the moment to a maximum of EUR 4.5 million. However, revenue from radio advertising can still rise.

Mary therefore risks gradually finding himself alone in the battle he is waging. But the VLD in particular is reported to have slammed on the brakes. But the VRT has necessarily have to reduce the orders it places with external production companies, he says. The Flemish Media Company, the umbrella organisation of the commercial channels VTM and KanalTwee, sees the agreement as a step in the right direction. In addition, the commercial channels can now once again broadcast commercials before and after children's programmes.

www.vrt.be

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**The lonely battle waged by VRT boss Tony Mary**

**The VRT board of directors does not go along with Mary in his opposition**

**LEO BONTE • DE STANDAARD • 20 JUNE**

Addressing his staff, the managing director of the VRT, Tony Mary, announced that he would not be signing the new management agreement. He claims that the VRT will have to reduce is current range within this agreement, and also warned of the harmful effects for employment, both in the public broadcasting company itself and in the production companies that supply programmes. These comments caused alarm in the unions, which are asking for the staff not to be made the wager in a trial of strength between Mary and the Flemish Government. The VRT board of directors does not go along with Mary in his opposition either, and backs the budgetary interpretation of the agreement. On 22 June the negotiations started up between the VRT and the Flemish Government on the content. Media Minister Geert Bourgeois (N-VA) is indignant at Mary's reaction. (FF).

Media Minister Geert Bourgeois (N-VA) is unhappy about Mary's reaction. He cannot tolerate Mary presenting the Flemish Government's decision as a scenario for the dismantling of the VRT. 'In cumulative terms the VRT will be receiving EUR 90 million more over the next five years. Anyone describing that as a pittance is very far removed from the day-to-day reality', said Bourgeois. And according to Bourgeois those figures do not take account of the credit line of EUR 10 million allocated annually for the renovation of the VRT buildings, and the extra funds raised by the privatisation of the channels and the public sale of the digital ether frequencies...

'The result has indeed turned out to be worse than we thought', says Guy Peeters, the chairman of the board of directors. Within the Flemish Government, the VLD in particular is reported to have slammed on the brakes. But unlike Mary, Peeters does not want to talk of a disaster scenario.

The board of directors was yesterday examining the Flemish Government's decision. The members of the board submit to the key premises, and are therefore calling on Mary to start the negotiations within that context. According to the board members the challenge for the VRT is now to define its key tasks with the funds available and in the short term to develop the digital culture channel. The possibility of assessing and changing the new management agreement in the meantime in function of digital developments on the market, safeguards the public broadcasting company's unique position, in the board's view. Tony Mary therefore risks gradually finding himself alone in the battle he is waging.
Vlaams Belang hot on the heels of CD&V-N-VA in poll

According to the three-monthly poll carried out by De Morgen, VTM and La Libre Belgique, Vlaams Belang is almost as large a political force as CD&V-N-VA. The extreme-right wing Vlaams Belang is stuck on 26.6%, whilst the alliance of Christian-Democrats and Flemish Nationalists is down 0.3% on its March 2006 poll rating and drops back to 26.7%. The rise recorded by the Vlaams Belang vis-à-vis its result in the federal elections of 2003 now amounts to 8.7%. The biggest loser in this poll is Prime Minister Verhofstadt and Minister-President Somers' Liberal VLD. The Liberals lose 2% and drop back to 16.9% - 7.3% below their 2003 result. Groen! rises 0.8% in respect of March 2006 to 2.2%, but still down 3.6% on its March 2006 poll rating. The Socialists and Spirit have been able to stabilise at just under the 20% mark which seems to have taken hold of voters. SP.A-Spirit is faring none too well either, but the party is doing better at holding its own than the VLD.

The poll was carried out just after the heels of CD&V-N-VA according to the three-monthly poll carried out by De Morgen, VTM and La Libre Belgique, Vlaams Belang is almost as large a political force as CD&V-N-VA. The extreme-right wing Vlaams Belang is stuck on 26.6%, whilst the alliance of Christian-Democrats and Flemish Nationalists is down 0.3% on its March 2006 poll rating and drops back to 26.7%. The rise recorded by the Vlaams Belang vis-à-vis its result in the federal elections of 2003 now amounts to 8.7%. The biggest loser in this poll is Prime Minister Verhofstadt and Minister-President Somers' Liberal VLD. The Liberals lose 2% and drop back to 16.9% - 7.3% below their 2003 result. Groen! rises 0.8% in respect of March 2006 to 2.2%, but still down 3.6% on its March 2006 poll rating. The Socialists and Spirit have been able to stabilise at just under the 20% mark which seems to have taken hold of voters. SP.A-Spirit is faring none too well either, but the party is doing better at holding its own than the VLD.

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A statistical x-ray of Flanders

O n 16 June the Flemish Government presented its Flemish regional indicators (Vrind). These include all possible statistical data on Flanders and its population. Vrind offers a computed overview of population trends, health, entrepreneurship, employment, the environment, transport, education and many other things besides. The survey sounds out trust in the institutions, and Flemings’ satisfaction with their work, their income, the area where they live, their family and politics. De Standaard selected a number of striking details (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 17 JUNE

Almost seven in ten Flemings feel that politicians promise a lot but do little, and almost half think that politicians are only in politics out of self-interest. Only one in three Flemings says that he trusts his fellow man. Only the Portuguese are more distrusting.

A free state in a derelict hospital by the sea

The major open-air exhibition Beaufort along the Belgian coast is aiming to bring art to the people by setting it up in the public space. Freestate, an exhibition in the derelict outbuildings of Ostend Military Hospital, wants to do the opposite: bring the public to the art, according to curators Hendrik Tratsaert and Lieven Vanden Abbeele. The exhibition displays works by a new generation of Belgian artists and is designed to supplement Beaufort. It is the first time a group exhibition of this generation of artists has been organised in Belgium. Most of them were born between 1970 and 1985 (FF).

JAN VAN HOVE • DE STANDAARD • 21 JUNE

Freestate began with a long list of 100 artists. ‘Freestate was born out of necessity,’ says Lieven Van den Abeele. ‘We realised that artists born after 1970 had never been confronted with one another at a major group exhibition. And yet this generation is actually ready for it, not to mention entitled to it.’ Freestate began with a long list of a hundred artists, twenty of whom were in the end selected. They work with a wide variety of materials and media: there are painters, photographers, video artists and sculptors, others are building an installation or presenting a concept. All the participants are displaying several works, so you get an idea of their individuality. Those artists invited reacted enthusiastically. What typifies the generation - all participants were born between 1970 and 1985 - on display at Freestate? ‘There are clear differences with the previous batch,’ says Lieven Van den Abeele. ‘Artists like Wim Delvoye, Jan Verbooyse and Thierry de Cordier were consciously in the tradition of Belgian art. They were occasionally labelled the “grandchildren of Magritte”. Magritte and also Broodthaers were key points of reference for them. The generation after them has grown away from all that. These are artists who travel and have a broader view. Their work fits into an international context, they choose their models themselves. That obviously has to do with the globalisation that is under way in all areas. Their critical attitude towards the art world is also striking. They no longer believe in the mythology surrounding art and react against the grand gestures of super-artists such as Jeff Koons or Damien Hirst.’

‘We hope that above all Freestate will convince by the quality of the generation on display,’ say the curators. ‘These artists are on an international level. If you compare their work with that of their French colleagues, which was recently presented with a great deal of fuss at the exhibition La force de l’art in Paris, you’ll see that they score highly. People still have to be convinced of this.’

‘FREESTATE’: 25 JUNE TO 10 SEPTEMBER IN OSTEND MILITARY HOSPITAL
WWW.FREE-STATE.BE
**Diary**

**MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE**

- 27 June to 2 July: Abigail’s party by Mike Leigh, performed by Tristero, theatre comedy, Kaaitheater, Brussels; info: www.kaaitheater.be 02/401.59.59
- 29 June: The lobster shop, try out by The Need Company, Kaaitheater, Brussels; info: www.kaaitheater.be 02/201.59.59
- 14 to 30 June: Falstaff by WA Mozart, De Munt, Brussels; conductor: Kazushi Ono, director: Willy Decker, info: www.demunt.be
- 1 and 2 July: Concert by the Symphonic orchestra of the Opera conducted by Ivan Törzs, with Zoltan Kodaly and Johannes Brahms, De Singel, Antwerp and De Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.desingel.be, www.dbijloke.be
- Until 9 July: www.debijloke.be
- 30 June to 8 July: Hoover Phonic, Depeche Mode and Red Hot Chili Peppers, Anouk, Muse, The Who, with Jan Fabre, the early work, Muhka, info: www.muhka.be
- 3 September: Memoir Oto, summer festival with exhibitions and events in connection with the 16th century painter, Bruegel printed and Bruegel imaginary, Royal Library, Brussels; info: www.bruegel06.be 02/454.87.54
- 30 June: Photo exhibition: Bruxelles-Istanbul-Brussel, Hallepoort, Brussels
- 3 September: Long live sculpture, open air exhibition, Middelheim, Antwerp, info: www.middelheimmuseum.antwerp
- Until 3 September: Jan Fabre and the ancient Masters, KMSKA, Antwerp, info: www.kmska.be 03/238.78.09
- 15 August: Jan Fabre, Jan Fabre, the early work, Muhka, info: www.muhka.be
- Until 30 June: Concert by the Symphonic orchestra of the Opera conducted by Ivan Törzs, with Zoltan Kodaly and Johannes Brahms, De Singel, Antwerp and De Bijloke, Ghent; info: www.desingel.be, www.dbijloke.be
- Until 9 July: Das Rheingold by Richard Wagner, director: Ivo Van Hove, conductor Ivan Törzs; Flanders Opera, Ghent; info: www.vlaamseopera.be
- 30 June to 8 July: European Film Festival, Flagey, Brussels; every night concerts with Kawada, David Borsu, The Tellers, Monsoon and others; info: www.flagey.be www.fffb.be 02/533.34.20
- Until 2 July: Cirque Plume with ploc ploc, Concertgebouw, Bruges; info: www.concertgebouw.be www.bruggefactor06.be
- 7 to 9 July: Cactus festival, Bruges www.cactusfestival.be
- 13 to 23 July: Blue Note Festival, Ghent with Wayne Shorter, Cesaria Evora, Evaldo, Madelenade Peyroux, Dianne Reeves, Randy Newman, John Zorn, Ghent; info: www.bluenoterecordfestival.com 0900 00 600
- Until 15 August: Ecran Total 2006, Film during the summer, Arenberg, Brussels; info: www.arenberg.be

**EXPO**

- Until 31 August: An Unmade Sculpture by Marie-France and Patricia Martin, exhibition, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 02/507.82.00
- Until 27 August: Click-Doubleclick, the documentary factor, photo-exhibition on the occasion of the Summer of Photography - a triangular festival involving Antwerp, Brussels, and Charleroi, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 02/507.82.00
- Until 27 August: A4: Karine Marenne and Roberta Miss, Installations, drawings, videos, sound interventions, Bozar Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 02/507.82.00
- Until 27 August: In the picture: Photojournalism in de Morgen, exhibition, Bozar Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 02/507.82.00
- Until 9, 17 and 2 July: Exhibitions at SMAK, Ghent: Willem Oorebeek, René Heyvaert and Liesbeth Abbenes; info: www.smak.be 09/221.17.03
- Until December: The Alonso collection: glass work, Design Museum, Ghent
- Until 27 August: Arnulf Rainer and art by the mentally ill, exhibition, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent and Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle; www.museumdrguislain.be and www.museumdd.be 09/282.51.23
- Until 27 August: Antwerp in the comic strips, Permeke Library, Antwerp, info: 03/260.38.00
- Until 27 August: Art from Tibet, Royal Museum of Art and History, Cinquantenaire, Brussels; info: 02/741.72.11
- Until 19 November: The Last Witness - the war landscape, In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres; info: 057/239.220
- Until 10 September: Freestate, group exhibition of young Belgian artists in the old military hospital of Ostend; info: www.freestate.be
- Until 8 October: Zoo, exhibition, De Elektriciteitscentrale, the brand new European Centre for Contemporary Arts, Brussels; info: 02-279.64.35.

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