

# The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why  
Flanders is seceding from Belgium

www.flemishrepublic.org

**VLAAMS  
BLOK**

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## Brussels: Europe's Hub of Terror

Al-Qa'eda recruits members in Belgium. So a committee of the Belgian Parliament discovered. But the Belgian secret service does not screen them, because (a) it is under-funded and under-staffed; (b) it relies on a mutual understanding that the terrorists won't attack in Belgium; and (c) it fears being accused of racism or xenophobia towards Muslims and immigrants.

In 1992 and 1996 Belgium denied Tunisian requests for the extradition of a Tunisian-born Belgian citizen, one of al-Qa'eda's main agents in Europe. After arresting 12 men suspected of planning terrorist attacks in Europe, including that Tunisian Belgian, Brussels set them free.

When in January 2001 the CIA uncovered an al-Qa'eda plot to bomb the US embassy in Rome, Italy rounded up the cell. The cell had been involved with the aforesaid Tunisian Belgian, but Belgium again refused to extradite him. Meanwhile, he recruited two men to murder **General Massoud** in Afghanistan. These two men, carrying Belgian passports, killed Massoud in September 2001.

The CIA found that the Muslim terrorists planning to bomb Los Angeles Airport in 1999 carried Belgian passports, too.

### Quick Citizenship

In May 2000, Belgium voted the so-called **Quick Citizenship Bill**, granting Belgian citizenship almost on demand. Even criminals and terrorists became Belgian citizens in this way.

In February 2001, **Jan Mortelmans**, a Vlaams Blok MP, objected to the policy of granting Belgian citizenship to criminals and extremists.

**Claude Eerdekens**, the parliamentary leader of the *Parti Socialiste*, one of Belgium's governing parties, replied that it was only normal that the "racist" Flemish separatists should object, given that 99 % of the applications made in Brussels are filed in French. "We do more for the frenchification of Brussels than the Flemings can ever do to prevent it," Eerdekens boasted (*Le Matin*, 9 Feb. 2001). In Antwerp, too, the Socialist Mayor **Leona Detiège**

defends the policy of granting citizenship (and the subsequent right to participate in the elections) to as many immigrants as possible, on the grounds that "the Vlaams Blok is currently overrepresented as the immigrants are not allowed to vote." (*Knack*, 13 Sept. 2000).

### Anti-Semitism

This line of reasoning was taken up by the Muslim fundamentalist **Dyab Abu Jahjah**, a Belgian citizen born in Lebanon in 1971 where he was an active member of Hizbollah before moving to Belgium in 1991. On 3 April 2002, Jahjah organised a violent anti-Semite demonstration in Antwerp. "Some say that I am not loyal to Belgium. Have I ever burned the Belgian flag



Dyab Abu Jahjah

**The Vlaams Blok does not want Flanders to become a second Lebanon.**

or demanded that the country be split, like the Vlaams Blok does?" Jahjah asked (*P-Magazine*, 3 May 2002). **Indeed, he is not an enemy of Belgium, but of Flanders and the Western world.**



Jan Mortelmans, MP

**"Belgium granted citizenship to criminals, terrorists and anti-Semites."**

**More details about the report which the so-called "Committee-I" controlling the State Intelligence Services submitted to the Belgian Parliament in May 2002, can be found on:**  
[www.flemishrepublic.org](http://www.flemishrepublic.org)

## Welcome to the Republic of Flanders

Flanders' reputation abroad is influenced by its portrayal in the Belgian Francophone press as a selfish, insular nation. The international community receives its information about us from second-hand sources and often from our Francophone enemies in the Belgian establishment. Yet Flanders is strongly oriented towards other countries and cultures. The Flemings are amongst the world's best polyglots, able to converse with English, French, German and sometimes even Spanish and Italian visitors in their own language. No other region in the world exports so much per capita. **Flanders' subsidisation of Wallonia is proportionally greater than the financial support given by the former West-Germany to the former German Democratic Republic.** The Francophone media often portray Flemings as "racists", yet "racist" Flanders is a favourite destination for genuine and self-styled "refugees" from across the world.

The international perception of Flemish Patriotism and of the Vlaams Blok does not reflect reality. We believe it is important that foreign observers of Belgian and Flemish politics receive a more accurate picture both of our party and of the Flemish Patriotic movement in general.

The growth of my party is inspiring fear in the corrupt Belgian establishment. As the Belgian authorities cannot stop the people from voting for us, **they are now trying to outlaw us.** The Belgian regime – the most



Frank Vanhecke, MEP  
President of the Vlaams Blok

**"The Belgian regime is the most corrupt regime in Western Europe."**

corrupt regime in Western Europe – is trying to steal our imminent electoral victory by attempting to ban our party, confiscate our properties, and incite public opinion against us through lies and provocations.

# Corrupt Belgian Regime Acts to Outlaw its Main Opponent

**The Vlaams Blok is poised to win the forthcoming elections. To prevent this, a government agency has brought the party to court in an attempt to ban it.**

Since 1994, government agencies and NGOs supporting the Belgian regime have been harassing the Vlaams Blok with costly, time consuming court cases, hoping to obtain a judicial verdict outlawing the party or depriving it of its subsidies. As it is illegal for a Belgian party to receive private donations, all "democratic parties" are subsidised by the taxpayers in accordance with their electoral results. If, however, a court should rule that the Vlaams Blok is an "undemocratic" organisation, the government can defund the party and kill it.

So far, the Vlaams Blok has never been convicted. On 29 June 2001 a Brussels court refused to issue a verdict, arguing that it was for the electorate to decide whether a party was "undemocratic" or not. On 10 September new judicial proceedings against the party were started in Brussels. Because Belgian judges are political appointees, the Belgian regime of **Louis Michel** and **Guy Verhofstadt** hopes to succeed in its aim to designate the party as an illegal organisation, so that it can be prevented from participating in the next general elections, which are due at the latest in June 2003.

The stakes are very high. Indeed, if the party should become the biggest Flemish party, the "Belgian model" would collapse.

## Corporatist Model

As its Prime Minister said in 1989: "Belgium is the prototype of Europe. The Federal Belgian State is a prefiguration of a Europe of Peoples, brought together in their organised diversity." When the Kingdom of

Belgium was established in 1831, the French diplomat **Talleyrand** described it as "an artificial construction, consisting of different peoples."

"Have we not been called the laboratory of Europe," the Belgian ideologue **Léon Hennebicq** wrote in 1904. "Indeed, we are a nation under construction. The problem of economic expansion is duplicated perfectly here by the problem of

## European Vanguard

De Man and his deputy, **Paul-Henri Spaak**, the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, reckoned that if one had to live in an artificial state, it would be best to have one on as large a scale as possible.

In June 1940, De Man called the Nazi victory "far from a disaster, a deliverance. His friend, the anti-Semite **Leopold III** commen-

national," constitutes a supreme morality. The latter notion was also the opinion of **King Baudouin**, the son of **Leopold III**, who in 1993 stressed the importance of "the European construction," which in following Belgium's lead "can best help us to resist the temptation of egotism and narrow and disastrous nationalisms."

## A Royal Warning

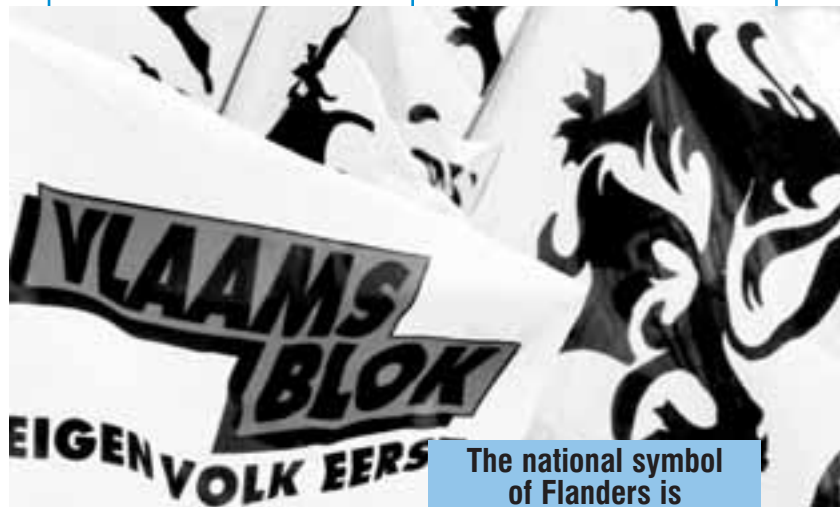
His brother, **King Albert II**, reiterated the same warning last Summer, on 21 July, when he warned against "a repetition of the disastrous 1930s." With these words, **the King did not refer to his father's anti-Semitism and Nazi-sympathies**, but to the growing popularity of the Separatist Vlaams Blok.

This party is Belgium's deadliest enemy. It is depicted by the Belgian establishment as the political

heir of Fascism. Last May, *Le Monde Diplomatique* even wrote that the Vlaams Blok is inspired by Nazi collaborators such as **Henri de Man**! In reality, the party is a broad coalition with one common goal: the dissolution of Corporatist Belgium and the establishment of a democratic Flemish Republic. In 1985, the late **Lode Claes**, one of the two founders of the Vlaams Blok, wrote that Belgium is characterised by an "identity of non-identity." This was repulsive to **Claes**, who argued that without identity there can be no morality. Without a sense of national identity, public morality inevitably withers away.

## Dirty War

For two decades, the steady growth of the Vlaams Blok has been inspiring fear in the corrupt Belgian establishment, including the "Social Partners." Although the Vlaams Blok, led by **Frank Vanhecke MEP**, is



**The national symbol of Flanders is a black lion on a field of gold.**

constructing a nationality."

Belgium was transformed into a Corporatist state, where the so-called "Social Partners," rather than Parliament, decide economic and social policies. These "Social Partners" are the Belgian Employers' Federation and three trade unions (a Christian, a Socialist and a Liberal one) which are recognised by the State as the *only* official representatives of the employees. The Flemings and the Walloons were bound together within one single social welfare system, through the institutions of the Social Partners, spanning the linguistic divide. This situation still exists today.

In the 1930s, **Henri De Man**, the leader of the Belgian Socialist Party and one of the closest personal friends of **King Leopold III**, declared that the Belgian Corporatist construction had to be transplanted to a higher level; he wanted to replace it by a pan-European and eventually a global system.

ted: "It is impossible to hesitate between German supremacy and English supremacy." In a speech in 1941, De Man told his followers that it was necessary to "transform Belgium, not abandon it," through "an *Anschluss to Europe*." What was needed, he said, "was as much Federalism and as little Separatism as possible," so that "Belgium, exactly because it is not based on a unique national sentiment, can become the vanguard of the European Revolution."

In the 1990s, Belgium as an artificial state became the ideal of another group in addition to the Corporatists. In an *Open Letter* in 1998, a group of "Post-Modern" Belgian intellectuals wrote that they cherish the Belgian flag "because the latter does not represent anything," and that Belgium, exactly because it lacks a national identity and is "post-

currently the third party in Flanders with over 15 percent of the votes, it figures prominently on the Belgian State Security's official list of dangerous and subversive organisations. **The Belgian police services are waging a dirty war against the party by infiltrating its chapters and intimidating the electorate.**

The Belgian trade unions exclude everyone who is known to be a Vlaams Blok member. However, in Corporatist Belgium the unions hand out the unemployment benefits (a task for which the government pays them), so the consequences of such exclusion can be severe. The party is also denied access to the government-owned networks. The Flemish Broadcasting Corporation (VRT) has adopted a charter stating that it does not provide

a platform for "opinions that propagate exclusion."

The dirty war, the lies, the legal prosecutions against the Vlaams Blok are all part of the strategy of a decadent Corporatist regime that hopes to survive by transforming itself into a Post-Modern, non-national, multi-cultural European Superstate – a construction which Karel Dillen MEP, the other founder of the Vlaams Blok, has aptly called "a Greater-Belgium." It is in the interest of all Europeans to prevent this from happening.

**Belgicists cherish Belgium because it does not represent anything. However, without a sense of national identity, public morality withers away.**

**More about the nature of Belgium and the lawsuit against the Vlaams Blok, can be found on [www.flemishrepublic.org](http://www.flemishrepublic.org)**

## Fighting a Dragon

The Vlaams Blok's *raison d'être* is the independence of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking Northern half of Belgium. We are a broad coalition of **Flemish Secessionists**. We do not use violence. Our only weapon is the ballot box.

As we want Flanders to secede from Belgium, it should surprise no-one that we are looked upon as the most dangerous threat to the Belgian State. We have no access to the official radio and television channels; **the public is deliberately misinformed about us.**

We have never committed, preached or condoned any violent acts whatsoever, nor have we ever discriminated against anyone. Our "crimes" are that (a) we are opposed to Belgium, (b) we do not believe in a multicultural society, and (c) we are Euro-sceptics. We favour a **Confederate Europe with the Republic of Flanders as one of its members**. We fight the dragon in the heart of Europe: the bogus state of Belgium.

We love our country, we defend its freedom and we care about our people. That is why they vote for us. Fighting a dragon is hard, things can turn nasty or they can go wrong, but it is the only option decent people can take.



**Alexandra Colen, Ph. D., MP  
Publisher of the Flemish  
quarterly Secessie**

**"Secession is the only decent option."**

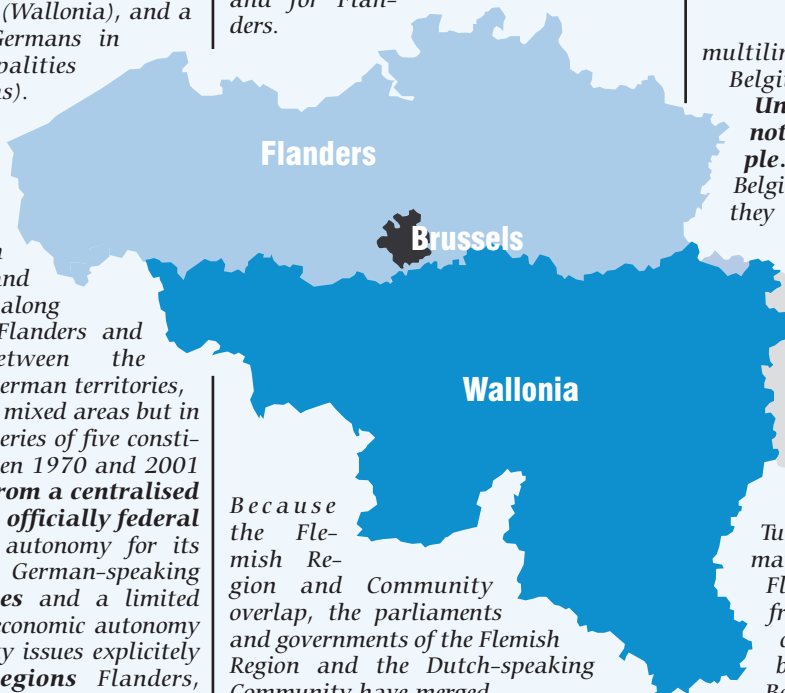
## A Prison of Peoples

The Kingdom of Belgium consists of three entirely different peoples with their own languages, cultures and traditions: Dutch-speaking Flemings in the North (Flanders), French-Speaking Walloons in the South (Wallonia), and a tiny community of Germans in nine Eastern municipalities (the Eastern Cantons). The latter were ceded by Germany after the First World War and are an administrative part of Wallonia.

Apart from the capital (Brussels) and a few municipalities along the borders between Flanders and Wallonia and between the Francophone and the German territories, the Belgians live not in mixed areas but in unilingual regions. A series of five constitutional reforms between 1970 and 2001 transformed Belgium **from a centralised unitary state into an officially federal state**, with cultural autonomy for its Dutch-, French- and German-speaking linguistic **Communities** and a limited form of political and economic autonomy (with all social security issues explicitly excluded) for the **Regions** Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels.

The different Communities and Regions were each given their own legislatures and executives. As a consequence, Belgium today has **no fewer than six parliaments and governments**. Apart

from the Federal bicameral legislature (consisting of the Chamber of Representatives and the Senate), there are also legislatures and executives for the Brussels Region, the Walloon Region, the German-speaking Community, the Francophone Community and for Flanders.



Because the Flemish Region and Community overlap, the parliaments and governments of the Flemish Region and the Dutch-speaking Community have merged.

In the Summer of 2002, the Belgian Arab leader Dyab Abu Jahjah asked for an official recognition of Arabic

as a fourth official linguistic community in Belgium, arguing that there are currently already twice as many Arabic-speaking Belgian citizens than German-speaking Belgians.

### The Only Belgians

Unlike Switzerland, which is a multilingual but mononational state, Belgium is a multinational state.

**Unlike the Swiss, the Belgians do not exist as a nation or as a people.** Although Belgium's citizens have Belgian identity cards and passports, they are either Flemings (6 million), Walloons (3 million) or Germans

(70,000). The only place where a feeling of "Belgianness" exists, is in the capital, Brussels (1 million inhabitants).

The 350,000 Muslim immigrants (of whom 200,000 Moroccans, 100,000 Turks and 13,000 Algerians), live mainly in Brussels and in the large Flemish and Walloon cities. Apart from their own mother tongue, most of them speak French. When they become Belgian citizens, they feel Belgian rather than Flemish or Walloon. These "new Belgians" are said to be the only true Belgians, apart from the King and the Brussels establishment.

**Belgium is an asymmetrical federal state.**

## Freedom of Speech

In Belgium it is a crime to say that Islam is a danger to our society. However, there are people in Belgium who genuinely believe this. They vote Vlaams Blok.

There are also people who do not believe this, but who think that people who do, should be **allowed to express their opinion without fearing criminal prosecution**. They also vote Vlaams Blok.

In democracies important public issues are subjected to public debate. We believe that if people are not allowed to express their opinions, including their fears, there can be no public debate. The fear is not going to go away simply because it is kept in a dark corner.



Filip Dewinter, MP

"People must have a right to express their opinion."



## Saxe-Coburg Watch

**Prince Laurent**, the 39 year old second son of Belgian **King Albert II**, has been officially engaged to **Claire Coombs**, the daughter of a British father and a Walloon mother. Laurent is a member of the Belgian Senate and the chairman of the *Royal Institute for Nature Protection and Clean Technologies*, an institute which was established in 1994 to give Laurent an income.

The Prince has outspoken political opinions. "There is no harmony in the United States, but only war" he told the newspaper *Het Laatste Nieuws* in June 1996: "**Maybe I sound like a Socialist**, but competition and struggle dominate American society. That is not how I want things to be."

In May 2000, he spoke in the Belgian Senate of the need to "reconcile the five 'E's of Economics, Ethics, Ecology, Equity and Environment" into one holistic concept, so that they can "become the different pillars of a base that has to multiply itself into a polygon or, ideally, a circle."



## Louis Michel & Son

The Walloon Liberal leader **Louis Michel**, the strongman of the Belgian regime, formed the present Belgian government in July 1999. He took the opportunity to make himself Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to appoint his son, 23 year old **Charles Michel**, as Walloon Minister of the Interior. The boy had just left University. He is the youngest cabinet minister in Europe.

The Michel family is not the only political dynasty in Belgium. In the years since the Second World War the Christian-Democrat families Eyskens, Nothomb, Aspremont-Lynden, De Clerck and Van Rompuy, and the Liberal

and Socialist families Janson/Spaak, Daems, Vanderpoorten/Dewaël, Anseele, Merlot, Van Acker and Michel, all boasted second, third, sometimes even fourth (!) cabinet members within the same family. In Parliament there are even more dynasties. The former Socialist ministers **Willy Claes**, **Louis Tobback** and **Luc Van den Bossche** each have a son or daughter ready to join the next cabinet. Nepotism on a

Belgian scale exists nowhere else, except in totalitarian regimes such as North-Korea and Iraq.

Also unique to



Louis Michel

Belgium is the longevity of its cabinet members' careers. Minister **Jos Chabert** has been in office

for 22 years. He currently holds the European record. **Paul-Henri Spaak** was also a minister for 22 years, **Jean-Luc Dehaene**, **Leo Tindemans** and **Paul Van den Boeynants** were cabinet members for 18 years, **Mark Eyskens** for 16 years, **Wilfried Martens** and **Willy Claes** for 12 years.

Another champion is 66 year old **Herman De Croo**, the President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. Next March, he will be celebrating his 35th consecutive year as an MP. During 11 of those years he was also a cabinet minister. He says he hopes to *serve the Belgian State* for many years to come.

## Interested?

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