Internet police in the making

The Internet makes our lives more comfortable. We search for information on it, do our shopping on it, look at our bank accounts on it. But crime has also discovered the Internet, and e-crime is booming like never before, according to the annual report of the management of the Federal Police, which is joining battle with economic and financial crime.

Federal Police investigators already monitor the Internet closely, partly in the fight against child pornography. But there is a need for a genuine Internet police that actively seeks out all forms of fraud, says Johan Denolf, the department’s Director. The number of punishable acts on the Net rose by 45% to 17,500 between 2004 and 2005. Internet criminals also appear to be particularly inventive and creative. Fraud in purchase transactions, tricks for obtaining bank card numbers and bank account numbers, chain letters and other forms of fraud are the order of the day.

FILIP VERHOEST • DE STANDAARD • 7 JULY

The Economic and Financial Crime Department today employs 250 people. Director Denolf is calling for a further 150 people to be added. ‘We are a profitable department. We generate eighty times what we cost.’

Among other things, the increase in staff is intended to allow two investigators to surf the Net full-time looking for criminal activity in each judicial district (27 in total).

In addition, the central department in Brussels is looking for the criminal groups behind the numerous types of fraud.

The Internet police will not have a uniform, like the motorway police. ‘You won’t see them,’ says Denolf, ‘but they will track down all forms of crime on the Net within the limits of the law’. In 2005 there were twice as many criminal investigations (1,300) as in 2004.

Denolf also points to the vulnerability of businesses’ computer systems. ‘Many managers think it involves nothing more than harmless games by young boys, but our experience contradicts that,’ states his annual report.

Last year the treasury lost ‘a mere’ 181 million euros through VAT carousel fraud. In 2001 this figure was 1.1 billion euros. 46,000 false euro notes were also intercepted, 80% more than in 2004.

Incomprehensible, Van Parys feels, and he reminded Onkelinx of the recommendations from 1999. Unfortunately it is still not yet operational. According to Onkelinx, despite the increased justice budget, there is still no money for such a centre. She had, however, taken other measures, such as the introduction of a trial period which internes must undergo before being released and a weekly check after their release.

Onkelinx’s measures did not convince the opposi- tion. If it emerges that Ait Oud is indeed the perpetra- tor, Onkelinx will be morally responsible for his release and for the death of the children, contends Van Parys and with him Ecolo MP Marie Nagy. At which VLD Parliamentary Party Leader Fons Bourgignon accused Van Parys of ‘poujadism’. The government cannot be responsible for decisions in which internes must undergo be- fore being released. A boy is murdered for his MP3, the youth penalty law is quickly introduced. That is not poli- cy, that is response politics, the paper claims. Fore- sight, conversely, is the essence of government.

Frank Vandecaveye • editor in chief
High ozone levels cause 4% more deaths in summer

On Tuesday 4 July the ozone concentration was 180 mg per cubic metre at a temperature of 34°. The opposition party Groen! has already strongly criticised the lack of co-ordination of the measures taken by the Flemish and Federal Governments with the respective Ministers Kris Peeters (CD&V) and Bruno Tobback (SPA). They are demanding a structural ozone policy with speed restrictions, less driving and more public transport. On a day like 4 July, 20 to 35 Flemings could die from too much ozone, warns the Interregional Cell for the Environment (IRCEI). Statistical surveys show that 4% of all deaths from May to September are caused by ozone. Extra deaths depend on how high the temperature is, how long the heatwave lasts and how much the ozone levels are exceeded [FF].

KATRIN SERNEELS • DE MORGEN • 5 JULY

‘During a mild summer without peaks, like that of 2000, there were 697 deaths from ozone in Flanders. In the summer of 2003 that figure rose to 919,’ says Frans Fierens of IRCEI. In past years no direct rise in the number of ozone deaths has been established. ‘The number of ozone deaths depends on the number of heatwaves over the summer. In the summer of 2000 there were 697 ozone deaths, in that of 2001 777, in that of 2002 744, in that of 2003 919 and in the summer of 2004 769. We have yet to analyse the figures for 2005. But we do know that the heatwave from 20 to 26 June 2005 cost 200 extra lives. Calculations show that one third of those were due to excessive ozone levels. That week the mortality rate was 10% higher than normal.’

Two thirds of the extra deaths that occur in summer are due to heat- and pollution-related causes. One third are caused by excessive ozone levels. An analysis of the 1994 heatwave revealed that death from pneumonia and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disorders can be a consequence of excessive ozone levels. This is according to the ‘Mortality during a hot summer with severe air pollution by ozone’ report by the Scientific Institute of Public Health. In particular people over the age of 65 run a greater risk of dying during heatwaves. During the heatwave there can be a 13% rise in the number of deaths among the elderly compared to normal, according to the 1994 analysis.

WWW.VMM.BE/MIRA

A business plan for Flanders

FF EDITOR

Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) is making socio-economic policy the main theme of Flanders Celebration Day on 11 July. On that day he will unveil his ‘Business Plan for Flanders’, a project designed to encourage people to be enterprising and innovative. A discussion memo reveals that the government is backing four trump cards and challenges, claims De Tijd (1 July): (1) people and talent, (2) maximum utilisation of our geographical position, (3) creativity, innovation and enterprise and (4) a customer-friendly government with vision. The first item concerns good education, refresher training for the unemployed, a reassessment of technical training and bottleneck jobs. Flanders’ central location wants to play out the importance of the Flemish seaports, Zaventem airport and the relationship with the international headquarters. For the third theme the government mainly wants to encourage an entrepreneurial spirit. A customer-friendly and efficient government will build on the reform of the administration and the enterprise counters.

WWW.FLANDERS.BE

Leterme: a new style of government

Yves Leterme was voted politician of the year by the combined press of the Rue de la Loi. In almost all the opinion polls he is also way out in front as the most popular politician. Yves Leterme’s star is in the ascendancy, that much is certain. His sober style of government is appreciated, even though in the past he often struggled with the image of a dull bookkeeper. [FF].

Opinion

PETER DE BACKER • HET NIEUWSBLAD • 3 JULY

Dullness has become reliability. Today even the Rue de la Loi press has voted him politician of the year and in the popularity polls he is 12% ahead of his Federal colleague Guy Verhofstadt. Can the Flemish Government really show such a fantastic record of achievements? After two of the five years it is still too early to take stock. But Leterme’s style of government is a welcome relief after the Purple culture of promises of the Verhofstadt and Dewael governments. With Verhofstadt I in particular, quick scoring was what counted. That led to a lot of government by announcement, without worrying too much about implementing the fine plans.

Leterme is firmly convinced that only corporate governance offers an answer to anti-politics: no nonsense, I’m just doing my job. This attitude fits in well with the Flemish mentality, which does not like top dogs who go about things too enthusiastically. The Minister-President is not a fan of grandiose plans or overblown declarations, preferring facts and achievements.

WWW.YVESLETERME.BE
Leterme gives his government a report

The school year is over and immediately at its end comes the report. Het Nieuwsblad and De Standaard found that a suitable time to ask Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) to produce a report of his government. It became not only an audit of two years of government work as a team, but also of each individual minister separately. Leterme gives his government team a grade of 70%. His government resolved a great many issues, he explains. There was a collective labour agreement in the care sector, an agreement on day care, an integration decree, a tax cut, money for school buildings, risk capital for entrepreneurs and meanwhile the budget remained on schedule. There were also some ‘minor flaws’: the missaplen compromise over the electoral decree (whereby the list vote still counts for one third), the failed splitting of the electoral district of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. As leader of the team, Leterme sees one troublesome task for the near future: getting the team through the 2006 local elections and 2007 federal elections in more or less one piece. He also wants to urge his ministers to simply continue to do their job and to resist the temptation to score for the camera during the election campaigns. As the coach of the team, Leterme remained generous towards his individual ministers, primarily having incentives in mind (FF).

Peter de Backer • De Standaard • 3 July

Kris Peeters (CD&V), Environment and Public Works: ‘Notable for his focus on results. Successful negotiations with the Netherlands on the deepening of the Scheldt. Prudent approach to environmental policy with results.’ What should Kris work on? ‘He sometimes comes across as a bit provocative.’

Inge Vervotte (CD&V), Welfare and Family: ‘Inge is heavily involved in the implementation of the coalition agreement: health and social care insurance, tackling waiting lists, special youth care plan and a Collective Labour Agreement for the white sector.’

What should Inge work on? ‘She concentrates fully on her tasks. Even though I sometimes think: go on Inge, tell us what you think about other things.’

Geert Bourgeois (N-VA), Administrative Affairs and Media: ‘Ensured that a better administrative policy came into being. He talks little of administrative simplification but does a lot.’

‘I think he sometimes shows too little of his achievements. Sometimes a little modest.’

Bert Anciaux (Spirit), Culture, Youth and Sport: ‘Bert is doing really well. Culture is one of the growers in the budget, and there is also investment in youth and sport. Bert doesn’t let himself be put off by those shouting from the sidelines, the Dedeckers of this world.’

‘Bert is sometimes so despondent. He worries too much about every problem.’

Kathleen Van Brempt (SP.A), Mobility and Equal Opportunities: ‘Is implementing the basic mobility decree well, De Lijn is running well. She is very circumspect in her politics, as her reaction to the events in Antwerp shows. She’s rather underrated.’ ‘She could be a bit more sure of her ground.’

Frank Vandenbroucke (SP.A), Education and Work: ‘The absolute best: he’s been here for twenty years and it shows. Knows his dossiers, fights hard for his points, but in a rational way.’

‘He fights incredibly doggedly for his people, for education, employment. I sometimes feel like saying: Frank, let’s look at that at a bit more quietly.’

Fientje Moerman (VLD), Economic Affairs: ‘Her record of achievements is already considerable: the availability of risk capital for businesses, innovation policy. People also say we work well together. I’m glad that as Vice-Premier of the Flemish Government she is 100% behind our cause.’

Dirk Van Mechelen (VLD), Financial Affairs and Spatial Planning: ‘The senior member of the team. My ally in budgetary policy. Half a word and he understands what you mean.’

‘I think he’s too modest. He communicates well at important moments.’

Marino Keulen (VLD), Local Government and Integration: ‘Put integration policy on the right track. A loyal and good colleague. Last year was also a good year for the production of social housing. He is busy reorganising that sector.’

‘The sternness with which he tries to give [his province] Limburg the upper hand sometimes gets on my nerves.’

Flemish civil service given new structure

Since 1 July the 34,000 Flemish civil servants have been working in a new organisation. They represent the final piece of a multi-year reform that was implemented under the name of ‘Better Administrative Policy’. That new Policy is designed to give shape to the ‘New Public Management’ with greater autonomy in implementing government policy and greater involvement in policy preparation.

The operation began with a redistribution of all services in thirteen departments, one for each policy area. Initially the planned autonomy of these departments was so far-reaching that there was talk of abolishing the ministerial cabinets and replacing them with a policy board controlled by the departments. But as De Standaard writes [3 July], the idea of a more autonomous administration was seriously undermined under the Dewael government [Purple-Green]. Above all this wanted to restore the primacy of politics (the decision-making power of ministers, ed.). The present Leterme government has already abandoned the abolition of the cabinets.

In the new structure, policy implementation is entrusted to Internal Independent Agencies (IIAs) and External Independent Agencies (EIAs). The VDAB [Flemish Public Employment Service] and De Lijn [public bus and tram company] are such EIAs. Ministers conclude a management contract with each of these agencies, in which they make clear what they expect of these agencies.

www.flanders.be
The role of the National Bank in the CIA-Swift affair

The management of the National Bank apparently did not inform the Belgian Government

In February 2002 the National Bank was aware that Swift, the international manager of financial report traffic whose headquarters are in Ter Hulpe near Brussels, was giving the American intelligence service the CIA access to its network. The purpose of that surveillance was to track down possible financial transactions between terror organisations. This apparently allowed the CIA to also track down the terror group that was behind the bombings on the Indonesian Island of Bali. International telephone, mail and fax traffic was in turn monitored by the American National Security Agency. Swift claims it was forced to cooperate by the American government. The company informed the national European banks, including Belgium’s. However, the management of the National Bank apparently did not inform the Belgian Government. And that is curious, concludes Knack (5 July). It is not the sort of behaviour you expect from an institution, half of whose shares are held by the government. The governor and vice-governor have political persuasion. In the case of Governor Guy Quaden that is the Parti socialiste, for Vice-Governor Luc Coene the VLD (Flemish and liberal), for former Governor Fons Verplaetse it was the CD&V (Christian democrat). In any case the reports the Nationale Bank makes public more and more frequently support the economic plans of the Federal Government (FF).

Opinion

RIK VAN CAUWELAERT • KNACK • 5 JULY

If we are to believe the statement by the spokesperson of the NBB, then the government failed to acquaint itself with a flagrant breach of public privacy in the Swift affair. Financial transactions are and useful community service punishments, such as removing graffiti. As well as young people, the Antwerp Mayor also wants to bring parents firmly into line. ‘Look on it as an incentive to keep better control of their children.’

Janssens’ proposal has met with immediate opposition from the Council of Parents of Youth Aid (Raad van Ouders en van de Jeugdhulp), which sees monetary fines for parents as stigmatising and anti-social. There is also opposition from political circles. Antwerp’s leading Groen! candidate, Freya Piryns, fears that any sense of distinction will be lost in the call for a strong ‘tit for tat’ policy and is calling for active support for parents and young people.

The government set the minimum age for administrative penalties at sixteen. According to Janssens, that is precisely where the problem lies. The youths who cause trouble are often much younger than sixteen. ‘The police are generally well aware of who they are and are constantly arresting them, but have too few possibilities of punishing them.’ Janssens is thinking of visible

Mayor Janssens calls for administrative penalties from age of 12

Of the three adult foreigners involved in the bus incident that cost the life of train driver Guido Demoor, two have already been released. According to the president of the court sitting in chambers, the two did not strike the victim. The blows came from two underage suspects and the third adult, according to a reconstruction of the incident. The two freed adults, Ademaslam T and Mohammed A, may yet still be prosecuted for culpable neglect. Mayor of Antwerp Patrick Janssens (SPA) has urged the Federal Government to make administrative sanctions (fines and community service) possible from the age of 12. Janssens is making his proposal in response to the bus incident in his city. The Mayor also wants to make sure parents do not shirk their responsibilities.

As well as the punishment for the children, the parents will also have to pay a further 125 euros. Administrative penalties were introduced to punish instances of harassment and minor crimes that are not prosecuted or are dismissed by the public prosecutor’s offices (FF).

JEROEN VERELST • DE MORGEN • 3 JULY

The government set the minimum age for administrative penalties at sixteen. According to Janssens, that is precisely where the problem lies. The youths who cause trouble are often much younger than sixteen. ‘The police are generally well aware of who they are and are constantly arresting them, but have too few possibilities of punishing them.’ Janssens is thinking of visible

after all covered by privacy laws. In our country there has to be a reasoned letter from a public prosecutor to give investigators access to someone’s bank transactions. Can the Belgians not expect the governor of the Nationale Bank, good for around 500,000 euros a year and provided with the necessary protection, to stand up for the privacy of the people for whom he acts, but also for the protection of the economic interests of his country?

Has the government been nonchalant? Perhaps. Because even if the management of the Nationale Bank kept quiet out of a misplaced duty of discretion, former Foreign Affairs Minister Louis Michel (MR) should still have been informed after reference was made at the beginning of 2002 to the American monitoring of Swift, albeit in guarded terms, in a UN report on fighting terrorism.

Anyway, with what we now know, it is embarrassing that the United States was free to divert Belgian telephone, fax and mail traffic and have financial and economic data monitored by its intelligence services, while the Purple Government flexed its muscles in the opposition to the war in Iraq.

PRIVACY

JUSTICE

www.patrickjanssens.be
More than 400 jobs go

**Total, Siemens, Sappi and Polypal sites have announced job losses, just before the summer break**

The fact that Total Petrochemicals is stopping production of its elastomers (rubber) has not come as much of a surprise for the 144 workers. The division has been operating at a loss for years. Attempts to sell production came to nothing. The trade union ABVV is demanding that most workers are given another job within Total. That a company does not always have to make a loss to reorganise itself is demonstrated by paper manufacturer Sappi from Lanaken. For some time Sappi has been battling with overcapacity on the paper market and announced that 175 million euros had to be saved in its European sites, including 10% at the Limburg site. The 123 jobs will be lost by not replacing people who take early retirement and cutting down on temporary workers. The unions, however, are taking around 30 pure redundancies into account.

More jobs are also to go at Siemens Belgium. In Siemens Business Services 61 of the 371 jobs are under threat, especially in Anderlecht. SBS recently sold its Product Related Services division to Fujitsu Siemens Computers, as a result of which the organisation had to be modified. The planned restructuring mainly affects the sales team and supporting services. And finally, across the linguistic border in Hauts-Sarts, Polypal, a company specialising in pallet racks, is closing. 83 workers will lose their jobs.

**FRANK DEREYMAEKER • HET LAATSTE NIEUWS • 6 JULY**
Plans for third wind generator park in North Sea

Belwind is investing 800 million euros in the project, which immediately makes it the biggest wind energy project in Belgium

The company Belwind has plans for a third wind generator park off the Belgian coast. The park will be on the Bligh Bank, a sandbank some 46 km out to sea off Ostend. 66 wind turbines of 5 megawatts each will provide 330 megawatts of power and supply 345,000 families with green energy. Belwind is a subsidiary of the Dutch energy and engineering group Econcern. The company is investing 800 million euros in the project, which immediately makes it the biggest wind energy project in Belgium, bigger than the park that C-power wants to build on the Thornton Bank (FF).

David Adriaen • De Tijd • 5 July

The project is situated in an area demarcated by the government for wind power. ‘This spot involves the least disruption to shipping, fishing and the environment,’ says Frank Coenen, Director of the Belwind project.

Belwind is more ambitious than pioneer C-Power and the Eldepasco project. The area around the Bligh Bank is 20 to 35 metres deep. Constructing wind turbines at such a depth and so far off the coast is a massive challenge. The main problem is anchoring the masts to the sea-bed. Most modern offshore wind turbines are built on piles driven into the ground. But it remains to be seen whether this technique, which is used for turbines in shallower water, can also be used by Belwind. ‘We’ll be able to learn from the experiences of C-Power, the pioneer in Belgium,’ says Coenen. According to him, the biggest challenge is not exceeding the budget of 800 million euros.

Belwind is hoping that the government will provide adequate support for the project and that a large part of the budget can go to Belgian companies. One possible contractor is steel firm Iemants from Hoboken, a subsidiary of the Dutch Smulders Group. The company, based in the former Cockerill Yards (Boelwerf), specialises in large steel constructions, and is receiving more and more orders from wind turbine builders.

Meanwhile the Minister for the North Sea, Renaat Landuyt (SPA), has a ready ear for the involvement of Belgian firms in the project. ‘We’re looking at what we can get from Europe,’ says Landuyt. The Minister points out that the government has already taken several measures to allow the production of North Sea power. Wind energy on land was also recently given a boost. The beaconing rules have been modified, says Landuyt. After agreements with the aviation sector the rules for warning lights on wind turbines have been modified, making it easier to get a wind project off the ground.

The Belwind project submitted its application two months ago. Now the company has an exclusivity period to study the project further.

www.belwind.be

Pentahold: a Flemish-Luxembourg venture capital fund

The Flemish entrepreneurs Filiep Balcaen (ex-Balta, carpet group), Marc Saverys ([CMB, shipping company], Paul Thiers (ex-Unilin, floors), Philippe Vlerick (KBC, UCO) and the Luxembourg entrepreneur Edmond Müller are together setting up a venture capital group designed to offer an alternative to the Anglo-Saxon funds that have recently bought up numerous Flemish companies (Unilin, Balta, Ontex). The initiative was christened Pentahold and can count on 100 to 150 million euros in capital. The fund wants to be active in Belgium, Luxembourg and the western part of Germany (FF).

Pascal Dendooven • De Standaard • 1 July

‘The sale of companies such as Balta and Unilin (Quick-Step) set many things in motion. Many Flemish entrepreneurs are thinking of selling,’ says a venture capital specialist. ‘In addition, you have many companies that are having to cope with a change in generation and are looking for a way out.’ Entrepreneurs predominantly want to invest in industrial firms that are ambitious and want to develop into world champions, says a person familiar with the situation. They are also convinced that Flemish entrepreneurs would rather sell to entrepreneurs. Not only would the chemistry be better than with young London financiers, for managers it is psychologically a ‘cleaner way of passing on their company’.

Pentahold will focus on long-term participations and alongside money also wants to provide a professional input to the Board of Directors, strategy as far as temporarily greater involvement in management.

Evolution of electricity price

Average of France, Germany, The Netherlands and Great-Britain = 100%

SME’s

Families

Industrial firms

103%

108%

113%

118%

123%

128%

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

DS-Infografiek; source: CREG
Faster registration of medicines needed

KATRIEN VERSTRAETE • DE TIJD • 1 JULY

The forms relate to both the registration of new drugs and the renewed registration of existing medicines. Vanthemsche admits that pharmaceutical firms are heading abroad because registration is quicker there. This trend must be reversed.

‘An efficient administration is vitally important to the competitiveness of companies that invest in research and development. They want to see their products registered as quickly as possible,’ he emphasises.

For the pharmaceutical sector the setting up of the Drugs Agency is ‘a very important signal,’ claims Leo Neels, Managing Director of the interests association Pharma.be. ‘The die is finally cast. There was a real need for an organisation with greater independence, like most countries have. The government is showing that it is now concerned with the whole chain: research, registration, reimbursement and pricing of drugs.’

Neels believes it is logical for companies to look abroad for an escape route. ‘Some registration dossiers have a backlog of six years. The first, significant registration of new drugs takes place in Belgium in only 4% of cases. It is up to the Drugs Agency to show demonstrate its expertise to international companies.’

www.pharma.be

Vlaams Belang warns artists against taking part in 0110 Festival

Even Popular Hit Parade Artists Appear Not To Give In To The Intimidation Of Vlaams Belang

On Sunday 1 October - one week before the local elections - free concerts are due to be held in Antwerp, Ghent, Brussels and Charleroi under the banner of the 0110 Festival. The event is an initiative of Tom Barman, frontman of popular Belgian rock band Deus, who is using the concerts to make a stand against intolerance and racism. Other local rock stars such as Brussels’ Arno and Ghent’s Sioen spontaneously offered their support.

When Barman unveiled his plans he was immediately criticised for preaching to the converted. But for a while now the poster has shown the rockers together alongside pop singers such as Laura Lynn and Helmut Lotti. Even the big names of the hit parade like Clouseau and Will Tura, who have filled the Antwerp Sportpaleis or Vorst Nationaal many times over, have promised their support.

The Vlaams Belang is now trying to derail the 0110 festivals for tolerance. It is warning the pop artists that they will upset many of their fans (who vote for the Vlaams Belang) by taking part. But neither Laura Lynn, Clouseau nor Will Tura appear to have given in to the intimidation of the Vlaams Belang (FF).

JEROEN VERELST • DE MORGAN • 5 JULY

Filip Dewinter (Vlaams Belang) can see only one explanation for their participation: Barman has pulled the wool over their eyes. ‘Not at all,’ reacts Kris Wauters, half of Clouseau. ‘We’re perfectly aware that a concert for tolerance in Antwerp exactly one week before the elections is sending out a clear message. Look, Clouseau has never been a group for big political statements. But Koen and I think it’s important to make people think before casting their vote in such important elections. Compare it with the artists who campaigned against Bush’s re-election in the USA. We have to provide some opposition. Obviously there will be a few thousand Vlaams Belang voters among the 200,000 fans who come to our concerts in the Sportpaleis. And those people are welcome, we won’t challenge anyone. But we won’t stop saying what we think just because some fans have a different opinion.’ At Vlaams Belang headquarters a letter is today being sent to the ‘popular’ musicians. Dewinter: ‘It’s unlikely they will support events that are aimed solely at the Vlaams Belang one week before the elections. They have to realise that some of their followers will vote for us.’

‘Oh, I can’t see who I’ll offend by appearing at a concert for tolerance,’ reacts Will Tura. ‘My fans have known what I think for years. I’ve sung gospel, songs with a powerful message of tolerance and solidarity. What I’ll be doing on 1 October is not different.’ Nevertheless, the entourage of pop queen Laura Lynn was yesterday panic after the Vlaams Belang’s outburst. After crisis talks with her management Lynn decided she would appear on 1 October. ‘I’m a simple Flemish girl. I draw a lot of strength from my Christian upbringing and from that I’ve learned that you should love your neighbour. It’s a simple message and so I back initiatives which support that. Don’t try and read anything else into it, I don’t get involved in politics.’

www.0110.be

PHARMACEUTICALS

HEALTH CARE AND CULTURE

1 6,000 registration forms for drugs are waiting to be processed in our country. So says Piet Vanthemsche, interim Managing Director of the Drugs Agency to be set up, which will be responsible for controlling the development and use of medicines. Vanthemsche wants to clear the backlog as quickly as possible. Otherwise pharmaceutical firms will continue to go abroad to have their medicines registered, he warns. The pharmaceutical sector has reacted with relief (FF).

1 www.0110.be

focus on FLANDERS • 1 July- 7 July 2006 • Number 27
Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

13 to 23 July: Blue Note Festival, Ghent with Wayne Shorter, Cesaria Evora, Maceo Parker, Madelene Peyroux, Diane Reeves, Randy Newman, John Zorn, Ghent; info: www.bluenoterecordfestival.com

• Until 15 August: Ecran Total 2006, Film during the summer, Arenberg, Brussels; info: www.arenberg.be

• 14, 15 and 16 July: Belgian Rhythm n Blues Festival, Peer with Neilville Broters, Gary Moore and The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Peer; info: www.break-away.be

• 15 to 24 July: De Gentse Feesten with low festival: Blue Note Jazz Festival, International Street Theatre Festival (www.isf.be with Cirqulation Locale, Osmosies Cie, Princesses Peluches, Siena La Cabeza, Tango Sumo, Claire – De Osmosies Cie, Princesses Peluches, Sienas: www.10daysoff.be)

• Until 30 July: Photo exhibition: ‘Wake’, exhibition by Yoko Ono

• Until 10 September: Homo Faber, Jan Fabre and the ancient Masters, KMSKA, Antwerp; info: www.kmska.be

EXPO

• Until 2008: Art at the Frontline 1914-1918, Royal Army and Military History Museum, Brussels; info: 02 737 78 33 www.klm-mra.be

• Until 1 October: Beaufort Outside: open air exhibition along the Flemish coast; info: www.2006beaufort.be

• Until 3 September: Beaufort Inside, exhibition, PMMK, Ostend; info: www.2006beaufort.be

• Until 30 July: Photo exhibition: Bruxelles-Istanbul-Brussel, Hallepoort, Brussels

• Until 3 September: Long Live Sculpture, open air exhibition, Middelheim, Antwerp; info: www.middelheimmuseum.antwerp

• Until 10 September: Family affairs: brothers and sisters in art, exhibition with work by Jan and Pieter Brueghel, Johannes, Ambrosius and Abraham Bosschaert, Antoine Peys and Naum Gabo, Giorgio De Chirico and Alberto Savinio, Marcel and Suzanne Duchamp, Alberto and Diego Giacometti, Koen and Frank Theys and others, Bozar, Brussels; info: www.bozar.be 02/507.82.00

• Until 15 July: ‘Wake’, exhibition by Yoko Ono, Gallery M3, Vlaamse Kaai, Antwerp; info: www.mudimadrie.be 03/237.48.84

• 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-Doubledclick, 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, Rene Heyvaert and Liesbeth Abbenes; info: www.smak.be 09/221.17.03

• Until December: The Alonso collection: glass work, Design Museum, Ghent

• Until 29 October: Arnulf Rainer and art by the mentally ill, exhibition, Museum Dr. Guislain, Ghent and Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle; www.museumdghuislain.be and www.museummd.be 09/282.51.23

• Until 29 October: Dutch Masters, collections of paintings from the 17the century, Museum Mayer Van den Bergh, Antwerp, info: 03/232.42.37 www.museum.antwerpen.be

• 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 in De Elektriciteitscentrale, the brand new European Centre for Contemporary Arts, Brussels, info: 02-279.64.35.

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