

# The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why  
Flanders is seceding from Belgium

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**VLAAMS  
BLOK**

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## Brussels Strangles Opposition

Though the free-market oriented Dutch-speaking Flemings constitute 60 % of the Belgians, the country is dominated by etatist Francophone Wallonia. Unable to persuade the Flemings through lies and intimidations not to vote for the Vlaams Blok, the regime in Brussels has decided to kill the party in court.

One decade ago, Belgium voted a law restricting the private financing of political parties. The law made it illegal for politicians and parties to accept donations from companies or donations of over € 125 (\$ 160 or £ 86.5) from private individuals. Since then political parties represented in Parliament receive state subsidies through non-profit organisations which they are required to establish to this end.

### Stronghold

Six years ago, the Walloon *Parti Socialiste* (PS) proposed a bill to stop all state funding of the Vlaams Blok. "It is intolerable that the Belgian State should subsidise its enemies," Prof. **Marc Uyttendaele**, the legal advisor of the PS said. The proposal, however, was declared unconstitutional

because only courts can decide whether or not individuals, institutions or parties are breaking the law.

Hence, in 1999, a government agency under the competence of Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** took the

### Only tyrants limit the right to dissenting opinions.

non-profit organisation which cashed the state subsidies for the Vlaams Blok to court. Verhofstadt and Uyttendaele knew they could not win a case directed against the party itself as this would require a verdict by a popular jury, and so they hoped to obtain a verdict by professional politically appointed judges against the non-profit organisation on the grounds of its collaboration with an "undemocratic" party. Such a verdict would then allow Parliament to defund the non-profit organisation and deprive the Vlaams Blok of all its finances.

Two years later, however, a Flemish judge of the Brussels Penal Court refused to issue a verdict in the case, arguing that it is up to the electorate to decide whether a party is undemocratic or not. In February 2003, the Flemish section of the Brussels Court of Appeal reaffirmed this ruling.

Last July, after Uyttendaele's wife **Laurette Onkelinx**, a leading Socialist, became Minister of Justice, things changed dramatically. On 18 November 2003, the *Cour de Cassation*, consisting of an equal number of Flemings and Walloons, overruled the ruling of the Brussels Court of Appeal and ordered the case to be brought before the Court of Appeal in Ghent.

The date set for the case is 1 March, with the verdict to be issued within the week. The beginning of the case coincides with the beginning of the case against the notorious child murderer **Marc Dutroux**. The Belgian regime undoubtedly hopes that the international media will be focusing on the Dutroux trial so that a ruling against the biggest opposition party will not draw much attention.

## Why They Hate Us

The Belgian regime would like the international media to believe that the Vlaams Blok, a party striving for the independence of Flanders, is an intolerant and xenophobic party. The Vlaams Blok was the first party in Belgium to draw attention to the danger of large-scale immigration by people of a fundamentally different culture and religion than ours, namely Islam. Before other political parties, we understood what was worrying ordinary Flemish people, because, unlike the other parties, we are rooted in the people.

We are, however, no extremists. During the past decade, the policies of all parties regarding immigration, integration and asylum have become stricter. In effect, as **Tom Naegels**, one of Belgium's Vlaams Blok bashers writes in the pro-government newspaper *De Standaard* (8 January), "there are politicians in at least three mainstream parties – the New Flemish Alliance, the Christian-Democrat Party and the governing Liberal Party – who adopt positions similar to the Vlaams Blok."

Mr. Naegels expresses the true reason why he and his friends hate the Vlaams Blok so vehemently: "Its conservative family policies, its deeply felt ethical objections to abortion and euthanasia, its radical pursuing of the interests of Flanders, its republicanism, these are the issues voiced by no other party, these are in practice the indiscussable phantasms of the Vlaams Blok."

Indeed, this is why they want to silence us.



Vlaams Blok MPs outside the court.  
After two unsuccessful bids to have the party outlawed,  
a third attempt is on its way.



Senator Frank Vanhecke  
President of the Vlaams Blok  
"The reason why our enemies hate us has  
nothing to do with immigration policies."

## Minister or Murderer?

On 8 January 2004, the killers of former Deputy Prime Minister **André Cools**, who was murdered on 18 July 1991, were sentenced to prison. The trial confirmed that Mr. Cools, a strongman of the Walloon *Parti Socialiste*, was assassinated on the orders of a party member, **Alain Van der Biest**, the Belgian Minister of Pensions. Van der Biest committed suicide in March 2002; his main accomplices **Richard Taxquet** and **Pino Di Mauro** were given twenty years, although the public prosecutor had asked for life sentences. Taxquet was the minister's *chef de cabinet*, Di Mauro the minister's driver.

Di Mauro was not arrested after the verdict "because of his poor health." He is a diabetic. He left the courtroom in a cheerful mood. "I am going home, to my family," he told the media. Other culprits, for whom the prosecutor had requested twenty years, got only five.

The reason why Cools was murdered remains a mystery. It may have had to do with a corruption scandal or with mafia operations run from the ministerial cabinet.

### Delay

Although the names of the culprits had been known since 1993, it took more than twelve years (148 months) to bring them to justice. Whenever a criminal case is politically sensitive, the Belgian judiciary will wait years until the case no longer poses a threat to the governing authorities of the day. Similarly, the trial of **Marc Dutroux** only starts 90 months (seven and a half years) after his arrest. In the Netherlands the murderer of **Pim Fortuyn** was tried after 11 months, in Britain the murderer of **Holly** and **Jessica** after 15 months.

# At Last, the Dutroux Trial

## "What One Does Not Wish to Seek, One Will Not Find"



On 1 March the trial will start of **Marc Dutroux**, the most famous of all living Belgians. Dutroux was arrested in 1996 for the assassination of four girls and one man in 1995 and the abduction of two other girls in 1996. He kept his victims locked up in a dungeon for months, frequently abusing and torturing them.

After Dutroux's arrest Belgium and the world were shocked as it emerged

that he had already been convicted in 1986 to a gaol sentence of 13 years and six months for the abduction, torture and rape of children. Nevertheless he had been released early in 1992 by the Minister of Justice, **Melchior Wathelet**, ignoring negative advice from the prison authorities. Dutroux's wife and accomplice, **Michelle Martin**, convicted to five years, had been released after two years, in 1988.

Three days after his release from prison, Dutroux was granted "invalid" status by the Walloon Socialist sickness fund because of "the psychological damage suffered during his years in prison and his subsequent inability to work." As a consequence, the couple received a monthly social security cheque from the Belgian State of no less than 80,000 Belgian francs (\$ 2,400 or £ 1,440)! Such practices, which are only pos-

sible in Wallonia, have been frequently criticised by the Vlaams Blok.

### The Bottom of the Case

The money allowed Dutroux to buy several houses and build dungeons in the cellars. Though the *Gendarmerie* in Charleroi was informed in October 1993 by one of Dutroux's acquaintances that the latter was building cells "to keep children there as they awaited transport to foreign countries," the authorities did nothing. Even after he had abducted two little girls in June 1995 and two teenagers in August 1995, the police remained passive, ignoring the statement by an informer that Dutroux was involved in "the selling of young girls" and ignoring a letter written to the police by Dutroux's own mother to tell them that girls had been staying in her son's house and "seeing as more and more young girls are disappearing, I think the least I can do is inform you of the coming and going of these young girls." (Quotes from the *Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry Committee into the Dutroux-Nihoul Case*, 14 Apr. 1997, pp. 40-42, 47, 213)

Dutroux was finally arrested on 15 August 1996, thanks to a nun who learned car licence plates by heart as a hobby. Acting on her information the Neufchâteau police discovered that Dutroux's van had been parked not far from the place where a girl had just been abducted.

**Michel Bourlet**, the Neufchâteau Chief Prosecutor and his deputy, investigating magistrate **Jean-Marc Connerotte**, discovered over 7,000 videotapes in Dutroux's house. "If I am allowed to, I will go to the bottom of this case: Everyone whom we recognise on the videos will be prosecuted," Mr. Bourlet declared on Belgian television. Unfortunately, he was not allowed to get to the bottom.

### Fallen Apart

Barely two months later, on 14 October 1996, Connerotte was taken off the investigation by the *Cour de Cassation*, the highest judicial authority in Belgium. The *Cour* ruled that Connerotte's presence at a fundraising spaghetti dinner for the families of missing children casted doubt on the impartiality that was required of him in the investigation.

## Tax Axe

Belgium is the only Western country where the tax burden has risen during the past years. The tax burden now amounts to 46.2% of GDP, as compared to the average of 40.5% in the European Union, 35.9% in the United Kingdom and 28.9% in the United States. Most Belgian taxes are collected in Flanders and spent in Socialist-dominated Wallonia. The Vlaams Blok wants to cut taxes in Flanders by the 8.5% of Flemish GDP that is annually spent in Wallonia. This would bring the tax level in Flanders down to 37.7%.



Senator Anke Van dermeersch

"We want to cut taxes by 8.5%."

Connerotte was replaced by Jacques Langlois. Unlike Bourlet and Connerotte, he did not believe that Dutroux was a mafia protégé working for a larger network dealing in white sex slaves. Langlois was convinced that Dutroux had acted entirely on his own and for his own ends. From then on, the investigation was burdened with conflicts between Bourlet and Langlois. Langlois refused to carry out investigations requested by Bourlet which he considered unnecessary and time-consuming, such as DNA tests on 5,000 human hairs that had been discovered in Dutroux's dungeon. The investigators also failed to watch the confiscated videotapes until four years later in 2000, when it emerged that some of the tapes were nowhere to be found. The trial against Dutroux, which was originally planned for 1998, was postponed to 2000, then to 2002, then to 2003, then to March 2004.

## Request

In August 2000, five years after the abduction of his daughter and four years after Dutroux's arrest, Paul Marchal, the father of one of the murdered girls, said: "I no longer believe that justice will be done. Oh yes, Dutroux will be convicted, but only as an *Einzelgänger* who acted entirely on his own. The authorities do not want to investigate whether there was a network of paedophiles or not. What they do not wish to seek, they will not find." (*Humo*, 8 Aug. 2000)

# Belgium: the terrorists' poodle

Last December 18<sup>th</sup>, Belgian police "accidentally" arrested 26 year old Khalil Muhammed Abdullah al-Nawawreh in a chance raid after an armed robbery. At the time of his arrest, he was carrying explosives and firearms. Al-Nawawreh, a member of the Palestinian terror group Hamas, had been granted asylum in Belgium in May 2002 by the government of Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt. He had been one of the thirteen Palestinian killers occupying the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in April-May 2002 and had been allowed to leave for Belgium as part of a deal with Israel.

In Belgium, al-Nawawreh received € 4,000 (\$ 5,094 or £ 2,774) a month in state benefits – a very generous amount considering that some ordinary Belgian pensioners have to make do with barely € 400. After his arrival in Brussels, he began to frequent circles of gangsters and Muslim extremists, which apparently often overlap. That a known terrorist, whom the Belgian security services should have been tracing, was free to engage in criminal activities has been called "a scandal and a disgrace" by Filip De Man, a Vlaams Blok MP.

## Muslim Executive

The Belgian police and security services, however, can hardly be blamed,



Filip De Man, MP  
Appalled by the appointment of known Muslim extremists in a Belgian institution.

since the second Verhofstadt cabinet, installed last July, is again pampering international terrorist groups. According to an official report presented to Parliament in March 2002, the Belgian Muslim community, numbering over 350,000 members,

In 1998 Belgium installed a *Muslim Executive* (ME). This is an official institution whose task it is to advise the authorities on all matters concerning the Islamic community. All Belgian Muslims were called to elect 68 members to a Muslim Council that had to appoint 16 members in the ME. Of these sixteen, eight were known by the *Sûreté* to belong to fundamentalist groups. Their appointment was vetoed by Mr. Marc Verwilghen, a Flemish Liberal and the Minister of Justice in the first Verhofstadt government.

## Intimidation

Intimidated by the fundamentalists, however, no other Muslims dared to join the ME, so half the seats in the Executive remained vacant. The eight that had been vetoed contested Verwilghen's decision, with Marc Uyttendaele, a professor at the Brussels

## A terrorist received € 4,000 a month in Belgian state benefits.

is heavily infiltrated by fundamentalist extremists. The report by the *Standing Committee Monitoring the Intelligence Services*, revealed that in the 1990s the Belgian authorities had asked the *Sûreté de l'Etat* (the Belgian Secret Services) to turn a blind eye to conspiracies hatched on Belgian soil in exchange for Belgium's immunity from attack by Muslim terrorists. As a result, the report states, Brussels became, "the ideal logistics centre for international Islamic terrorist groups."

In the late 1990s, Belgium was criticised by France "for its lack of resolve in the fight against international Islamic terrorism." Following the 9/11 events in 2001, the American authorities urged Belgium to change its attitude. Belgium reluctantly complied with the request, but not for long. Since the May 2003 elections, the authorities in Brussels have again softened their attitude.

Francophone University, as their attorney. Uyttendaele is close to the *Parti Socialiste*. He is the party's attorney and the (very expensive) legal advisor of various ministerial cabinets manned by the PS. Uyttendaele is the husband of Laurette Onkelinx, one of the Socialist leaders.

After the last general elections Mrs. Onkelinx became Belgium's new Minister of Justice. Her first decision, on 25 July, was the appointment of the eight originally elected fundamentalists as members of the ME. This decision remained a secret until it was leaked to the press last November. Onkelinx has refused to justify her decision.

Half the members of the Belgian Muslim Executive now belong to the most radical Islamic groups. The West may once again contemplate the fact that with a friend like Belgium it needs no enemies.

## Freedom of Education

25 years ago, there were 15,000 Muslim children in Flemish schools; today there are over 150,000. The government says Catholic schools have to take in their share of Muslim children. Hence it wants to oblige these schools to offer Islamic religious lessons. According to the Vlaams Blok the government has no right to interfere in the religious education provided by Catholic schools.



Marijke Dillen, MP

"The government has no right to force Catholic schools to provide Islamic lessons."

## The Killing Fields

Belgium and the Netherlands are the only two countries in the world where euthanasia has been legalised, but only in Belgium even patients who are not terminally ill can demand to be killed. According to the Belgian Euthanasia Act of 2002, the patient has to be at least 18 years old and has to personally ask for his death.

The Belgian government parties want to extend the law so that it will also be legal to carry out euthanasia on children and senile elderly people. The Vlaams Blok fears that the welfare state will consider euthanasia an easy way to cut health care spending.



**Marleen Van den Eynde, MP**  
"Curing a disease or easing a pain by killing the patient is an easy way out for the welfare state."

## Saxe-Coburg Watch



Despite the failings of the Belgian State, the authorities in Brussels promote the multicultural and multilingual "Belgian federal model," which, according to Belgian Crown Prince **Philip**, "can be an inspiration for the European Union." Philip's father, King **Albert II**, and his uncle, the late King **Baudouin**, also frequently proposed Belgium as a model for Europe. "We try to put into practice in Belgium, the federal option which we propose for Europe," Baudouin once said.

According to the Belgian Socialist leader **Elio Di Rupo**, the monarchy is the institution that keeps Belgium together because the King is neither a Fleming nor a Walloon. The Belgian royals have long been convinced that Europe, in order to become a State, not only needs a common currency, a flag and an army, but also a common dynasty. They think that they are the most likely candidates to become the monarchs of such a state, precisely because they are nothing: not British, not French, not German, not Italian, not Danish, not Spanish, not even Flemish or Walloon. Being nothing, they are the only "true Belgians," the only "true Europeans."

This Saxe-Coburg ambition goes back to the early days of the Second World War, when the father of King Albert II, King **Leopold III** dreamt of becoming the monarch of a Federal Europe. In June 1940 Leopold's friend and advisor, the Socialist leader **Henri De Man** told him that the need for a symbolic figure unifying a Europe dominated by Germany and Italy would soon be felt, and that Leopold, a Prince of German ancestry whose sister was the Italian Crown Princess, held the best cards to be this figure. De Man had already discussed the idea of a dynasty for a Federal Europe with **Count Ciano**, the brother-in-law of **Mussolini**, in 1939.

## The Sorrow of Brussels

Brussels is not only the capital of Europe and of Belgium, but also of Flanders. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Brussels was still a Dutch-speaking town. After the imposed *Frenchification* during the French occupation of the Southern Netherlands in 1794-1814 and the subsequent influx of French immigrants, the number of Francophones had risen to 5 %. In 1830, these French immigrants tore Belgium away from the Netherlands and turned it into an officially Francophone state.

The Belgian regime continued the *Frenchification*. This policy was felt most severely in the capital. In 1873, **Joseph Schoep**, a Brussels baker, was convicted by the *Cour de Cassation* for "civil disobedience" after he had refused to have the birth of his child registered in French.

### Priorities

Under social and political pressure, many Flemings began raising

their children in French. These children still understood Dutch but could no longer speak it. The grandchildren, however, did not even understand Dutch and were exclusively Francophone.

By 1900, the number of Francophones in the capital totalled almost 25 % of the population. A few years later, in 1911, two nurses at a Brussels hospital were disciplined for speaking Dutch to each other. The doctor who ran the hospital commented: "It is already bad enough that we have to tolerate the patients speaking Dutch."

In 1940, only 65 % of the inhabitants of

### Flemish parties are about to be replaced by Islamic parties.

Brussels still spoke Dutch. By about 1960, the Francophones had become a majority in town and Brussels was a Francophone enclave within Flanders. Today, the Flemings constitute less

than 15 % of the population in their own capital. This is due not only to the Frenchification process that has turned many Flemings into Francophones, but also to the fact that almost 50 % of the Brussels population consists of foreign immigrants. The Belgian regime is deliberately taking advantage of the immigrants, who hardly ever speak Dutch, to drive the Flemings out of Brussels. In 2000, Belgium introduced the so-called "Quick Citizenship Bill," granting hassle-free Belgian citizenship virtually upon demand. As 98.8 % of the applications for citizenship in Brussels are filed in

French, this bill "does more for the Frenchification of Brussels than the Flemings can ever do to prevent it," **Claude Eerdekens**, the Walloon parliamentary leader of the *Parti Socialiste*, boasts. (*Le Matin*, 9 Feb. 2001)

Meanwhile it is becoming ever more difficult for Flemish patients in



Brussels hospitals to find a doctor who can understand them. The Vlaams Blok, the biggest Flemish party in Brussels, urges the government to do something about this appalling situation, and one which has already cost lives. But the government has other priorities. It intends to grant voting rights for the municipal elections to all foreigners. In Brussels this will lead to the complete disappearance of Flemish parties and their replacement by radical Islamic parties.

## Interested?

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