



## Belgian Events - December 2013

Newsletter of the Embassy of Belgium in London

### Table of contents

[Season's Greetings](#)

[Belgian Elections](#)

[Recent Highlights](#)

- Minister Reynders visits London
- India Summit
- King's Day Reception
- Golden Bridge Export Awards
- IMO Elections
- Flanders Fields Memorial Garden

[Interview with the Belgian Honorary Consul in Hull](#)

[Did you know?](#)

- Belgium among top tourist destinations for 2014
- Port of Antwerp wins European Heritage Award
- European Film Awards for Belgium
- University Spin-offs
- Erasmus+ Programme
- Dutch Summer courses and online courses for kids
- Simenon re-published
- Concours Reine Elisabeth 2014

[What's On?](#)

- 'Peter Pan' UK tour
- Calendar of events

Links to

[Representations, Clubs, Organisations](#)

[Belgian Honorary Consulates](#)

---

## Season's Greetings

In this final issue of 2013, we remind Belgians living in the UK to register for the upcoming elections. We also look back at some recent Embassy highlights and share an interview with our Honorary Consul in Hull. Last but not least, we offer some free tickets for a Wembley Arena spectacle. Details can be found in the 'What's On?' section.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year. We'll be back in February with the next issue.



## Belgian Elections

### Reminder for our Belgian readers

The next federal elections in Belgium will most likely be held on 25 May 2014 in which case you can register to vote until 31 January 2014.

Normally speaking, you will have received an election registration form by post a few weeks ago. On the form, you will need to fill in your election commune. Unlike for previous elections (2003, 2007 and 2010) you no longer have a choice in which

commune you will cast your vote. This is now decided by law. You will also need to choose between one of five election options. In case you did not receive a form, please contact the Embassy as soon as possible.

Voting is compulsory for each Belgian national who is registered at the Embassy, is at least 18 years old at the time of the election and is not deprived of voting rights. For further details (in Dutch or French):

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Diensten\\_in\\_het\\_buitenland/Deelname\\_aan\\_verkiezingen/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/nl/Diensten/Diensten_in_het_buitenland/Deelname_aan_verkiezingen/)

[http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/services\\_a\\_letranger/participation\\_aux\\_elections/](http://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr/Services/services_a_letranger/participation_aux_elections/)

---

## Recent Highlights

### Minister Reynders visits London

This year, the annual Belgo-British Conference took place in London. On 10th October, British Minister for Europe David Lidington and Belgium's Foreign Minister Didier Reynders opened the 14th edition of the Conference in Lancaster House. With the upcoming 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, the central theme of this year's conference was remembrance and reconciliation.



Before the opening, Minister Reynders met with his British counterpart, Foreign Secretary William Hague.

More information and pictures are available on our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.686795797998236.1073741854.292517280759425&type=1&l=5cf53f8ab6](http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.686795797998236.1073741854.292517280759425&type=1&l=5cf53f8ab6)

Click below for the opening speech by Minister Reynders

[www.didierreynders.be/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/20131010\\_SpeechDR\\_BBC.pdf](http://www.didierreynders.be/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/20131010_SpeechDR_BBC.pdf)

## India Summit

On 14 November the India Summit took place at the Montcalm Hotel in Central London. The event took stock of how different sectors of India's economy are performing and how Europe and America can participate.



Ambassador Verbeke was one of the keynote speakers.

## King's Day Reception

Since 1866, 15th November has been marked by celebrations in honour of the Belgian monarch. Referred to as King's Day, 15 November is the feast of Saint Leopold in the German liturgical calendar. To mark King's Day in the UK, Ambassador Verbeke hosted a reception at his Residence in Belgravia.



## Golden Bridge Export Awards

Last month, the seventeenth edition of the Golden Bridge Awards, organised by the Belgian Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium and UK Trade & Investment, took place in London. The purpose of the awards is to encourage exporting efforts between Belgium and the UK and give Belgian, Luxembourg and British products and services a higher profile abroad.

The Awards were presented by and in the presence of the Belgian and Luxembourg Ambassadors to the UK and the British Ambassador to Belgium.

This year, the top Golden Bridge Export Award for Belgian exports to the UK was won by *le Pain Quotidien*, the Brussels-based restaurant chain. *Chemicalar* from Zwijndrecht was awarded Best Exporting SME to the UK and *Codipro*, based in Luxembourg, won as Best Newcomer.

The Golden Bridge Export Award for British exports to Belgium was presented to consulting firm *4C Associates*, *Real Good Food Europe* won Best British Newcomer and *Weedfree on Track* won the Best Sustainable Innovation in Export prize.

[www.blcc.co.uk/pages/goldenbridgeawards.html](http://www.blcc.co.uk/pages/goldenbridgeawards.html)

### **Belgium secures seat in IMO Council**

On 29<sup>th</sup> November Belgium got re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships. It has its headquarters in London, on the shore of the Thames.

Belgium is an important shipping nation. Its North Sea ports cluster (Antwerp, Ghent, Zeebrugge, Ostend) is within the top10 seaports of the world! Therefore the Belgian Government attaches great importance to international cooperation and activities in the field of shipping.

### **Flanders Fields Memorial Garden**

Last month, Belgian children collected soil from the Flanders Fields battlefield cemeteries. During the Remembrance Ceremony on 11 November in Ypres, British soldiers and children from Belgian and British schools carried the bags of soil which were put onto a King's Troop Gun Carriage. The soil was taken to London by the Belgian Navy where it was handed over to the British Army.



On 30<sup>th</sup> November, the sandbags were transported through London on the same King's Troop Gun Carriage to the 'Flanders Fields Memorial Garden' at Wellington Barracks near Buckingham Palace, where it was incorporated into the newly constructed garden.

In November 2014, the 'Flanders Fields Memorial Garden' will be inaugurated as part of the WW1 commemorations.

For more information about the Memorial Garden:  
[http://memorial2014.duo.be/en/memorial\\_garden](http://memorial2014.duo.be/en/memorial_garden)

---

## Interview with the Belgian Honorary Consul in Hull

In our series of interviews with the Belgian Honorary Consuls in the UK, we talked to Michel Vanhoonacker who is based in Hull and combines the position of Honorary Consul with that of Company Director and Chairman of the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce



Click here for the interview: [http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=236600&title=ni\\_071113\\_interview\\_michel\\_vanhoonacker](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/newsroom/news.jsp?id=236600&title=ni_071113_interview_michel_vanhoonacker)

---

---

## Did you know?

### Belgium among top tourist destinations for 2014

*Lonely Planet*, the famous travel guide, has ranked Belgium among the top 10 tourist

destinations for 2014. It describes Belgium as “Europe's underrated gem” with picturesque cities and great museums.

*“The food and drink is a gustatory blast, the countryside flat and placid, the seaside surprisingly chic, while cultural treasures range from medieval masters to Tintin. From 2014, a huge influx of visitors is expected due to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI – a festival of remembrance lasting until 2018 – which may change preconceptions. Belgo-newbies will find medieval towns where culture and gastronomy meet, with Gothic buildings, paintings by Breugel, Van Eyck and Magritte, canals and cool shops.”*

[www.lonelyplanet.com/travel-tips-and-articles/lonely-planets-best-in-travel-2014-top-10-countries](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel-tips-and-articles/lonely-planets-best-in-travel-2014-top-10-countries)

### **Port of Antwerp wins European Heritage Award**

The port of Antwerp has won this year’s Award by the European Sea Ports Association for the city’s successful integration of its port into the community.

It was the fifth time the ESPO award had been given. The prize was inaugurated in 2009 to promote innovative projects for the social integration of ports within the cities and communities where they are located.

[www.espo.be/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=452&Itemid=81](http://www.espo.be/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=452&Itemid=81)

### **European Film Awards for Belgium**

Earlier this month in Berlin, Belgian actress Veerle Baetens won the European Film Award for Best Actress for her role in *The Broken Circle Breakdown*. Since its première at the Ghent Film Festival in 2012, the film has been showered with international awards.



Recently, Veerle Baetens appeared on British TV in the BBC series *The White Queen* playing the role of Margaretha van Anjou.

Two other Belgian films won awards at the prestigious ceremony: The prize for best short film went to Tom Van Avermaet’s *Dood van een schaduw* (*Death of a Shadow*), starring Matthias Schoenaerts. The European Film Award’s Young Audience Award went to *Nono, het zigzagkind* (*The Zigzag Kid*) by Flemish director Vincent Bal, based on a book by Israeli author David Grossman.

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

## University Spin-offs

Belgian universities expect to launch around 100 spin-offs in the next five years. ICT and biotech are the most popular sectors for spin offs. The solicitors firm NautaDutilh looked at the plans of scientists from 10 Belgian universities to commercialise innovations via a company of their own.

[www.nautadutilh.com/PageFiles/22481/NautaDutilh%20Belgian%20TTO%20and%20Spin%20off%20report%202013.pdf](http://www.nautadutilh.com/PageFiles/22481/NautaDutilh%20Belgian%20TTO%20and%20Spin%20off%20report%202013.pdf)

## Erasmus+ Programme



Last month, the European Parliament approved Erasmus+, a new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport, due to begin in January. More than 4 million people will receive support to study, train, work or volunteer abroad under the new scheme.

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1110\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1110_en.htm)

## Dutch Summer courses and Online courses for kids

Every year, the “Nederlandse Taalunie” is offering language courses for foreign students of Dutch. The three-week courses are held in Ghent, Belgium and in Zeist, The Netherlands.

The summer schools are intended for students who already have a firm grasp of the Dutch language and wish to improve their knowledge to an advanced level. Enrollment is open till 1st February 2014.

<http://taalunieversum.org/inhoud/cursussen-voor-studenten>

About to move to Belgium with your kids? The Belgian company D-teach is now offering lessons based on the Flemish curriculum for primary and secondary school children in the form of distance teaching in a virtual classroom to ensure a more smooth transition for the child.

D-teach also prepares students in Flemish schools for education abroad and offers extra tuition in specific subjects.

[www.d-tech.com](http://www.d-tech.com)

## Simenon re-published

Since November, *Penguin Press* is publishing all 75 of Georges Simenon’s novels

featuring Inspector Maigret in new English translations.

The next novels to be re-published are:

The Hanged man of Saint-Pholien (2/1/2014)

The Carter of 'La Providence' (6/2/2014)

The Yellow dog (6/3/2014)

Night at the Crossroads (3/4/2014)

[www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)

### **Concours Reine Elisabeth 2014**

From 14<sup>th</sup> until 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014, the yearly Queen Elisabeth Competition will be taking place in Brussels. In 2014, the competition will be dedicated to the singers. The online application deadline is 15th January 2014.

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



---

## **What's on?**

### **Peter Pan UK Tour**

The Belgian Arena Spectacular '*Peter Pan, The Never Ending Story*' is currently on tour in the UK. On 2, 3 and 4 January the show is coming to London.

You can now enter a raffle to win free tickets for the evening performance at Wembley Arena on Saturday 4th January by simply emailing 'Peter Pan Tickets' (by Monday 23 December) to [belgianevents.uk@diplobel.fed.be](mailto:belgianevents.uk@diplobel.fed.be) There are 5 x 2 tickets available. The winners will be contacted by email.

Trailer: <http://we.tl/YmO3j43cVd>



## Calendar of Events

For a listing of this and other events with a Belgian touch:

[http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/events/](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/events/)

---

## LIST OF REPRESENTATIONS, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS IN THE UK

[http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/belgians\\_in\\_the\\_uk/belgian\\_organisations/](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/belgians_in_the_uk/belgian_organisations/)

## BELGIAN HONORARY CONSULATES IN THE UK

[http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united\\_kingdom/honorary\\_consulates/](http://countries.diplomatie.belgium.be/en/united_kingdom/honorary_consulates/)

