

# Communicating Europe Manual: Belgium

*Information and contacts on the Belgian debate  
on EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and Turkey*

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## ABOUT THIS MANUAL

As the country holds the EU Presidency in the second half of 2010, who is shaping the debate on the future of EU enlargement in Belgium?

This manual seeks to provide an answer to this question through a user-friendly overview of the key decision-makers, opinion-makers and institutions in Belgium. It is intended to serve as a tool for practitioners who wish to understand Belgian attitudes towards enlargement and to interact with the key individuals dealing with this topic.

Undoubtedly, Belgium is a most complex country in terms of its institutional design and diversity of views on the future of the country. The political and linguistic divisions influence all other spheres of society. To understand Belgium requires a bit of background knowledge. This manual starts with an introduction to Belgium, its history, the constitutional reforms of the past 40 years, its current institutions and Belgian politics.

The complexities of Belgian politics have resulted in the country starting its EU Presidency with a care-taker government in place. Following the collapse of the ruling coalition, early elections took place in June, but it may take months before a new government takes office. We explain the reason for the failure of the outgoing government as well as the unexpected election results. We also describe the intricate system based in which Belgium's many levels of government run the Presidency and represent Belgium at the EU level.

The subsequent chapters are devoted to the media in Belgium, think-tanks, NGOs and academia. As Brussels is not only the capital of Belgium, but also the seat of the main EU institutions, a multitude of diplomatic representations, think-tanks, consultancies, journalists, NGOs and associations have set up shop in Brussels. We mention those relevant for enlargement.

Although Belgium is not a large EU member state, it is one of the oldest and an important player influencing EU policies towards the Western Balkans and Turkey.

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Brussels, 8 July 2010

## A. POLITICS

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 *Belgium's complexity*

Some say Belgium boasts “Europe’s most baffling multi-layered system of government”<sup>1</sup>; others go so far as to say that it is a “dreamt-up country, driven by a quixotic ambition to keep the dream alive, to try and overcome division and plurality with a continuous search for compromise and consensus”<sup>2</sup>. There are also those who predict Belgium’s eventual disintegration and split into two parts, one Walloon and one Flemish.

Since 1970, five waves of constitutional reforms have turned Belgium into a highly decentralised country whose complex structures only constitutional lawyers understand in all detail; no level of Belgian government or Belgian political party can do without these legal experts nowadays.

However, this is not to say that government runs smoothly in Belgium. It took more than six months to form an interim government following the last national elections in June 2007, and nine months elapsed before the final government took office – only to fall twice since. Its second collapse in April 2010 led to new federal elections on 13 June 2010.



**Belgium's three Regions: Flanders (blue), Wallonia (beige) and Brussels-Capital (green)**

Voters rebuffed the five-party coalition in power, now in a care-taker function, which is made up mainly of Flemish and Walloon Liberal and Christian-Democratic parties. Instead, they elected a new party propagating Flemish independence in Flanders and the Socialist Party in Wallonia (even when electing the federal parliament, voters in Flanders can only vote for parties registered in Flanders and Walloon voters elect Walloon parties; only the residents of Brussels-Capital have a choice; see p.11.)

It now will take a while to form a new coalition, which means that Belgium’s Presidency of the European Union began on 1 July 2010 under a care-taker government. One of the major stumbling blocks during the last three years has been the status of the electoral district Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde, over which Belgium’s Walloons (4 million) and Flemish (6 million) are at loggerheads (see box on p.9). This issue will be on the table, as will further constitutional reform to meet the demands of the Flemish for more autonomy.

#### 1.2 *Brief historic overview*

It all began almost 200 years ago: In 1815, European powers at the Congress of Vienna redrew Europe’s borders following the defeat of Napoléon Bonaparte. Among other things, they created the “United Kingdom of the Netherlands” under the Protestant King William I of Orange. This kingdom encompassed Belgium (previously part of France), the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

<sup>1</sup> Tony Barber, Brussels bureau chief of the Financial Times.

<sup>2</sup> Marc Reynebeau, a Belgian (Flemish) journalist and historian.

It was August 1830 when the Catholic clergy (both Walloons and Flemish were Catholic) and the Francophones, who comprised the majority of the population in what later became Belgium, initiated a protest against the Protestant king. They had many grievances, ranging from political underrepresentation to linguistic oppression: William tried to mainstream Dutch while the Belgian elite, including the Flemish, preferred French. They also opposed his interference in church affairs, in particular in education, which was entirely in the Catholic Church's hands. There were also economic problems, as the Industrial Revolution had spread mainly in the north. The Catholics were joined by Liberals in their opposition to the king. This unusual coalition coined the Belgian state slogan, "Strength through Unity".



Initially, the protests came down to demands for more rights and more autonomy. But when the Dutch king would not meet the requests of the region, these protests turned into a revolution aimed at achieving the independence of the territory. Quite romantically, the revolution was sparked by a performance of the opera *La Muette de Portici* (The Mute Girl of Portici) of the French composer Daniel Auber on 25 August 1830 in Brussels. The opera tells the story of the Italian uprising against the Spanish masters in 17<sup>th</sup> century Naples. An emotionally charged crowd, incensed by the famous duet *Amour sacré de la patrie* (Sacred Love of the Homeland), stormed into the streets and occupied government buildings. Over the next weeks, the revolution spread. There was also fighting, but the Dutch army withdrew on 27 September to avoid further bloodshed. (Pictured: Gustave Wappers, *Episode de la Révolution belge, des journées de septembre 1830*, Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium.)

Following the revolution of 1830, the southern provinces of the Netherlands proclaimed their independence, established an interim government in Brussels and elected a national assembly (based on tax suffrage - some 30,000 men). The constitution of Belgium was proclaimed on 7 February 1831. It established a modern parliamentary monarchy with considerable legislative power in the hands of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate, while the king had to ratify laws to bring them into force. Over time, the two houses of parliament, which still exist today, acquired more power. On 4 June 1831, Leopold I, prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, was proclaimed the first king of Belgium. He had to take a constitutional oath to accede to the throne, as all his successors would do.

Over the coming decades, rifts began to appear between the Walloons and the Flemish, who fought for the right to speak and use Dutch. In the 1870s and 1880s, Dutch was recognised as an official language and introduced into use in administrative matters and schools, although French remained dominant. In the 1930s, the existence of three language areas – Dutch, French, and German – was acknowledged, but their boundaries were fluid, depending on the outcomes of national censuses. However, in 1962/1963, the linguistic boundaries between these three areas and a fourth, bilingual French/Dutch area in Brussels were legally delineated. Since then, they can be changed only by amending the respective laws with a two-third parliamentary majority. (Pictured: bilingual signs in Brussels.)



Belgium's federalisation began with a change in regional economic fortunes. For a long time, the French-speaking south was economically more prosperous, and the Walloons dominated politics and society. This began to change in the late 1950s. The profitability of coal mining, steel making, and other traditional industries such as glass, slate, and textiles, the majority of which were located in southern Belgium, declined in the 1960s. At the same time, the Flemish northern part, investing in

trade, IT and service industries, started to take off economically. This led to demands by Flemish politicians for more political rights and more autonomy.

Today, there is a clear north-south divide in Belgium. GDP per capita is more than 40% higher in Flanders than in Wallonia (31,700 EUR vs. 22,600 EUR), while unemployment is 60% lower: the rate in Flanders is 4.8% compared with an unemployment rate of 12% in Wallonia.

However, despite very high unemployment in Brussels, the Belgian capital is extremely rich with a GDP of 60,200 EUR per inhabitant. This makes it the third-richest region in the EU, just after Inner London and Luxembourg and before Hamburg in Germany, Prague in the Czech Republic, and Ile de France in the centre of Paris.<sup>3</sup> Overall, Belgium is the 9<sup>th</sup> richest EU member state.<sup>4</sup>

#### GDP per capita in Belgium (2007)<sup>5</sup>

	GDP per inhabitant (in €)
Wallonia	22 600
Flanders	31 700
Brussels-Capital	60 200
<b>Belgium average</b>	<b>31 500</b>
<b>EU 27 average</b>	<b>24 900</b>
<b>Highest national GDP per capita in the EU (Luxemburg)</b>	<b>78 100</b>
<b>Lowest national GDP per capita in the EU (Bulgaria)</b>	<b>3 800</b>

#### Unemployment in Belgium (4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2009)<sup>6</sup>

Wallonia	12%
Flanders	4.8%
Brussels-Capital	16.5%
<b>Belgium average</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
<b>EU 27 average</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

The main cause of Brussels' prosperity is the fact that almost a third of its population of just over 1 million people are foreign citizens (27%);<sup>7</sup> among these foreigners, 164,327 (60%) come from other EU member states. They work at the EU institutions, which pay its servants very well, or any of their sub-contractors and hundreds of consultancies, associations, and interest groups.

<sup>3</sup> Based on power purchasing standard. Eurostat Newsrelease, Regional GDP per inhabitant in 2007, 18 February 2010, at [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/1-18022010-AP/EN/1-18022010-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/1-18022010-AP/EN/1-18022010-AP-EN.PDF).

<sup>4</sup> Eurostat, GDP per capita in power purchasing standard (2009), Tables, Graphs and Maps Interface, at <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/graph.do?tab=graph&plugin=1&pcode=tsieb010&language=en>.

<sup>5</sup> Eurostat Newsrelease, Regional GDP per inhabitant in 2007, 18 February 2010, at [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_PUBLIC/1-18022010-AP/EN/1-18022010-AP-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_PUBLIC/1-18022010-AP/EN/1-18022010-AP-EN.PDF).

<sup>6</sup> Belgian Directorate-General for Statistics and Economic Information, at <http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/statistiques/chiffres/travailvie/emploi/index.jsp>.

<sup>7</sup> All population figures are from the Belgian Directorate-General for Statistics and Economic Information, *Population et ménages, Population étrangère au 1.1.2006*, 2008, at [http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006\\_fr\\_tcm326-39292.pdf](http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006_fr_tcm326-39292.pdf).

**Belgium's population (data from January 2006)<sup>8</sup>**

	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>Brussels-Capital</b>	<b>Flanders</b>	<b>Wallonia</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	10,511,382	1,018,804	6,078,600	3,413,978
Belgian citizens	9,610,909	745,111	5,764,398	3,101,400
Foreign citizens	900,473 (8.6%)	273,693 (27%)	314,202 (5.2%)	312,578 (9.2%)
<b>Foreigners from other EU countries</b>				
	614,197	164,327	200,569	249,301
<b>Foreigners from enlargement countries</b>				
Albania	2,256	926	866	464
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,077	143	571	363
Croatia	719	160	277	282
Macedonia	2,360	1,122	819	419
Serbia and Montenegro	7,781	2,019	4,225	1,537
Turkey	39,664	10,939	18,982	9,743

### 1.3 The reforms since 1970

The first four articles of the Belgian constitution illustrate Belgium's complexity:

#### **The first four articles of the Belgian Constitution:**

##### *Article 1*

Belgium is a federal State composed of Communities and Regions.

##### *Article 2*

Belgium is composed of three Communities: The French Community, the Flemish Community and the German-speaking Community.

##### *Article 3*

Belgium is composed of three regions: The Walloon Region, the Flemish Region and the Brussels Region.

##### *Article 4*

Belgium has four linguistic regions: The French-speaking region, the Dutch-speaking region, the bilingual region of Brussels-Capital and the German-speaking region. (...)

*Please note that depending on whether the language in which the Constitution is written is French, Dutch or German, the respective Community and Regions are mentioned first.*

<sup>8</sup>

Belgian Directorate-General for Statistics and Economic Information, *Population et ménages, Population étrangère au 1.1.2006*, 2008, at [http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006\\_fr\\_tcm326-39292.pdf](http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006_fr_tcm326-39292.pdf).



This structure is the result of five waves of constitutional reforms over the last 40 years.

Before these reforms could begin, the first step was the creation of four linguistic regions (Dutch, French, German and Brussels as a Dutch/French bilingual region) and the legal delineation of their boundaries in 1962/1963.

The reforms then started in 1970 with the establishment of the three cultural communities – Flemish, French, and German – following Flemish demands for cultural autonomy. This reform also laid the basis for the creation of three separate economic regions (Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels), though this economic reform did not take place until the 1980s.

The second reform took place in 1980, when the cultural communities became simply the “Communities” with increased competencies in the cultural domain and on matters related to the individual (social services, healthcare, etc.). Two Regions, Wallonia and Flanders, were established in response to requests for more economic autonomy by Walloons, who were keen to administer public investments aimed at restructuring the steel industry, and by Francophone inhabitants of Brussels. Both the Communities and the Regions had their own governments and parliaments (Councils) (Pictured below: The sign of the “Executive of the German-speaking Community”, in Eupen.). Immediately following the reform, the authorities of the Flemish Community and Flanders Region merged, so that there is now one government and one Council.



As a result of the third state reform in 1988 and 1989, the institutional set-up of Brussels-Capital Region was completed so that Belgium's third Region became functional, with its own Council (parliament) and a government. In addition, new competencies were transferred to the Regions, such as transportation and public works, and the Communities acquired responsibility for education.

The fourth reform in 1993 further increased the powers of the Communities and Regions. The first article of the Belgian constitution, which formerly read, “Belgium is divided in Provinces”, became: “Belgium is a Federal State composed of Communities and Regions”. Election legislation was changed to enable citizens to directly elect their representatives to the Councils/parliaments of the Regions and Communities. The

first direct elections for these parliaments took place in May 1995.

The most recent reform in 2001 gave the Regional authorities even more powers (in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, foreign trade, development cooperation, electoral expenses, and co-financing of political parties). They were also given the responsibility of organising all elections below the federal level. Additionally, this reform amended the distribution of seats and required majorities in the parliament of Brussels in order to guarantee the representation of the Flemish minority. (On the right: dairy farming in the Belgian Ardennes, ©EC.)

Since 2007, there has been a discussion on the need for a sixth reform, which should, among other issues, solve the problems related to the status of the electoral district “Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde” (see box below).





### Box: The case of Brussels–Halle–Vilvoorde (BHV)



Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde is one of 11 electoral districts in Belgium. It is the only electoral district that includes portions of two Regions (Flanders and Brussels-Capital) and two linguistic regions (Flemish and bilingual). All other electoral districts are located within the boundaries of the economic and linguistic regions. Each electoral district elects a number of representatives to the Federal Parliament which is proportional to its population (between 4 and 24).

The dispute about Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde goes back to 1962 when the boundaries of Belgium's four linguistic regions were defined and the size of Brussels became an issue. It was decided to limit the number of municipalities that make up Brussels to 19, so that Brussels and its mainly Francophone population, which was expected to grow, would not spread into the Flemish countryside and then claim it. (Pictured : the town hall of Halle.)

However, the population of six municipalities on the outskirts of Brussels included a substantial number of Francophones: between 30% and 50%.<sup>9</sup> The Belgian Prime Minister Theo Lefèvre suggested adding these municipalities to Brussels, which the Flemish, not surprisingly, rejected. In 1966, a compromise was reached that envisaged "language facilitation" for the French speakers in these six municipalities and a number of other municipalities with sizable Francophone, Dutch-speaking or German-speaking minorities.<sup>10</sup> Today, a total of 27 municipalities across Belgium benefit from language facilitation. This means that the language of the linguistic minority can be used in certain administrative exchanges and in primary schools.



<sup>9</sup>

According to the last linguistic census from 1947. This was the last linguistic census undertaken. When a new census was to be carried out in the early 1960s, the Flemish opposed it. Since then, linguistic censuses have been banned in Belgium.

<sup>10</sup>

1966 Laws on the Use of Languages in Administrative Matter:  
[http://www.juridat.be/cgi\\_loi/loi\\_F.pl?cn=1966071831](http://www.juridat.be/cgi_loi/loi_F.pl?cn=1966071831)

The 1966 laws also envisaged *one single electoral district* comprising the 19 municipalities that make up Brussels, the six municipalities with language facilitation, as well as another 29 Flemish municipalities located in the Halle-Vilvoorde area. This electoral district was simply called Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. BHV is also a single judicial district, giving its residents the right to conduct court affairs in either French or Dutch.

### **The electoral district Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde**

Today, residents of the BHV electoral district can choose whether to vote for Francophone or Flemish party representatives in national and European elections. This means that Francophone parties can campaign in the Flemish parts of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde and gain votes there, while Flemish parties do not have such an opportunity anywhere in Wallonia.

Flemish parties are proposing to split BHV to create two electoral districts: one would be Brussels and the other one would be the Flanders Province “Flemish Brabant” (comprising Halle-Vilvoorde and Leuven). Francophone parties reject this solution, fearing for the political representation of the French speakers in Halle-Vilvoorde, the loss of votes, and a deepening separation of the country.

Some Francophone parties advocate merging the six municipalities with language facilitation with Brussels-Capital, arguing that the number of Francophones has steadily grown as reflected by the numbers of voters for Francophone parties in these areas<sup>11</sup> and the number of people submitting their tax declarations in French.<sup>12</sup> This again has led to claims by Flemish that the Francophones are secretly condoning the separation of Belgium and only trying to create “a corridor” from Brussels to Wallonia, so that Brussels can become part of an independent Wallonia.

Despite a 2002 re-organisation of the electoral districts to bring them in line with the boundaries of the Provinces, BHV remained unchanged: the Flemish Province “Flemish Brabant” remained cut in two. On 26 May 2003, the Constitutional Court annulled some provisions of the new electoral law as unconstitutional, including provisions related to Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde.<sup>13</sup>

Since then, there have been fruitless negotiations over the BHV issue. In 2005, then Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt failed to hammer out an agreement despite several rounds of negotiations. Disappointed, he requested, and won, a vote of confidence by the parliament, and the problem was put on hold until the next elections in June 2007. Following the national elections in June 2007, it took more than half a year to form an interim government, again partly due to disagreements over the fate of BHV.

The search for a solution has remained unsuccessful. In April 2010, the government collapsed: the Flemish liberal party VLD (Open Flemish Liberals and Democrats) withdrew from government as no solution had been found for BHV by a previously agreed-upon deadline.

<sup>11</sup> FDF (Fédéralistes démocrates Francophones, a political party), website on Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde, *Combien de francophones habitent dans les 35 communes de Hal-Vilvorde?*, at <http://www.bruxelleshalvilvorde.be/spip.php?article10>.

<sup>12</sup> Francophone de Bruxelles, *Les communes "à facilités" de moins en moins flamandes*, at <http://www.francophonedebruxelles.com/2010/01/les-communes-facilites-de-moins-en.html>.

As mentioned in footnote number 9, linguistic censuses have been banned in Belgium since the 1960s due to Flemish opposition. The last linguistic census took place in 1947.

<sup>13</sup> Cour d’arbitrage, Arrêt no. 73/2003 du 26 mai 2003, at <http://www.const-court.be/public/f/2003/2003-073f.pdf>.

As a result of the five waves of reforms, the Federal State, the Communities and the Regions are legally on an equal footing with each other, but maintain responsibility over different areas (see p.20).

The Provinces represent the government level below them. While the Provinces used to report to the central state, since 1993 they have reported to the Federal, Regional and Community governments depending on the issue at hand.

At the bottom of the pyramid are the municipalities (*communes*). Like the Provinces, they are under the supervision of the Federal, Community and Regional authorities.

### Belgium's administrative structure

<b>Linguistic regions</b> (with defined borders)	<b>German linguistic region</b>	<b>French linguistic region</b>	<b>Bilingual region Brussels-Capital</b>	<b>Dutch linguistic Regions</b>
<b>Federal level</b>	Federal Parliament and Federal Government			
<b>Communities</b>	German-speaking Community	French Community	"Community Commissions" in Brussels	Flemish Community
<b>Regions</b>	Walloon Region		Brussels-Capital Region	Flanders Region
<b>Provinces</b>	5 Provinces		-	5 Provinces
<b>Municipalities ("communes")</b>	262		19	308

#### 1.4 The 13 June 2010 general elections

On 13 June 2010, early federal elections were held in Belgium following the collapse of the government in April 2010.<sup>14</sup> The big winner was the New Flemish Alliance (*Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie* - N-VA) led by Bart De Wever. It won 27 seats in the 150-seat Chamber of Representatives, the lower house of the federal parliament.<sup>15</sup> Roughly a third of all Flemish voted for the N-VA.

Like everything else in Belgium, voting is divided: there are 11 electoral districts that elect a certain number of deputies (proportional to their population) to the federal parliament. Except Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde, all districts are within Flanders or Wallonia. Parties rarely campaign across the linguistic boundaries and do not appear on the ballots there.

The N-VA is a relative newcomer, promising to further reform the state in favour of Flemish autonomy. It advocates more rights for the Regions particularly fiscal and financial, lower transfers from Flanders to Wallonia, and a confederation, arguing that the federal level is no longer

<sup>14</sup> The collapse was due to the fact that the BHV issue had not been resolved by a deadline that had been agreed previously. As a result, the Open VLD (Flemish Liberal party) withdrew from the coalition.

<sup>15</sup> In the previous elections in 2007, the NV-A did not run independently, but put up a few candidates with the Flemish Christian-Democrats; 5 made it into the Chamber.

functional. Its campaign slogan was: “Now dare change!” However, party leader Bart De Wever has gone out of his way to reassure the Francophones that he means *negotiations* towards a confederation: “evolution, not revolution”.



While opinion polls indicated that the N-VA would do well, the extent of voters' support was a surprise. For the Francophones, this was “a tsunami”<sup>16</sup>, “a shock, a threat”<sup>17</sup>, but also “an opportunity”<sup>18</sup>. They felt encouraged that they, too, had a clear winner: Elio Di Rupo from the Socialist Party, which won 26 seats – six more than in the 2007 elections and only one seat less than the N-VA (pictured: Elio Di Rupo on the right, next to Didier Reynders, left, the outgoing Federal Minister of Finances, MR). Di Rupo's main campaign promise was to restore stability in Belgium, but he also pledged to revive the economy, look after workers and

maintain social protection.

The victory of these two very different politicians was a thumbs-down for the shaky Yves Leterme government, which was based on a 5-party coalition. It had taken Leterme more than half a year to form an interim government after the 2007 elections, which subsequently resigned three times. The first resignation was rejected by the king. The second time, the king appointed a new prime minister, Herman Van Rompuy, who then, however, became the President of the European Council, so that Leterme came back. The third resignation, in April 2010, led to new elections. In particular the Francophone Liberal party (MR) and Leterme's Flemish Christian Democrats performed poorly in the June elections, which translated into the loss of 5 Chamber seats for each party. For the CD&V, this was the worst election result in its history (17.5 percent).<sup>19</sup>

However, voters apparently were not fed up merely with the government's instability. Pundits believe that they also punished it for its inability to find solutions to the BHV issue (see box on p.9) and to calls for further state reform, and for its lacklustre reaction to the financial and economic crises.

The big question is now whether De Wever and Di Rupo can change tack. Peter Vandermeersch, editor-in-chief of the Flemish daily *De Standaard*, wrote about this issue:

*“De Wever, who wants to reform the country, and Di Rupo, who wants to save it: at first sight, a strange couple. Di Rupo, the son of a poor immigrant and likely to be the first Francophone prime minister since Leburton [prime minister in 1973/74]. De Wever, a historian who grew up in a nationalist-Flemish environment and who is to play an important role in the renewal of Belgium. If these two manage to understand each other, our country will slowly come out of the institutional doldrums into which it has been sinking. If they do not understand each other, we can expect chaos.”*<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Olivier Mouton, Les cinq enseignements du scrutin, In: Le Soir, 14 June 2010, at [http://www.lesoir.be/actualite/belgique/elections\\_2010/2010-06-13/le-tsunami-n-va-va-modifier-le-visage-de-la-belgique-775972.php](http://www.lesoir.be/actualite/belgique/elections_2010/2010-06-13/le-tsunami-n-va-va-modifier-le-visage-de-la-belgique-775972.php).

<sup>17</sup> Béatrice Delvaux : Un choc, une menace, une opportunité, In: Le Soir, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.lesoir.be/debats/editos/2010-06-14/un-choc-une-menace-une-opportunite-775976.php>

<sup>18</sup> Béatrice Delvaux : Un choc, une menace, une opportunité, In: Le Soir, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.lesoir.be/debats/editos/2010-06-14/un-choc-une-menace-une-opportunite-775976.php>

Directorate General for the Institutions and the Population, 2010 election results:

[http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/cha/results/results\\_tab\\_CKR00000.html](http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/cha/results/results_tab_CKR00000.html).

<sup>20</sup> Peter Vandermeersch, Historique!, In: Le Vif/L'Express, 18 June 2010



*De Wever:* “Well, he is not lazy, a profiteer, bad and corrupt like all the Walloons – just a bit Socialist.”

*Di Rupo:* “He is not that nasty – just a bit Flemish.”

Pierre Kroll, *Le Soir*, 16 June 2010, website: <http://www.kroll.be/>

On 14 June, King Albert II launched consultations with all the party leaders to familiarise himself with their positions and identify an *informateur*. The task of the *informateur* is to determine which coalition(s) might be feasible. The king then appoints a *formateur* to assemble the government. The *formateur* is usually from the largest party and becomes the prime minister. N-VA party leader Bart De Wever, whom the king would normally consider for the post of prime minister, has rejected this position from the start, saying he would “offer the post of prime minister to a Francophone if it serves as a guarantee for major reforms”<sup>21</sup>. The media have speculated that he does not want to head a government that is likely to fail or to “evaporate”. Hence, the king appointed De Wever *informateur* on 16 June. It is likely that Di Rupo will be appointed *formateur*.

Flemish newspapers have welcomed N-VA’s victory as “historical” and “unprecedented.”<sup>22</sup> It was the first time that a non-traditional party – neither Christian-Democrat, nor Liberal, nor Socialist – has received the most votes in Flanders. Yves Desmet from *De Morgen* called it “the arrival of Flemish nationalism in democracy” and also credited N-VA with having brought down the right-wing *Vlaams Belang* (“Flemish Interest”), which has lost 5 seats in the Chamber of Representatives. In Desmet’s view, N-VA’s



<sup>21</sup> La Libre Belgique, De Wever disposé à «offrir» le poste de premier ministre à un francophone, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.lalibre.be/actu/elections-2010/article/589369/de-wever-dispose-a-offrir-le-poste-de-premier-ministre-a-un-francophone.html>.

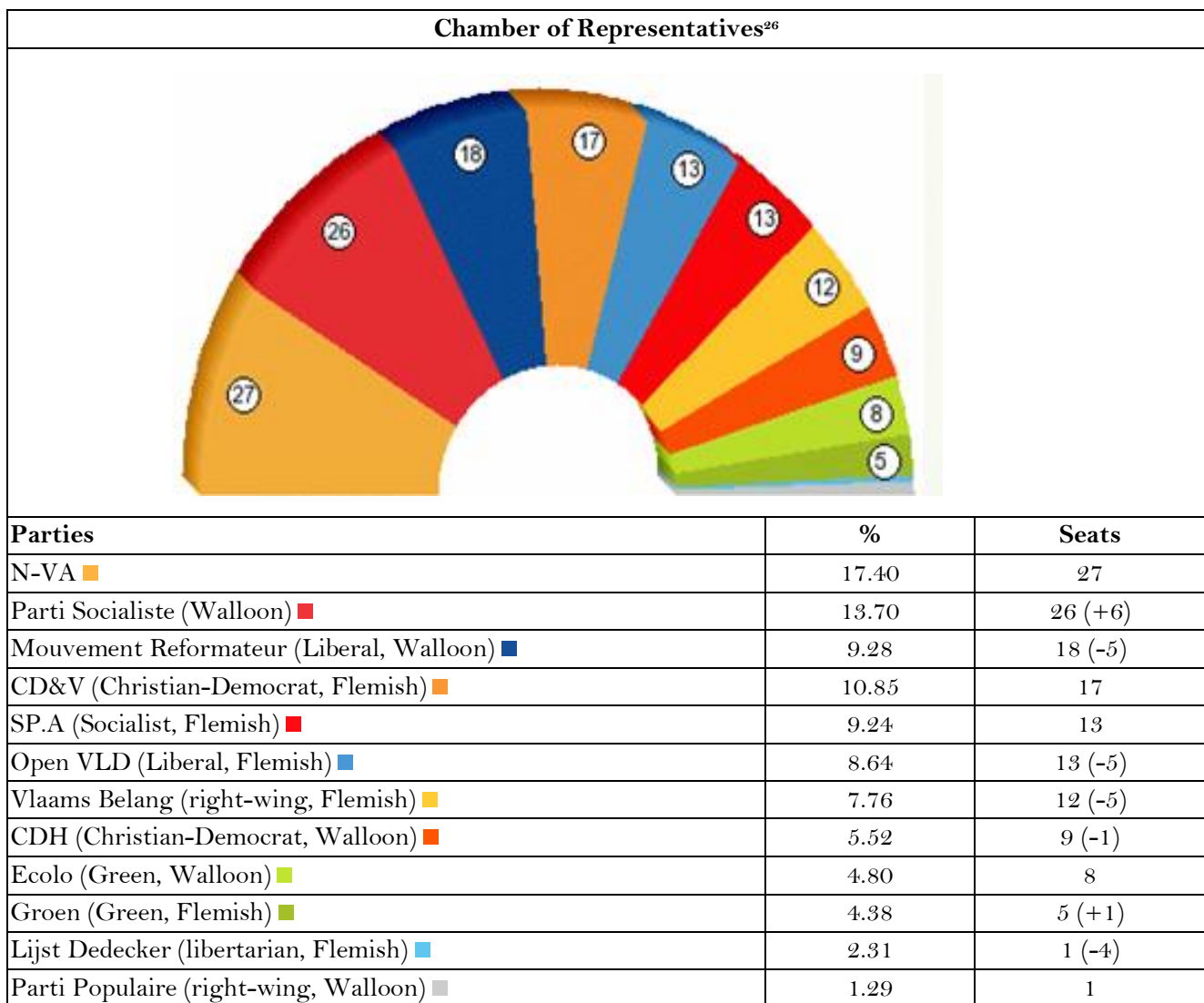
<sup>22</sup> De Morgen, 13 juni: overzicht Vlaamse krantencommentaren, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.demorgen.be/dm/nl/2461/De-Gedachte/article/detail/1118471/2010/06/14/13-juni-overzicht-Vlaamse-krantencommentaren.dhtml>.



success is due to the failure of Leterme's CD&V, an excellent campaign conducted by the N-VA, and, as Desmet claims, the widespread perception in Belgium of De Wever as one of the "*smartest and most intelligent politicians of his generation*".<sup>23</sup>

Peter Vandermeersch from *De Standaard* simply believes that "a very large part of the Flemish want a thorough reform of the state and no longer believe in the ailing Belgian structures."<sup>24</sup> Pundits interpret N-VA's success also as a "protest vote, anti-establishment."<sup>25</sup>

Once the king appoints a formateur, coalition negotiations are likely to last several weeks, possibly until August or September. This means that a caretaker government will run Belgium's EU Presidency for quite a while.



<sup>23</sup> De Morgen, Yves Desmet : De man die iedereen oppeuzelde, 14 June 2010, at <http://www.demorgen.be/dm/nl/2462/Standpunt/article/detail/1118245/2010/06/13/De-man-die-iedereen-oppeuzelde.dhtml>.

<sup>24</sup> Nederlandstalige Krantencommentaren. 'Zware verantwoordelijkheid voor De Wever' 14 June 2010, at [http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20100614\\_009&word=Peter+Vandermeersch](http://www.standaard.be/artikel/detail.aspx?artikelid=DMF20100614_009&word=Peter+Vandermeersch).











<sup>25</sup> Le Point, Interview with Pascal Delwit, Professor at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, 14 June 2010, at [http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/legislatives-en-belgique-aucune-chance-qu-un-gouvernement-soit-forme-dans-les-semaines-qui-viennent-14-06-2010-466473\\_24.php](http://www.lepoint.fr/monde/legislatives-en-belgique-aucune-chance-qu-un-gouvernement-soit-forme-dans-les-semaines-qui-viennent-14-06-2010-466473_24.php).

<sup>26</sup> Directorate-General for the Institutions and the Population, Results for the Chamber of Representatives, at [http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/cha/results/results\\_graph\\_CKR00000.html](http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/cha/results/results_graph_CKR00000.html).



**Senate<sup>27</sup> (71 + 3 seats)**

The table shows the 40 seats – 25 for Flanders and 15 for Wallonia – that are to be filled based on the election results. Another 21 deputies are elected by the parliaments of the three Communities (Flemish, Francophone, German-speaking), 10 are “co-opted”, which means that they are elected by their peers, and 3 are the sons of the king, who, however, do not vote.

Parties	%	Seats	Distribution of seats (40)
French electoral college			
Parti Socialiste 	13,62	7(+3)	
Mouvement Reformateur 	9,27	4 (-2)	
Ecolo (Green) 	5,46	2	
CDH (Christ.-Dem.) 	5,13	2	
Flemish electoral college			
N-VA 	19,61	9	
CD&V (Christ.-Dem.) 	9,99	4	
SP.A (Socialist) 	9,48	4	
Open VLD (Liberal) 	8,24	4	
Vlaams Belang 	7,60	3 (-2)	
Groen (Green) 	3,89	1	

### 1.5 The main political parties

Since the creation of Belgium in 1830 until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, two political parties have dominated Belgian politics: the Catholic party, which later transformed itself into a Christian-Democratic party, and the Liberal party. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, these two parties were joined by the Socialist party, which represented workers' interests.

Until the June 2010 elections, these three political forces have run politics in Belgium, with a bit of input from the two green parties as well as nationalist parties in Flanders. However, never before has a Flemish nationalist party won as many votes as the “New Flemish Alliance”.

In today's Belgium, no major party is active across the whole country. All mainstream parties, including the Greens, are divided into at least two parts, a Flemish and a Francophone party of the same kind, and sometimes in three, when there is also a German version of the same party.

The three main parties split between 1968 and 1978: the Christian-Democrats separated in 1968, the Liberals in 1972 and the Socialists in 1978. Sometimes the two parties of the same political orientation do not even share similar programmes and ideologies anymore, and their respective members do not know each other. The two green parties, *Ecolo* and *Groen!*, are closer to each other: they emerged in the late 1970s and early 1980s as separate parties, but they have advocated the same goals and formed one political group in the federal parliament.

Nonetheless, at the federal level the parties usually form coalitions with their counterparts from across the linguistic divide. Before the recent election, a coalition between Christian-Democrat and Liberal parties from Flanders and Wallonia, as well as the Socialist Party from Wallonia, was in power.

<sup>27</sup>

Directorate General for the Institutions and the population, results for the Senate, at [http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/sen/seat/seat\\_SER00000.html](http://elections2010.belgium.be/fr/sen/seat/seat_SER00000.html).

## New Flemish Alliance - Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie



The Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie (N-VA) was founded in autumn 2001, as a successor of the Flemish *Volksunie*, a party that brought together Flemish nationalists and then split up in a more conservative party – the N-VA – and a more left-oriented wing. The N-VA described itself as a democratic Flemish nationalist party which strives for an independent Flanders as a member of the European Union. In the 2010 elections, it won around a third of the votes in Flanders and became the strongest party in Belgium.

The party's slogan during the 2010 election campaign was “Now dare change”. It advocated a confederal form of government in Belgium, but stressed that this would be achieved through negotiations with the Francophones. Major themes of the campaign included increased fiscal and financial autonomy for Flanders, the need to reduce Belgium's public debt, the adoption of “*a strict but fair asylum policy, with faster procedures and a genuine return policy*” (with the Francophones being blamed for having opened the door to immigration and expecting Flanders to pay for them), job creation, and the preservation of the social safety net.<sup>28</sup> For that purpose, the N-VA claims the creation of a “*Flemish Republic, as a member state of a democratic European confederation*” and calls the existing Federal government to “evaporate.”<sup>29</sup>

Regarding the EU and enlargement, the N-VA states that it strives for EU membership for Flanders since it considers the European Union the most appropriate macro-level and Flanders the most appropriate micro-level.<sup>30</sup> “We believe in a Europe of nations,” it states on its website. “For the N-VA, respect for the diversity of languages and cultures in Europe is very important.”<sup>31</sup>

The party opposes “a new (wild) enlargement of the EU.” It states that it prioritises “the deepening and further development of high-quality European institutions”.<sup>32</sup> It is clearly against Turkey's membership and instead advocates a privileged partnership with Turkey.<sup>33</sup> In an interview, Frieda Brepoels, a member of the European Parliament from the N-VA, explains:

*“We were against the entry of Turkey from the start, for several reasons. There, we differ from Vlaams Belang, because they focus on the Islamic religion. Religion for us is not important, because that's an individual issue, but we think that after the enlargement of Europe with ten, twelve new members, we first have to work on integration.*

*“We want Europe not only as an economic area but also a Europe of a political union. We want more Europe, a stronger Europe, on asylum, defence, energy and foreign affairs. It's very difficult to take decisions in Europe because the countries are not on the same level of economic clout. We need much more integration of the European Union, not expansion. Instead of further enlargement, we want a deepening of the EU. We have to work on that for the next decade.*

*“Turkey is a huge country, and if it entered it would straight away be the biggest country of the EU with all the consequences for this in the EU institutions. The financial consequences are gravely underestimated. If you look at the Agriculture policy, with Turkey it is impossible – when you see that the EU has to*

<sup>28</sup> Website of the N-VA, Programme of the N-VA for the 2010 general elections (in Dutch), at [http://www.n-va.be/files/default/nva\\_images/documenten/verkiezingsprogramma%20N-VA%202010.pdf](http://www.n-va.be/files/default/nva_images/documenten/verkiezingsprogramma%20N-VA%202010.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Website of the N-VA, at <http://www.n-va.be/english>.

<sup>30</sup> Website of the N-VA, at <http://www.n-va.be/english>.

<sup>31</sup> Website of the N-VA, at <http://www.n-va.be/english>.

<sup>32</sup> Website of the N-VA, at <http://www.n-va.be/english>.

<sup>33</sup> Website of the N-VA, at <http://www.n-va.be/english>.

*organise everything with only 1 % of GDP, it's impossible. The moment that you say that Turkey is welcome in the EU, then that means that you need to be able to double the financial budget.”<sup>34</sup>*



Bart de Wever, 39, has been the president of the N-VA since 2004 (Pictured, on the left.). He has a degree in history from the Catholic University Leuven. He joined the party in 2000 when it was still called *Volksunie* and quickly rose through the ranks. He was a member of the Flemish parliament from 2004 to 2007 and then a deputy in the Federal parliament of Belgium until 2009. When his party joined the government of Flanders following the regional elections of 2009, De Wever decided to remain party president instead of occupying any ministerial post. Contact: [bart.deweever@n-va.be](mailto:bart.deweever@n-va.be).

### Socialist Party – Parti Socialiste



The Socialist Party of Wallonia has been the dominant party in Wallonia for decades. The 2010 federal elections re-affirmed its leadership: the SP won most votes in Wallonia and became the second-strongest party in Belgium, right after the N-VA. Its representatives also head the governments of the Regions of Wallonia and Brussels-Capital, and of the French and German-speaking Communities. The PS main message during the 2010 elections was “*A stable country and sustainable jobs.*”<sup>35</sup>

The party was founded in 1885 as the *Parti ouvrier belge* or, in Dutch, *Belgische Werkliedenpartij* (Belgian Workers’ Party). Following a few name changes and a split into a Francophone and a Dutch party of the same kind in 1972, it became the PS in Wallonia. There is a German section in eastern Belgium. The Flemish counterpart of the PS is called *Socialistische Partij - Anders* (Socialist Party - Differently), but it has never been as strong in Flanders as the PS in Wallonia.

Concerning EU enlargement, the PS is in favour of pursuing the process with a few qualifiers:<sup>36</sup>

*“Enlargement is undoubtedly the most powerful tool used by Europe. [...] The acceptance of the Balkan countries, as long as they meet the Copenhagen criteria [...] and the requirements of the International Criminal Tribunal, responds to the need for stability in the immediate vicinity of Europe. But citizens for whom geo-strategic and security considerations are often distant, sometimes fear a lax attitude towards admissions and internal disruptions as a result of an enlargement of Europe that is too fast. They are right. This is why the PS insists on:*

- absolute respect of the Copenhagen criteria;
- absorption capacity, as regards both the institutional dimension (an efficient and democratic functioning of the European Union) and from an economic and social perspective so that the EU’s cohesion policy can be applied to the newcomers and that the European social model does not suffer from it;
- rejection of any negative decision in response to an application for EU membership that would be based on cultural or religious considerations.”<sup>37</sup>

Contact: General Secretariat, Boulevard de l'Empereur 13, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 254 3223, [www.ps.be](http://www.ps.be), [secretariat@ps.be](mailto:secretariat@ps.be).

<sup>34</sup> EU election campaign, blog of then MEP candidate Noelle Anne O’Sullivan from the N-VA at <http://noelleanneosullivan.wordpress.com/2009/05/25/n-va-no-future-for-belgium-flanders-should-be-an-independent-eu-nation-state/>

<sup>35</sup> Programme of the Socialist Party for the June 2010 Belgian national elections at [http://www.ps.be/\\_iusr/programme\\_2010\\_version\\_finale.pdf](http://www.ps.be/_iusr/programme_2010_version_finale.pdf).

<sup>36</sup> Programme of the Socialist Party for the June 2009 European Parliament elections at [http://www.ps.be/\\_iusr/programmepeuneelections2009.pdf](http://www.ps.be/_iusr/programmepeuneelections2009.pdf), p. 45.

<sup>37</sup> Programme of the Socialist Party for the June 2009 European Parliament elections at [http://www.ps.be/\\_iusr/programmepeuneelections2009.pdf](http://www.ps.be/_iusr/programmepeuneelections2009.pdf), p. 45.



Elio Di Rupo, 59, has been the president of the PS since 1999. His trademark is to wear red bows. He is the son of poor Italian immigrants and has a PhD in chemistry; he started his professional career at the University of Mons-Hainaut. He became interested in politics in the 1980, held several positions at the local level in Mons, and became for the first time a deputy in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives in 1982. Various other posts followed, including that of Minister for Education and for Audiovisual Media in the government of the French Community in Belgium. In October 2005, Di Rupo became Minister-President of the Walloon Region. He was re-elected President of the PS in 2003. Contact: [elio@ps.be](mailto:elio@ps.be)

### Christian Democratic and Flemish – Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams



The CD&V ([www.cdenv.be](http://www.cdenv.be)) was the strongest party in the 2007 elections, only to suffer its worst election result in the June 2010 elections.

The CD&V is one of the successors of the Belgian Catholic Party (1868-1945). After World War II, the Catholic Party became the Christian Social Party (*Christelijke Volkspartij - Parti Social Chrétien*), which split into Flemish and Francophone parties in 1968. Following several name changes, today the Flemish Christian Democrats call themselves *Christian Democratic and Flemish*, while their Walloon counterpart is called *Humanist*

*Democratic Centre*.

On 22 June, party president **Marianne Thyssen** (Pictured, on the right) resigned due to the bad election result. She remains a Member of the European Parliament and as such a member of the EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee. She is also a deputy chairwoman of the European People's Party, to which the CV&D belongs at the European level. No new party leaders have been chosen yet.



The CD&V was almost continually in power in Flanders until 1999. In the 2004 regional elections, the CD&V became again the strongest party in Flanders, and **Yves Leterme**, one of its most prominent representatives, was appointed prime minister of Flanders. The regional elections of 2009 reconfirmed the CD&V as the strongest party in Flanders, but it may have been overtaken by the N-VA since.

Contact: CD&V National Secretariat, Rue de la Loi 89, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 238 3811, [info@cdenv.be](mailto:info@cdenv.be), [www.cdenv.be](http://www.cdenv.be).

### Reformist Movement – Mouvement Réformateur

The Reformist Movement ([www.mr.be](http://www.mr.be)) is part of the present coalition supporting the care-taking Leterme government at the national level. It is one of the main Francophone parties of Belgium.



From 1846 to 1972, there was one Liberal party in Belgium, which, however, then separated into a Francophone, a Flemish and a German party. The MR is the successor to the Francophone Liberal party and is a close alliance of three liberal parties: two French-speaking – the *Democratic Front of Francophones* at the Regional level and the *Citizens' Movement for Change* - and the German-speaking *Party for Freedom and Progress*.



The leader of the MR, **Didier Reynders** (Pictured on the left), is the deputy prime minister and Minister of Finance of Belgium. In the 2007 national elections, the MR was the most popular Francophone party. At the European Level, the MR is a member of the Alliance of Liberal and



Democrats for Europe (ALDE).

The MR is in favour of EU enlargement and advocates a stronger political union of the EU. Among other things, it perceives enlargement as a tool to fight environmental problems and illegal migration.

Contact: Mouvement Réformateur, Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 84-86, 1060 Brussels, T+32 (2) 500 3511, [www.mr.be/Contactez-nous/index.php](http://www.mr.be/Contactez-nous/index.php).

## 2. The Belgian Monarchy

Belgium is a constitutional parliamentary monarchy and the king is the head of state. If Belgium were less fraught with political problems, his role would be mostly ceremonial and symbolic. Politically, his main task is to designate a *formateur* to form a government following elections or a resignation/fall of the government. However, in recent years, the king has been actively involved in helping to ensure that Belgium has a government. The king is seen as an important institution representing Belgian unity.



The current king, **Albert II** (Pictured on the left, with Queen Paola), took the oath of office in front of both houses of the parliament on 9 August 1993, as the sixth king of the Belgians. He succeeded his brother King Baudouin who died in 1993.

The constitutional powers of the King are hereditary, through the “direct, natural, and legitimate” descendants of Belgian’s first king Leopold I, by order of primogeniture. Since 1991, female children have been included in the line of succession to the throne, but there has been no queen-head of state yet.<sup>38</sup>

The Belgian king has two main duties: a public duty to represent Belgium at official events and meetings abroad, and a political duty to help set up a new government. Following elections, he meets with the heads of the political parties and presidents of the two houses of the parliament to discuss the results and appoints an *informateur*. He then appoints a *formateur*, usually from the strongest party, who, as a rule, later becomes the prime minister.

Under the constitution, the king appoints and dismisses ministers, including the prime minister, and he is offered and can reject resignations of the government. In recent years, he has refused several resignations which he considered politically unwise.

The king meets with the prime minister every week and also regularly with other members of the government, representatives of other levels of government, and the political parties. He has the right to advise and influence internal decision making-processes.



<sup>38</sup>

If there are no descendants, the King can nominate a successor with the consent of a 2/3 majority of the parliament. The parliament has to provide for regency in case of a vacant throne: not only if the parliament rejects the successor proposed by the king, but also if the successor is a minor or if the king is unable to reign. Once in the history of the country, the King was declared unable to reign: when he refused to sign the law liberalising abortion in 1990. In that case, the prime minister signed and promulgated the bill; the day after, the parliament restored in power the same king.

After the 2007 elections, he was engaged in securing and keeping in place a government, making suggestions as to which issues should be kept out of or in negotiations. (Pictured below: the Royal Palace in Brussels.)

The king also signs and promulgates laws passed by the parliament. In doing this, he always needs the countersignature from the minister who is politically responsible for the law. In practice, the federal executive power is exercised by the federal government.

The king is the Commander in Chief of the Belgian army, and his cabinet includes military officials and advisers (the Military Household). He makes the appointments to high-ranking positions in the army following a proposal by the Minister of Defence.

The cabinet of the king monitors political developments in the country, advises him, organises his agenda, and assists him in his relations with the media. The cabinet is part of the Royal Household, which also includes a foreign relations department.

Head of the cabinet and the king's private secretary is **Jacques van Ypersele de Strihou**, who has served both King Baudouin and Albert II. An economist, he used to work for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Belgian government. The king's press advisor is **Pierre-Emmanuel De Bauw**, a diplomat who previously worked as a counsellor for the monarchy and was posted as ambassador of Belgium to Cuba. The head of the department for foreign relations is **Ghislain D'Hoop**, a diplomat who served in both London and Rome. He was a diplomatic counsellor for Prince Philippe, King Albert's oldest son.

Contact: *Cabinet of the King*, Royal Palace, Rue Bréderode 16, 1000 Brussels, [www.monarchie.be](http://www.monarchie.be). T. +32 (0)2 551 2020.

### 3. The Federal Government

The federal state deals with everything in the general interest of all Belgians. This includes public finances, the army, the judicial system, social security, and foreign affairs as well as substantial parts of public health and home affairs. It is also in charge of the federal police, monetary policy, price and income policy, protection of savings, nuclear energy, state-owned companies (such as the Belgian Railways and the Post Office), federal scientific and cultural institutions, etc. The state is also responsible for Belgium's relations with the European Union or NATO.<sup>39</sup>



The federal government's powers cover everything that is not explicitly under the jurisdiction of the Communities and Regions. Furthermore, the federal state has the power to restrict and suspend the powers of the Communities and the Regions. (Pictured above: the Prime Minister's Office in Brussels).

The federal state has also maintained some powers in fields for which responsibility has been transferred to the Regions and Communities. Although the Communities are responsible for education, for example, the requirements that need to be met to obtain qualifications remain a matter for the Federal Government.

During the 2001 state reform, all ministries were renamed "Federal Public Services" except the Ministry of Defence, which maintains the old name. The functions of these services are the same as of the former ministries, but some are headed by more than one minister. In these cases, different

<sup>39</sup> Website of the Belgian government at [http://www.belgium.be/en/about\\_belgium/government/federal\\_authorities/competence\\_federal\\_government/](http://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/federal_authorities/competence_federal_government/).



ministers are responsible for different parts of the portfolio of the service. A number of Federal Public Planning Services have been created for ad-hoc social matters.

The current care-taker government, “Leterme II,” was sworn in on 25 November 2009. It is based on a coalition of five parties, gathering together Francophone and Flemish Christian-Democrat and Liberal parties with the Socialist Party of Wallonia. The government counts 15 Ministers and 7 State Secretaries (junior ministers). In April 2010, the Flemish liberal party VLD withdrew as a deadline for a solution to the Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde problem expired. The government collapsed, but it will remain in office in a care-taker function until a new government is formed. Early elections were held on 13 June 2010.

### 3.1 The Prime Minister and the Federal Public Services



**Prime Minister Yves Leterme**

*Also in charge of coordination  
of migration policy and asylum*

Rue de la Loi 16  
1000 Brussels  
Phone: +32 (2) 501 02 11  
[www.yvesleterme.be](http://www.yvesleterme.be)

In the Prime Minister’s office, Vincent Hossiau ([vincent.hossiau@premier.fed.bel](mailto:vincent.hossiau@premier.fed.bel)) is the diplomatic adviser on European Affairs and also the Director for Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation and Defence. He chaired of the working group drafting the programme of the forthcoming Belgian Presidency of the European Union. The programme of the Presidency was officially presented to the European Parliament on 7 July 2010, and it is now available at the official website, [http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme_EN.pdf).



**Didier Reynders**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Finances and  
Institutional Reforms



**Laurette Onkelinx**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Social Affairs and  
Health, in charge of Social  
Integration



**Steven Vanackere**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Institutional Reforms



**Joëlle Milquet**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Employment, Equal  
Opportunities and Migration  
Policy and Asylum



**Guy Vanhengel**

Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of the Budget



**Michel Daerden**

Minister of Pensions  
and Big Cities



**Stefaan De Clerck**  
Minister of Justice



**Sabine Laruelle**  
Minister of SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and Science Policy



**Pieter De Crem**  
Minister of Defence



**Paul Magnette**  
Minister of Climate and Energy



**Charles Michel**  
Minister of Development Cooperation



**Inge Vervotte**  
Minister of Civil Service and Public Enterprises



**Vincent Van Quickenborne**  
Minister of Enterprises and Simplification



**Annemie Turtelboom**  
Minister of the Interior



**Olivier Chastel**  
State Secretary for European Affairs, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
(including the preparation of the Belgian EU Presidency)

The following is a list of all Federal Public and Planning Services with the respective contact details. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be treated in detail in the subsequent section.

#### **Federal Public Service Chancellery of the Prime Minister**

Prime Minister Yves Leterme

Rue de la Loi 16

1000 Brussels

Contact form: <http://www.belgium.be/fr/contact/contact.jsp>

<http://kanselarij.belgium.be/fr>

#### **Federal Public Service Finances**

Deputy Prime Minister Didier Reynders

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Phone +32 (2) 233 81 11

E-mail [contact@ckfin.minfin.be](mailto:contact@ckfin.minfin.be)

[www.minfin.fgov.be](http://www.minfin.fgov.be)

**Federal Public Service Social Security**

Deputy Prime Minister Laurette Onkelinx (Social Affairs)  
Deputy Prime Minister Joëlle Milquet (Equal Opportunities)  
Minister Sabine Laruelle (Self Employers)  
Minister Michel Daerden (Pensions)  
Minister Pieter De Crem (War victims)  
Minister Annemie Turtelboom (Interior)  
Administrative Centre Botanique  
Finance Tower  
Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 50, bte 100  
1000 Brussels  
Phone : +32 (2) 528 60 31  
E-mail: [social.security@minsoc.fed.be](mailto:social.security@minsoc.fed.be)  
<http://socialsecurity.fgov.be>

**Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment**

Deputy Prime Minister Laurette Onkelinx (Health)  
Minister Paul Magnette (Environment)  
Minister Sabine Laruelle (Agriculture)  
Eurostation II  
Place Victor Horta, 40 bte 10  
1060 Brussels  
Phone: +32 (2) 524 71 11  
E-mail : [info@health.fgov.be](mailto:info@health.fgov.be)  
<https://portal.health.fgov.be>

**Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation**

Deputy Minister Steven Vanackere (Foreign Affairs)  
Minister Charles Michel (Development Cooperation)  
State Secretary Olivier Chastel (European Affairs)  
Rue des Petits Carmes 15  
1000 Brussels  
Phone: +32 (2) 501 81 11  
Contact form: <http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/contact>  
<http://diplomatie.belgium.be>

**Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue**

Deputy Prime Minister Joëlle Milquet  
Rue Ernest Blerot 1  
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Phone: +32 (2) 212 37 11  
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[www.begroting.be](http://www.begroting.be)

**Federal Public Planning Service Social Integration, Anti-Poverty Policy, Social Economy and Federal Urban Policy**

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E-mail: [question@mi-is.be](mailto:question@mi-is.be)  
[www.mi-is.be](http://www.mi-is.be)

**Federal Public Service Justice**

Minister Stefaan De Clerck  
Boulevard de Waterloo 115  
1000 Brussels  
Phone : +32 (2) 542 65 11  
E-mail [info@just.fgov.be](mailto:info@just.fgov.be)  
[www.just.fgov.be](http://www.just.fgov.be)

**Federal Public Planning Service Science Policy**

Minister Sabine Laruelle  
Avenue Louise 231  
1050 Brussels  
Phone : +32 (2) 238 34 11  
E-mail: [www@belspo.be](mailto:www@belspo.be)  
[www.belspo.be](http://www.belspo.be)

**Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy**

Minister Vincent Van Quickenborne (Enterprises and Simplification)  
Minister Sabine Laruelle (SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and Science Policy)  
Minister Paul Magnette (Climate and Energy)  
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E-mail : [info.eco@economie.fgov.be](mailto:info.eco@economie.fgov.be)  
<http://economie.fgov.be>

**Ministry of Defence**

Minister Pieter De Crem  
La Défense  
Quartier Reine Elisabeth, Bloc 4  
Rue d'Evere 1  
1140 Brussels  
Contact form: <http://www.mil.be/def/contact/index.asp>  
[www.mil.be](http://www.mil.be)

**Federal Public Planning Service Sustainable Development**

Minister Paul Magnette  
Administrative Centre Botanique  
Finance Tower  
Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 50, bte 8  
1000 Brussels  
Phone: +32 (2) 524 88 54  
E-mail: [contact@sppdd.be](mailto:contact@sppdd.be)  
[www.poddo.be](http://www.poddo.be)

**Federal Public Service Personnel and Organization**

Minister Inge Vervotte  
 Rue de la Loi 51  
 1040 Brussels  
 Phone: +32 (2) 790 58 00  
 E-mail : [info@p-o.belgium.be](mailto:info@p-o.belgium.be)  
[www.fedweb.belgium.be](http://www.fedweb.belgium.be)

**Federal Public Service Information and Communication Technology**

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[www.fedict.belgium.be](http://www.fedict.belgium.be)

**Federal Public Service Interior**

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 Minister Joëlle Milquet (Migration and Asylum Policy)  
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**Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport**

State Secretary Etienne Schouppe  
 Rue du Progrès 56  
 1210 Brussels  
 Phone: +32 (2) 277 31 11  
[www.mobilit.fgov.be](http://www.mobilit.fgov.be)

*3.2 Key contacts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

At the Belgian “Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation”, Minister Vanackere shares his duties with the Minister for Development Cooperation, Charles Michel, and the State Secretary for European Affairs, Olivier Chastel.



**Steven Vanackere** is the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and a member of the Christian-Democratic and Flemish Party (CD&V).

Following a short appointment in Kredietbank, in 1988 he became adviser to the Belgian Christian-Democratic Party and then to Herman Van Rompuy, at the time Chairman of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party. Between 1991 and 1999, Vanackere was deputy head of cabinet and then head of cabinet for the president of Brussels-Capital Region. Afterwards he held managerial posts at the Port of Brussels (1993-2000) and STIB/MIVB, the Brussels public transport company (2000-2005).

Vanackere was a member of the Flemish Parliament (2004-2007) and Flemish Minister of Welfare (2007-2008). In the federal government that he subsequently joined, he was Minister of Civil Service, Public Enterprise and Institutional Reform (2008-2009). He was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reform in November 2009.

In Vanackere's cabinet, Dirk Wouters ([dirk.wouter@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:dirk.wouter@diplobel.fed.be)) is head of cabinet. He was a diplomatic counsellor of the former Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy, the current president of the European Council, and of Jean-Luc Dehaene when Dehaene was deputy president of the European Convention. The spokesperson of the cabinet is Harry Wanbuel ([harry.wanbuel@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:harry.wanbuel@diplobel.fed.be)).

The deputy head of cabinet, Bruno Angelet ([bruno.angelet@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:bruno.angelet@diplobel.fed.be)), deals with European Affairs, including enlargement, the Western Balkans and Turkey. Axel Kenes ([axel.kenes@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:axel.kenes@diplobel.fed.be)) is the advisor on enlargement. They are both diplomats.

Contact: Cabinet of the **Minister of Foreign and European Affairs Steven Vanackere**

Rue des Petits Carmes 15

1000 Brussels

T +32 (2) 501.85 91

[kab.ae@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:kab.ae@diplobel.fed.be)

In the Federal Service, there are two Directorates-General of relevance for enlargement. At the Directorate-General "Bilateral Affairs" (DGB), the Directorate for Bilateral Relations has a service dealing with South East Europe, including the Western Balkans countries and Turkey. Secondly, the Directorate-General for European Affairs (DGE) has a directorate in charge of EU external policy, enlargement, development cooperation, and agreements with third countries. A specific department deals with the Western Balkans, Turkey, and Iceland regarding their European integration process.



**Olivier Chastel** is the State Secretary for European Affairs, in charge of the preparation of the Belgian Presidency (attached to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs). He belongs to the "Mouvement Reformateur" (the Francophone Liberal party). A pharmacist, he started his political career in the region of Wallonia as a municipal counsellor in Charleroi and then became a deputy in the Regional parliament. Jan Bayart ([jan.bayart@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:jan.bayart@diplobel.fed.be)) is the diplomatic advisor on enlargement.



**Charles Michel** has been the Minister of Development Cooperation since December 2007. At the beginning of his political career, he held different political posts in the government of a Province and of the Region of Wallonia and was then elected to the federal parliament. Since 2006, he has been mayor of Wavre. He is a politician from the "Mouvement Reformateur" (Francophone Liberal party). Louis Michel – Charles' father and former EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid – is one of the most prominent members of this party.

Belgian Development Cooperation focuses on 18 mainly African partner countries and on programmes managed by multilateral organisations other than the EU, and by NGOs.

More information at: [http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development\\_cooperation](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/policy/development_cooperation).



Another important actor is the Belgian Permanent Representative to the EU, who is based in Brussels. Ambassador **Jean De Ruyt**, appointed in 2007, is a career diplomat with extensive knowledge on EU affairs and transatlantic relations. He served Belgium in other multilateral fora such as NATO, FAO (the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation), and the UN. As a representative of the forthcoming EU Presidency, Ambassador De Ruyt is part of the Steering Committee headed by Catherine Ashton, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, which is in charge of drafting proposals for the future European External Action Service (EEAS).



**Jean De Ruyt**

Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU

Rue de la Loi 61-63

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 233 21 11

Mail to the secretariat: [Eef.bultinck@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:Eef.bultinck@diplobel.fed.be)[www.diplomatie.be/belgoeuropfr/default.asp](http://www.diplomatie.be/belgoeuropfr/default.asp)**3.3 The Federal Parliament**

Belgium has a bicameral federal parliament that is made up of a Chamber of Representatives and a Senate with 150 and 71+3 members respectively.

The 150 Chamber deputies are elected from 11 electoral districts, which correspond to the provinces of the Belgian Regions except the district Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. Each district is allocated a certain number of seats corresponding to its population, ranging from 4 to 24 deputies. Presently there are 88 Flemish, 61 Francophone and 1 German MPs in the Chamber.



The electoral system for the Senate is mixed, with a number of senators elected directly (25 from Flanders and 15 from Wallonia including the German linguistic region) and another 21 elected by the parliaments of the three Communities (10 each by the Flemish and the French, 1 by the German). A further 10 senators are “co-opted”, which means that they are elected by their peers (6 Flemish, 4 French). Lastly, there are currently 3 “senators by right”: they are the sons of the king above the age of 18, but their presence is not required to achieve a quorum<sup>40</sup>.

The Chamber and the Senate do not share the same powers: since 1995, the Chamber has been the main legislative authority for the vast majority of issues. The Senate can only propose amendments to draft laws, but the Chamber votes on these amendments and thus has the final say on most pieces of legislation.



The Chamber (the interior, on the left) has exclusive powers on issues such as naturalisation, the immunity of ministers, state budget and state accounts, and the appointment of the Ombudsman. The Chamber is also the sole body responsible for political control of the government: it approves a new government, and it votes on motions of non-confidence.

The Chamber and the Senate are still on an equal footing with regard to constitutional amendments, legislation on the state structure and the judicial system, and the ratification of international treaties.

<sup>40</sup>

Articles 63 and 67 of the Belgian Constitution, [www.senate.be/doc/const\\_fr.html](http://www.senate.be/doc/const_fr.html).

## 3.4 Distribution of seats in the Federal Parliament

**Current distribution of seats in the Chamber of Representatives<sup>41</sup>***(Federal elections, 13 June 2010)*

Party	MPs
<i>Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie</i> (“New Flemish Alliance”, calling itself democratic and Flemish-nationalist)	27
<i>Partie Socialiste</i> (“Socialist Party”, from Wallonia)	26
<i>Mouvement Réformateur</i> (“Reformist Movement”, Walloon Liberal party)	18
<i>Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams, CD&amp;V</i> (“Christian-Democratic and Flemish”)	17
<i>Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten</i> (“Open Flemish Liberal and Democrats”)	13
<i>Socialistische Partij Anders</i> (“Socialist Party – Differently”, Flemish Socialists)	13
<i>Vlaams Belang</i> (“Flemish Interest”; right-wing, pro-independence)	12
<i>Centre démocrate humaniste, cdH</i> (“Humanist Democratic Centre”, successor to the Walloon Christian-Democrats)	9
<i>Ecolo</i> (the Greens from Wallonia)	8
<i>Groen!</i> (the Greens from Flanders)	5
<i>Lijst Dedecker</i> (“Dedecker List”; libertarian, conservative)	1
<i>Parti Populaire</i> (Right-wing, liberal Walloon party)	1
<b>Total</b>	150

**Current distribution of seats in the Senate<sup>42</sup>**

*(Federal elections, 13 June 2010; the table includes only the 40 directly elected senators: 25 from Flanders and 15 from Wallonia. When this manual was written, it was not possible to obtain the data for the 21 Senators that are elected by the Communities, and for the 10 co-opted Senators.)*

Party	Senators
<i>Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie</i> (“New Flemish Alliance”, calling itself democratic and Flemish-nationalist)	9
<i>Parti Socialiste</i> (“Socialist Party”, from Wallonia)	7
<i>Mouvement Réformateur</i> (“Reformist Movement”, Walloon Liberal party)	4
<i>Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams, CD&amp;V</i> (“Christian-Democratic and Flemish”)	4

<sup>41</sup> Source: official website of the Federal Public Service of Interior, at <http://polling2010.belgium.be/en/index.html>.

<sup>42</sup> Website of the Federal Public Service of Interior, at <http://polling2010.belgium.be/en/index.html>.

<i>Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten</i> (“Open Flemish Liberal and Democrats”)	4
<i>Socialistische Partij Anders</i> (“Socialist Party – Differently”, Flemish Socialists)	4
<i>Vlaams Belang</i> (“Flemish Interest”; right-wing, pro-independence)	3
<i>Ecolo</i> (Walloon Greens)	2
<i>Centre démocrate humaniste, cdH</i> (“Humanist Democratic Centre”, successor to the Walloon Christian-Democrats)	2
<i>Groen!</i> (Flemish Greens)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

#### 4. The Regions and Communities

From a legal point of view, the Federal State, the Communities, and the Regions are on an equal footing with each other and are simply responsible for different issues.<sup>43</sup>



There are three Regions: Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels-Capital. They are entitled to exercise their powers within the four linguistic regions: Flanders is responsible for the Flemish region, Wallonia for the Walloon and German-speaking regions, and Brussels-Capital for the bilingual Brussels region. The three Regions have competencies in the fields related to their region or territory in the widest sense possible. These are the fields of economy, employment, agriculture, water policy, housing, public works, energy, transport (except Belgian Railways), the environment, town and country planning, nature conservation, credit, foreign trade,

supervision of the Provinces, municipalities, and inter-municipal utility companies.<sup>44</sup> (Pictured: the city of Antwerp, in the Flanders region.)

The three Communities (Flemish, French and German-speaking) are based on the concept of language: they have powers in the domains of culture (theatre, libraries, audiovisual media, etc.), education, the use of languages, and matters relating to the individual that concern health policy (medical treatment) and assistance (social welfare, aid to families, immigrant assistance services, protection of the youth, etc.).<sup>45</sup>

The principle *in foro interno, in foro externo* means that the governments of the Regions and the Communities are entitled to manage the international aspects of the issues for which they are responsible. An example: the Communities can appoint lecturers at universities abroad without obtaining agreement from the federal level; the Regions can sign memoranda of cooperation with third countries on issues that are in their competences without the federal state being involved.

<sup>43</sup> Website of the Belgian government at [www.belgium.be/en/about\\_belgium/government/federale\\_staat/structure/](http://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/federale_staat/structure/).

<sup>44</sup> Website of the Belgian government at [www.belgium.be/en/about\\_belgium/government/regions/competence/](http://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/regions/competence/).

<sup>45</sup> Website of the Belgian government at [www.belgium.be/en/about\\_belgium/government/communities/competence/](http://www.belgium.be/en/about_belgium/government/communities/competence/).

While the Regions and Communities have exclusive treaty-making power on the issues under their responsibility, they share power with the federal level on other issues. A Cooperation Agreement regulates the modalities how to proceed in these cases. If the different authorities are too slow to set the machinery in motion, or if they cannot agree, it can happen that Belgium does not have an official position on a certain issue. At the Federal Foreign Policy Service, as the ministry of foreign affairs is called in Belgium, a number of consultative bodies have been created to ensure information flow and common ground.

As a consequence, Belgium's Regions have foreign affairs departments and delegations abroad (Wallonia and the Francophone part of Brussels-Capital share the foreign affair department, as do Flanders and the Flemish part of Brussels). Their representatives are attached to Belgian embassies and Belgian delegations to international organisations. Both Flanders/Flemish Brussels-Capital and Wallonia/Francophone Brussels-Capital have a "General Delegation" to the EU each, which are co-located with the Belgian Permanent Representation in Brussels. At EU level, a minister from Flanders, Wallonia or Brussels-Capital can represent Belgium in the Council of the European Union. (Prior to that, Belgium's position is negotiated and agreed.)

Finally, Provinces and *communes* (municipalities) are the most local level of governance. They report to the Regional and Community authorities, depending on the issue at hand.

#### 4.1 Flanders

The **Flemish Region**, with more than 6 millions of inhabitants, includes the provinces in the northern part of Belgium. The authorities of the Region and of the Community have been merged so that now the Flemish government, parliament and administration exercise the powers of both the Region and the Community, representing the interests of all Flemish including those living in Brussels-Capital. The capital of Flanders is Brussels, and the official language is Dutch.

Contact: Services for the General Government Policy Department of Flanders, Boudewijnlaan 30, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 553 59 68, [eric.stroobants@dar.vlaanderen.be](mailto:eric.stroobants@dar.vlaanderen.be), [www.flanders.be](http://www.flanders.be).



The **Government of Flanders** has a maximum of 11 ministers. The current government is composed of 9 members, has been in place since 2009, and will be in office until 2014. The present Minister-President (prime minister) is Kris Peeters, a politician from the Christian Democratic and Flemish party (CD&V).

Contact: Cabinet of the **Flemish Minister-President and Minister of Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy Kris Peeters**, Martelaarsplein 19, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 552 60 00, [kabinet.peeters@vlaanderen.be](mailto:kabinet.peeters@vlaanderen.be), [www.krispeeters.be](http://www.krispeeters.be) (only in Dutch).

The main body dealing with international relations in the Flanders administration is the Department for Foreign Affairs. It coordinates international aspects of Flemish policies. It is based in Brussels and has a network of representations abroad, which are attached to the federal embassies.

The Foreign Policy Division within the Department for Foreign Affairs is responsible for multilateral and bilateral relations of Flanders, including its presence in EU fora.

Specific attention is given to Central and Eastern Europe, which has been one of the priorities of the Flemish Region since the beginning of its foreign policy. A specific fund has been created to support Flemish civil society organisations to develop projects with partner organisations in Western Balkans countries including Croatia and Kosovo, Ukraine and Moldova as well as those EU member

states that joined the Union in 2004 and 2007 (eligible countries in 2009)<sup>46</sup>. Bilateral cooperation agreements have been signed or agreed with Croatia and Kosovo of the Western Balkan countries.

Contact: Department for Foreign Affairs, Boudewijnlaan 30, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 553 60 37, [info@iv.vlaanderen.be](mailto:info@iv.vlaanderen.be), [koen.jongbloet@iv.vlaanderen.be](mailto:koen.jongbloet@iv.vlaanderen.be) (Foreign Affairs Division), <http://iv.vlaanderen.be/nlapps/default.asp>.

#### 4.2 Wallonia

Wallonia covers the southern part of Belgium and includes the French and the German-speaking Communities. Wallonia extends over 55% of the territory of the country and has nearly 3.5 millions of inhabitants. Its administrative capital is Namur, while the official language is French.

Contact: Government of Wallonia, Rue Mazy 25-27, 5100 Jambes, T +32 (81) 331 211, email: [info-gouvernement@gov.wallonie.be](mailto:info-gouvernement@gov.wallonie.be), <http://gouvernement.wallonie.be>.

The **Government of Wallonia** has a maximum of 9 ministers including the Minister-President (prime minister). The present government “Demotte II” (the second mandate for the same President) has been in place since the 2009 regional elections; it is composed of 8 members from the Socialist, the Christian-Democratic and Green parties. Rudy Demotte (in the picture on the right), a Socialist politician, is the Minister-President of both the Region of Wallonia and the French Community of Belgium (though they still have different administrations); he is also in charge of international relations.



Contact: Cabinet of the Minister-President Rudy Demotte, Rue Mazy 25-27, 5100 Jambes, T +32 (81) 331 211, mail: [info-demotte@gov.wallonie.be](mailto:info-demotte@gov.wallonie.be), <http://demotte.wallonie.be>.

While the Walloon Region and Community are still two separate entities, their foreign affairs departments have been merged. As a result, “Wallonia Brussels International” is now the institution managing the international relations of Wallonia, the French Community, and the Francophones of Brussels-Capital. They have a number of representations abroad (for example, in Bucharest [also responsible for Moldova], Prague and Warsaw) and attaches in Belgian embassies (for example in Ankara, Belgrade, Kiev and Zagreb). Cooperation with these countries focuses on culture and education.

Contact: Wallonie Bruxelles International, Place Sainctelette 2, 1080 Brussels, T +32 (2) 421 82 11, mail: [wbi@wbi.be](mailto:wbi@wbi.be), [g.letayf@wbi.be](mailto:g.letayf@wbi.be), [www.wbi.be](http://www.wbi.be).

<sup>46</sup> In 2009, the “Central and Eastern Policy” pillar devoted to the Western Balkans envisaged 700,000 euro for Croatia, 200,000 for Macedonia and another 750,000 for the remaining WB countries. Figures from the official website of the Flemish Government, <http://iv.vlaanderen.be/nlapps/docs/default.asp?fid=237>.





#### 4.3 Brussels-Capital

With a population of more than 1 million inhabitants, the Region of Brussels-Capital is the largest urban area of Belgium. (Pictured on the left: the Parliament building.)

It is generally believed that some 85-90% of the population are Francophone, and that 10-15% speaks Dutch. However, this disregards the fact that almost a third of Brussels' inhabitants are foreigners. In 2006, out of 1,019,000

Bruxellois, 273,700 were foreign citizens (27%).<sup>47</sup> Of the foreigners, 164,327 (60%) came from other EU member states. They work at or for the EU institutions and contribute to Brussels' high GDP, which makes it the third-richest region in the entire EU (see page 4.)

Among the foreign citizens, a high proportion is also from Africa (20%), including 40,650 Moroccans (15% of all foreigners in Brussels). The most popular name for newborn boys has become Mohammed.<sup>48</sup>

The Region Brussels-Capital was created in 1989. It is made up of 19 *communes* (municipalities), each with each own mayor, executive and council. The *commune* in the city centre, which is called Brussels (*Bruxelles/Brussel* in French and Dutch), is the capital of Belgium, the capital of Flanders and the capital of the French Community of Belgium.

Charles Picqué, from the Socialist party, is the Minister-President (prime minister) of the Brussels-Capital Region. He chairs a government composed of 4 ministers (two French-speaking and two Dutch-speaking) and 3 state secretaries (at least one should be Dutch-speaking). The current member of the government dealing with Foreign Affairs is Jean Luc Van-Raes.



Contact: Ministry of the Region Brussels-Capital, Rue du Jardin Botanique 20, 1035 Brussels, T +32 (2) 204 2111, [www.bruxelles.irisnet.be](http://www.bruxelles.irisnet.be), [info@vanraes.irisnet.be](mailto:info@vanraes.irisnet.be).

#### 4.4 Current political composition of the parliaments of the three Regions



The **Parliament of Flanders** (Pictured on the left) currently has 124 directly elected MPs. It is a joint parliament for the Flemish Region, the Flemish Community, and the Dutch-speaking residents of Brussels-Capital (118 deputies are elected from Flanders and 6 from Brussels). While all deputies can vote on matters such as culture and education, language, and welfare, only the deputies elected from Flanders have the right to vote on Region-level matters such as environment, economy, transport, etc.

The current president of the parliament is Jan Peumans from the New Flemish Alliance, a centre-right party promoting Flanders' secession from Belgium. The parliament's seat is Brussels.

<sup>47</sup> All population figures are from the Belgian Directorate-General for Statistics and Economic Information, *Population et ménages, Population étrangère au 1.1.2006*, 2008, at [http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006\\_fr\\_tcm326-39292.pdf](http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/p202y2006_fr_tcm326-39292.pdf).

<sup>48</sup> Belgian Directorate-General for Statistics and Economic Information, *Emma et Noah sont les prénoms les plus populaires de 2008*, Press release, 24 November 2009, at [http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/BRO09725-F\\_tcm326-81232.pdf](http://statbel.fgov.be/fr/binaries/BRO09725-F_tcm326-81232.pdf).



**Current distribution of seats in the parliament of Flanders**  
(Following regional elections in 2009)

Party	MPs
<i>Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams</i> (Christian-Democratic and Flemish)	31
<i>Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten</i> (Open Flemish Liberal and Democrats)	21
<i>Vlaams Belang</i> (Flemish Interest; right-wing, pro-independence)	21
<i>Socialistische Partij Anders</i> (Socialist Party Differently)	19
<i>Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie</i> (New Flemish Alliance; nationalist, pro-independence)	16
<i>Lijst Dedecker</i> (Dedecker List; libertarian, conservative)	8
<i>Groen!</i> (Green party)	7
<i>Union des Francophones</i> (Union of Francophones; nationalist)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>

The **Walloon Region Parliament** (Pictured, on the right) has 75 MPs, including a representative from the German-speaking Community. The parliament's seat is Namur, which is the administrative capital of Wallonia, and the current parliament's president is Emily Hoyos from Ecolo, the Francophone Green party. The 74 French-speaking members have the right to vote in the parliament of the French Community as well, together with the Francophone MPs elected from the Region of Brussels-Capital.



**Current distribution of seats in the Parliament of Wallonia**  
(Following regional elections in 2009)

Party	MPs
<i>Parti Socialiste</i> (Socialist Party)	29
<i>Mouvement Réformateur</i> (Reformist Movement; liberal)	19
<i>Ecolo</i> (Green party)	14
<i>Centre démocrate humaniste</i> (Humanist Democratic Centre; Christian-Democratic)	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>

The **Parliament of the Region Brussels-Capital** comprises 72 representatives of the French-speaking residents of Brussels, and 17 of the Dutch-speaking residents. The current parliament's president is Eric Tomas from the Socialist Party.

**Current distribution of seats in the Brussels Regional Parliament**  
(Following regional elections in 2009)

<b>Party</b>	<b>MPs</b>
<i>Mouvement Réformateur</i> (Reformist Movement; liberal)	24
<i>Parti Socialiste</i> (Socialist Party)	21
<i>Ecolo</i> (Green party)	16
<i>Centre démocrate humaniste</i> (Humanist Democratic Centre; Christian-Democratic)	11
<b>Total for the French Language Group</b>	<b>72</b>
<i>Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten</i> (Open Flemish Liberal and Democrats)	4
<i>Socialistische Partij Anders</i> (Socialist Party Differently)	4
<i>Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams</i> (Christian-Democratic and Flemish)	3
<i>Vlaams Belang</i> (Flemish Interest; right-wing, pro-independence)	3
<i>Groen!</i> (Green party)	2
<i>Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie</i> (New Flemish Alliance; nationalist, pro-independence)	1
<b>Total for the Dutch Language Group</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Total for Brussels-Capital</b>	<b>89</b>

#### 4.5 The French and the German-speaking Communities and their parliaments

The French Community represents some 4.2 million French-speakers living in Wallonia and in Brussels-Capital. Its government is elected by the coalition in power following regional elections in Wallonia, with at least one member from the Region of Brussels-Capital. The current government is composed of seven ministers and headed by the Socialist Rudy Demotte, who is also the Minister-President of Wallonia.

The parliament of the French Community (Pictured, on the right) has 93 members. Its members are not directly elected, but are comprised of the 74 French-speaking MPs and the 1 German-speaker of the Parliament of Wallonia and 19 French-speakers elected from among the Francophone deputies of the parliament of Brussels-Capital.



**Current distribution of seats in the  
Parliament of the French Community**  
(Following regional elections in 2009)

Party	MPs
<i>Parti Socialiste</i> (Socialist Party)	41
<i>Mouvement Réformateur</i> (Reformist Movement; liberal)	26
<i>Centre démocrate humaniste</i> (Humanist Democratic Centre; Christian-Democratic)	17
<i>Ecolo</i> (Green party)	5
<i>Front National</i> (National Front; right-wing)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

The German-speaking Community is geographically situated at the eastern border of Belgium and has a population of around 73,000 people, who make up less than 1% of the total population. It deals with language, educational and cultural matters, while a German representative is included in the parliament of the Region of Wallonia and pursues German interests as regarding regional issues (such as transport, environmental policies, etc.).



There is an ongoing debate on the possibility for the German-speaking linguistic region to become a proper Region with all the related powers. The current Minister-President of the German-speaking Community, Karl-Heinz Lambertz from the Socialist party, is a prominent advocate of full “Regional” autonomy for the Germans of Belgium.

There are three ministers under him. Together they form the government of the German-speaking Community of Belgium. The current parliament has 25 members, who are directly elected by the population of the German linguistic region. The president of the parliament is Ludwig Siquet, a Socialist.

The administrative capital of the Community is Eupen, with a population of 18,000 inhabitants.

**Current distribution of seats in the  
Parliament of the German-Speaking Community**  
(Following regional elections in 2009)

Party	MPs
<i>Christlich-Soziale Partei</i> (Christian Social Party)	7
<i>Sozialistische Partei</i> (Socialist Party)	5
<i>Partei für Freiheit und Fortschritt</i> (Party for Freedom and Progress; liberal)	4
<i>ProDG</i> (Pro German-speaking Community; demands a Region for the Germans)	4
<i>Ecolo</i> (mainly Francophone Green party)	3
<i>Vivant</i> (liberal)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

## 5. Management of the EU Presidency



For a highly federalised country like Belgium, it is particularly challenging to reach consensus on the common positions required to play its role at the EU level, and to hold the Presidency of the EU. (Pictured: Spain passes the torch of the Presidency to Belgium, 2 July 2010. © Belgian Presidency of the EU.)

In 1994, a Cooperation Agreement<sup>49</sup> was concluded that regulates how Belgium is represented at the Council of the European Union and how positions are agreed upon between the federal government, the three economic Regions and the four linguistic

Communities. Prior to each Council meeting, the Directorate for European Affairs of the federal ministry of foreign affairs (Federal Public Service for Foreign Affairs) organizes meetings with all relevant actors to ensure that Belgium has a common view on all the issues that will be discussed. If no agreement is reached, then the issue can be taken to a higher political level.<sup>50</sup>

The preparations for the Presidency in the second half of 2010 began in 2009, as Belgium was part of the Presidency trio of Spain, Belgium and Hungary. Olivier Chastel, Secretary of State for European Affairs, said it took the representatives of Belgian institutions more than 100 hours of meetings to agree on the trio's programme even before it was discussed with Belgium's partners Spain and Hungary.<sup>51</sup>

To see eye to eye on the details of Belgium's stint at the helm of the EU was an even greater challenge for Belgium, Chastel said.

*"It took dozens of hours of meetings, topic by topic, to come to an arrangement, reach a decision... Everything matters: nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. The joint financing by the federal level and the federated entities was debated for a long time. The goal was that everyone contributes to the organisation [of the Presidency] according to their demands [for involvement in running the Presidency]. [...] We no longer prepare an EU Presidency like in 2001 [date of the previous Belgian EU Presidency]. We have moved from 15 to 27 member states, and the federated entities have become so important that they want their piece of the cake in every respect, including in the programming, which does not simplify things."*<sup>52</sup>

<sup>49</sup> Accord de coopération entre l'Etat fédéral, les Communautés et les Régions, relatif à la représentation du Royaume de Belgique au sein du Conseil de Ministres de l'Union européenne, 8 mars 1994, modifié par l'accord de coopération du 13 février 2003 (M.B. 25.02.2003), at [http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/accords\\_de\\_cooperation/representationUE.htm](http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/accords_de_cooperation/representationUE.htm).

<sup>50</sup> In the case of a persistent disagreement during a coordination meeting, the Directorate for European Affairs has to turn, within three days, to the Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Conference for Foreign Affairs (CIPE). Established in compliance with the [Ordinary Law of 9 August 1980](#), CIPE comprises representatives from each administrative level. Once Belgium's final position is adopted through consensus, the Directorate transmits new instructions to Belgium's Permanent Representation to the EU and the Federal, Community and Regional ministers concerned.

During any session at the Council, excluding informal meetings, the Belgian representative cannot take any position that has not been previously agreed according to the described mechanism. However, in exceptional cases, he or she can take an "ad referendum" position that might reflect the general interest. The final Belgian position has then to be notified to the Presidency within three days.

<sup>51</sup> La Libre Belgique, "Chastel: 'Notre présidence commence le 1er janvier'", 18 December 2009, <http://www.lalibre.be/economie/actualite/article/550201/chastel-notre-presidence-commence-le-1er-janvier.html>.

<sup>52</sup> La Libre Belgique, "Chastel: 'Notre présidence commence le 1er janvier'", 18 December 2009, <http://www.lalibre.be/economie/actualite/article/550201/chastel-notre-presidence-commence-le-1er-janvier.html>.

Under the Cooperation Agreement, the issue of representation in the Council has been resolved by categorising the policy areas discussed by the various Council formations in accordance with the distribution of competencies within Belgium. The result was six categories (see table further below). The second step was to agree on a rotational system for all the categories with shared competencies so that each of the Regions and linguistic Communities would have an opportunity to represent Belgium in the Council.

For example, at the Council on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs on 8 March 2010, Belgium was represented by Joëlle Milquet, Federal Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities, and Phillippe Coulard, Wallonia's Minister for International Affairs and the Civil Service.<sup>53</sup> At the Council on Education, Youth and Culture on 10 and 11 May 2010, Belgium was represented by three Ministers: Fadila Laanan, Minister for Culture and the Audiovisual Sector, French Community; Pascal Smet, Flanders' Minister for Education, Youth, Equal Opportunities and Brussels Affairs, and Philippe Muyters, Flanders' Minister for Finance, Budget, Work, Town and Country Planning and Sports.<sup>54</sup> (Pictured: Informal meeting of the Ministers of Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO), 5 July 2010. © Belgian Presidency of the EU.)



During its Presidency of the EU, Belgium has two seats at the Council meetings, one as the Council President and the other as the EU member state Belgium, which multiplies the opportunities for the different levels of government to be present. The following table shows who will represent Belgium at which Councils.

#### Belgium's representation in the Council during Belgium's EU Presidency in 2010<sup>55</sup>

	EU President	Speaking on behalf of Belgium as a EU member state
<b>Category I (exclusive competences of the Federal Government)</b>		
General Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Economic and Financial Affairs, Justice and Home Affairs, Telecommunications and Consumer Affairs)	Federal Government	Federal Government
<b>Category II (issues that are mainly, but not exclusively, competences of the Federal Government)</b>		
Internal Market	Federal Government	Wallonia
Health	Federal Government	French-speaking Community
Energy	Federal Government	Flanders or Flemish Community
Employment – Social Affairs	Federal Government	Flanders or Flemish Community
Transport	Federal Government	Region Brussels- Capital

<sup>53</sup> Council conclusions, Council on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, Brussels, 8 March 2010, at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st07/st07033.en10.pdf>.

<sup>54</sup> Council Conclusions, Council on Education, Youth and Culture, Brussels, 10 and 11 May 2010, at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/10/st09/st09456.en10.pdf>.

<sup>55</sup> Website of the Belgian Presidency, Flanders, Flanders in Europe, Cooperation Agreement, at [http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/source1856/documents/Cooperation\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/source1856/documents/Cooperation_agreement.pdf).



<b>Category III (issues that are mainly, but not exclusively, competences of the Regions)</b>		
Industry	Wallonia	Federal Government
Research	Region Brussels-Capital	Federal Government
Environment	Flanders	Federal Government
<b>Category IV (exclusive competences of the federated entities)</b>		
Culture-Audiovisual	French Community	Flanders
Education	Flanders	Flemish Community
Youth, including Sport	Flanders	German-speaking Community
Tourism	German-speaking Community	Wallonia
Town and Country Planning/Housing	Wallonia	Region Brussels-Capital
<b>Category V (exclusive competence of one single Region or Community)</b>		
Fisheries	Minister of the Flemish Government dealing with fisheries	Flanders
<b>Category VI (issues that are mainly, but not exclusively, competences of the Federal Government; no rotation)</b>		
Agriculture	Federal minister for agriculture	Regional ministers for agriculture (for CSA topics <sup>56</sup> ); Federal Government (Coreper topics <sup>57</sup> )

The programme of the Presidency is available at  
[http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eutrio.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme_EN.pdf).

## 6. Permanent Representations and Missions to the European Union

### 6.1 Permanent Representations of EU member states to the European Union

The following is a list of contact details for the Permanent Representations of the EU Member States, including the names and email addresses of the officials that are members of the main Council working parties dealing with enlargement (the candidate countries Croatia, Iceland, Macedonia, Turkey) and with the Western Balkans region (the potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia).

#### Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU

Avenue de Cortenbergh 30

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 234 5100

Mail: [bruessel-ov@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:bruessel-ov@bmeia.gv.at)

[www.bmeia.gv.at/oesterreichische-vertretung/oev-bruessel.html](http://www.bmeia.gv.at/oesterreichische-vertretung/oev-bruessel.html)

In charge of Western Balkans: Lucia Kronsteiner ([lucia.kronsteiner@bmeia.gv.at](mailto:lucia.kronsteiner@bmeia.gv.at))

<sup>56</sup> CSA stands for Special Committee on Agriculture, which is made up of senior agricultural experts from the EU member states. It replaces Coreper (see next footnote) when technical issues to be discussed at an Agriculture Council are being prepared.

<sup>57</sup> Coreper stands for Committee of the Permanent Representatives to the EU at the ambassadorial and deputy ambassadorial levels, which prepare Council meetings.

### **Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU**

Rue de la Loi 61-63

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 233 2111

Mail: [dispatch.belgoeurop@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:dispatch.belgoeurop@diplobel.fed.be)

[www.diplomatie.be/belgoeuropfr/default.asp](http://www.diplomatie.be/belgoeuropfr/default.asp)

In charge of Western Balkans: Michel Versailles ([Michel.versailles@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:Michel.versailles@diplobel.fed.be))

In charge of Enlargement: Stijn Mols ([Stijn.mols@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:Stijn.mols@diplobel.fed.be))

### **Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU**

Square Marie-Louise 49

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 235 8300

Mail: [info@bg-permrep.eu](mailto:info@bg-permrep.eu)

[www.bg-permrep.eu](http://www.bg-permrep.eu)

In charge of Western Balkans: Dimo Karadimov ([Dimo.Karadimov@bg-permrep.eu](mailto:Dimo.Karadimov@bg-permrep.eu))

In charge of Enlargement: Ralitza Yotova ([Ralitza.Yotova@bg-permrep.eu](mailto:Ralitza.Yotova@bg-permrep.eu))

### **Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 61

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 739 5111

Mail: [cy.perm.rep@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:cy.perm.rep@mfa.gov.cy)

In charge of Western Balkans: Paraskevi Neophytou ([pneophytou@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:pneophytou@mfa.gov.cy))

In charge of Enlargement: Andreas Photiou ([aphotiou@mfa.gov.cy](mailto:aphotiou@mfa.gov.cy))

### **Permanent Representation of Czech Republic to the EU**

Rue Caroly 15

1050 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 213 9111

Mail: [eu.brussels@embassy.mzv.cz](mailto:eu.brussels@embassy.mzv.cz)

[www.czechrep.be](http://www.czechrep.be)

In charge of Western Balkans: Kamila Xenie Vetiskova ([kamila-xenie\\_vetiskova@mzv.cz](mailto:kamila-xenie_vetiskova@mzv.cz))

In charge of Enlargement: Tomas Vyprachticky ([tomas\\_vyprachticky@mzv.cz](mailto:tomas_vyprachticky@mzv.cz))

### **Permanent Representation of Denmark to the EU**

Rue d'Arlon 73

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 233 0811

Mail: [brurep@um.dk](mailto:brurep@um.dk)

[www.eurepraesentationen.um.dk](http://www.eurepraesentationen.um.dk)

In charge of Western Balkans: Kenneth Lindharth Madsen ([kenmad@um.dk](mailto:kenmad@um.dk))

### **Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU**

Rue Guimard 11-13

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 227 3910

Mail: [permrep.eu@mfa.ee](mailto:permrep.eu@mfa.ee)

[www.eu.estemb.be/eng](http://www.eu.estemb.be/eng)

In charge of Western Balkans: Karin Maandi ([Karin.Maandi@mfa.ee](mailto:Karin.Maandi@mfa.ee))

In charge of Enlargement: Julika Luts ([julika.luts@mfa.ee](mailto:julika.luts@mfa.ee))

**Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU**

Rue de Treves 100

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 287 8411

Mail: [sanomat.eue@formin.fi](mailto:sanomat.eue@formin.fi)

[www.finland.eu](http://www.finland.eu)

In charge of Western Balkans: Krista Napola ([krista.napola@formin.fi](mailto:krista.napola@formin.fi))

In charge of Enlargement: Miia Lahti ([miia.lahti@formin.fi](mailto:miia.lahti@formin.fi))

**Permanent Representation of France to the EU**

Place de Louvain 14

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 229 8211

Mail: [courrier.bruxelles-dfra@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:courrier.bruxelles-dfra@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

[www.rpfrance.eu/spip.php?rubrique=2](http://www.rpfrance.eu/spip.php?rubrique=2)

In charge of Western Balkans: Natasha Butler ([natasha.butler@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:natasha.butler@diplomatie.gouv.fr))

In charge of Enlargement: Mathilde Grammont ([mathilde.grammont@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:mathilde.grammont@diplomatie.gouv.fr))

**Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU**

Rue Jacques de Lalaing 8-14

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 787 1000

Mail: [info@eu-vertretung.de](mailto:info@eu-vertretung.de)

[www.eu-vertretung.de](http://www.eu-vertretung.de)

In charge of Western Balkans: Alexander Jung ([alexander.jung@diplo.de](mailto:alexander.jung@diplo.de))

In charge of Enlargement: Tobias Tunkel ([tobias.tunkel@diplo.de](mailto:tobias.tunkel@diplo.de))

**Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU**

Rue Jacques de Lalaing 19-21

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 551 5611

Mail: [mea.bruxelles@rp-grece.be](mailto:mea.bruxelles@rp-grece.be)

In charge of Western Balkans: Evangelos Sekeris ([e.sekeris@rp-grece.be](mailto:e.sekeris@rp-grece.be))

In charge of Enlargement: Gaspar Vlahakis ([g.vlahakis@rp-grece.be](mailto:g.vlahakis@rp-grece.be))

**Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU**

Rue de Trèves 92-98

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 234 1200

Mail: [sec.beu@kum.hu](mailto:sec.beu@kum.hu)

[www.hunrep.be/indexEN.htm](http://www.hunrep.be/indexEN.htm)

In charge of Western Balkans: Istvan Szabo ([istvan.szabo@kum.hu](mailto:istvan.szabo@kum.hu))

In charge of Enlargement: László Dux ([laszlo.dux@kum.hu](mailto:laszlo.dux@kum.hu))

**Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU**

Rue Froissart

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 230 8580

Mail: [irlprb@dfa.ie](mailto:irlprb@dfa.ie)

[www.irelandrepbrussels.be](http://www.irelandrepbrussels.be)

In charge of Western Balkans: Nigel Hutson ([nigel.hutson@dfa.ie](mailto:nigel.hutson@dfa.ie))

In charge of Enlargement: Joana Betson ([joana.betson@dfa.ie](mailto:joana.betson@dfa.ie))

**Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU**

Rue du Marteau 7-15

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 220 0411

Mail: [rpue@rpue.esteri.it](mailto:rpue@rpue.esteri.it)

[www.italiaue.esteri.it](http://www.italiaue.esteri.it)

In charge of Western Balkans: Maurizio Greganti ([balcani@rpue.esteri.it](mailto:balcani@rpue.esteri.it))

In charge of Enlargement: Alberto Petrangeli ([allarg@rpue.esteri.it](mailto:allarg@rpue.esteri.it))

**Permanent Representation of Latvia to the EU**

Avenue des Arts 23

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 238 3100

Mail: [permrep.eu@mfa.gov.lv](mailto:permrep.eu@mfa.gov.lv)

[www.mfa.gov.lv/brussels](http://www.mfa.gov.lv/brussels)

In charge of Western Balkans and of Enlargement: Dace Dobraja ([dace.dobraja@mfa.gov.lv](mailto:dace.dobraja@mfa.gov.lv))

**Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU**

Rue Belliard 41-43

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 771 0140

Mail: [office@eurep.mfa.lt](mailto:office@eurep.mfa.lt)

[www.eurep.mfa.lt](http://www.eurep.mfa.lt)

In charge of Western Balkans and of Enlargement: Robertas Bruzilas

([roberta.bruzilas@eurep.mfa.lt](mailto:roberta.bruzilas@eurep.mfa.lt))

**Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 75

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 737 5600

In charge of Western Balkans and of Enlargement: Patricia Pommerel

([patricia.pommerell@mae.etat.lu](mailto:patricia.pommerell@mae.etat.lu))

**Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU**

Rue Archimède 25

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 343 0195

Mail: [maltarep@gov.mt](mailto:maltarep@gov.mt)

**Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the EU**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 4-10

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 679 1511

Mail: [bre-wo@minbuza.nl](mailto:bre-wo@minbuza.nl)

[www.eu-nederland.be](http://www.eu-nederland.be)

In charge of Western Balkans: Sladjana Cemerikic ([sladjana.cemerikic@minbuza.nl](mailto:sladjana.cemerikic@minbuza.nl))

In charge of Enlargement: Joost Flamand ([ja.flamand@minbuza.nl](mailto:ja.flamand@minbuza.nl))

**Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU**

Avenue de Tervuren 282-284

1150 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 777 7220

Mail: [bebrustpe@msz.gov.pl](mailto:bebrustpe@msz.gov.pl)

[www.brukselaeu.polemb.net](http://www.brukselaeu.polemb.net)

In charge of Western Balkans: Karolina Nowak ([karolina.nowak@polrepeu.be](mailto:karolina.nowak@polrepeu.be))

In charge of Enlargement: Monika Walczak ([monika.walczak@msz.gov.pl](mailto:monika.walczak@msz.gov.pl))

**Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 12

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 286 4211

Mail: [reper@reper-portugal.be](mailto:reper@reper-portugal.be)

[www.reper-portugal.be](http://www.reper-portugal.be)

In charge of Western Balkans: Alexandra Bilreiro ([amb@reper-portugal.be](mailto:amb@reper-portugal.be))

In charge of Enlargement: Joana Araujo ([ja@reper-portugal.be](mailto:ja@reper-portugal.be))

**Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU**

Rue Montoyer 12

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 700 0640

Mail: [bru@rpro.eu](mailto:bru@rpro.eu)

[www.ue.mae.ro](http://www.ue.mae.ro)

In charge of Western Balkans: Mihaela Vasiu ([mihaela.vasiu@rpro.eu](mailto:mihaela.vasiu@rpro.eu))

**Permanent Representation of Slovakia to the EU**

Avenue de Cortenbergh 79

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 743 6811

Mail: [eu.brussels@mzv.sk](mailto:eu.brussels@mzv.sk)

[www.mzv.sk/App/WCM/ZU/BruselEU/main.nsf/vw\\_ByID/index\\_EN](http://www.mzv.sk/App/WCM/ZU/BruselEU/main.nsf/vw_ByID/index_EN)

In charge of Western Balkans: Lubomir Batary ([lubomir.batary@mzv.sk](mailto:lubomir.batary@mzv.sk))

In charge of Enlargement: Marek Brencic ([marek.brencic@mzv.sk](mailto:marek.brencic@mzv.sk))

**Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU**

Rue du Commerce 44

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 213 6300

Mail: [spbr@gov.si](mailto:spbr@gov.si)

<http://bruselj.predstavnistvo.si/index.php?id=14&L>

In charge of Western Balkans: Peter Golob ([peter.golob@gov.si](mailto:peter.golob@gov.si))

In charge of Enlargement: Tamara Weingerl Pozar ([tamara.weingerl-pozar@gov.si](mailto:tamara.weingerl-pozar@gov.si))

**Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU**

Boulevard du Régent 52

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 509 8611

[www.es-ue.org](http://www.es-ue.org)

In charge of Western Balkans: Belen Yuste Rojas ([belen.yuste@reper.maec.es](mailto:belen.yuste@reper.maec.es))

In charge of Enlargement: Juan Antonio Martín Burgos ([juan-antonio.martin@reper.maec.es](mailto:juan-antonio.martin@reper.maec.es))

**Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU**

Square de Meeûs 30

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 289 5611

Mail: [representationen.bryssel@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:representationen.bryssel@foreign.ministry.se)

[www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2254](http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2254)

In charge of Western Balkans: Anna Craenen ([anna.craenen@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:anna.craenen@foreign.ministry.se))

In charge of Enlargement: Petra Larke ([petra.larke@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:petra.larke@foreign.ministry.se))



**Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom to the EU**

Avenue d'Auderghem 10

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 287 8211

Mail: [ukrep@fco.gov.uk](mailto:ukrep@fco.gov.uk)

<http://ukeu.fco.gov.uk>

In charge of Western Balkans: James Eke ([james.eke@fco.gov.uk](mailto:james.eke@fco.gov.uk))

In charge of Enlargement: Anna Bradbury ([anna.bradbury@fco.gov.uk](mailto:anna.bradbury@fco.gov.uk))

*6.2 Missions to the European Union of the Western Balkans countries and Turkey*

A list with the contact details of the Mission to the European Union of the Balkans countries and Turkey follows.

**Mission of Albania to the EU**

Rue Tenbosch 30

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 644 3329

Mail: [ambassade.bruxelles@mfa.gov.al](mailto:ambassade.bruxelles@mfa.gov.al)

**Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the EU**

Rue de l'Industrie 22

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 644 2008

Mail: [bh-mission-07@skynet.be](mailto:bh-mission-07@skynet.be)

[http://www.mfa.ba/ambasade\\_konzulati\\_misije/ambasade\\_konzulati\\_i\\_stalne\\_misije\\_bih/Default.aspx?template\\_id=16&s3=1024&id=6642](http://www.mfa.ba/ambasade_konzulati_misije/ambasade_konzulati_i_stalne_misije_bih/Default.aspx?template_id=16&s3=1024&id=6642)

**Mission of Croatia to the EU**

Avenue des Arts 50

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 507 5411

Mail: [cromiss.eu@mvpel.hr](mailto:cromiss.eu@mvpel.hr)

<http://eu.mfa.hr/?mv=297&mh=31>

**Mission of Iceland to the EU and Embassy to Belgium, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Morocco**

Rond-Point Schuman 11

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 238 5000

Mail: [emb.brussels@mfa.is](mailto:emb.brussels@mfa.is)

<http://www.iceland.org/be/the-embassy/mission-to-the-eu/>

**Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Belgium**

Rond-Point Schuman 6, box 5

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 234 7788

Mail: [embassy.belgium@ks-gov.net](mailto:embassy.belgium@ks-gov.net)

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the EU**

Rue de la Loi 38

1040 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 235 0350

Mail: [mission.eu@mfa.gov.mk](mailto:mission.eu@mfa.gov.mk)

**Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the EU**

Rue Marie Thérèse 34

1210 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 223 5561

Mail: [eu@mfa.gov.me](mailto:eu@mfa.gov.me)

<http://www.mip.gov.me/en/index.php/Missions-to-International-Organizations/european-union.html>

**Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the EU**

Avenue Emile Demot 19

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 649 8242

Mail: [mission.serbia.eu@mfa.rs](mailto:mission.serbia.eu@mfa.rs)

**Delegation of Turkey to the European Communities**

Rue de Montoyer 4

1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 (2) 289 6240

Mail: [info@turkdeleg.org](mailto:info@turkdeleg.org)

## B. MEDIA

### 1. Belgian print media

The print media scene in Belgium has two main features. One is the linguistic division into the three official languages of the country: French, the main language of some 40% of the population; Dutch, the primary language of around 60%; and German, the language of preference of around 1% of the population. Second, for a country of almost 11 million people, the print media is also surprisingly parochial. European and foreign news, sometimes even national news, play a subordinate role.

Papers focus on regional and local news. Jean-Michel de Waele, a professor of political sciences at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, described the situation in a recent interview:



*“The Belgian press is poor, it has little means, and it is also very local. For an expat to read the Belgian press won’t provide him with much information about the main trends in Belgium. It is also no coincidence that a large part of the [Belgian] intellectuals read international papers in Belgium. At my university, Le Monde is read a lot. The Belgian press is very communal. If you want to know what is happening in the street of your neighbour, yes, then read the Belgian press.”<sup>58</sup>*

There are 23 daily newspapers, but some present only slightly modified local editions of the same paper; if these are disregarded, there are 15 daily newspapers.<sup>59</sup> Only a few newspapers have a circulation of above 100,000, and almost all of them are focusing on domestic news, especially regional and local news. As a general trend, tabloids and tabloid-like papers are more popular in Belgium than quality papers. Most dailies have been moving into this direction regarding content and design. The most popular newspaper is *Metro*, a paper distributed for free in two separate versions, Dutch and French, during working days in metro and railway stations, at universities and in some companies. The publisher claims that it reaches almost 3 million readers.<sup>60</sup> The quality newspapers that take pride in covering European and international events all have circulations lower than 100,000 (however, their readership is probably 3–4 times the number since one newspaper is usually read by several people).



There are only a few weekly or monthly magazines with international reporting. The main Francophone weekly, *Le Vif/L'Express*, was launched in collaboration with the French *L'Express*, which supplies the majority of the articles concerning European and international affairs. Its circulation is 90,000, according to the publisher. The equivalent of *Le Vif* on the Flemish side is *Knack*, owned by the same media group “Roularta”.

The national press agency *Belga* has two parallel editorial desks, one in French and one in Dutch. It does not cover foreign news apart from limited international events taking place in Belgium. Instead *Belga* has cooperation agreements with other European news agencies, such as AFP, which provide the foreign coverage. *Belga* has neither offices nor correspondents abroad.

#### 1.1 The dailies

Belgian newspapers that put an emphasis on European and international news reporting – the Flemish *De Standaard* and the Francophone *Le Soir* and *La Libre Belgique* – have generally fewer readers than papers of a more regional and local character. Higher-circulation dailies such as the

<sup>58</sup> Euractiv, *Analyse : les meilleurs hommes politiques belges travaillent pour l'UE*, 12 June 2010, at <http://www.euractiv.com/fr/avenir-europe/analyse-les-meilleurs-hommes-politiques-belges-travaillent-pour-lue-interview-495072>.

<sup>59</sup> European Journalism Centre, *The Media Landscape in Belgium*, at [http://www.ejc.net/media\\_landscapes/article/belgium/](http://www.ejc.net/media_landscapes/article/belgium/).

<sup>60</sup> Metro website, *A propos de Metro*, at [http://www.metrotime.be/about\\_fr.html](http://www.metrotime.be/about_fr.html).

Flemish *Het Laatste Nieuws* (liberal) and *Het Nieuwsblad* and their local editions in Antwerp and Gent, respectively, focus on domestic affairs, and so do the newspapers of the *Sud Presse* Group on the Francophone side: their papers are distributed in the main cities of the Walloon Region, and they mainly deal with local news.

***Circulation of Belgian dailies in 2009<sup>61</sup>***

<b><i>Dailies</i></b>		
	Het Laatste Nieuws /De Nieuwe Gazet ("The Latest News" and "The New Gazette", its Antwerp edition)	287,162
	Het Nieuwsblad / De Gentenaar ("The News paper" and "The Ghentener", its Ghent edition)	263,063
	La Meuse/La Nouvelle Gazette/La Province/ Nord Eclair/La Capitale (Sud Presse) ("The Meuse", "The New Gazette", "The Province", "Northern Flash", "The Capital" – one newspaper with different local editions)	120,447
	Gazet Van Antwerpen ("Antwerp Gazette")	103,149
	Het Belang Van Linburg ("The Linburg Interest")	99,443
	Groupe Vers L'Avenir ("Group Towards the Future")	96,166
	De Standaard ("The Standard")	93,033
	Le Soir ("The Evening")	83,050
	La Libre Belgique ("Free Belgium")	43,915

► ***De Standaard*** ("The Standard") is a Dutch-language broadsheet founded in 1918 as a conservative paper upholding Catholic values. It has a circulation of 93,000 copies. Though *De Standaard* was closely connected with the Flemish Christian Democratic Party, today it is attempting to be politically more neutral. It is considered the main quality newspaper in Flanders. [www.standaard.be](http://www.standaard.be)

## De Standaard



The head of the foreign desk is Bart Beirland, and he is also the journalist dealing with the Western Balkans ([bart.beirland@standaard.be](mailto:bart.beirland@standaard.be)). In 2008, just before Kosovo declared its independence, he personally wrote a blog on Kosovo (<http://standaard.typepad.com/kosovo>). Evita Neefs ([evita.neefs@standaard.be](mailto:evita.neefs@standaard.be)) reports on EU events, while Annelien De Greef ([annelien.de.greef@standaard.be](mailto:annelien.de.greef@standaard.be)) covers European affairs for the economic

desk. In 2008 she was the Belgian winner of the European Commission's *European Young Journalist Award* for stories on enlargement. Her article told the stories of three people whose lives were changed by the EU.

Contact: De Standaard, Gossetlaan 28, 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden, T +32 (2) 467.2705, [hoofdredactie@standaard.be](mailto:hoofdredactie@standaard.be).

<sup>61</sup>

Source: CIM, Centre d'Information sur le Medias, [www.cim.be](http://www.cim.be).

► **De Morgen** is a smaller (54,000 copiers), left-leaning newspaper on the Flemish side of Belgium, modelled after the French newspaper *Liberation*. It was founded in 1978. Its modern design and website have won it several awards. The website displays all the articles of the cover page as well as a selection of other articles. [www.demorgen.be](http://www.demorgen.be)

# DeMorgen.be

Johan Corthouts ([johan.corthouts@demorgen.be](mailto:johan.corthouts@demorgen.be)) is a business editor also covering European affairs. The head of the foreign desk is Koen Vidal ([koen.vidal@demorgen.be](mailto:koen.vidal@demorgen.be)).  
Contact: *De Morgen*, Arduinkaai 29, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 556 6811, [info@demorgen.be](mailto:info@demorgen.be), [www.demorgen.be](http://www.demorgen.be).

► **Le Soir** is the most widely read Francophone quality newspaper in Belgium. It is progressive, interested in the social and political advancement of the society, and politically neutral. Distributed for the first time in 1887, it now has a circulation of 83,000 copies. [www.lesoir.be](http://www.lesoir.be).

# LE SOIR



Its main journalist covering European issues is Maroun Labaki ([maroun.labaki@lesoir.be](mailto:maroun.labaki@lesoir.be), in the picture on the left). He also writes about conditions in the Middle East. Pascal Martin ([pascal.martin@lesoir.be](mailto:pascal.martin@lesoir.be)) and Philippe Reigner ([philippe.reigner@lesoir.be](mailto:philippe.reigner@lesoir.be)) also follow enlargement and EU foreign policy.

Le Soir has opened a blog about the forthcoming Belgian Presidency of the EU, titled « L'Europe à l'heure Belge – Compte à rebours vers la Présidence Belge de l'Union Européenne » (“Europe at the Belgian hour - Countdown towards the Belgian Presidency of the EU”). A variety of articles can be found there, from explanations of EU institutions and previous Belgian Presidencies, to stories about current events and hot topics, to interviews with Belgian officials. [http://blogs.lesoir.be/1\\_europe\\_a\\_1\\_heure\\_belge](http://blogs.lesoir.be/1_europe_a_1_heure_belge).

Contact: *Le Soir*, Rue Royale 100, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 225 5432, [www.lesoir.be](http://www.lesoir.be).

► **La Libre Belgique** is another Francophone Belgian quality newspaper. It has a circulation of 44,000. Founded in 1884 as the pro-Catholic “Le Patriot”, it became “La Libre Belgique” in 1915 when it was secretly published during the German occupation of Belgium. It covers both international and domestic news. Close to Christian Democratic values, it is perceived as the Francophone counterpart of De Standaard. [www.lalibre.be](http://www.lalibre.be)



At *La Libre Belgique*, Christophe Lamfalussy (in the picture on the left) covers EU and foreign news. He has extensive Balkans experience since the 1990s. In April 2010, he came back from taking a one-year sabbatical and working as a spokesperson for EULEX in Kosovo. ([Christophe.Lamfalussy@LaLibre.be](mailto:Christophe.Lamfalussy@LaLibre.be)). Martin Buxant is an expert on Belgian domestic affairs ([Martin.Buxant@LaLibre.be](mailto:Martin.Buxant@LaLibre.be)). They both speak English.

Contact: *La Libre Belgique*, Rue de Francs 79, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 744 4444, [lalibre@saipm.com](mailto:lalibre@saipm.com), [www.lalibre.be](http://www.lalibre.be).





► The *Grenz-Echo* is the only German daily in Belgium. It was founded in 1927 as a Christian newspaper and banned in Germany in 1933 due to its opposition to the Nazis. Today it continues the Christian tradition, but attempts to be politically independent. There is a website (<http://www.grenzecho.be/DE/zeitung/default.asp>), and the publisher also owns a book publishing company and a print press. The Grenz-Echo tries to cover a wide range of topics, from local to regional to national and international news, sports, and culture, but its international coverage is very limited, consisting of a small number of short news items.

Contact: *GRENZ-ECHO*-Redaktion, Marktplatz 8, 4700 Eupen, T +32 (87) 59 13 22, F +32 (87) 55 34 57, [redaktion@grenzecho.be](mailto:redaktion@grenzecho.be)

► The two Belgian dailies focusing on economic and financial news are *L'Echo* for the French speakers and *De Tijd* ("The Time") for the Flemish. They belong to the same media group, Mediafin, a joint enterprise of Rossel group (Le Soir) and Persgroep (De Morgen). At L'Echo, Olivier Gosset is the journalist covering European and international affairs ([Olivier.gosset@echo.be](mailto:Olivier.gosset@echo.be)).



The journalists in charge of EU topics at De Tijd are Dirk De Wilde ([dirk.de.wilde@tijd.be](mailto:dirk.de.wilde@tijd.be)) and Kris Van Haver ([kris.van.haver@detijd.be](mailto:kris.van.haver@detijd.be)).

Contact: *L'Echo, De Tijd*, Tour&Taxis, Avenue du port 86c, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 423 1611, [info@echo.be](mailto:info@echo.be), [persberichten@tijd.be](mailto:persberichten@tijd.be), [www.lecho.be](http://www.lecho.be), [www.tijd.be](http://www.tijd.be).

## 1.2 Magazines



► *Le Vif/L'Express* is the main weekly newspaper for the Francophones. It was launched by Roularta Media in 1983 and today has a circulation of 97.605 copies (2008 data).<sup>62</sup> Since 1986, it has been published in cooperation with the French weekly L'Express. *Le Vif/L'Express* covers both national and international news. Christine Laurent ([christine.laurent@levif.be](mailto:christine.laurent@levif.be), in the picture below), the editor in chief, and Gerald Papy ([gerald.papy@levif.be](mailto:gerald.papy@levif.be)), her deputy, write editorials on the most important events for the country, including those at the European level.

As L'Express provides the Belgian weekly with foreign affairs stories, Le Vif does not have a foreign desk. However, its journalists do cover the EU for the extent of the events taking place in Brussels. Still, the main stories on enlargement are supplied by Belga Agency.



Contact: *Le Vif/L'Express*, Rue de la Fusée 50/6, 1130 Brussels, T +32 (2) 702 4701, [levif@levif.be](mailto:levif@levif.be), <http://levif.rnews.be/fr/news>.

Contact for the French *L'Express*: 29, rue de Châteaudun, 75009 Paris, T +33 (1) 7555 1000, [www.lexpress.fr](http://www.lexpress.fr). The "World" section is headed by Marc Epstein ([mepstein@lexpress.fr](mailto:mepstein@lexpress.fr)). Delphine Saubaber ([delphine.saubaber@lexpress.fr](mailto:delphine.saubaber@lexpress.fr)) reports about major foreign policy events, including the Balkans.

<sup>62</sup>

Website of Roularta Media, Editorial Formula Le Vif/L'Express, <http://www.roulartamedia.be/en/magazines/levif/default.asp>.



► The equivalent of *Le Vif* on the Flemish side is **Knack**. Founded in 1971, this weekly newspaper belongs to Roularta Media, like *Le Vif/L'Express*, but it covers EU and foreign affairs on its own. Its circulation in 2008 was 141.678 copies, according to the publisher.<sup>63</sup> Hubert van Humbeeck ([hubert.van.humbeeck@knack.be](mailto:hubert.van.humbeeck@knack.be)) is the relevant Senior Editorialist on foreign and European affairs.

Contact: *Knack*, Rue de la Fusée 50/2, 1130 Brussels, T +32 (2) 702 4651, [knack@knack.be](mailto:knack@knack.be), <http://knack.rnews.be>.



► **Trends/Trends-Tendances** is a business weekly which is published in Dutch and French by the Belgian Roularta Media giant. The circulation of the magazine is 56,025 (2008 data), according to Roularta.<sup>64</sup> Its main focus is on business and financial news, but the section “Economic politics” often carries well-researched foreign news. The editor-in-chief is Nathalie Van Ypersele, who also covers international topics ([nathalie.van.ypersele@tendances.be](mailto:nathalie.van.ypersele@tendances.be)). Since 2008, the director of the magazine has been Amid Falijsaoui ([amid.falijsaoui@tendances.be](mailto:amid.falijsaoui@tendances.be)), who was previously the editor-in-chief.

Contact: *Trends-Tendances*, Rue de la Fusée 50/9, 1130 Brussels, T +32 (2) 702 4880, [redaction@tendances.be](mailto:redaction@tendances.be), <http://trends.rnews.be>.



► **Mondiaal Nieuws** (MO\*) is a Flemish monthly which publishes articles and dossiers on all aspects of globalisation. It has a distribution of 120,000 copies (please include a footnote about the number). MO\* coverage includes the Balkans and Turkey. The website carries more stories than the magazine as a result of a cooperation agreement with the Flemish branch of [IPS-Inter Press Service](#), an internationally operating news agency focusing on globalisation, the developing world and civil society movements. The website is updated daily in Dutch, English, Spanish and French. Since 2006, MO\* has issued some occasional background dossiers aimed at explaining specific complex topics.

Kristof Clerix ([kristof.clerix@mo.be](mailto:kristof.clerix@mo.be)) is the journalist covering Eastern Europe for the magazine, while Tine Danckaers ([tine.danckaers@mo.be](mailto:tine.danckaers@mo.be)) is the Turkey specialist.

Contact: MO\* (\**Mondiaal Nieuws*), Rue de la Linière 11, 1060 St.Gillis, Brussels. T +32 (2) 536 1977, [www.mo.be](http://www.mo.be).

## 2. European media based in Brussels



Brussels is not only the Belgian capital, but also the unofficial capital of the European Union, as the three main institutions – the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament – are based there. As a result, a multitude of diplomatic representations, European-level trade associations, interest groups, consultancies and subcontractors of EU institutions have set up shop in Brussels.

Brussels hosts hundreds of correspondents from all over the world. The International Press Association, which represents foreign journalists working in Belgium, estimates that there are around 800 EU-accredited journalists in

<sup>63</sup> Website of Roularta Media, Editorial formula Knack, at <http://www.roulartamedia.be/en/magazines/knack/default.asp>.

<sup>64</sup> Website of Roularta Media, Editorial Formula Trends-Tendances, at <http://www.roulartamedia.be/en/magazines/trends/default.asp>.

2010.<sup>65</sup> Over the years, a number of media specialised in European Affairs have flourished in the Belgian capital. This section presents the main English-language media outlets focusing on EU affairs as well as the correspondents of Western Balkan and Turkish media. (Pictured above: the entrance of Residence Palace, housing the International Press Centre in Brussels.)

## 2.1 Print media

► **Agence Europe** is a private company covering EU affairs both in a printed bulletin and on-line, available only to subscribers in four languages: English, French, German and Italian. It was founded in 1953 to cover the early days of European integration. Originally based in Luxembourg where the first European institutions were created, it later moved to Brussels. The journalist covering enlargement is Helmuth Bruls ([hb@agenceurope.eu](mailto:hb@agenceurope.eu)). The Agency declares itself completely autonomous from any power bases.

Contact: Rue de la Gare 36, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 737 9494, mail [info@agenceurope.com](mailto:info@agenceurope.com), [www.agenceurope.eu](http://www.agenceurope.eu).



► **E! Sharp** offers in-depth analysis of European affairs, mostly written by external contributors including policymakers, academics, and economists. This magazine is published every other month and has many readers among the EU crowd in Brussels; it is also read in the main European capitals (how do we know this that it is so widely read in Brussels and also in European capitals?). One can find the occasional essay about enlargement, a Balkan country, and Turkey. Its founder and publisher is Paul

Adamson ([paul@esharp.eu](mailto:paul@esharp.eu)), also the director of “The Centre”, a Brussels-based consultancy on public policies. The editor in chief is Simon O’Connor ([simon@esharp.eu](mailto:simon@esharp.eu)).

Contact: Avenue Marnix 22, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 548 0267, [www.esharp.eu](http://www.esharp.eu).



► **Europe’s World** is an independent policy journal focusing on European affairs. It is published by the Brussels-based think-tank “Friends of Europe” (see p.67) in association with some 150 European think-tanks and academic institutions three times a year. Prominent decision-makers, analysts, and opinion-makers comment on and discuss issues at stake at the European level. On its website, Europe’s World also makes available to its readers a stream of studies and opinions from the think-tanks and institutes it has established partnerships with. It claims to have 120,000 readers across the world. The website, which is freely accessible, carries many articles on the Western Balkans, Turkey and EU enlargement in general.

The editor of Europe’s World is Giles Merritt, the founder and Secretary-General of “Friends of Europe” ([giles.merritt@friendsofeurope.org](mailto:giles.merritt@friendsofeurope.org)). He started his career in 1968 as a journalist and has covered European issues since 1978. Carl Bildt, the current Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs and former UN Special Representative for the Balkans, is one of the members of the Editorial Board.



Contact: Bibliothèque Solvay (Leopold’s Park), Rue Belliard 137, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 738 7592, [editorial@europesworld.org](mailto:editorial@europesworld.org), or [contributions@europesworld.org](mailto:contributions@europesworld.org) (for written contributions). [www.europesworld.org](http://www.europesworld.org).

► The **European Voice** is a weekly newspaper from the Economist’s Group, covering the activities of the EU institutions and other EU-related topics. While it supports the European project and hence reflects the view of most EU officials, it maintains a politically independent view of events. As

<sup>65</sup> Euractiv, *Brussels press corps ‘shrinking’, journalists say*, 19 March 2010, at <http://www.euractiv.com/en/pa/brussels-based-eu-media-shrinking-journalists-say-news-358212>.



EU officials and MEPs can subscribe to the European Voice free of charge, it has a wide reach and can exert “soft influence” on them. Those wishing to reach the EU establishment therefore like to place op-ed pieces in the European Voice. Tim King is the editor, while Simon Taylor the senior editor for the news.

Toby Vogel ([tobyvogel@economist.com](mailto:tobyvogel@economist.com), on the right) covers both enlargement and EU neighbourhood policy. He has spent several years in Balkans working for the International Rescue Committee in Sarajevo and UNDP in both Sarajevo and Pristina.



A subscription is needed to be able to read all the articles on the website of the European Voice, while registered users (registration is free) can read articles from the previous three months with the exception of the current issue. The website has a section on EU enlargement.

Contact: International Press Centre, Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 11, box 6, 1040 Brussels. T: +32 (2) 540 9090, mail: [info@europeanvoice.com](mailto:info@europeanvoice.com), [www.europeanvoice.com](http://www.europeanvoice.com).



► Since 1972 *Europolitics*, a European Affairs newspaper issued 5 times a week, keeps subscribers informed about EU-related news and trends, also offering analysis of EU policies. It is available both printed and electronically, in an English and a French version. On the website, whose content is mostly available to subscribers only, a section is dedicated to enlargement where many news items and interviews can be found. Joanna Sopinska ([joanna.boguslawska@europolitique.info](mailto:joanna.boguslawska@europolitique.info)) is the journalist in charge of enlargement, neighbouring countries, and Russia, while Pierre Lemoine is the editor-in-chief ([pierre.lemoine@europolitiques.info](mailto:pierre.lemoine@europolitiques.info)).

Contact: Rue d'Arlon 53, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 737 7709, [www.europolitics.info](http://www.europolitics.info).

► *Neweurope* is a Greek Brussels-based weekly, informing about current EU affairs including to a limited extent enlargement and EU neighbourhood countries. It is distributed, according to its own figures, to 66,000 people all over Europe, while the free electronic copy has 150,000 readers. The editor in chief is Alexandros Koronakis, [the.editor@neurope.eu](mailto:the.editor@neurope.eu). Contact: Avenue De Tervuren 96, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (2) 539 0039, [www.neurope.eu](http://www.neurope.eu).



► *The Parliament Magazine* focuses on issues of interest to the European Parliament, which means all EU-related topics. The website was launched in 2003, while the printed newspaper has been distributed since 1997. Free of charge and declared as politically independent, it is read by most MEPs, who receive it for free. It is a forum for them to interact with the public and other institutions, presenting policy proposals and debating the issues at stake in the parliament. An interesting section on EU enlargement is in the website (<http://www.theparliament.com/policy-focus/enlargement>). The Parliament Magazine also has a website with one of 11 featured policy sections dedicated to enlargement. It also offers various services by email, including a short daily press review of the European press and the daily agenda of the EU institutions. The editor is Francesca Ross ([francesca.ross@dods.eu](mailto:francesca.ross@dods.eu)), while the MEP Director is currently Catherine Stihler, a British member of the Socialist Group.

Contact: International Press Centre, Boulevard Charlemagne 1, 1041 Brussels, T +32 (2) 285 0828, mail: [newsdesk@dods.eu](mailto:newsdesk@dods.eu), [www.theparliament.com](http://www.theparliament.com)



## 2.2 Web media



► Launched in 2000, **EU Observer** is an online publication specialising in EU affairs. Apart from offering daily coverage of EU-related news events, its analysis and availability free of charge have allowed the EU Observer to become a widely read source of news related to the EU. It claims to reach 60,000 individuals every day.<sup>66</sup> Lisbeth Kirk, a Danish journalist with experience in reporting on EU affairs, founded it and is the current managing editor, while EU officials and relevant stakeholders frequently contribute op-eds. The website has a small section on enlargement. This topic is covered extensively by the “WAZ.euobserver”, a joint initiative of the EU Observer and the German WAZ Media Group focusing on Southeast Europe (see next section).



Contact: Rue Belliard 203, 1040 Brussels, T +32 (0)486 391 112, mail [euobs@euobserver.com](mailto:euobs@euobserver.com), <http://euobserver.com>.



► The **WAZ.euobserver** was launched in 2010 and is a joint initiative of the EU Observer and the WAZ Media Group, a leading German publishing house that owns a considerable number of media outlets in the Balkans. The website offers daily updates about development in Southeast Europe and related events in Brussels. It has a network of regional correspondents and journalists based in Brussels.

To contact them, send an email to EU Observer, [euobs@euobs.com](mailto:euobs@euobs.com). Website: <http://waz.euobserver.com>.



► **Euractiv**, another online publication, has been founded in 1999 by Christophe Leclercq, a former European Commission's official (in the picture on the right). It claims to have 590,000 single visitors per month (figures from October 2008) from across Europe.<sup>67</sup> Euractiv covers European affairs, with news and different sections covering the main EU policies, including one on enlargement. It also offers “dossiers” on EU relations with Western Balkans countries and Turkey, with basic facts, up-to-date information on the EU integration process and links to related Euractiv articles and relevant documents. Euractiv's main office is in London, while Brussels hosts a “network office”. Apart from the main website Euractiv.com in English, French and German, 10 national websites have been developed (in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Turkey). They carry articles translated from the main website, but also specific news from the respective country. Euractiv is financed by corporate sponsors, “EurActor members” (consultancies, associations, NGOs, political parties and groups that advertise and can place their own content and links), online advertising, and public funding.



Contact: International Press Centre, Boulevard Charlemagne 1, box 1, 1041 Brussels, T +32 (2) 226 5810. Email to: [www.euractiv.com/en/EmailToEditorn?type=Otherservice](http://www.euractiv.com/en/EmailToEditorn?type=Otherservice). [www.euractiv.com](http://www.euractiv.com).

<sup>66</sup> Website of the EU Observer, About us, at <http://euobserver.com/static/about>.

<sup>67</sup> Euractiv website, Cross-Lingual Network, at <http://www.euractiv.com/en/Fixed/about/crosslingual.htm>.



### 3. Brussels-based correspondents of Western Balkans and Turkish media

The following is a list of Brussels-based journalists working for Western Balkans and Turkish media, including their contact details.

#### Albania

**Arta Tozaj**

Top Channel TV

[atozaj@yahoo.com](mailto:atozaj@yahoo.com)

Mob. +32 497 290890

**Ernest Bunguri**

Alsat TV

[bunguri@scarlet.be](mailto:bunguri@scarlet.be)

[alsat.brukseli@gmail.com](mailto:alsat.brukseli@gmail.com)

Mob. +32 497 124920

Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Elvir Bucalo**

BH TV, South East Europe TV Exchanges

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Mob. +32 475 453994

**Didem Vardar**

TRT (Turkish State Television)

[didemvardar@yahoo.com](mailto:didemvardar@yahoo.com)**Feyzullah Yarimbaz**

Anadolu (Anatolia) News Agency

[fyarimbaz@aa.com.tr](mailto:fyarimbaz@aa.com.tr)**4. Belga News Agency**

Belga Agency was founded in 1920. In 1970, the editorial desks were divided into Flemish and French versions. Belga covers different types of information and serves different clients, from the media to public institutions and the private sector. Its news and pictures are also used abroad as a result of agreements with different international media agencies; for example, with European Pressphoto Agency. Most of their news concerns Belgian domestic affairs, with some minor coverage of European events taking place in Brussels. The only activity Belga does regarding international reporting is to translate for the local markets news from European agencies, such as AFP, Agence France Press. The agency's General Director is Egbert Hans, while the Francophone and Dutch-speaking news editors-in-chief are Frederic de Biolley ([fdb@belga.be](mailto:fdb@belga.be)) and Marc Hollanders ([phd@belga.be](mailto:phd@belga.be)). Belga does not have any offices abroad.

Contact: Rue Frédéric Pellettier 8b, 1030 Brussels, T +32 (2) 743 2311 – 1744, [redaction@belga.be](mailto:redaction@belga.be), [www.belga.be](http://www.belga.be).

**5. Broadcasters**

The Belgian radio and television scene reflects the internal division of Belgium in the French, Flemish, and German language communities. So there are separate broadcasting markets and separate regulations. A common feature is the high rate of cable use, which in Belgium is 94%: only the main public service TV stations (the French and the Flemish) are available terrestrially.

All commercial TV stations and the German minority's public TV broadcaster transmit only via cable, satellite and ADSL. In addition, a

considerable number of channels from neighbouring countries are available through the same channels, reaching the vast majority of Belgians.

The birth of the national public broadcaster dates back to 1930 when the National Institute for Radio Broadcasting was created. Already at that time, two separate radio programmes existed, one in French and one in Dutch, and a special desk followed developments in Congo, a colony of Belgium until 1960. Following the end of Second World War, the broadcaster started covering international news from all over the world, and in 1953, the first TV programme was launched in Belgium.

The official “Radio Télévision Belge” was created in 1960 with two separate programmes, a Flemish and a French. The director was appointed by the king. Following the delineation of the territories of the linguistic communities and the first wave of devolution in the country in 1970, the two language sections split, creating separate desks and other separate departments. They have kept sharing the same premises, based in the Brussels’ suburb of Schaerbeek, but even the entrances are separate. (In the picture above: the tower of the Belgian public broadcasters in Brussels). In 1977, the public broadcaster for the Germans was created with its headquarters in Eupen.

Nowadays, there are three public broadcasters: **RTBF** (Radio Télévision Belge de la Communauté Française) for the French Community; **VRT** (Vlaamse Radio en Televisieomroep - Flemish Radio and Television Network) for the Flemish Community, and **BRF** (Belgischer Rundfunk – Belgian Broadcaster), for the German Community (Pictured on the right).



Concerning private broadcasters, the two main players are **VMMa** for the Flemish (Vlaamse Media Maatschappij - Flemish Media Company) and the **RTL Group** (Radio Télévision Luxembourg) for the Francophones. The latter group is based in Luxembourg, but it is a broadcaster active across Europe (more than 40 TV channels and more than 30 radio stations in 11 countries), majority-owned by the German Bertelsmann group.

Although Brussels is the administrative capital of the European Union and there is a considerable number of people interested in EU affairs, the Belgian broadcasters provide little coverage of European and foreign affairs. Political debates and other relevant programmes tend to focus on national and local news, with the exception of the region of Central Africa where Belgium had its colonies, which is still covered more in-depth.

The interest in EU enlargement is limited. It is slightly higher for Turkey than for the Balkans as there is a well-integrated Turkish community in Belgium, numbering around 200,000 Turkish nationals and Turkish-origin Belgians.

### 5.1 The Francophone public broadcaster



The “**Radio Télévision Belge de la Communauté Française**” (RTBF) broadcasts from Brussels with local studios in Namur, Liege, Mons, Arlon, and Charleroi. It produces programming for four TV channels – la Une, la Deux, la Trois, and ARTE Belgique – and a number of radio channels. It also provides programmes for *TV 5 Monde*, a Francophone global TV network. RTBF is also a founding member of *Euronews*, a pan-European channel covering EU-related news.

**Jean Paul Philippot** has been the General Administrator of RTBF since 2002. Following many years in public healthcare management, he was asked in 2002 to reorganise RTBF, which had been operating at a loss for many years (the deficit in 2002 was 13 million €). His well-known “Magellan Plan” brought RTBF back on its feet. He restructured the broadcaster, changed the programming to attract more viewers and listeners, and prepared RTBF’s





digitalisation. Unions strongly criticised the 20% reduction in staff, but he carried it through. Today RTBF has 2,200 employees and a budget of 260 million €.

Thanks to Philippot's successful strategy, the government of the Belgian French Community renewed his mandate in 2008. In July of the same year, he was also elected President of the European Broadcasting Union, the confederation of Europe's public broadcasters.

At the management level, **Jacques Briquemont** (T +32 (2) 737 2609, [brj@rtbf.be](mailto:brj@rtbf.be)) is the head of International Relations Department, following many years of working for the Brussels office of the European Broadcasting Union.

Contact: RTBF, Boulevard Auguste Reyers 52, 1044 Brussels, T +32 (2) 737 4633/2111, [www.rtbf.be](http://www.rtbf.be).



► **La Une** ([www.la1.be](http://www.la1.be)) is the oldest TV channel in Belgium, created in 1953 as the first experimental TV in the country. At the time, the channel broadcast two hours per day, six days a week. The news programme was "Journal télévisé" from the France's RTF (*Radio Télévision France*). Following the establishment of "Radio Télévision Belge de la Communauté Française" (RTBF) in 1977, the channel changed its name a few times, finally to become simply "La Une" in 2005.

La Une is a popular channel trying to reach a broad audience, so it offers information, fun, and events for the Francophones.

**François Tron** was appointed TV director of La Une in 2008. A French national, he had spent almost his entire professional career working for French public radio and TV. He was director of programmes for *France 2* from 2001 to 2004 when he decided to set up his own production company "Label Medias". Tron is also professor at Sorbonne University in Paris.



The news programme of La Une is called "Journal" ([www.rtbf.be/info](http://www.rtbf.be/info)) and is broadcast daily at 13:00 and 19:30. It is presented by **Sébastien Nolleaux** (at 13:00) and **François De Brigode** (at 19:30) during the week, while on Saturdays and Sundays **Nathalie Maleux** takes over. There are other short information programmes during the day, such as "Matin Première" early in the morning and a programme called "Le tour d'Europe"

presenting the headlines of the European press. Paul Krugman, the American economist and Nobel Prize winner, has a personal section on the website called "Le chronique de Paul Krugman".

Maryse Jacob ([mja@rtbf.be](mailto:mja@rtbf.be), T +32 (2) 737 2397) is the editor-in-chief for European and international news at RTBF, both TV and radio. She also occasionally reports from Congo, the former Belgian colony. Other journalists dealing with foreign news include Isabelle Huysen [ihu@rtbf.be](mailto:ihu@rtbf.be), who reports on EU-related events (pictured on the right); Gerald Vandenberg [gvan@rtbf.be](mailto:gvan@rtbf.be) and Philippe Antoine [pha@rtbf.be](mailto:pha@rtbf.be).



► **La Deux** ([www.rtbf.be/ladeux](http://www.rtbf.be/ladeux)) is the second RTBF TV. It broadcasts children and youth programmes, sports events, TV series, and a few cultural programmes. The only news programme called "12 minutes" is shared with La Une. Info: [ladeux@rtbf.be](mailto:ladeux@rtbf.be).



► **La Trois** ([www.rtbf.be/latrois](http://www.rtbf.be/latrois)), also known as “RTBF Sat” used to be the satellite channel until February 2010. Due to the lack of funds, it is now available only through cable. Its shows the best programmes of La Une and La Deux. Contact: Jean-Frédéric Laignoux ([jfl@rtbf.be](mailto:jfl@rtbf.be)), +32 (2) 737 2525.



► **Arte Belgique** ([www.arte-belgique.be](http://www.arte-belgique.be)) has two main cultural shows for the Belgian Francophones. The channel also covers artistic events in the country, such as the “Queen Elisabeth competition” for young musicians. It is produced in cooperation with Arte France and Arte Deutschland. Contact: Carine Bratzlavsky ([cbr@rtbf.be](mailto:cbr@rtbf.be)), director of Arte Belgique. T +32 (2) 737 2524.



► **La Première** ([www.lapremiere.be](http://www.lapremiere.be)) is the main radio station of RTBF, broadcasting informative and cultural programs which deal with Belgian and international social, political, and economic affairs. Depending on the programme, different music styles are played. Since 2000, the director of La Première has been Jean-Pierre Hautier. He is known internationally since he has presented Belgium during the Eurovision Song contest for more than 15 years.

La Première broadcasts a news programme called “Le Journal” three times per day. An interesting weekly programme of one hour, broadcast on Saturdays, deals with news events more in-depth. It is called “Transversales” and presented by Jacqueline Liesse, who is also the editor-in-chief at La Première (T +32 (2) 737 2348, [jli@rtbf.be](mailto:jli@rtbf.be); in the picture on the right).



“Face à l’info” is a programme focusing on major news events at the national and the international levels. It is broadcast 4 times per week and presented by Eddy Caekelberghs ([eca@rtbf.be](mailto:eca@rtbf.be)). Hugues Van Peel ([hvp@rtbf.be](mailto:hvp@rtbf.be)), specialising in European Affairs, presents “La Semaine de L’Europe”, a weekly 15-minute programme devoted to EU-related events (in the picture on the left).

Contact: La Première, T +32 (2) 737 3614, [presseradio@rtbf.be](mailto:presseradio@rtbf.be).



► **VivaCité** ([www.vivacite.be](http://www.vivacite.be)) is the second RTBF radio channels. It is broadcast regionally in the main Francophone cities of Belgium and focuses on regional events, including regional sports events. The director is Eric Gilson, and Françoise Palange ([fpa@rtbf.be](mailto:fpa@rtbf.be), +32 (65) 327158) is the editor-in-chief.

Contact: VivaCité, Rue du Gouvernement 15, 7000 Mons, T +32 (65) 327101, [vivacite@rtbf.be](mailto:vivacite@rtbf.be).



► **RTBF International** ([www.rtbef.be/rtbfi](http://www.rtbef.be/rtbfi)) is the radio equivalent of the TV channel La Trois. It broadcasts on short-wave in Europe and Central Africa. Its programming comes from La Première and VivaCité. In addition, there is a programme targeting the Belgian diaspora in Congo. The producer of RTBF International is Fabienne Pasau ([fp@rtbf.be](mailto:fp@rtbf.be), +32 (2) 737 4014).

## 5.2 The Flemish public broadcaster



The “*Vlaamse Radio en Televisieomroep*” (VRT) has two TV channels, but broadcasts three distinct types of programmes. “Een” (one) is the main channel and main programme, while Ketnet, programming for children, and Canvas, high-quality programmes, share the other channel (VRT2).

Like RTBF, VRT has been loss-making. In December 2009, **Piet Van Roe** was appointed crisis manager and interim CEO, after the saving plans of his predecessor did not convince the Management Board. Van Roe’s task is to balance the budget by 2011. He already helped VRT during a previous crisis in 2007. At that time, he gained the appreciation of the Flemish authorities for introducing a market-driven approach in the company.

Contact: VRT, 52 Boulevard Auguste Reyers 52, 1044 Brussels, T +32 (2) 741 3111, [www.vrt.be](http://www.vrt.be).



► **Een** ([www.een.be](http://www.een.be)) is the main channel of VRT, the public broadcaster targeting the Flemish Community of Belgium. It tries to reach a broad audience, from the young to the old, so it offers information as well as cultural and entertainment programmes. **Jean Philip De Tender** (in the picture on the right) has been Een’s manager since 2007. He has worked for VRT since 1989 in different positions. He is also professor at the RITS Institute (school for audiovisual and performing arts) in Brussels.



VRT Nieuws (<http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws>) is VRT’s news desk. In its own words, it provides “independent and reliable news” to its viewers. There are five news shows a day on Een, which are called “Het Journaal” (at 9.00, 13.00, 18.00, 19.00 and 23.00 hours). The website has English and French versions, which have a selection of the news of the day.

The head of VRT’s foreign desk is Inge Vrancken ([inge.vrancken@vrt.be](mailto:inge.vrancken@vrt.be)), a journalist with a long career at the Flemish public broadcaster. She is an expert on the Middle East and terrorism. The journalist most familiar with EU enlargement and South-Eastern Europe is Stefan Blommaert ([stefan.blommaert@vrt.be](mailto:stefan.blommaert@vrt.be), in the picture on the right). He covered the wars in former Yugoslavia in the 1990s and followed the European integration process of the youngest EU member states. Another journalist who is a member of the news team and deals with European affairs is Rob Heirbaut ([rob.heirbaut@vrt.be](mailto:rob.heirbaut@vrt.be)).



► **Canvas** ([www.canvas.be](http://www.canvas.be)), launched in 1997, seeks to provide quality information on current affairs and cultural programming, but also entertainment, fictions and films. Jan Stevens is the current manager. Contact: [info@canvas.be](mailto:info@canvas.be).



► VRT and the public broadcaster of the Netherlands ([www.omroep.nl](http://www.omroep.nl)) have joined forces in order to provide Flemish and Dutch people abroad with programmes in Dutch and news from home. The result is **BVN** (*Het beste van Vlaanderen en Nederland/ The best from Flanders and the Netherlands*, [www.bvn.tv](http://www.bvn.tv)). VRT provides around one third of the content, and the Dutch broadcaster two thirds.

The third partner is the shortwave Radio Netherlands Worldwide ([www.radionetherlands.nl](http://www.radionetherlands.nl)). Every day, a 12-hour programme in Dutch is broadcast twice. It includes news from both Belgium and the Netherlands.

Contact: Witte Kruislaan 55, 1217 Hilversum, The Netherlands, T +31 (35) 6724333, [bvn@rnw.nl](mailto:bvn@rnw.nl).



► Recently revamped, **Radio 1** aims to keep its listeners informed of developments in the country and abroad as well as entertaining them with live music broadcasts, culture and sports. However, it is more informative and serious than Radio 2. The current manager for VRT radios is Els Van de Sijpe ([els.vandesijpe@vrt.be](mailto:els.vandesijpe@vrt.be)).



At Radio1, Kristien Bonneure ([kristien.bonneure@vrt.be](mailto:kristien.bonneure@vrt.be), in the picture on the right) is the journalist covering the Balkans and Eastern Europe. She has been working for VRT since 1988. Elizabeth Lannoo ([elizabeth.lannoo@vrt.be](mailto:elizabeth.lannoo@vrt.be)) is a journalist dealing with European affairs. Contact: [www.radio1.be](http://www.radio1.be); [info@radio1.be](mailto:info@radio1.be).



► **Radio 2** ([www.radio2.be](http://www.radio2.be)) is – according to VRT – the main radio channel for Flemish listeners. It offers coverage of regional news, sports, and cultural events, which is complemented by entertainment programmes and a selection of English, French and Dutch music. Contact: +32 (2) 741 4253, [info@radio2.be](mailto:info@radio2.be).



► **Radio Vlaanderen Internationaal** ([www.rvi.be](http://www.rvi.be)) is the radio service dedicated to Flemish abroad. It broadcasts via cable, satellite and shortwave. The news show is called “Flanders Today”. Contact: [info@rvi.be](mailto:info@rvi.be).

### 5.3 The German public broadcaster



► **Belgischer Rundfunk** (Belgian Broadcaster, BRF) is the German public broadcaster, with one television channel and three radio channels. It broadcasts from Eupen and has two local studios, in Brussels and Sankt Vith. Its programmes have a regional focus, but it also covers, albeit to a lesser extent, national, German and international news. The director since 1990 has been Hans Engels. Contact: BRF, Kehrweg 11, 4700 Eupen, T +32 (87) 591111, [info@brf.be](mailto:info@brf.be), <http://brf.be>.

### 5.4 Private broadcasters



► **RTL-TVI** is the biggest private French-language TV channel in Belgium. It is owned by the RTL group and was created in 1987. It is a family-oriented channel, offering information, entertainment and fiction. Philippe Delusinne is the present CEO of RTL Belgium, while Freddy Tacheny is TVI's General Manager. Stephane Rosenblatt ([srosenblatt@rtl.be](mailto:srosenblatt@rtl.be)) is the current director of programmes. Previously, she was the editor-in-chief.



TVI's news show, “Journal”, has recently renewed its team. Now Hakima Darhmouch and Michel De Maegd present the main



show at 19:00. Gregory Willocq presents the 13:00 hour edition, while Caroline Fontenoy anchors both “Journal” shows during the weekend.

Bel RTL, the radio owned by the company, has the largest share of the radio market in the francophone part of Belgium.

Contact: RTL - TVI, Avenue Jacques Georgin 2, 1030 Brussels, T +32 (2) 337 6811, [www.rtlvti.be](http://www.rtlvti.be)



► **VTM:** Vlaamse Televisie Maatschappij (Flemish Television Company) is the main TV channel of VMMA, a Flemish commercial broadcaster. It was launched in 1989 to become the most popular channel in Flanders after *een*, the first channel of Flemish public television. It targets families and is entertainment-oriented. It does not have programmes covering politics.

European and international events are covered by the news show (*Het Nieuws*), which is broadcast three times per day. The programme’s public face is Dany Verstraeten (in the picture on the right). Dirk Van Den Bogaert ([d.bogaert@vmm.be](mailto:d.bogaert@vmm.be)) is in charge of political reporting.

Contact: VTM, Medialaan 1, 1800 Vilvoorde. T: +32 (2) 255 3211. Mail: [info@vtm.be](mailto:info@vtm.be), [www.vtm.be](http://www.vtm.be).



► **Actua TV** is a private Flemish TV station. It was founded in April 2005 by Ludwig Verduyn, currently the editor-in-chief and a well-known Belgian journalist specialising in investigative reporting. Previously Verduyn had worked for *De Morgen*. Actua TV broadcasts mainly political news in Flanders. It also covers the plenary meeting of the Flemish parliament, which usually take place on Wednesday afternoons. Every Monday, the programme “Actua-Europa” presents short features on European issues. Contact: Actua, Ijzerenkruisstraat 76, 1000 Brussels, T +32 (2) 218 8707, [info@actua-tv.be](mailto:info@actua-tv.be), [www.actua-tv.be](http://www.actua-tv.be).



► **Kanaal Z**, owned by the Roularta Media group, offers information on business, finance and economics in Dutch. There is a constant stream of news, 24 hours a day, which includes information on the Belgian, European, and US stock markets. There are more in-depth reports on hot topics as well as interviews with influential businesspeople and politicians. The channel manager is Axel Coene, formerly commercial director for VMMA, while Kris Vera is the head of the news desk. Contact: Medialaan1, 1800 Vilvoorde, T +32 (2) 255 3708, [info@z-nieuws.be](mailto:info@z-nieuws.be), <http://kanaalz.rnews.be>.

### 5.5 European news broadcasters



► **Euronews** deserves specific attention since it is a pan-European TV station focusing on EU policies. Although it is based in France, RTBF took part in its establishment in 1993. Nowadays Euronews broadcasts in 151 countries, including official and potential EU candidate countries, and in 9 languages: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian but also Portuguese, Russian, Arabic and Turkish<sup>68</sup>.

<sup>68</sup>

Euronews website, Media Pack, at [http://fr.euronews.net/media/the-station/mediapackpress\\_EN.pdf](http://fr.euronews.net/media/the-station/mediapackpress_EN.pdf).



In 2007, Euronews claims to have reached 200 million homes worldwide.<sup>69</sup> Euronews receives annual funding of 5 millions € from the European Commission (2005-2010), based on an agreement to broadcast more than 10% of the programs on European topics. Since 2003, Philippe Cayla (Pictured on the right, ©EC) is the Chairman and CEO of the broadcaster. Cayla used to work for the French public broadcaster as director of international development, and for Eutelsat, a satellite provider based in France.



Peter Barabas is the TV's editor in chief. Sergio Cantone (Pictured on the right) is the Brussels-based correspondent for Euronews ([cantone@euronews.net](mailto:cantone@euronews.net)).

Contact: Press Office, Chemin des Mouilles 60, 69131 Lyon, France. T +33 472 188000.



► **EuroparlTV** is the official Internet-based television service of the European Parliament. It was officially launched in September 2008 and is financed directly from the EP budget. It broadcasts all the plenary sessions of the parliament and the meetings of the EP committees, but it also produces its own debates, shows, and background pieces. Moreover, an archive allows the visitor to watch all previous debates and other programmes. The majority of the programmes come with sub-titles in the 23 official languages of the EU. Mostra, a communications agency based in Brussels, runs EuroparlTV. The head of EuroparlTV is Erik Morren, a communications expert and journalist with solid experience in European issues. Patrick Delfosse is the editor-in-chief, leading a team of around 20 journalists.

Contact: Mostra, Chaussée d'Alsemberg 1001, 1180 Brussels, T +32 (2) 537 4400, [mostra@mostra.com](mailto:mostra@mostra.com), [www.europarltv.europa.eu](http://www.europarltv.europa.eu).

► **South East Europe Exchange** is a TV agency providing coverage on European events and developments to Balkans broadcasters and producing documentaries on regional topics, involving journalists based on the field. SEE TV offers trainings on reporting and production of EU affairs to Western Balkans journalists. The director of the agency is Dusan Gajic, who is also the Brussels based correspondent of the Serbian public broadcaster, RTS.



Contact: SEETV Exchanges, Avenue du Diamant 95, 1030 Brussels, T +32 736 0120, [d.gajic@seetv-exchanges.com](mailto:d.gajic@seetv-exchanges.com), [www.seetv-exchanges.com](http://www.seetv-exchanges.com).

<sup>69</sup>

Euronews website, Media Pack, at [http://www.euronews.net/media/the-station/mediapackpress\\_EN.pdf](http://www.euronews.net/media/the-station/mediapackpress_EN.pdf).

## C. CIVIL SOCIETY, ACADEMIA AND OTHER INTEREST GROUPS

There are a high number of think-tanks and political institutes in Belgium. Since Brussels is the seat of the main European Union institutions and NATO, most of these institutes are based there. Not surprisingly, the vast majority of these organisations are not Belgian, but European and international. They focus on analysing and debating EU policies.

The unofficial “capital of Europe” also hosts a wide range of European-level trade and other associations, NGOs, lobby groups, and public affairs consultancies. Virtually every industry branch and many civil society organisations have offices in Brussels in order to monitor and influence EU policies. According to a [register of interest representatives](#) run by the European Commission, close to 2,800 organisations are trying to impact the EU decision-making process, and this register is relatively new and not yet complete. Due to the vast number of such organisations, these interest groups are not listed in this manual, but can be found via the Commission’s register or an Internet search.

The following sections list think-tanks, political and academic institutes, and a few foundations in Belgium.

### 1. Think-tanks, research institutes and foundations

#### 1.1 Belgian think-tanks, research institutes and foundations

► **[EGMONT - Royal Institute for International Relations](#)** (IRRI-KIIB) is among the leading Belgian independent think-tanks working on international affairs. It was founded in 1947 by a number of prominent Belgian personalities, such as Paul Van Zeeland, former prime minister; Prof. Charles de Visscher, member of the International Court of Justice; Prof. Fernand Dehousse, member of the Belgian delegation to the Peace Conference of San Francisco in 1945; and Prof. Henri Rolin, Senator and barrister-at-law.



In practice, the institute organises a wide range of activities, ranging from the publication of analytical papers to the organisation of conferences, seminars and meetings. The institute also provides specialised training activities for visiting and resident diplomats and foreign professionals.

The institute has three main research programmes: Central Africa; [European Affairs](#), and [Security and Global Governance](#). As part of the European Affairs’ Programme, the institute focuses on EU enlargement policy and the main economic, institutional, geostrategic and political challenges driving the enlargement process.

Recent publications and conferences in this area include:

- Conference (May 2009): [Elargissement, politique de voisinage et frontières de l’Union européenne](#).
- November 2005: [“The EU’s capacity to absorb Turkey”](#)

The European Affairs’ team comprises five researchers, including:

- **Tinne Heremans** - Senior Research Fellow ([t.heremans@egmontinstitute.be](mailto:t.heremans@egmontinstitute.be))
- **Jacques Keller-Noëllet** - Senior Research Fellow ([j.keller@skynet.be](mailto:j.keller@skynet.be))

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Website : <http://www.egmontinstitute.be/>

► **European Mouvement Belgium** (EMB) is an independent non-profit organisation that aims to inform citizens about Europe “in order to make the European project more accessible and understandable for its citizens, in particular the young, so that they are more aware of their rights”. EMB is a member of the **European Movement International**, which is represented in 42 countries, including all candidate and potential candidate countries except Kosovo (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia and Turkey). The EMB organises debates on EU affairs, cultural evenings, and training seminars. Director of EMB is Maïte ABRAM ([m.abram@mouvement-europeen.be](mailto:m.abram@mouvement-europeen.be)).

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1040 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 (2) 231 0622

E-mail: [info@mouvement-europeen.be](mailto:info@mouvement-europeen.be)

Website: <http://www.mouvement-europeen.be/>



► **The King Baudouin Foundation** (KBF) is a Belgian public benefit foundation. It describes itself as “an independent and pluralistic foundation that pursues sustainable ways to bring about justice, democracy, and respect for diversity.” Its budget in 2010 is 30 million Euro, of which 85% is spent on projects and

15% of administration and management.

KBF focuses on a variety of issues and supports projects in Belgium and internationally. It works and co-operates with different partners, including research centres, think-tanks, governmental institutions, NGOs, companies and foundations.

Apart from supporting third-party projects, the KBF organises colloquia and round-table discussions, publishes extensively, and promotes “philanthropy”, notably through its **Centre for Philanthropy**. It tackles 11 thematic areas: Poverty and Social Justice; Democracy in Belgium; Democracy in the Balkans; Heritage; Philanthropy; Health; Leadership; Local Engagement; Migration; Development; and Partnership/Exceptional Support for Projects.

As part of the **Democracy in the Balkans** programme, KBF currently supports projects that promote European integration, focus on readmission and student mobility, and help victims of human trafficking. In order to be involved in the region more efficiently, the Foundation, alongside other European foundations, has co-initiated and co-financed the **European Fund for the Balkans**. Its partner foundations in this endeavour are Erste Stiftung from Austria, Robert Bosch Stiftung from Germany and Compagnia di San Paolo from Italy,

The person dealing with the Balkans is:

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Examples of previous and recent projects/publications can be found here:

- 1) **European Integration**
- 2) **Minority Rights**
- 3) **Student Mobility**
- 4) **Victims of human trafficking**

The KBF also has a strategic partnership with the European Policy Centre (EPC) (see p.67). In that respect, it co-organises the **Balkan Europe Forum**, an event that focuses on the perspectives and challenges arising from the Balkan countries' accession to the EU.

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► ***PAX CHRISTI Wallonie-Bruxelles*** is the Walloon section of [Pax Christi International](#) in Belgium. It aims to critically assess social trends and stimulate democratic initiatives and active citizenship. It promotes the respect of economic, social, environmental and cultural rights, as well as peace, non-violence and human development.

The association is headed by Nicolas Bossut ([nicolas.bossut@paxchristiwb.be](mailto:nicolas.bossut@paxchristiwb.be)). A commission entitled “Europe, Cultures and Enlargement” has been established to gather information and prepare activities in the field of the cultural, political and economic aspects of enlargement. The responsible person is Olivier Duhayon, project coordinator ([olivier.duhayon@paxchristiwb.be](mailto:olivier.duhayon@paxchristiwb.be); phone: +32 2738.08.04).

In area of EU enlargement, the latest publications (all in French) include:

- “*La Turquie dans le contexte géopolitique du 21<sup>ème</sup> siècle*”, December 2009;
- “*Les Turcs d’Europe, réalités et enjeux d’une intégration*”, December 2009;
- “*L’indépendance du Kosovo: Quels enjeux et responsabilités?*”, September 2008 ;
- “*Les frontières de l’UE et ses futurs élargissements*”, April 2008.

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 Website: <http://www.paxchristiwb.be/>



► ***PAX CHRISTI Vlaanderen*** is the Flemish section of Pax Christi International in Belgium. It is independent from the Walloon section, though the two organisations pursue the same goals. By its own description, Pax Christi Vlaanderen “takes action, writes articles and brochures, puts experts to work, intervenes with politicians, informs the media and always remains true to itself:

non-violent, politically independent and evangelically inspired”. In recent years, however, Pax Christi Vlaanderen has focused on regions of the world other than the Western Balkans and Turkey (Central Africa, Middle East, and Eastern Europe). The president of Pax Christi Flanders is Jo Hanssens ([jo.hanssens@paxchristi.be](mailto:jo.hanssens@paxchristi.be)).

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 Website: <http://www.paxchristi.be/>

## 1.2 European and international think-tanks



► The [\*European Policy Centre\*](#) (EPC) is an independent, not-for-profit think-tank founded in 1997. It is “committed to making European integration work”. By its own description, the EPC works at the “cutting edge” of European and global policy-making.

One of EPC’s main activities is to organise events and debates with political dignitaries visiting Brussels. Each day, there is at least one event, and on some days even more.

The EPC also offers analysis and policy recommendations on various issues. Its work is based on a three-year strategic plan, divided into [\*three programmes\*](#): EU Integration and Citizenship, Europe’s Political Economy, and Europe in the World.

As part of the EU Integration and Citizenship programme, the EPC deals with enlargement. Together with the King Baudouin Foundation and the Compagnia di San Paolo, the EPC organises the [\*Balkans Forum\*](#). In that respect, the EPC aims to bring together officials with representatives from civil society and actors in the Balkans. The forum is coordinated by the Senior Policy Analyst Rosa Balfour who is in charge of the Western Balkans.

Contact: Rosa Balfour, EPC Senior Policy Analyst, phone: +32 (2) 286 1192; [r.balfour@epc.eu](mailto:r.balfour@epc.eu).



Graham Avery is Chair of the Balkan Forum and EPC External Senior Adviser. He is a former Secretary General of TEPSA (Trans-European Policy Studies Association, see below.) and a Senior Member of St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University. He has been a fellow at Harvard University and many other universities and institutes in Europe, including the College of Europe. Graham Avery worked for the European Commission for many years and is currently Honorary Director-General of the Institution. His areas of interest include in the EU enlargement and foreign policies.

The analyst in charge of Turkey is Amanda Paul, EPC Policy Analyst and Programme Executive, +32 (2) 231 0340, [a.paul@epc.eu](mailto:a.paul@epc.eu).

The EPC latest publications on EU enlargement policies include:

- [\*Constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina: preparing EU accession\*](#), April 2010
- [\*Turkish foreign policy - between East and West?\*](#), October 2009
- [\*A wider EU: what next\*](#), October 2009
- [\*The Balkans in Europe: containment or transformation? Twelve ideas for action\*](#), June 2008

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Website: <http://www.epc.eu/>

► [\*Friends of Europe\*](#) is one of the leading Brussels-based think-tanks working on EU affairs. It was founded in 1999 by Giles Merritt (Secretary General, pictured right) and Geert Cami (Director) with the aim to stimulate discussion and new thinking on EU-related issues.



Giles Merritt is a journalist, author, and broadcaster specialising in the study and analysis of European public policy issues since 1978. He began his newspaper career in 1968 when he



joined the *Financial Times* for which he worked as a correspondent in several European capitals. Merritt also founded [Forum Europe](#) in 1989, which organises various EU conferences and events. Phone: +32 2 737 91 45; Email: [giles.merritt@friendsofeurope.org](mailto:giles.merritt@friendsofeurope.org)

Friends of Europe focuses on six major EU policy areas: Europe and the World; EU Competitiveness and the Internal Market; Institutional Reform and the Future of Europe; Energy and the Environment; European Society and International Development.

In October 2005, Friends of Europe co-initiated [Europe's World](#). This pan-European policy journal is published three times a year in English with the help of a network of over 150 think-tanks and universities. Frequently there are articles on enlargement and neighbourhood policies written by prominent experts, policymakers and think-tanks' representatives.

Recent publications on enlargement and neighbourhood policies include:

- [We may become an EU-40, but that's not necessarily good news](#) by Fritz Breuss - Spring 2010
- [ANKARA- Turks are now puzzling over the EU's back-handed compliment](#) by Mensur Akgun - Spring 2010
- [Turkey's Membership Prospects: Current Pressures vs. Strategic Thinking](#) by Mátyás Eörsi - Spring 2010
- [MADRID- Spain's EU presidency looks like a tricky balancing act](#) by Deniz Devrim - Spring 2010
- [We've got to get the EU's Balkans enlargement back on track](#) by Heather Grabbe - Spring 2010
- [Taking stock of EU enlargement's successes and failures](#) by Mart Laar - Spring 2010
- [Kukan on Schily's "If the EU reneges on Balkan enlargement, it's at its own peril"](#) by Eduard Kukan - Spring 2010
- [If the EU reneges on Balkan enlargement it's at its own peril](#) by Otto Schily - Autumn 2009
- [It's as much a challenge for Balkan governments as for Brussels](#) by Hido Biscevic - Spring 2010
- [Sure there are problems, but an on-going EU enlargement strategy is a no-brainer](#) by Katinka Barysch - Spring 2010

Friends of Europe also organises various events, including roundtable discussions, high-level conferences, dinners and lunch debates, bringing together EU-level and national policymakers, NGOs, business leaders, the media, and civil society representatives from Europe. Recent events on enlargement and neighbourhood policies include:

- 08 December 2009, [European Policy Summit: A new era in the Balkans](#). Co-organised with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Constantinos Karamanlis Institute and the OECD's Investment Compact for South East Europe.
- 19 December 2009, [VIP Diver Debate, Turkey's European Future](#): Co-organised with the Security & Defence Agenda and Europe's World.
- 31 July 2008, [European Policy Summit, A Balkans Balance Sheet](#): Co-organised with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the Si&Si Group, the Constantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy, Gallup Europe and the OECD Investment Compact for South East Europe.

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Website: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/>



► The [Centre for European Policy Studies](#) (CEPS) is an independent policy research think-tank founded in 1983. Currently headed by Daniel Gros ([danielg@ceps.eu](mailto:danielg@ceps.eu)), the CEPS aims to carry out "policy research leading to solutions to the challenges facing Europe today".

The CEPS focuses on eight major EU policy areas: EU Neighbourhood, Foreign and Security Policy; Financial Markets and Institutions; Justice and Home Affairs; Politics and European Institutions; Regulatory Policy; Trade Developments and Agricultural Policy.

As part of the EU Neighbourhood, Foreign and Security Policy Programme, the Centre publishes working documents, [policy briefs and commentaries](#) on enlargement, the Balkans, and Turkey. The Centre started working extensively on the Balkans in 1998 as part of the Wider Europe Programme. Following the 1999 crisis in Kosovo, it proposed a comprehensive plan for the European integration of the Balkans, dealing with many individual issues in a detailed fashion.<sup>70</sup>



Michael Emerson, Associate Senior Research Fellow, is the Director of the EU Neighbourhood, Foreign and Security Policy Programme. He holds a M.A. from the University of Oxford in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and honorary doctorates from the Universities of Kent and Keele.

Contact: [michael.emerson@ceps.eu](mailto:michael.emerson@ceps.eu)

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Researchers dealing with EU Neighbourhood, Foreign and Security Policy include:

- Associate Senior Research Fellow: Dr. Nathalie Tocci ([n.tocci@iai.it](mailto:n.tocci@iai.it))
- Associate Senior Research Fellow: Dr. Richard Young
- Researcher: George Dura ([dura@ceps.eu](mailto:dura@ceps.eu))

The CEPS not only carries out its research via its own programmes, but also through networks involving other important institutions and experts. In that respect, the CEPS initiated and now coordinates [11 networks](#) that cover a wide range of areas of EU policies. One of them is the [European Policy Institutes Network](#), which comprises 31 think-tanks and policy institutions from 26 countries, including candidate countries.

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Website: <http://www.ceps.eu/>



► [International Crisis Group](#) (ICG) is one of the leading independent, non-profit, and non-governmental organisation specialising in conflict prevention and resolution. ICG provides analysis and advice to governments and intergovernmental bodies. It combines expert field research, practical policy recommendations, and high-level advocacy in a wide range of countries. Since 2001, ICG has been headquartered in Brussels.

Louise Arbour, a Canadian, has been the President and CEO of the International Crisis Group since July 2009. Prior to that, she was the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2004 to 2008). From 1996 to 1999, she was the Chief Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia ([ICTY](#)) and the International Tribunal for Rwanda ([ICTR](#)). Arbour began her academic career in 1974. She occupied various functions during her domestic legal career, including justice at the Supreme Court of Canada.



<sup>70</sup>

More information about the plan can be found here : Euractiv, *The CEPS Plan for the Balkans, Three Years On*, 30 April 2002, at <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/ceps-plan-balkans-years/article-110042>.

The ICG publishes extensively on EU enlargement, focusing on many of the concerned countries individually. The Team Europe Programme comprises 11 members, including:

- Sabine Freizer, Europe Program Director (E-mail: [sfreizer@crisisgroup.org](mailto:sfreizer@crisisgroup.org))
- Srdjan Djerić, Balkans Research Analyst
- Srećko Latal, Balkans Analyst
- Hugh Pope, Turkey/Cyprus Project Director
- Marko Prelec, Balkans Project Director
- Naim Rashiti, Balkans Researcher/Office Manager

The ICG latest reports on EU enlargement include:

- [\*The Rule of Law in Independent Kosovo\*](#), Europe Report N°204, 19 May 2010;
- [\*Turkey and the Middle East: Ambitions and Constraints\*](#), Europe Report N°203, 7 Apr 2010;
- [\*Bosnia's Dual Crisis\*](#), Europe Briefing N°57, 12 Nov 2009;
- [\*Kosovo: Štrpce, a Model Serb Enclave?\*](#), Europe Briefing N°56, 15 Oct 2009.

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► [\*Open Society Institute-Brussels\*](#) (OSI) is the EU representative office of the Open Society Institute, a leading private operating and grant-making foundation founded in 1993 by the financier and philanthropist [George Soros](#). Established in 1997, OSI-Brussels focuses on various policy areas, striving for respect of human rights, justice, accountability, and open societies. As an advocacy group, OSI targets EU policy-makers and aims to “influence EU policies”.



Heather Grabbe is director of OSI Brussels as well as director of EU affairs for the Soros network. She has been working on EU enlargement for many years, moving between academia and practice. From 2004 to early 2009 she was a senior adviser to EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, responsible for the Balkans and Turkey. Prior to that, she was deputy director of the Centre for European Reform, a London-based think-tank. One of the recent publications includes [\*Beyond Wait-and-See: The Way Forward for EU Balkan Policy\*](#), May 2010, a policy paper that she co-authored for the European Council of Foreign Relations (ECFR) with Gerald Knaus, the ESI Chairperson, and Daniel Korski from the ECFR. Some of Heather's other publications can be found [here](#). Contact: [heather.grabbe@osi-eu.org](mailto:heather.grabbe@osi-eu.org).

OSI Brussels has divided the issues with which it deals into three main groups: EU Foreign Policy; [Opening Societies on the EU's Periphery](#); and Maintaining Vibrant and Tolerant Societies within the EU.

OSI Brussels addresses EU enlargement as part of the second area. One of OSI Brussels' [latest publications](#) on this topic includes [\*We've Got to Get the EU's Balkans Enlargement Back on Track\*](#), Feb. 2010.

#### **Contact persons for enlargement policy:**

- EU-Turkey relations: Viorel Ursu, Senior Policy Analyst ([viorel.ursu@osi-eu.org](mailto:viorel.ursu@osi-eu.org));
- EU and the Western Balkans: Neil Campbell, Senior Policy Analyst ([neil.campbell@osi-eu.org](mailto:neil.campbell@osi-eu.org)).

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**European Stability Initiative – Brussels** – The European Stability Initiative, which has authored this manual, has succeeded in becoming one of the most influential think-tanks on the Balkans and enlargement issues since 1999, when it was founded.

ESI aims to provide policy recommendations on current political, economic and social developments in the Balkans, Turkey, and selected new EU member states based on thorough field research and in-depth analysis. The overall objective is to improve understanding of this region and support its integration in Europe. Since 1999, ESI has produced more than [60 reports](#), [12 one-hour films](#) (ten of which were broadcast by in Germany, Austria and Switzerland) and built up a rich website ([www.esiweb.org](http://www.esiweb.org)) that has an average of 4,600 visitors a day. ESI has conducted thousands of meetings and conferences with decision-makers and opinion-leaders. Its electronic [Newsletter](#), which is published 6 to 10 times per year, is sent to 34,000 subscribers.

Recent projects and publications include:

- [Schengen White List Project](#) (2009/2010)
- [Beyond wait-and-see: the way forward for EU Balkan policy](#) (Heather Grabbe, Gerald Knaus and Daniel Korski for the European Council on Foreign Relations- May 2010)
- Turkey-Armenia: The Great Debate (2009/2010)

ESI's Brussels team includes Alexandra Stiglmyer, Senior Analyst and ESI's General Secretary ([a.stiglmyer@esiweb.org](mailto:a.stiglmyer@esiweb.org)), and Angela Longo, Analyst ([a.longo@esiweb.org](mailto:a.longo@esiweb.org)).



A journalist by training, Alexandra Stiglmyer covered the wars in former Yugoslavia from 1992 to 1996 for TIME Magazine and other US and German media. During that time, she wrote a book about war-time rape of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1997/1998, she was based in Berlin for TIME. From 1998 to 2002, she worked for the Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo as the head of the press office, amongst other positions. Following three years as a speechwriter for the European Commission, she joined ESI in 2006 on a full-time basis.

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► **Bruegel Institute** – Brussels European and Global Economic Laboratory is an independent and “non-doctrinal” European think-tank working in the field of international economics. Established in 2005, it seeks to contribute to European and global economic policy-making through “open, fact-based and policy-relevant” research, analysis and debate.

Bruegel's research programme covers 11 areas: Budgetary and Monetary Policies; Climate Change

and Energy; Competition and Single Market; Currencies and International Finance; Emerging Economies and Development; Financial Markets and Regulation; European and Global Governance; Labour, Migration and Ageing; Research, Innovation and Growth; Trade, Investment and Competitiveness; New Member States; Enlargement and Neighbourhood.

Jean Pisani-Ferry has been the Director of the Institute since January 2005. He is also a professor of economics at University Paris-Dauphine. Prior to that, he held several positions in research and government in France. He also worked for the European Commission as an economic adviser at the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). Pisani-Ferry is a member of two independent consultative groups: the European Commission President's Group of Economic Policy Analysis and the French Prime Minister's Council of Economic Analysis. His CV is available [here](#). Email: [Jean@pisani-ferry.net](mailto:Jean@pisani-ferry.net) / [jean.pisani-ferry@bruegel.org](mailto:jean.pisani-ferry@bruegel.org) Phone: +32 (2) 227 4210/4217.



The institute's main researcher covering enlargement and neighbourhood policies is Zsolt Darvas, who has worked for the Bruegel Institute since September 2008. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute of Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Associate Professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. His research interests include macroeconomics, international economics, central banking and time series analysis. His CV is available [here](#). Contact: [zsolt.darvas@bruegel.org](mailto:zsolt.darvas@bruegel.org) Phone: +32 (2) 227 4211.

On 27 August 2009 the Institute published a paper called "[\*Europe's economic priorities 2010-2015\*](#)", which provides strategic direction and concrete recommendations to each of the new Commissioners. Zsolt Darvas signed the chapter on Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policies (pp.78-85).

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► [\*Confrontations Europe – Brussels office\*](#) is an independent non-profit association from France. It was founded in 1992 by Philip Herzog, former Member of the European Parliament and current special counsellor of French Commissioner Michel Barnier. Its overall aim is the participation of civil society in the construction of Europe.

Confrontations Europe provides analysis and expertise on various economic, financial, social and political issues. It has a working group entitled "[new enlargements](#)", which meets on a regular basis to discuss issues, particularly with respect to the Balkans and Turkey.

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- **European Enterprise Institute** (EEI) is a non-profit, non-party affiliated organisation. It seeks to promote entrepreneurship in the EU policy community and to provide a platform for the ideas and philosophy of entrepreneurship throughout Europe. It thus tries to facilitate research and debates in all areas linked to entrepreneurship, innovation, competition and economic prosperity.

The EEI does not extensively publish on EU enlargement. However, in February 2009 the institute produced a document entitled “*In Defence of EU Enlargement*”, supporting the enlargement process and highlighting the benefits for Europe.



Fredrik Segerfeldt is the author of the EEI report “*In Defence of EU enlargement*”. He is a blogger and freelance writer. His main areas of research are foreign aid and development in poor countries, taxes and welfare programmes in the EU, labour policies and Eastern Europe and EU enlargement.

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- **European Institute for International Relations** (IERI) is an independent non-profit research centre founded in 1998. IERI focuses on various areas of international relations, ranging from political, economic, and strategic and security issues. It focuses on three areas: EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP); analysis of Eastern and Central European countries, Russia and Central Asia countries (CIS/NIS countries); and regional integrations.



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- **European Movement International Secretariat** (EMI) is an international organisation which promotes European integration and disseminates information on EU affairs. EMI was created in 1948, is represented in 42 European countries, and has 25 associated member organisations. Its main objective is to “contribute to the establishment of a united, federal Europe founded on the respect for basic human rights, peace principles, democratic principles of liberty and solidarity and citizens’ participation”.

EMI focuses on three main areas: the Future of Europe; the EU and its Neighbours; and Citizens’ Europe and European Identity. It has a political committee on the “EU and its Neighbours” which addresses various issues including EU enlargement and the EU’s neighbourhood policy. The committee is chaired by Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, Vice President of the EMI (contact). The Deputy Chairs are Ksenija Milivojevic (Vice-President of EMI) and Natasa Owens (Board Member). The contact person in charge of EU enlargement and Neighbourhood policy is:



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EMI's latest publication on Enlargement is the Ljubljana Congress' [Report](#) (May 2009). The Congress, which was organised in Slovenia from 16-18 April 2009, aimed to develop a "CSO's Political Challenge Chart" with recommendations on how to support civil society in EU accession countries.

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► [\*\*\*Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation - EU Office in Brussels\*\*\*](#): The Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) was founded in 1925. It describes itself as a "private cultural non-profit" institution closely associated with the German Social-Democratic party (SPD). Committed to social values, the FES carries out various activities, including projects in developing countries, practice-oriented research, consulting activities, and scholarship programs. The FES has an office in [each of the Balkan countries](#).

The EU office in Brussels was established in 1973. By its own description, the office "participates in the European integration process, backs and accompanies the interests of the Federal Republic of Germany in Europe and contributes to shaping the external relations of the European Union". The EU office gives considerable attention to EU enlargement policies. As part of the [EU and its Neighbours Programme](#), the office organises conferences, seminars and working visits.

The contact persons for EU enlargement and external relations are:

- Stefanie Ricken, Policy Officer ([stefanie.ricken@fes-europe.eu](mailto:stefanie.ricken@fes-europe.eu)) Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy
- Sidonie Wetzig, Policy Officer ([sidonie.wetzig@fes-europe.eu](mailto:sidonie.wetzig@fes-europe.eu)) CFSP, ESDP/NATO

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► The [\*\*\*German Marshall Fund \(GMF\) office in Brussels\*\*\*](#) was established in 2001. The GMF is a non-partisan American public policy and grant-making organisation. Its main goal is to promote "better understanding and cooperation between North America and Europe" on various issues. The aims of the Brussels office are to strengthen transatlantic cooperation by providing a better understanding of the implication of a more integrated Europe for the United States and the effect this has on US-EU relations and NATO.

Ronald D. Asmus is the Executive Director of the Brussels office and responsible for Strategic Planning at the GMF of the United States. His areas of expertise



include: EU enlargement and integration, European Security and Defence policy (ESDP), Turkey, Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region. Contact: [rasmus@gmfus.org](mailto:rasmus@gmfus.org).

Ronald Asmus recently published a paper on Enlargement: [\*Is Enlargement Dead?\*](#), May 10, 2010.

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► [\*Gallup Organisation Europe\*](#) was established in Brussels in 2003. Gallup Europe coordinates opinion polling and applied social sciences research activities in Europe. It wishes “to deliver proactive cutting-edge service and measurement-based strategic advice for all policy areas”.

Robert Manchin is the Managing Director of Gallup Europe. He is also Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges. At present, he deals with the [\*European Commission Flash Eurobarometer\*](#) and coordinates the International Consortium of the European Crime, Safety and Well-being Survey. Among many other functions, he is a Trustee of “Friends of Europe” (see above), the President of a Hungarian NGO for a smoke-free environment, and the Chairman of the Europe Nova Foundation. Contact: [robert\\_manchin@gallup-europe.be](mailto:robert_manchin@gallup-europe.be).



In the area of enlargement, the [\*Gallup Balkan Monitor\*](#) is one of the main projects of Gallup, conducted together with the [\*European Fund for the Balkans\*](#). The annual poll covers all the Balkans countries and surveys opinions on living standards, the perception of the EU, trust in the institutions and employment opportunities, to name a few. The reports are available [here](#). Andrzej Pyrka, Research Analyst, has worked on the Gallup Balkan Monitor ([andrzej\\_pyrka@gallup-europe.be](mailto:andrzej_pyrka@gallup-europe.be)).

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► The [\*Heinrich Böll Stiftung \(HBS\) Office in Brussels\*](#) was established in 1998. The HBS is a non-profit German green think-tank, advocacy group, and donor, affiliated with the German Green Party. The HBS promotes values such as ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. It conducts various activities, including policy research, events and conferences, scholarship programs, and it supports projects and individuals.

The Brussels office was established in 1998. It represents HBS before the EU as well as other important actors based in the capital city. It organises conferences and various events with the aim to foster “frank exchanges of views” between them. The office supports the enlargement process through debates, the organisation of visits, and “capacity building for young political activists” from new member states, candidate and potential candidate countries. The office’s recent events on enlargement include:

- Lunch Debate, 14 April 2010, “Croatia at the doorstep of the European Union: a worrying lack of enthusiasm?” [Report 1](#); [Report 2](#).

- Tea Briefing, 17 March 2010, "*Bosnia and Herzegovina*". [Report 1](#); [Report 2](#); [Report 3](#).

It is the HBS head office in Germany that publishes the vast majority of papers on enlargement, the Balkans and Turkey. The Brussels' office occasionally produces its own publications. Recent publications on enlargement include:

- [Bosnia and Herzegovina and Controversies of the EU Integration Process](#), 2008

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- [The Initiative for Peacebuilding](#) (IfP) is a consortium of ten NGOs and think-tanks led by the independent peace-building organisation [International Alert](#).

It aims to develop knowledge and expertise in the fields of conflict prevention and peace-building in order to improve policy decisions. It focuses on various themes, such as mediation, security, regional cooperation, gender, democratisation and transitional justice, as well as capacity building and training. In practice, IfP organises training courses, facilitates policy dialogue at all levels, conducts research, and publishes studies and papers.

**Lucia Montanaro** is both the head of IfP and Senior Advisor on EU Affairs within International Alert's Peace-building Issues Programme. Her areas of expertise include EU foreign and security affairs, conflict transformation, organised crime, fragile states, and governance and state-building. In October 2009 she produced a paper entitled: "[The Kosovo State-building Conundrum: Addressing Fragility in a Contested State](#)". Contact: [lmontanaro@international-alert.org](mailto:lmontanaro@international-alert.org)

IfP covers various regions around the world, including the Balkans and Turkey. In these areas, IfP's most recent publications include:

- January 2010, "[Security Sector Reform and Donor Assistance in Serbia 2000-2010](#)"
- June 2009, "[Security Sector Reform in Albania](#)"

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- [Konrad Adenauer Foundation – European Office](#): The foundation known by its German acronym KAS is one of Germany's political foundations. Founded in 1955 as a "Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education", it is affiliated with the Christian Democratic movement. KAS

carries out various civic education programs with the aim to promote freedom and liberty, peace and justice. As a "think-tank and consulting agency", it also conducts policy research, publishes papers and formulates policy recommendations, as well as organising conferences and events. KAS focuses

on four major areas: consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe, the strengthening of transatlantic relations, and development cooperation. In 1978, the foundation set up an office in Brussels, which focuses on foreign, security and development policies.



Dr Peter R. Weilemann is the head of the European office in Brussels. He previously served as the head of the department dealing with industrialised countries at the KAS headquarters in St. Augustin, Germany. He conducts research and writes reports on political events in Europe, including *Ein Anfang is gemacht* ("A start has been made") (December 2005) and *Die Europäische Krise vom Sommer 2005* ("The European Crisis of Summer 2005") (July 2005). Phone: +32 2 7430-746; E-mail: [sekretariat@eukas.eu](mailto:sekretariat@eukas.eu).

The KAS European office "serves as a forum for current European political debates in Brussels". It organises conferences and "luncheon or dinner" roundtables with German and international officials and representatives of EU institutions. Of particular importance are issues related to the European Common Foreign and Security Policy and to the Development Policy. Reports on a variety of European topics are published regularly. The office also contributes to fostering good bilateral relations between Germany and the Benelux countries.

In area of enlargement, the most recent event organised by the KAS European office was:

- 8 December 2009: "[\*A new era for the Balkans\*](#)"

The person dealing with enlargement is:

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► [\*\*Robert Schuman Foundation – Brussels Office\*\*](#) is an important French think-tank and research centre producing studies and analysis of the European Union and its policies. It promotes the construction of Europe and stimulates European debate through conferences. In April 2010, the Brussels' Office organised a [conference](#) with Albanian President Sali Berisha.

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► [\*\*SOLIDAR\*\*](#) (*Secretariat in Brussels*) is an independent European consortium of NGO's involved in the promotion of social justice in Europe and around the world. Founded in 1948 by the Committee of Socialist International, it has [53 members](#) today. The main objective of Solidar is to promote social justice, equality, solidarity and participation in three main areas: social affairs, international cooperation and education.



In 1995, Solidar established a Secretariat in Brussels to better influence EU policies and work closely with EU institutions. Building civil society platforms, enhancing cooperation between members, and designing strategies to bring the EU closer to its citizens are among the main objectives of the Secretariat.



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Regarding the enlargement process, Solidar has been active in the Western Balkans for over 10 years. Its works on the following four issues: building the capacity of trade unions and promoting social dialogue; protection of human rights and democratisation; income generation, rural development and health and social services; and humanitarian aid and disaster relief, reconstruction, refugees and internally displaced persons including returnees.

Solidar claims that the accession of Turkey and the Western Balkans “*can only be successful if a stronger role is reserved for civil society and civil society organisations*”. This idea is developed in the following publication: “[\*A new direction for Europe in the Western Balkans.\*](#)”

Solidar publishes a [\*\*Newsletter\*\*](#) on the Western Balkans three times a year.

The person dealing with the Western Balkans is:



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► [\*\*TEPSA\*\*](#) - *Trans European Policy Studies Association* is an international association which describes itself as the “first transeuropean research network” based in Brussels. Founded in 1974, it comprises [26 EU-affairs research institutes](#) located in most of the EU member states.

TEPSA follows a ‘bottom-up’ approach to European governance, aimed at achieving dialogue between researchers and key political actors. Its overall aim is to enhance European integration.

TEPSA provides research on European integration and organises various activities, including seminars, workshops and public debates, with the aim to provide a better understanding of EU policies and politics. The think-tank focuses on four areas: Citizen’s Europe; Institutional Issues and Democracy; EU Enlargement and Foreign Policy; and the Economic and Monetary Union.

Regarding [EU enlargement](#), TEPSA describes its activities as follows:

*“TEPSA’s approach to enlargement is twofold: on the one hand, TEPSA has been analyzing and assessing enlargement from a research point of view and given recommendations to policy-makers. On the other hand, TEPSA itself is an example of enlargement with the circle of member institutes growing with every enlargement round. TEPSA nowadays also comprises of associate members in Croatia and Turkey and hence contributes to familiarizing academics all over and even beyond Europe.”*

In order to develop closer ties with Turkey, TEPSA launched two projects entitled: “[Mobilizing Local Networks for a Better Informed Dialogue on Turkey’s Accession to the EU](#)” and “[Strengthening and Integrating Academic Networks](#)”.

Under a framework contract with the European Parliament, TEPSA carries out studies and produces briefings on various issues, including:

- Briefings on the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance](#) (IPA);
- Briefings on [Turkey](#);
- Briefings on the [Western Balkans](#).

TEPSA also publishes its own publications. Those on enlargement include:

- [Enlarging the European Union: Effect on the New Member States and on the EU](#), August 2009.

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### *1.3 Academic research centres*

► The [Catholic University of Louvain](#) (UCL) is Belgium’s oldest French-speaking university, founded in 1425. It has several research departments dealing with a wide range of issues. The [Political Sciences Louvain - Europe Institute](#) (ISPOLE) headed by Prof. Andre-Paul Frogner (+32 10 47 42 86; [andre-paul.frogner@uclouvain.be](mailto:andre-paul.frogner@uclouvain.be)) focuses on Belgian, European and international policies. Some of its work is financed by EU institutions.



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Another important research centre attached to the University of Leuven is the [Institute for European Studies](#). It runs a working group entitled “Studies of EU policies” ([GEPUE](#)) which, among other things, deals with Central and Eastern European countries and the Balkans. The person responsible for the group is Prof. Christian Franck (+32 (1) 047 8554; [Christian.Franck@uclouvain.be](mailto:Christian.Franck@uclouvain.be))

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► The [Centre for EU Studies at the Ghent University](#) embodies the university's commitment to European integration studies. The university is a [Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence](#), a recognition awarded by the European Commission to institutes specialising in European integration studies. The Centre for EU Studies was founded in 2005.

Research focuses on decision-making in the EU and on the soft dimension of the EU's external policies, including enlargement. The centre also organises [projects](#) in areas of enlargement, and its staff publish in mainstream media and participate in public debates.



Prof. Endrik Voss is the Director of the Centre for EU Studies.

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Research interests include: decision-making in the EU (e.g. accession of Turkey), history of European integration, and analysis of current EU affairs.

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► [Centre for Political Life Studies](#) (CEVIPOL) is one of the research centres of the [Institute for European Studies](#) (IEE) and the Faculty of Social, Political and Economic Sciences/Solvay Business School of the [Université Libre de Brussels](#) (ULB).

Prof. Jean-Michel De Waele is head of CEVIPOL and member of the Department of Politics at the ULB. He is a well-known expert in modern European political systems and parties, and lectures as a guest professor at several European universities, including the Doctoral School of Social Sciences at the University of Bucharest. His main areas of research include Central and Eastern European countries and South Eastern Europe. Phone: +32 26504481; [jmdewael@ulb.ac.be](mailto:jmdewael@ulb.ac.be).



CEVIPOL carries out research and organises events. It focuses on six areas of internal and comparative political sciences in Europe: Political Parties and Elections; Belgium; Central and Eastern Europe, Russia; European Union; Quality of Democracy; Sports and Politics. Regarding Central and Eastern European countries, CEVIPOL mainly concentrate on the social and political developments. A [section](#) of the website lists all the publications and working papers of the Center.

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► The [College of Europe](#) (Bruges) is the oldest university institute offering postgraduate studies and training in European affairs. It was founded in 1949 and has two campuses, one in Bruges and the other in Warsaw, Poland. The College of Bruges offers six postgraduate programmes, including EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, and European Political and Administrative Studies. The faculty staff, visiting professors and students conduct research and produce working papers on EU enlargement policy and EU external relations.

The most recent publications on EU Enlargement and Neighbourhood policies include:

- 6/2010 (June 2010), Jan Steinkohl, Alumnus of the Marcus Aurelius Promotion, [\*Normative Power Rivalry? The European Union, Russia and the Question of Kosovo\*](#);
- 5/2010 (March 2010) Egemen Bağış, Turkish Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, [\*Turkey's EU Membership Process: Prospects and Challenges\*](#);
- 1/2010 (January 2010), Severin Peters, Communication Consultant at GTZ, [\*Strategic Communication for Crisis Management Operations of International Organisations: ISAF Afghanistan and EULEX Kosovo\*](#);
- 6/2009 (September 2009) Mathias Dobbels, Alumnus of the Marcus Aurelius Promotion, [\*Serbia and the ICTY: How Effective Is EU Conditionality?\*](#)



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► The [\*European Centre for European Studies\*](#) (IES) is an autonomous department of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. It was created in 2001 based on an initiative of the Flemish government. IES focuses on interdisciplinary research in European Studies, examining the role of the EU in the world. It covers five broad [\*research areas\*](#), including European Foreign and Security Policy.

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► [\*Madariaga - College of Europe Foundation\*](#) was created in 1998 with the aim of promoting “original thinking on the role of the European Union in an era of global change”. It does this by means of conferences, seminars and publications.

The Foundation is headed by Pierre Defraigne, an economist and European civil servant from 1970 to 2005. Among other things, Defraigne was the head of the cabinet of Pascal Lamy, European Commissioner for Trade 1999-2002. Defraigne retired as Deputy Director-General of DG Trade in 2005. He set up the Brussels branch of the French Institute for International Relations (Eur-Ifri), which he managed from 2005 to 2008. Defraigne is a lecturer in economics at the College of Europe.



The Madariaga Council is chaired by former EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana.

Recent publication on EU Enlargement:

- [\*The EU Mission in Kosovo: Where Angels Fear to Tread?\*](#) (Sept. 2008)

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ESI contact details are available at <http://www.esiweb.org/index.php?lang=en&id=63>.