

The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why Flanders is seceding from Belgium



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Election Time

The Vlaams Blok is the fastest growing party in Flanders, the prosperous Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium. In the 1999 elections, the Vlaams Blok leapt to 15.3 % of the Flemish votes and to 15 seats in the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. It became Flanders' third party after the Christian-Democrats (22.2 %) and the Liberals (22.6 %).

If on 18 May, the Vlaams Blok again wins the elections, this will be a huge problem for Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt**. When the present coalition government of Liberals, Socialists and Greens was formed in 1999, Verhofstadt declared that he would only consider his years in office successful if he could stop the rise of the Vlaams Blok.

Double Failure

During the past decade, the Belgian regime, doubting its ability to win the support of the Flemish people in the voting booth, has tried to thwart the Vlaams Blok in two ways. Firstly, the regime has waged war against the party in court, attempting to deprive it of its finances, arguing that the party is subversive, undemocratic and racist. This strategy has failed twice. When a judge of the Brussels penal court in June 2001 refused to rule against the Vlaams Blok, a government agency took the case to the Court of Appeal, which reaffirmed the earlier ruling last February. Though the government agency has now taken the case to the *Cour de Cassation*,

The Vlaams Blok is poised to win the elections

the Vlaams Blok amounted to "throwing away their vote," they would stop voting for it. This strategy did not work either, as can be seen in Antwerp, Flanders' largest city, where the Vlaams Blok became the biggest party in the 1994 municipal elections with 28 % of the votes. The week before the 1995 general elections, the then Prime Minister, **Jean-Luc Dehaene**, ran an ad in Antwerp's biggest newspaper telling the Antverpians that if they voted Vlaams Blok, the government in Brussels would not listen to them: "No-one in Brussels cares about Antwerp anymore. It is a brown city now. If you want to be heard again, vote for responsible politicians." This threat has not prevented people from voting Vlaams Blok. On the contrary, the party has risen to 33 % of the Antwerp electoral vote.



Antwerp

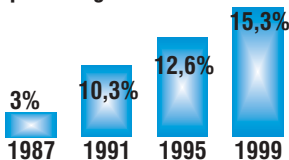
The electorate voted Vlaams Blok, despite threats by the government.

Central Issue

The *cordon sanitaire*, however, has forced all the other parties to gang together in a "rainbow coalition" to prevent the local Vlaams Blok leader, **Filip Dewinter**, from becoming Mayor of Antwerp. On 13 March 2003, the "rainbow coalition" was forced to resign after a corruption scandal, involving all the parties except the Vlaams Blok.

The Antwerp affair has turned the *cordon sanitaire* into the central issue of the coming general elections on 18 May. All parties have reaffirmed their adherence to it, but they are rapidly losing public support.

The Rise of the Vlaams Blok (In percentage of the Flemish vote)



not a racist organisation.

Secondly, the regime set up an exclusion zone, the so-called "*cordon sanitaire*," around the Vlaams Blok, with all the other parties solemnly promising never to enter into coalition talks with the Vlaams Blok. They were forced to do so at the risk of being excluded themselves if they did not. The rationale behind the *cordon* was that if voters would see that voting for

The Voice of the Free Flanders

On the eve of elections, the foreign media always show an interest in the Vlaams Blok. No wonder, as our party is slowly but surely on its way to become Flanders' major party.

Unfortunately most foreign correspondents in Brussels do not speak Dutch and only understand French, the language of our opponents in Belgium. Hence, they believe the most ludicrous stories that are written about us in the Francophone regime-friendly Belgian press.

During the 1995 electoral campaign, for example, the Vlaams Blok slogan was "Nu Afrekenen." "Nu" is the Dutch word for *now*, while "afrekenen" is *to settle an account*. "Nu afrekenen" means: *It is time to settle accounts* – the accounts in question being the political scandals in Belgium. **Sarah Helm**, however, wrote in an article in the British quality newspaper *The Independent* that "Nu Afrekenen" meant: No Africans. "Racists dream of a golden era for Flanders – Vlaams Blok stickers proclaim 'No Africans'" she titled. (*The Independent*, 16 May 1995) When we corrected this in a fax to all British correspondents in Brussels, we received a phone call from Helm's colleague **John Palmer**, the correspondent of *The Guardian*, who conceded that perhaps "nu afrekenen" did not mean *No Africans* in Dutch, but told us that No Africans was exactly what we stood for. Indeed, it is impossible to convince a biased journalist.

Nevertheless, for all those who are interested in what we have to say ourselves, we provide this newsletter: the voice of the Vlaams Blok; the voice of the Free Flanders.



Frank Vanhecke, MEP
President of the Vlaams Blok

"One cannot convince a biased journalist."

More details about the court case against the Vlaams Blok and the Antwerp fraud scandal can be found on: www.flemishrepublic.org

What does the Vlaams Blok stand for?

Foreigners often wonder why so many Flemings vote for what the Belgian regime calls “a party of extremists.” We talked to Gerolf Annemans MP, the leader of the Vlaams Blok in the Belgian federal Chamber of Representatives.

Why has the Vlaams Blok been one of the most successful nationalist parties in Europe?

Our party is unique. It differs from other “nationalist” parties because it is a party of Flemish Patriots fighting for the secession of Flanders from Belgium and the establishment of a Flemish Republic, a member state in its own right of a Confederal Europe. The dissolution of the artificial Belgian union has become inevitable.

What are the major negative developments in Belgium since the end of the Second World War and what has the Vlaams Blok done to address these issues?

There are mainly two negative developments.

Because Belgium is an artificial state, genuine Patriotic feelings do not exist in the country. This has led to a corrupt and immoral political culture. The immorality of the regime has deepened since WW II to such an extent that virtually the whole establishment is corrupt to a degree unparalleled in other countries. There is no rule of law in Belgium. It has a corporatist and undemocratic political system. The Vlaams Blok wants to restore democracy, e.g. by introducing direct democracy with initiatives and referendums.

Like the rest of Europe, we are witnessing a demographic implosion. The Flemings do not have enough



Gerolf Annemans, MP
Parliamentary leader of the Vlaams Blok

“The dissolution of the artificial Belgian union is inevitable.”

children to replace them and to keep their economy strong. The demographic vacuum is being filled by immigrants with a different cultural and religious background, namely Islam. This has led to enormous tensions in our cities. The Vlaams Blok was the first party in Flanders to address this problem. It has remained

We have been the subject of provocation, disinformation and intimidation

the only one, since the establishment parties are afraid of being branded as “racists” by the leftist media and intellectuals. We want to promote family values and propose a different immigration policy.

Is the Vlaams Blok an anti-immigration party?

The Vlaams Blok does not wish “to send back all immigrants,” but it does want to send back all illegal and criminal immigrants. It also wants the immigrants to be assimilated into the Flemish society and accept its democratic traditions. The Vlaams Blok does not believe in a multicultural society.

Many problems are encountered with Islamic immigrants who seem unwilling to adopt our values. The

In 2000, Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt said: “None of the democratic parties will ever work with the Vlaams Blok. Eventually the far Right will disappear.” The historical record since that statement has shown the exact opposite to be true. What factors have contributed to the electoral success of the Vlaams Blok?

The Flemish voters appreciate our programme. Their loathing of the corrupt Corporatist Belgian regime grows day by day; they genuinely want Flanders to become independent; they no longer feel safe in their own neighbourhoods.

Moreover, we are no extremists. We are “far Right” if one bears in mind that all the other Flemish parties have moved to the Left. We are secessionists. The Francophone media never mention the Vlaams Blok without the adjective “Fascist” and never interview us because they “do not talk to Fascists.” Once people get to know us better, however, their attitude changes, because we are neither fascists nor racists. In the past

Re-establishing the Rule of Law



Senator Jurgen Ceder

“We want to live under the Law.”

Belgium was established in 1830 **against the will of the Dutch-speaking Flemish majority** of its population. According to the Francophone revolutionary leader **Joseph Lebeau**, the first Belgian Minister of Justice, “the bayonets have spoken. The world is ruled by violence, not by the Law.” Belgium’s history is a history of state violence against the Flemings, euphemistically called “controlled intimidation.” We advocate Flemish Separatism because we want to re-establish the Rule of Law. Belgium is not ruled by the Law. It takes years to bring even the greatest criminals, like **Marc Dutroux**, to justice.

Cardinal Godfried Danneels called us “a party of savages.” After he made the acquaintance of Alexandra Colen, one of our MPs, the Cardinal said on television: “Regarding morality, she defends moral values that are mine as well.” (Zwart-Wit, Kanaal 2, 11 March 2001).

Former Socialist Minister Louis Tobback has said: “The Vlaams Blok is a disease and must not be a

political factor; it must be fought with any and all means.” Violent thugs have tried to disrupt Vlaams Blok meetings in the past. Has this hindered the party in any way?

The political atmosphere in Belgium is undemocratic and intolerant. Of course, this hinders us, because the violent acts of our adversaries intimidate potential Vlaams Blok members and



“Veilig Vlaanderen, Vrij Vlaanderen – A Safe Flanders, a Free Flanders”
The election poster of the Vlaams Blok.

An Immoral Regime

Belgium boasts the most liberal euthanasia law in the world. Recently it also legalised gay marriages and the constructing of human embryos specifically for use in therapeutic medical experiments. Even the Christian-Democrat Party approves of this. The Vlaams Blok is the only party that opposes legislation undermining the foundations of our civilisation.



Senator Gerda Staveaux- Van Steenberge

“The roots of Western civilisation have to be defended.”

voters. We have also been the subject of provocation, disinformation and intimidation, and of attempts by government agencies to have our party prohibited in court.

What does the future have in store for the Vlaams Blok in Belgium and Europe in general?

We hope the Vlaams Blok will become Flanders’ biggest party and lead the country to independence. We hope Europe becomes a democratic Confederation of free peoples able to safeguard their own culture. This we hope. Whether this will be achieved, we do not know. But the Vlaams Blok will do its best.

A Neutralised Majority

Apart from a tiny group of Germans along its eastern borders, Belgium is inhabited by two peoples: 62 % Dutch-speaking Flemings in Flanders, and 38 % Francophones in Wallonia.

The number of voters – voting is compulsory in Belgium – in the whole country is 5.8 million, of whom more than 3.6 million are Flemings and almost 2.2 million are Francophones.

Within the cabinet, there is “parity,” meaning that there is an equal number of Flemings and Francophones. The same rule applies for all major functions in the army, the top jobs in the Belgian diplomatic service, the government administration, etc: 50 % Flemings against 50 % Francophones.

Of the 150 seats in the next Parliament, ninety will go to Flemings, sixty to Francophones. Owing to the overrepresentation of the Francophones, it is harder for a Flemish party to win a seat in Parliament than for a Francophone party. Though the

Vlaams Blok and the Francophone Parti Socialiste (PS) gained almost the same number of votes in the 1999 general elections (9.9 % of the Belgian electorate for the Vlaams Blok against 10.1 % of the



The Belgian Parliament

A Francophone seat is cheaper than a Flemish seat.

Belgian electorate for the PS), the Vlaams Blok got only 15 seats, while the PS got 19. A Vlaams Blok seat costs on average 40,974 votes, a PS seat only 33,228 votes.

Sclerosis

This Flemish underrepresentation is exacerbated by the constitutional requirement that any major issue in Parliament requires not only (a) an overall majority, but also (b) a majority amongst the Flemish and (c) the Francophone representatives.

Wallonia, the Francophone southern part of the country, where the Socialists are the dominant party, needs only 31 seats in Parliament to block any major decision in Belgium and impose its will on Flanders. Indeed, in Belgium 31 outnumbers 119.

This has led to political and economic sclerosis in Belgium, where Flanders has been demanding welfare state reform for years and is unable to get it, even though a majority of the Flemish clearly want it. Wallonia vetoes any major change in social security legislation, because over 70 % of Belgian taxes is collected in Flanders, while over 50 % of government expenditure goes to the Francophone part of the country.



At Your Service

One has to be brave to be a Vlaams Blok politician. During the communal elections of 2000, the house of our candidate in the Brussels borough of St. Gilles was the target of an arson attack. Our properties and cars are regularly vandalised. **Even the brakes of my car have been sabotaged.** Nevertheless, there has to be a real opposition within a political regime. I realised this when I was the head of the police force in the Brussels borough of Schaarbeek and was dismissed because I tried to round up the mafia operating near the Brussels North Station. The only party that supported me was the Vlaams Blok.



As a politician I do the same thing as when I was still a police officer: I serve the citizens.

Johan Demol, MP

Former Chief-Superintendent of the Schaarbeek Police
"We serve the people."

Because **King Albert II** is the only true Belgian, the power of a Belgian king is greater than that of any other monarch in Europe. After the elections, Albert II will appoint the *formateur*, the man who has to put together a government coalition. The King can do this according to his own wishes, as he is accountable to no-one.

"Belgium needs the monarchy like people need bread," the Socialist Prime Minister **Achilles Van Acker** said in 1945. This must be taken literally. "The monarchy is the only way to keep an artificial state such as Belgium together. In a homogeneous country, I would be a republican, but not in Belgium," the Socialist leader **Louis Tobback** said in December 2001.



King Albert II
Needed by the Regime.

An Unreliable Ally

Belgium sees itself as the moral leader of the world. Its judiciary has brought to court Israeli Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon** for his alleged role in a 1982 Beirut massacre. At home, however, the Belgian judiciary has never been able to find the criminal gang that massacred 29 people in a series of violent raids on supermarkets between 1982 and 1985. This is the greatest unsolved murder case in Western Europe.

Last March, Belgian courts were asked to investigate whether senior U.S. officials, Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, Vice President **Dick Cheney**, as well as former President **George Bush** had committed war crimes during the 1991 Gulf War. At home, however, the judiciary has not yet brought to court

the men who killed the corrupt Walloon Socialist leader **André Cools** in 1991. Nor has it been able to bring the Walloon pedophile murderer **Marc Dutroux** to court, seven years after his arrest in 1996.

In 1993, Belgium voted a law which allows its courts to prosecute all human rights violations committed anywhere in the world, no matter who the perpetrators or the victims are. The only person immune from prosecution in Belgium is its own King.

A Bad Joke

On 3 April 2003, after a warning by Colin Powell that he will no longer be able to attend NATO

meetings in Brussels if Belgium takes him to court, the Belgian Parliament voted a bill to restrict its universal competence law, limiting the cases which can be prosecuted in Belgium. This bill only passed because the Vlaams Blok voted in favour of it. The governing Socialist and Green parties wanted to keep the law as it was. For the time being, at least, U.S. President **George W.**



The NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Bush and British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** cannot be brought to court for the war on Iraq.

However, **Louis Michel**, the Belgian Foreign Minister and the leader of the Walloon Liberal Party, has warned that America and Britain "are pursuing a hidden agenda" in Iraq and that he will not allow them "to renounce their responsibilities in the war and its consequences." (*Knack*, 19 March 2003).

Belgium has always been an unreliable friend to its allies. During the past decades, it has obstructed its friends more than it has helped them. The Flemings, however, care about the reputation their country has in the world, so an independent Flanders will end the bad joke that the foreign policy of Brussels is today.

Interested?

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