

# The Flemish Republic

*A quarterly newsletter explaining why Flanders is seceding from Belgium*

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**VLAAMS  
BLOK**

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## A Politics of Cosmetics

Belgium has dramatically reshuffled its government in the wake of the election victory of the Vlaams Blok last June. The longest serving of all ministers in the Western world, the 71-year old Christian-Democrat **Jos Chabert**, a representative of the Christian-Democrat Trade Union, finally relinquished his ministerial status after 24 years. A number of new politicians were brought in. They are young, bold and beautiful.

The youngest minister is the Liberal **Isabelle Weykmans**. She is 24 and was born when Mr. Chabert was already in government.

Another newcomer is 26-year old **Inge Vervotte**.

She now has to uphold the interests of the Christian-Democrat Trade Union. The Socialists have their "babes" as well: 29-year old **Freya Van den Bossche**, daughter of a former minister, and the leggy 34-year old **Kathleen Van Brempt**.

Libertine Flemish author **Herman Brusselmans** quipped that for the first time ever he would like to go to bed with members of the government.

Liberal **Gisèle Mandaila Malamba**, the 35-year old Socialist of Turkish origin **Emir Kir**, and the 37-year old Socialist **Fadila Lanaan** of Moroccan origin.

### Redistribution

All these young, sexy, ambitious but mostly inexperienced politicians were given top positions by the establishment parties in an effort to convince the electorate that Belgium is in for something entirely new and modern.

According to the Vlaams Blok, however, Belgium needs more than just

a cosmetic makeover. Our country does not need new faces, however pretty and exotic they may be, to continue old policies. We want to reclaim our democracy. What Flanders needs is a country where young and ambitious people are given other chances than to pursue a career in politics. We want a direct form of democracy, where individuals are allowed to reap the benefits of their work and creativity. We want to end

the huge financial "social transfers," of up to € 5 billion a year, from Flanders to Wallonia. This form of "wealth redistribution" is bad for Flanders. It is also bad for Wallonia.

It is not good for a country

like Wallonia that one third of its population is living off the state instead of working for its own living. The Vlaams Blok are not egotistical nationalists who only care about Flanders. We care for Flanders because we are convinced that by caring for our own people, we care for the world.

**Some now want to go to bed with their ministers.**



Soon to be banned?

Other youngsters in government are the 31-year old Liberal **Vincent Van Quickenborne**, who became famous for calling to bring Israeli Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon** to court in Belgium as a war criminal, the 34-year old Socialist **Bruno Tobback**, son of a former minister, the 34-year old Congolese-born

## A New Beginning

Next November 9th, the *Cour de Cassation*, Belgium's Supreme Court, will decide whether the ruling of the Court of Appeal in Ghent last April 21st, will stand. This ruling effectively banned the Vlaams Blok, Belgium's biggest party. The Vlaams Blok is considered a mortal enemy by the Belgian regime as it aims for the independence of Flanders, Belgium's Dutch-speaking northern half and economic powerhouse, where 60% of the population lives.

As the Belgian regime has not been able to stop our party in the voting booth, it attempts to do so in court on the basis of two bills, the so-called *Anti-Racism Act* of 30 July 1981 and the so-called *Anti-Discrimination Act* of 25 February 2003. These bills (their main articles can be found on our website) define "discrimination" so broadly that every individual can be prosecuted on the basis of them. Since 1993 the power to prosecute on the basis of these bills has been transferred to a government quango, resorting directly under the Prime Minister, the so-called *Centre for Equal Opportunities and the Fight against Racism*.

If the Supreme Court, an institution composed of political appointees with as many Flemings as Walloons, upholds the Ghent verdict, the Vlaams Blok will be forced to disband. Moreover, last July, the government announced a new bill that would rob all the politicians of parties condemned on the basis of the two said bills, of their political rights, including the right to vote, the right to stand for election and the right to be a member of a legislative or executive body.

Because we fear the Belgian regime is going for the kill on 9 November, we have already taken measures to found a new party to defend our political priorities: an independent and democratic Republic of Flanders; the traditional moral values of Western civilisation; and the right of the Flemings to protect their national identity and their Dutch language and culture.



**Frank Vanhecke, MEP  
Vlaams Blok Party Leader**  
"Our purpose is to reclaim our democracy."

# Blok Ballot Bedevils Belgian Balance

Belgium is a complicated federal state. It is made up of three so-called *Communities* – Flemish, Francophone and German-speaking – and three *Regions* – Flanders, Wallonia (which includes nine German municipalities) and bilingual Brussels (an enclave of 19 predominantly Francophone municipalities within Flanders). The Communities and Regions receive their money from the federation according to a proportional stipend, with Flanders receiving 55% from the Community pool and 57.5% from the Regional provisions, although according to its tax contributions it would be entitled to 64%.

The *Communities* deal with “person-related matters,” such as culture, education, youth protection, etc., but not with social security nor health care, because in these areas the Flemings have to subsidise the socialist Walloons. The *Regions* deal with “territory-related matters,” such as employment, public works, environment, etc., but not with matters of strategic importance, such as the railroads, the postal service and Brussels international airport, which is located in Flanders.

The federal level decides on constitutional matters, foreign and defence policy, justice, the maintenance of law and order, economic policy, fiscal and monetary issues, and social security plus health care.

## The Need for Symmetry

The Communities and Regions all have their own parliaments and governments. Apart from (1) the Federal Parliament and Government, there are also legislatures and executives for (2) the Walloon Region, (3) the Brussels Region, (4) the Francophone Community, (5) the German-speaking Community, and (6) Flanders. Because on the Flemish level the Region and Community overlap, the parliaments and

governments of the Flemish Region and Dutch-speaking Community have merged.

Until last June, all six government coalitions were composed symmetrically, meaning that the same parties were in power everywhere. Up to 1999, there was a coalition of Christian-Democrats and Socialists on all six levels. Between 1999 and July 2004, there was a coalition of Liberals and Socialists.

## Asymmetrical

The victory of the Vlaams Blok in the regional and community elections on 13 June, shook the Belgian construction. The Vlaams Blok broke the majority of Liberals and Socialists in Flanders and

forced them to include the Christian-Democrats in the Flemish government. Since the Christian-Democrats are not included in the federal government, the Belgian establishment fears that such an “asymmetrical” situation will encourage the Christian-Democrats to become Flemish regionalists, demanding the transfer of social security, health care, and postal and railroad policies to Flanders. This would allow Flanders to proclaim its total independence.

## Prospects

It is unlikely that the federal government of Belgian Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** will survive for long. The establishment is pushing for an inclusion of the Christian-Democrats in the federal government. New federal elections are likely this winter or next spring, after the Vlaams Blok has been disbanded by the Supreme Court.



## Biggest Party

Last June, the Vlaams Blok won the 32 of the 124 seats in the Flemish Parliament and 18 seats in the Belgian Federal Chamber of Representatives, 9 seats in the European Parliament.

## The Cost of Labour

Belgian employees are among the most expensive in the world. This is not because we earn so much, but because the state grabs so much. According to OECD figures a Belgian employee who is single and has no children receives only € 45.5 of every € 100 his employer pays him, compared to € 57 in the Netherlands. A Belgian employee with two children receives only € 60, compared to € 66.3 in the Netherlands.

Because labour is so expensive in Belgium, delocalisation has hit us hard. Between 1997 and 2002 employment grew by only 2.7%, compared to the West-European average of 4%. Only 59.7% of the Belgians aged between 15 and 64 have a job. In the Netherlands this percentage is 74.5. The West-European average is 64.2%. If Flanders were independent, it would reach 63.5%, but Wallonia would score lowest of all with an employment rate of only 54.9% – lower than Greece (56.9%) and Italy (55.4%).

The situation is worst for elderly Belgians. In the age group between 55 and 64, only 25% of the Belgians have a job, the lowest percentage in Europe. The Vlaams Blok wants to restore sound economic principles, by allowing people to keep a larger share of what they earn.



Jan Penris, MP  
“The Vlaams Blok is the party of sound economics.”



## Party in the Land

Flemish Parliament. It also has 6 seats in the Brussels Parliament, 9 seats in the Senate and 3 seats in the European Parliament.

# Belgian Federalism Was Designed to Minorise Flanders

The Kingdom of Belgium consists of three entirely different peoples with their own languages, cultures and traditions: Dutch-speaking Flemings in the North (60% of the population), French-speaking Walloons in the South (39%), and a tiny community of Germans (1%) in the East. The latter are administratively attached to Francophone Wallonia.

Apart from the capital Brussels (which used to be a Flemish town but was largely "frenchified" during Belgian rule), the Belgians live in distinct unilingual regions. A series of constitutional reforms between 1970 and 1993 transformed Belgium from a unitary state into a federal state.

Federalisation was deemed necessary because within a democratic system the demographic majority of the Flemings would lead to a Flemish political majority in a country that had been dominated by the French-speaking, predominantly Socialist, Walloon minority since its foundation in 1830. As the Walloon Socialist leader **André Renard** put it in 1960, Federalism was the means by which the Flemings would be prevented from "suffocating Wallonia's social experiment and anti-capitalist reforms." The Belgian Federation, hence the Flemish taxpayers, would have to provide the money, but Wallonia would be free to decide what to do with it.

## In Defence of Marriage

Belgium is one of the few countries in Europe that allows homosexual couples to marry. Gay lobbyists are now pushing for adoption rights for homosexuals. The Vlaams Blok believes children have a natural right to a father and a mother, for their emotional and spiritual well-being. We are the only party in Belgium to defend evident truths that even the Belgian Christian-Democrats no longer care about. We also object to the government plans to extend the "right" to euthanasia to underaged children and to people incapable of expressing their will.



**Senator Nele Jansegers**  
 "The Vlaams Blok is the party of sound ethics."

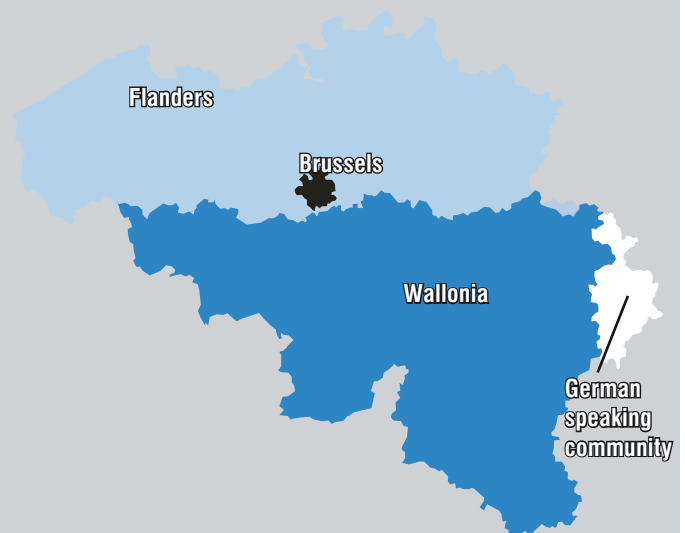
Turning Belgium into a union of a Flemish and Walloon state, with both states assuming an equal status at the federal level, would give the Francophones a 50% say in government instead of the 40% that they would eventually end up with in a democratic Belgium. If Brussels were also to become a constituent state of the federation, the Francophones would even have a permanent majority position of two-to-one, as Brussels had become overwhelmingly Francophone.

## Explanation

The Walloon Socialists, aided by the King, succeeded in turning Belgium into a federation of a Flemish, a Walloon

and a Brussels state. One of the architects of federalism, **Wilfried Martens**, a Fleming who had allied himself with the Belgian establishment, explained in January 1972 what it was all about: "Flanders is not allowed to dominate Belgium because this will cause the country to explode. The federal construct is designed precisely to prevent this from happening. This implies that Flanders yield its power."

Martens was the leader of the Flemish Christian-Democrat Party, which he reduced from 48.1% of the Flemish electorate to 26.9%. He is currently the president of the European Christian-Democrat Party and advocates **designing the European Union as a Greater-Belgium**.





## In Defence of Identity

Flanders has always been a hospitable country. We want to keep it that way. However, the influx of large numbers of immigrants into our inner cities has made many Flemings feel like strangers in their own country. The Vlaams Blok stresses the duty of immigrants to adapt to our way of living. Today it is often the other way round. This has to stop.

Immigrants who are unwilling to respect our culture and who disobey our laws are no longer welcome. Foreigners are entitled to their own culture in their own country. In our country we have a duty to our children to preserve our language and cultural identity.



Linda Vissers, MP  
"We have a duty to our children to preserve our culture."

## Royal Daughter

It is hard to be a royal child, especially if you were born on the wrong side of the blanket. **Delphine Boël** is the 36-year old love child of Belgian **King Albert II** and a former mistress. Since her existence was revealed in 1999, Delphine, who lived in London as an artist but has since moved back to Belgium, has not been in touch with her father, except for one telephone conversation in which he scolded her for not leaving him alone.

Delphine, who is known for art work depicting giant penises in the Belgian national colours and frogs or cows adorned with crowns, complained about her father's lack of paternal love in an interview in the popular weekly *Humo* (22 July).

She was criticised for this interview by the Belgian constitutionalist **Prof. Robert Senelle**, who brandished her for being indiscrete. "Everything this woman says, displays bad taste. Her statements are inappropriate and her work is revolting. Pigs in the national colours, *Manneke Pis* wearing a crown... But worse, she publicly breaches her duty to secrecy. If she wants a financial settlement, let her do that quietly. Without publicizing her problems." (*Het Laatste Nieuws*, 22 July 2004).

Four years ago, the King's youngest (legitimate) son, **Prince Laurent**, caused a scandal by openly criticising Belgian politicians. He was given a higher annuity and has since behaved well.

## Fighting Their Wars in Brussels

Fourteen of the 26 Brussels MPs of the *Parti Socialiste*, the largest party in the Belgian capital, are immigrants. Only twelve Socialists are of Belgian origin, ten are of Moroccan origin, two are Turkish, one is Tunisian and one comes from the West-African state of Guinea. All of them are Muslims. The strength of the Socialists in Brussels is based on the immigrant vote, favouring extensive redistributions of taxpayers' money to so-called "underprivileged" groups such as African and Turkish immigrants.

These immigrants not only bring their religion and culture to Belgium, but also their national quarrels. **Emir Kir**, the new Brussels Secretary of State, is an outspoken Turkish nationalist who hates Armenians. Last May 29th, he participated in a demonstration to demand the destruction of the Armenian monument

in Brussels. This monument commemorates the 1.5 million Armenian civilians massacred by the Turkish Army in 1915. It was erected half a century ago by Christian Armenians who had fled to Belgium after the First World War and who had become law-abiding and prosperous citizens of our country, although they had never claimed or received "redistributive solidarity."

According to Kir, who has now become the member of the Brussels Government responsible for



The new Brussels Secretary of State says the monument to the Armenian genocide should be destroyed.

public monuments, the "so-called Armenian genocide" is a hoax, concocted by "imperialists." Other Turkish-born politicians who demand the demolition of the Armenian monument are the Liberals **Nezahat Namli** and **Sait Köse**, the Socialist **Ermin Özkara** and the "Christian"-Democrat **Halis Kökten**.

### Soft on Terrorism

Meanwhile the former Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Liberal Party strongman **Louis Michel** has left the government to become a member of the European Commission. Michel is an outspoken proponent of enlarging the European Union with countries such as Turkey and Morocco.

The Vlaams Blok demands that a referendum be held to make this decision. "We oppose enlarging the EU with Turkey because we know that the people oppose it," says Vlaams Blok MP **Guido Tassenhoye**. He also criticised the Belgian government for its soft position on terrorism. Last March, a Belgian of Moroccan origin was arrested in the Netherlands on charges of terrorism.

Last April, eight Turks were briefly detained in Brussels at the request of the Italian judiciary who suspects them of terrorist activities. Seven of them, however, were released the following day, including **Fehriye Erdal**. She has also been accused by the Turkish police of involvement in the assassination of a Turkish businessman in 1996. Erdal has been living in Belgium for four years, but Belgium refuses to extradite her to Turkey.

## Interested?

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