Six groups still in running for Indaver

The sale of a majority interest in the Flemish waste company Indaver has entered a new phase, report De Standaard and De Tijd (12 July). At the beginning of this year the Flemish Government put its majority interest (via the Flemish Environmental Holding VMH) of 54.2% up for sale, but still wants to retain a blocking minority of 25%. Indaver has a turnover of 210 million euros and last year increased its net profits to 16.6 million euros. Twelve companies have announced themselves to Bank Degroof, the business bank handling the sale. Of these twelve, six can now continue to the next round. Some of these groups are bidding via a consortium. For example, the French environmental group Sita, a subsidiary of the Suez group, is bidding jointly with the Municipal Holding, Arco, the financial arm of the Christian Workers’ Movement, Dexia and the regional investment company GIMV (FF).

With Veolia Environnement there is a second French group in the running. This group is one of the largest in the environmental sector. On the Belgian side there is a financial consortium based around Ackermans & van Haaren, KBC Private Equity and the British venture capital group 3i. The British Shanks is also going through. The same applies to the Rotterdam-based AVR, which is owned by venture capital groups KKR and CVC Capital. Finally there is the Dutch energy and environment group Delta. These six groups will shortly have access to sensitive information which should allow them to issue a binding bid. That should not happen before August. The parties that are bidding are extremely motivated, which means the corporate value of Indaver could rise from 250 million to 300 million euros. That in turn means that the VMH could pocket at least 60 million euros.

Indaver has developed into a player with interests in Portugal, Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic. The group is one of the leaders in its field, especially in the processing of industrial waste. It is likely to be well into autumn before we know who holds the strongest cards to take a controlling interest. Potentially the Flemish Region will not only have to choose between a financial and an industrial project but also consider how it wants Indaver to grow in Europe henceforth. www.indaver.be
A business plan for Flanders

THE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO SECURE THE WELFARE OF THE REGION AND AGAIN MAKE FLANDERS ONE OF THE TOP REGIONS IN EUROPE

On 10 July in Antwerp Zoo, Minister-President Yves Leterme (CD&V) and his government team presented ‘Flanders in Action’, a business plan designed to secure the welfare of the region and again make Flanders one of the top regions in Europe alongside such regions as Catalonia and Beieren.

The plan puts great emphasis on the economy and provides a line of action for the next ten to fifteen years. The four key tasks in the plan focus on education and training (‘Go all out for the development of all talents’), entrepreneurship and innovation (‘Work on creativity. Innovation as culture. More entrepreneurship’), logistics (‘Make better use of our central location’) and a decisive and customer-friendly government.

Leterme’s team has come up with 34 projects to accomplish these four key tasks. By September budgets will also be released for each of these projects in a multi-year budget, the Minister-President promised. After all, from 2007 there will again be more leeway in the Flemish budget.

It is difficult to call ‘Flanders in Action’ a ‘different noise’, claim De Standaard (10 July) and De Morgen (11 July). Rather, it is a more concrete manifestation of the socio-economic section of the coalition agreement.

Leterme echoes that, but emphasises that the main aim of the plan is to spread a cohesive vision (De Standaard, 10 July). He also stresses the continuity between his plan and what has already been achieved. Leterme and his government have deliberately omitted the Community demands for more regional powers. The next Community round will be in 2007 after the federal elections. But the call for more powers for Flanders must not be an alibi for passivity and resignation today.

The ‘Flanders in Action’ project itself is a dull and lacklustre text that would be better off being looked at by an editor-in-chief, says De Morgen. Nor is it attractive or inspiring. ‘Could we please have a popular version soon?’ is how the Gazet van Antwerpen ends its article. De Standaard makes an effort to translate it into everyday language.

| De Standaard | 10 July |

During their secondary education young people will all have lessons on the shop floor. There will be more work placement and those who wish can work up to 28 hours a week with an apprenticeship contract. At the same time people in work must have greater access to training. More parents, foreigners and disabled people must be employed and it must be easier to combine a job with family life.

The first part of the business plan is imbued with the favourite topics of SP.A Vice-Minister-President Frank Vandenbroucke (SPA): more cross-fertilisation between education and work. Even the upgrading of technical education is an old pet subject.

The business plan also clearly states that Flanders does not have the capacity - read: money - to continue to offer dual education at a high level. The fragmentation of the educational landscape has long been a thorn in Vandenbroucke’s side.

‘All out for all talents’: knowledge for everyone

 Investing in talents concerns the most important raw material in Flanders: its knowledge. Education is good here, but still has one or two difficulties that urgently need sorting out. In secondary education that is the gulf between General Secondary Education (ASO) and the more practically and technically oriented Technical Secondary Education (TSO) and Vocational Secondary Education (BSO). The waterfall system, in which young people who fail end up in ever-‘lower’ levels, is another. Groups that all too often fall by the wayside, such as foreigners, also get special attention. And finally education has to dovetail more effectively with the job market (FF).

| De Standaard | 10 July |

A customer-friendly and efficient government apparatus

The final section of ‘Flanders in Action’ is devoted to the Flemish Government itself. Providing a modern government service means the public as a customer of the government knowing its rights and where to go to complain. Customer-friendliness and a fast service by the administration are therefore vital.

This administration must also be more cost-effective, says the plan. In other words, more benefits must be generated at less expense. Alternative financing structures such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) must be used more. The Flemish Government is after all a major economic player. With its tenders and purchases it accounts for 10% of GDP.

With its government contracts it can also act as a lever, for example by promoting certain new technologies.

| Flemish Civil Service |

WWW.FLANDES.BE

WWW.MINISTERFRANKVANDENBROUCKE.BE
Entrepreneurship in Flanders: a change in attitude

Creativity Innovation Entrepreneurship’ is aimed at a change in attitude by which economic modernisation becomes part of the Flemish make-up, as it were. An survey of the existing initiatives and those yet to be started. The Flemish Government is repeating its intention as set out in the coalition agreement to convince more people to start a business. The instruments for achieving that, including the win-win loan, the Flemish Entrepreneurship Agency (Vlaams Agentschap Ondernemen) and the Flanders’ Future campaign are already in place. Investing abroad will also be made easier for SMEs via the Flanders International Fund (Fonds Vlaanderen-Internationaal). The Flemish Government wants to boost the capacity of SMEs to innovate. For this, there will be an SME innovation action plan. Information and communications technology is to get a multi-year plan. The Flemish Government has also set up the Odysseus and Methusalem programmes to entice outstanding Flemish researchers back from abroad and provide better support for them here (Brainport Flanders). Finally, the quality and expertise of health-care in our hospitals will receive special attention and there is a section on ‘Responsible Entrepreneurship’ and ‘Social Economies’. And yet the Flemish Government regularly comes up against the limits of its powers in its economic policy (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 10 JULY

The business plan can do nothing other than report that discussions must be held at the various policy levels. The fact that the federal economic powers - energy, consumer affairs, middle classes - are still scattered among different ministers and state secretaries does not make the task any easier. Neither does it for entrepreneurs. Both the Federal and Flemish Government are working hard on administrative simplification. But for the time being offering a ‘uniform thematic navigational structure and a pointer towards each other’s information’ remains nothing more than an ‘ambition’, according to the business plan. Finally, the Flemish Government also has only limited fiscal powers and has to take account of European regulations, which impose strict conditions and restrictions on government support for businesses.

Flanders: a logistical center

In the third section, ‘Sustainable gateway to Europe’, Flanders must further develop its central logistical function within Europe. After all, Flanders currently houses around 400 European Distribution Centres, employing 25,000 people. Ideally this further logistical expansion will happen sustainably, i.e. without too much damage to the environment. Transport must therefore be moved as much as possible from roads onto inland waterways, railways and pipelines, while not forgetting the missing links in the transport network. The gateway function must attract even more foreign investment, with the emphasis on Asian countries such as Taiwan, Korea, China, India, but also Australia and New Zealand. The ports and the airport are the logistical turntables. For the airport the revitalisation of the Zaventem region is paramount. For the ports the focus is on a Flanders Port Area and collaboration with the Dutch ports (FF).

DE STANDAARD • 10 JULY

The ports must create an international image for themselves as a Flanders Port Area. At the same time Flanders is even suggesting joining forces with the Dutch ports. According to the Flemish Government, that is necessary because the flows of goods are becoming increasingly concentrated on priority sea routes that serve a limited number of ports. Flanders points out that Europe is encouraging the development of trans-European maritime highways, whereby at least two ports in two different Member States are involved.

Entrepreneurs and trade unions quite positive towards business plan

On 10 July trade unions, employers and entrepreneurs threw in their lot with some reservations with the Flemish Government’s socio-economic future plan. Apart from a displeased Agoria, the umbrella organisation for the technological industry, they support the fundamentals of ‘Flanders in Action’ (FF).

BART HAEC • DE TIJD • 11 JULY

‘This project goes beyond complaining and moaning,’ said Ilse Dielen, National Secretary of the ACV trade union, yesterday in Antwerp, where the Flemish Government presented ‘Flanders in Action’. ‘Instead of saying that we don’t have the power to do this or that, for once we’re saying what we can do. That’s brilliant.’

There were more comments about the content of the Flemish business plan. Agoria, the sector organisation of the technology industry, is unhappy that industry hardly figures at all. ‘Even the chapter on tourism is longer,” said Wil- son De Pril, Director of Agoria Flanders, with displeasure.

What should now happen with the 175-page-thick ‘Flanders in Action’? Something, at any rate, and Agoria finds that in itself a missed chance. ‘I had hoped for a document with which we could say to businesses: ‘this is why you should invest in Flanders’. But I don’t send this document to international headquarters,” said Wilson De Pril.

The Flemish Government is hoping that trade unions, employers, educational umbrella organisations and other social organisations will develop ‘Flanders in Action’ further. The employers’ organisation Voka is allotting eight to ten people to the task. The most important word in this business plan is “together”,’ said Philippe Muylert, Managing Director of Voka yesterday. ‘We must now invest together in logistics, in innovation, in talents, in international entrepreneurship.’

WWW.VOKA.BE
WWW.AGORIA.BE
WWW.ACW.BE
De Batselier calls for contract between Flanders and French Community

On 11 July Norbert De Batselier (SP.A) gave his last will and testament as Chairman of the Flemish Parliament for the twelfth and last time in Brussels City Hall. The outgoing Parliamentary Chairman took the opportunity to warn against an overly one-sided emphasis on the economy in the Flemish Government’s business plan (see next article) and stressed the importance of sustainability. He also warned against excluding foreigners from the job market, which encourages social problems.

And while Minister-President Leterme (CD&V) hardly mentioned the new state reform, De Batselier did so, and in detail. The current policy is too fragmented between regional and federal powers, claims the Parliamentary Chairman. A new state reform must transfer job market policy, health-care policy and taxation to Flanders. The best way to regulate that is in a contract between Flanders and the Francophone Community, he believes (FF).

WIM WINCKELMANS • HET NIEUWSBLAD 
12 JULY

This state reform must not disrupt our solidarity with Wallonia. ‘We must not look at things from an anti-Walloon viewpoint,’ says De Batselier. ‘The solidarity between North and South in Belgium must be preserved. We therefore have to enter into a contract between the two main communities. Such a contract, with reciprocal rights and duties, can make a lot of things clear.’

The outgoing Parliamentary Chairman also warns against isolationism. ‘It is an illusion that cutting yourself off from an evil outside world will lead to security and prosperity. The world is increasingly becoming one big whole, in which we all have to learn to get along with each other.’

The reaction of senior Walloon politicians in Brussels City Hall was dismissive. Walloon Minister-President Elio Di Rupo believes that Flanders must conduct community dialogue via the Federal Government.

MR Chairman Didier Reynders feelings were split. ‘I do want to work together at federal level, but if the aim is to administer Brussels jointly, that’s not an option for me. Flemings and Francophones run their regions well in Brussels. Others should not get involved.’

The CD&H [French speaking Christian Democrats] also interpreted De Batselier’s speech this way. ‘Brussels and Belgium are not for sale,’ reacted the party. ‘We won’t be caught out by the contract De Batselier is proposing. The contract between the communities is the Federal State and the constitution. There can be no question of adding another contract that has difficulty concealing its confederalist inspiration.’

The CD&H did, however, back De Batselier. Flemish Minister-President Yves Leterme is also applauding. He claims to support ‘a transparent division of powers between the Federal Government and the regions’.

WWW.VLAAMS_PARLEMENT.BE

Dredging company De Nul wins 1 billion euro contract in Dubai

The Flemish dredging group Jan De Nul has won the contract to create seven new man-made islands with an area of 2,300 ha off the coast of Dubai. The project will run for six years and cost 1 billion euros. Dubai is one of the seven Arab Emirates. Due to the sharp rise in oil prices there is a glut of money for megalomaniac projects such as Burj Dubai, the tallest skyscraper in the world, or Jebel Ali International Airport, which will be the world’s biggest airport. Finally a harbour will also be developed and a series of man-made islands created to house luxury hotels, shopping centres and administrative complexes. One of these is Palm Jebel Ali, an island in the shape of a palm tree that must be finished by the end of 2007 and on which De Nul is still working.

There, 1,900 villas and apartments, fifty hotels and six harbours will be built (FF).

JOHAN VAN GEYTE • GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN 
• 12 JULY

The contract that De Nul won is part of Waterfront, a project of seven islands in the shape of a scorpion’s tail around Palm Jebel Ali, with a total area of 2,300 ha. The islands are 500 metres apart and stretch 10 kilometres into the sea. To raise the new group of islands De Nul will dredge 325 million m³ of sand. It will do this with large trailing suction hopper dredgers, 20 miles off the coast. Some 14 million m³ of rocks will then be transported and put into position to protect the islands. The first of the seven islands has to be ready in eighteen months. De Nul is very busy in the Gulf region around Dubai. In November the dredging company won another contract there for 500 million euros to create a new container port in Jebel Ali.

The company from Aalst is also in charge of the expansion of the LNG port Ras Laffan in Qatar, a 2 billion dollar project which it is implementing jointly with the Dutch company Boskalis.

De Nul employs 3,400 people worldwide, 1,000 of them in Dubai. The group’s annual turnover is around 800 million euros.

WWW.JAN_DENUL.BE
Minister Kris Peeters (CD&V) and Agriculture Minister Yves Leterme (CD&V) believe this plan will enable them to achieve the European standards of the Nitrates Directive.

On 7 July the Flemish Government approved a new version of the Third Manure Action Plan (MAP3). Environment Minister Kris Peeters (CD&V) and Agriculture Minister Yves Leterme (CD&V) believe this plan will enable them to achieve the European standards of the Nitrates Directive. Fifteen years after this Directive, Flanders still has far too many nitrates in its watercourses and groundwater as a consequence of over-fertilisation. The maximum standard of 50 mg of nitrates per litre of water is currently exceeded by 41% of the measuring points. But now for the first time the Flemish Government appears to genuinely want to apply the European Directive correctly. It first had to be denounced at European level last year to bring this about. At the time the European Commission instructed Peeters and Leterme to polish up their far too flexible first version of MAP3. Flanders is therefore now completely demarcated as a vulnerable region for manure pollution. The strictest fertilisation standard of 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year now applies everywhere. As a result, farmers must spread less manure, manure surpluses are increasing and, for example, the further scaling down of pig stocks is becoming unavoidable. Meanwhile the Farmers’ Union (Boerenbond) points out that scaling down livestock must not be an end in itself and that the number of animals has already fallen sharply (FF).

Years ago all hope was placed on manure processing, but this does not always repay expectations. Recently, however, the rules for setting up processing plants in rural areas were relaxed. The fact that the Flemish Government means to adopt a stricter approach to the problem was also evident last month in the decision to issue extra fines as of next year for farmers who over-fertilise their fields and pastures. Inspections are also being tightened. The hope of farmers now rests on the relaxations Europe can grant for specific zones. But first the European Commission still has to give the go-ahead for the new Manure Action Plan. That will only happen once it has been introduced. The text of MAP3 will now go before Parliament in the hope that it will result in a new manure decree. The introduction is scheduled for the beginning of 2007, a year later than planned.

Minister Peeters yesterday received the farmers’ organisations and environmental organisations separately to unveil MAP3. The Farmers’ Union feels the plan is ‘stricter than expected’. For us, scaling down livestock is the last solution. We believe a lot can happen with manure processing and other fertilisation and feed methods,” added spokeswoman Anne-Marie Vangeenberghe.

Although the 100% demarcation means the age-old demand of the environmental movement is now being acceded to, BBL and Natuurpunt are reacting with remarkable caution. They merely called it ‘a potential step forwards’. ‘The proposals do not yet guarantee that the desired quality of surface and ground water will be achieved.’ They fear that hidden manure surpluses will remain because as yet there are no satisfactory solutions for disposing of them.
Blood of Muslims for Red Cross must promote integration

On 7 July, during the Friday service in their mosques, various Imams called on people to give blood or report as volunteers to the Red Cross. It is a civic duty and good for integration, says Antwerp Imam Nourredine Taouil. The idea comes from the Antwerp liberal foreigner and VLD member Hicham El Mzairi. In Gazet van Antwerpen [11 July] he reproaches the mosques for focusing too little on society, while blaming the Red Cross for failing to reach foreigners. Many Moslems do not read Flemish newspapers or rarely watch Flemish television, but do go to the mosque. A campaign in the media is therefore unlikely to reach them. A further advantage of an appeal in the mosque is that it will dispel the mistaken idea that Islam forbids the giving of blood. In any event the Red Cross is not averse to the addition of fresh blood. The organisation has begun talks with the Turkish and Moroccan communities.

WWW.RODEKRUIS.BE

Opinion

PAUL GEUDENS • GAZET VAN ANTWERPEN
8 JULY

I find the emotional blackmail used by the Vlaams Belang’s Vanden Eynde in his letter tiresome: ‘I can still remember how I put up election posters with your father.’ Could it be any more cloying? What on earth has Lotti’s Dad got to do with the concerts on 1 October? And it gets worse. Completely rancid and actually dangerous. Vanden Eynde writes that artists are better off staying out of politics. ‘They are not at home in that biotope,’ says the author of the letter. Can you imagine that? Singers, painters and other artists should keep quiet where politics is concerned! Of whom and of what disastrous period does this remind you? For me at any rate a chap with a little mustache, around 70 years ago.

Look, we are not fans of 0110 either. Much too close to the local elections, which could well mean the concerts will have the reverse effect. They will make a number of people not more, but less tolerant. There will be even more of an us-against-them battle on 8 October. But good, that is where our opinions differ from those of Barman, Tura and the others. And that is the beauty of it, that we can think differently and can say so in public.

Clearly not for politicians like Vanden Eynde. He is trying all he can to silence the dissenters. ‘You still have time to think about it,’ he adds threateningly to Lotti. What will happen if his party ever comes to power!

WWW.0110.BE

Hospitals to cooperate in Antwerp

EDITOR FF

Twenty Antwerp hospitals which have a total of 5,083 beds and employ 13,810 people have signed a cooperation agreement, reports the Gazet van Antwerpen [11 July]. The agreement marks a break with trends in the health-care sector. Instead of fragmentation, overlapping and competition there is a move towards cooperation and synergy. This will lead to the creation of the largest university children’s hospital in Flanders, and there is to be one large hospital for psychiatric complaints and one large rehabilitation centre. According to the signatories, this means an end to destructive competition and the wasting of people and resources.

The first step was taken when all hospitals in the OCMW umbrella organisation jointly set up the Antwerp Hospitals Network (ZNA). A second step was the separation of Antwerp University Hospital (UZA) from Antwerp University. More discussion and cooperation gradually emerged between the ZNA, UZA and the Christian hospitals on various disciplines such as pulmonary disease, fertility, oncology and radiotherapy, which ultimately resulted in this agreement, signed in the presence of Mayor Patrick Janssens (SPA), Provincial Governor Camille Paulus (VLD), Flemish Welfare Minister Inge Vervotte (CD&V) and Federal Social Affairs Minister Rudy Demotte (PS).
Antwerp's Museum on the River' gets 21 million from Flemish Government

The Flemish Government has confirmed that it is freeing up 21 million euros for the prestigious Museum aan de Stroom (MAS - Museum on the River) on Antwerp's Eilandje, reports Gazet van Antwerpen [8 July]. The city of Antwerp does not need to worry about prefinancing. Budget Minister Dirk Van Mechelen (VLD) and Culture Minister Bert Anciaux (Spirit) will explain the planning in a letter to the City Council. The ministers are, however, expecting a sound business plan which must show that the MAS project can be fully realised with the contribution of the Flemish Government, the city and other financers. If the project turns out more expensive than planned, the Flemish Government will not increase its contribution any further, they warn. The Museum aan de Stroom was designed by Dutch architects Neutelings Riedijk. Their design portrays the MAS as a harbourshed (depot) and refers visibly to the old ware-houses that were so typical of Antwerp's old port district. The choice of the Eilandje as a location is mainly due to its position: a pivot between city and port. The museum will tell the story of the city, its inhabitants, the river and the port.

www.museumaandestroom.be

Bruges commemorates Frank Brangwyn

The Brangwyn exhibition illustrates that art is always richer than the fashion of the day will have us believe

Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956) was a British artist who was born in Bruges. He spent the first seven years of his life there before returning to London with his family. Brangwyn's breakthrough came in Paris, more specifically in the L'Art Nouveau art gallery of art dealer Siegfried Bing. From Bing Brangwyn learned that architecture, art and design are shown to their best advantage if they are geared to one another. Artistic jack-of-all-trades Brangwyn therefore did more than just paint and draw. He left behind more than 12,000 works: as well as paintings and graphic art these also included furniture, posters, rugs, jewellery and stained-glass windows. Mostly in a style which clearly bore close resemblance to art nouveau. In 1936 Brangwyn donated an important collection to the city of his birth. Fifty years after his death Bruges is commemorating him with a two-part exhibition in the Groeningemuseum and the Arentshuis (FF).

Jan Van Hove • De Standaard • 12 July

The exhibition in Bruges consists of two parts. You are better off starting in the Arentshuis, where Brangwyn the designer is presented. There you can see, among other things, an interior he designed for the British company Pol-lard. The austerity recalls the Oriental examples Brangwyn must have seen at Bing. Functionality is to the fore.

To get to know Brangwyn the artist the visitor must switch to the Groeningemuseum. There a selection of his paintings, drawings and prints has been brought together. You do not get a complete picture of Brangwyn the artist: the fact is he was at his best in large decorative paintings, and these are difficult to transport. But at the end you do have an idea of his qualities and limitations.

To start with the qualities: Brangwyn was a devilishly good graphic artist. His prints of buildings are particularly impressive. This son of an architect knew how to accurately evoke the effect of large constructions on their environment. Through the line of approach and the stark contrasts between light and shadow, his prints occasionally recall the visionary architecture of Piranesi.

The most striking thing about the paintings and drawings is that Brangwyn was familiar with the prevailing trends and experimented with them, but you must not look to him for a modernising vision. His chief models were the impressionists and post-impressionists. Brangwyn did not shy away from any subject. He painted both exotic tableaux with voluptuous dancers and religious scenes for churches. On his many travels he continually produced watercolours of landscapes, seascapes, rivers and bridges. Despite all the accolades paid him during his long life, after his death Sir Frank Brangwyn faded into the background. The man who in his youth was in the vanguard of the art nouveau had joined in with modernism. While the architects and designers of the Bauhaus changed the appearance of the world, and the cubists, abstracts and surrealists took art in a new direction, Brangwyn remained on the sidelines. It did not prevent him from using his great skill to produce a huge oeuvre. The Brangwyn exhibition illustrates that art is always richer than the fashion of the day will have us believe. But also that hard work is not enough to survive.

Until 17 September: ‘Brangwyn’s World. The search for modernism in art and design.’, exhibition Groeningemuseum and Arentshuis, Bruges; info: 050/44 87 07
Diary

MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE

• 13 to 23 July: Blue Note Festival, Ghent with Wayne Shorter, Cesaria Evora, Maceo Parker, Madeleine Peyroux, Diana Reeves, Randy Newman, John Zorn, Ghent, info: www.bluenotecerfestival.com 0900 00 600
• Until 15 August: Ecram Total 2006, Film during the summer, Arenberg, Brussel, info: www.arenberg.be
• 15 to 24 July: De Gentse Feesten with four festivals: Blue Note Jazz Festival, International Street theatre Festival (www.istf.be with Cirqueulation Locale, Osmosies Cie, Princesses Peluches, Sien-ta La Cabeza, Tango Sumo, Claire – De Paepe and many other companies), Puppetbussenfestival (puppet theatre festival, www.etgent.be) and 10 Days Off (indoor, electronic music festival in De Vooruit, www.10daysoff.be).
• 15 to 24 July: Polé Polé Festival: African and Latin music in the city centre of Ghent with The Jamaican All Stars, Tidal Waves (South Africa), New York Ska Ensemble, Gallery M3, Vlaamse Kaai, Brussels.

EXPO

• Until 27 July: Kneisfestival, Knokke Heist with Gorki, Yevgueni, Action in Paseo and many other companies), Osmosies Cie, Princesses Peluches, Sien-ta La Cabeza, Tango Sumo, Claire – De Paepe and many other companies), Puppetbussenfestival (puppet theatre festival, www.etgent.be) and 10 Days Off (indoor, electronic music festival in De Vooruit, www.10daysoff.be).
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