

# The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why Flanders is seceding from Belgium

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N° 8 - Oct.-Nov.-Dec. 2004

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P2A9779

## You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet

On 9 November 2004, the Supreme Court in Brussels declared Belgium's largest party, the Vlaams Blok, a criminal organisation, thereby killing it. Despite the fact that a political party should be fought in the voting booth, the Belgian regime harassed the Vlaams Blok with criminal prosecutions for over a decade. In recent years, the Belgian Parliament changed the Constitution and voted a series of new laws, including a so-called *Anti-Racism Act* and an *Anti-Discrimination Act*, which define "discrimination" so broadly that anyone and everyone is vulnerable to hate-crime prosecutions.

On the basis of these infamous bills (texts to be found on our website [www.flemishrepublic.org](http://www.flemishrepublic.org)) the Vlaams Blok was convicted as "racist." **What happened in Belgium is unique in the Western world:** never before has a so-called democratic regime outlawed the country's most popular political party. Last June, the Vlaams Blok got 24.1% of the vote in Flanders, where 60% of the Belgian population lives. Its main objective was the secession of Flanders, the free-market oriented Dutch-speaking and politically minorised northern part of the country.

### Flavour of the Past

The decision of the Supreme Court forced the Vlaams Blok to transform. According to Belgium's draconian new laws, every member and collaborator of an organisation that propagates "discrimination," can be punished with fines or imprisonment. Moreover, **private funding of political parties is effectively outlawed** in Belgium as political parties are forbidden to accept dona-

tions higher than 125 euros. Belgium's political parties are financed by the state. They can, however, be deprived of their state subsidies by a parliamentary majority in case of... a conviction for "racism."



Inspired by Jefferson and Reagan.

### Belgium outlawed its biggest party.

The decision of the Belgian court was widely criticised by the international press. "Dirty tricks in Belgium," the Canadian *National Post* wrote. Britain's liberal newspaper *The Guardian* remarked ironically that Belgium has "achieved a new distinction" apart from Tintin, chocolate and beer. *The Wall Street Journal Europe* wrote that "limiting or suppressing free speech by one's political rivals has the flavour of the past" and that Belgium is now "vulnerable to charges that [it] is using the judicial branch to combat political enemies."

The American conservative weblog *National Review Online* wrote that what had happened in Brussels was "a nasty little example of what the Left would like to do to anyone that refuses to toe the PC line," while the British libertarians of *Samizzdata.net* said it was an example of "Europe's very selective attachment to democracy." *The Spectator* asked: "What do the Belgian elite want the Flemish to do - overthrow the state in violent revolution?"

Even *The Economist*, while maliciously calling the Vlaams Blok a group of "white racists" (thus revealing that it

had never bothered to look into the matter) said that "such measures [as taken by the Belgian establishment] were likely to backfire."

### Examples

And, indeed, backfire they will. On 14 November, one thousand delegates from local chapters of the former Vlaams Blok convened in Antwerp to re-establish the party in order to defend the political priorities that the Vlaams Blok had always fought for: 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. This party was christened the *Vlaams Belang* (Flemish Interest). It will lead Flanders to freedom and independence.

At the first convention of the Vlaams Belang, **Gerolf Annemans**, the leader of our group in the Belgian Federal Chamber of Representatives, quoted **Thomas Jefferson**: "When governments fear the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny." While **Filip Dewinter**, the leader of our party in the Flemish Regional Parliament, quoted that other great American president, whose message has inspired freedom loving people all over the world. With the words of **Ronald Reagan**, he warned Belgium: "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

### In Limbo

Since the Vlaams Blok has been outlawed, our newsletter, *The Flemish Republic*, is no longer published by the Vlaams Blok but by the "Vlaams Belang" (the Flemish Interest).

As this party is currently in limbo and does not have a party leader yet, we cannot offer you the usual editorial by our party leader. The new leadership will be elected on 12 December.

# Manifesto of the Vlaams Belang

## Principles

The Vlaams Belang (Flemish Interest) is a party of Flemish patriots. (In the Anglosaxon semantic context, "Flemish nationalism" in the continental-European semantic context). It is an instrument for the advancement of the national and cultural identity of Flanders. Through its political initiatives the Vlaams Belang aims to ensure that the organisation and government of the state are (co-)determined by the need to preserve the cultural identity and the national interests of the Flemish people. The state is but a structure. In accordance with the principle of self-determination the state exists to serve the people. The state should serve the people, not the other way round.

The Vlaams Belang is a "nationalist party of the right" (In the continental-European semantic context, as opposed to the collectivist, etatist "left". In an Anglosaxon context the term "conservative" would be used, as opposed to "liberal"). Indeed, we recognise man as a free agent, with all his human qualities and flaws, and we reject ideologies that presuppose the "makeability" of mankind and that advocate social engineering. Tradition, virtues and morality, as these have grown through time, must be respected and are constitutive elements of the society of the future.

## Identity

### 1. Flemish Independence

The Vlaams Belang strives for the secession of Flanders from the artificial Belgian state. Our aim is to dissolve Belgium and establish an independent Flemish state.

### 2. The Netherlands and the Dutch Language

Language is a constitutive element of a people's cultural identity. The Vlaams Belang defends the interests of the Dutch-speaking Flemings. The party will encourage Flanders to cooperate as closely as possible with the Netherlands.



### 3. Europe

The cooperation of the European nations within a shared civilization and culture provides a historic opportunity for peace, stability and prosperity. However, we adopt a restrained and critical attitude towards the European Union with its bureaucracy and tendency to meddle where the sovereignty of the people should prevail. The Vlaams Belang also believes that the territory of the European Union should not extend beyond the boundaries of Europe.

### 4. Reverse the Erroneous Multicultural Policies

Inspired by its concern to defend and protect the cultural identity of the Flemish people, the Vlaams Belang rejects the tenets of the multicultural ideology.

It must be made clear to aliens and immigrants in Flanders that they are expected to comply with our laws, and also to adapt to our values and morality, to our habits and to important traditional principles of European civilization, such as the separation of church and state, democracy, freedom of speech and the equal status of men and women.

For those aliens and immigrants who reject, ignore or contest the above, a policy of repatriation will be implemented, through appropriate legislation regulating political asylum, nationality, security and expulsion. Illegal and criminal aliens must be repatriated. Voting rights are reserved for citizens.

## Values and morality

### 1. Freedom

Human beings are free persons. The Vlaams Belang is dedicated to protecting the individual from abuse of power by the

state. The party defends the freedom of speech, as the first and most important principle in the democratic organisation of society. Other principles include – among others – the right of free assemblage and association, freedom of education, freedom of conscience and the right to life. The right of ownership and free enterprise – which constitute the foundation for economic development, employment and prosperity – are inherent freedoms of our society.

In its political activities the Vlaams Belang will respect, as a minimum, the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 4 November 1950 and the related protocols which apply in Belgium.

### 2. Law and Order

The authorities must respect the rights of every citizen and guarantee law and order. The Vlaams Belang believes that democracy and the rule of law are the best safeguards for personal freedom.

Security, and the curtailment of crime, are essential to society. The authorities of a state must guarantee security for all its citizens. The criminal's personal responsibility must be recognized and appreciated as a cause of insecurity. For the Vlaams Belang a tough line on crime and zero tolerance are central to government, and the judiciary and the prison system must cooperate in this.

### 3. Subsidiarity and a Policy for the Common Good

Society should be organized according to the principle of subsidiarity. What can be done efficiently at a lower level of society must not be relegated to a distant, anonymous and unaccountable authority.

Government and the authorities should act with utmost restraint and reticence at all times. Bearing this in mind, the Vlaams Belang is in favour of the lowest possible level of taxation and against the dissipation of public money. The party also rejects politically inspired educational reforms.

Politics (and also this party) is never a goal in itself, but a means to advance the public interest. The Vlaams Belang favours a sound vision on the duties of government. These include a greater focus on the essentials (such as the maintenance of law and order), the active reduction of redundant structures and excessive legislation, the fight against corruption and bureaucracy, and respect for the separation of powers.

### 4. Solidarity

A humane society is not made up of isolated individuals. Free persons are rooted in the framework of their people and their culture.

A strong foundation for solidarity is provided by the community of citizens united by their cultural identity or shared history and civilization. The care provided by families and their social entourage for the weak in general, and the handicapped and the sick in particular, is thus supported and complemented.

All generations participate fully in society.

### 5. The Family

The traditional family is at the heart of a humane society. Its merit is acknowledged and safeguarded in the marriage between a man and a woman. Policymakers should recognize the central role of families with children in society. Their task is to protect the family instead of attempting to usurp its functions. This is the only approach which can provide solutions for the urgent problem of the birth dearth.

The full text of our Manifesto can be found on our website: [www.flemishrepublic.org](http://www.flemishrepublic.org)

## Brussels Brouhaha

Of the 100 billion euros the European Union spends each year, 30 million euros is estimated to disappear into the wrong pockets. European funds have ended up on the private accounts of **Mrs. Yasser Arafat** and in the hands of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). When **Marta Andreasen**, a Spanish EU civil servant, drew public attention to these scandals two years ago, she was suspended. Last October, Ms. Andreasen was sacked by the European Commission. The official reason for her dismissal was her "lack of loyalty" to her employer. The lack of political accountability of the Belgian political authorities in Brussels seems to have infected their European counterparts in the same city.



Koen Dillen, MEP

"Political accountability does not seem to exist in Brussels, neither at the Belgian nor the European level."



Greet Van Linter, MP

"Flemish taxpayers are subsidizing Wallonia."

## Secret Figures

A study by the Flemish regional authorities shows that the financial transfers from Flanders to Wallonia have risen in 2003 to 6.6 billion euros or 4.2% of the income (before taxes and redistribution) of Flemish families. This amount is up from 5.4 billion euros or 3.6% of the income of Flemish families in 2002. The figures of the study have been known to the authorities for months but were kept secret until the press got hold of them last October.

If one adds the 4.7 billion euros that Flanders pays in excess for the shared paying off of the Belgian national debt, the total 2003 financial transfer is at least 11.3 billion euros. Belgium has been **draining away Flemish wealth** ever since the country was established in 1830. The Vlaams Belang demands that Flemish families be allowed to keep their own money.

## Biggest Party, and Growing

A renowned Belgian opinion poll, that of the Brussels newspaper *Le Soir* and the Walloon state television RTBF (24 October), indicated that the Vlaams Blok kept growing. In the poll the party stood at 26.9% of the Flemish voters, strengthening its position as Flanders' as well as Belgium's largest party. In the June regional elections,

the Vlaams Blok got 24.1% of the Flemish vote.

The second party is the coalition of Flemish Christian-Democrats (CD&V) and regionalists (N-VA), with 25.5% of the votes in the poll, down from 26.1% in the June elections.

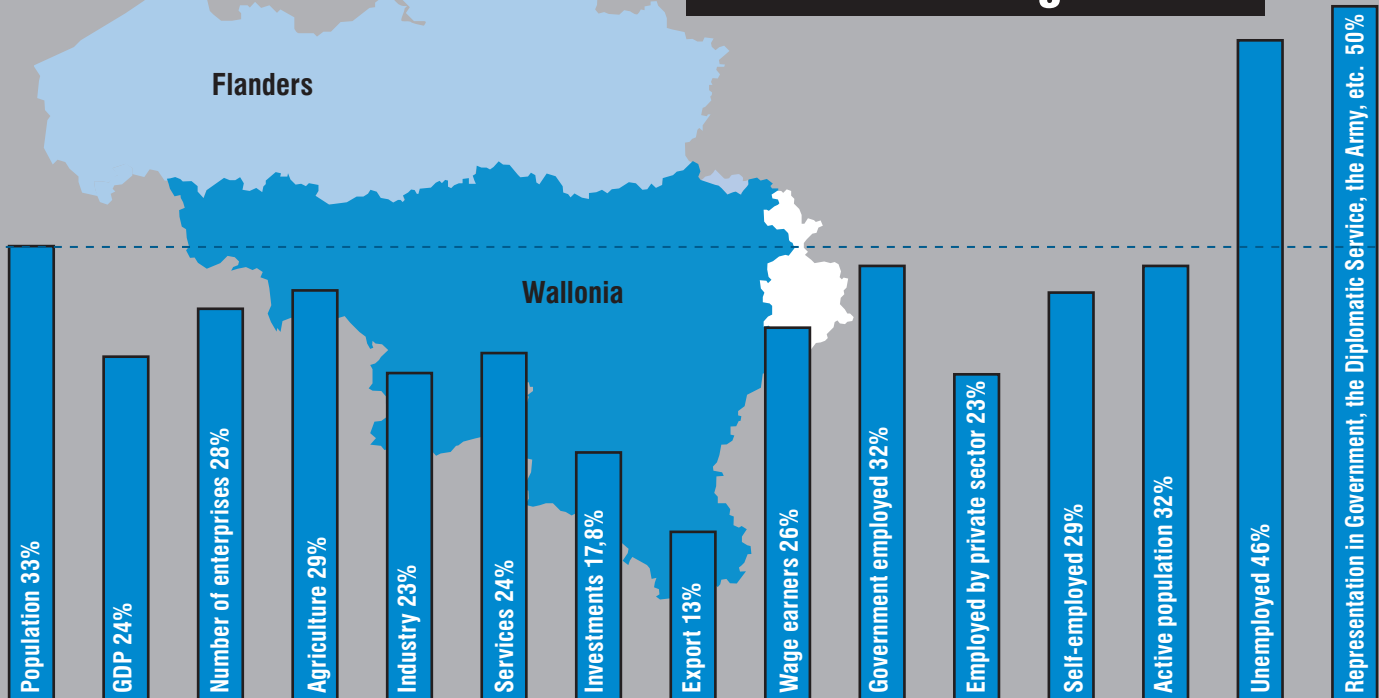
Both the governing parties, Socialists and Liberals, are losing their appeal. The Socialists are

down to 19.1% from 19.7% in the elections, and the Liberals of Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt are down to 18.8% from 19.8% in the elections.

Amongst the Francophones, however, the Socialists keep growing. The fact that Belgium is governed by a left-wing coalition is due to their dominance in Wallonia and to the fact

that the Francophones, though a minority of the Belgian population, are constitutionally entitled to 50% of the political power. As the growing appeal of the Vlaams Belang shows, the Flemings are **sick and tired of being governed by Socialist etatists** who hold their sway over Flanders because they are so strong in Wallonia.

## Wallonia in Belgium is...



## Abu Jahjah is Leaving

Muslim fundamentalist **Dyab Abu Jahjah** has told a newspaper that he wants to leave Belgium because too many Flemings vote Vlaams Blok. "The sooner I can leave, the better," Jahjah said. "Flemings are stupid idiots. One million of them voted Vlaams Blok. Flanders is a rightwing bulwark in Europe." (*Het Laatste Nieuws*, 25 October)



**Dyab Abu Jahjah hopes many soldiers will get killed in Iraq.**

During the past two years, Jahjah organised **violent anti-Semite demonstrations** in Antwerp. After the Vlaams Blok election victory last June, however, he left Flanders' largest city Antwerp, where he had been living, and moved to Brussels.

Jahjah was born in Lebanon in 1971 and was an active member of the Hizbollah there before emigrating to Belgium in 1991. He announced that he would soon be returning to Lebanon.

In the same interview Jahjah said: "Every American, British or Dutch soldier that gets killed in Iraq, is a victory to me. I hope many more will follow."

## Saxe-Coburg Watch



### Do not Approach the Prince

**Prince Philip**, the Belgian Crown Prince, receives 850,000 euros (tax free) per year for his services to the nation. Three times a year he has to accompany delegations of Belgian businessmen on promotion trips abroad. A Belgian trade mission travelled to China in late November. Also invited to accompany this group was **Chris Morel**, a retired Antwerp businessman who in 1977 founded the telecommunications company *Shanghai Bell*, a subsidiary of the French group *Alcatel*. Morel has many valuable contacts in China, which the Belgian businessmen were eager to use.

As Morel is confined to a wheelchair, he asked his daughter to come along, at papa's expense, to push his chair. The daughter, **Marie-Rose**, is a member of the Flemish Regional Parliament, elected last June on the Vlaams Blok list, though she was not a Vlaams Blok member.

Like the rest of the Belgian political establishment, the Belgian royals want to have nothing to do with the Flemish Secessionists. This became clear earlier when the Palace denied a Vlaams Blok MP, **Alexandra Colen**, a ribbon which is automatically bestowed on any politician who serves a certain number of years in Parliament. At the request of the Palace, Mr. Morel was asked by the Belgian government either to leave his daughter at home or not to participate in the China trip. He refused since he had also been invited by the Chinese authorities. Finally, a compromise was reached: his daughter was not allowed to approach the Crown Prince and at all times had to remain at a distance.



**Marie-Rose Morel, MP  
Bad company for Philip**

## Turkey Should Turn East

The Vlaams Belang opposes the admission of Turkey to the European Union. We believe that Europe is more than a geographic and economic concept. Europe is a moral-cultural concept. Turkey has never been a part of this tradition.

Instead of becoming a part of Europe, Ankara should aim for the establishment of a "Turkish Union" with Central Asian republics inhabited by Turkish peoples, such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Turkestan (presently a colony of Communist



**Philip Claeys, MEP**

**"Turkey does not want EU admission for the right reasons."**

China). With such a Turkish confederation, the confederate Europe that we envisage would be happy to cooperate.

Although the Vlaams Belang is opposed to Turkish EU membership, we do not oppose **close economic and trade relations with Turkey**, but we wish to entertain these with other non-European countries as well.

Moreover, we do not think that Turkey wants EU admission for the right reasons. Many Turks hope that by "becoming

Europeans," they will be able to benefit from European social welfare subsidies and from huge financial transfers. In Belgium, we have seen how bad this addiction to a free flow of money affects a people. Wallonia has been living off Flemish money for the entire 175 years of Belgium's existence. Today it is a region that has been corrupted by a dependency culture.

Finally, we demand that the peoples of Europe have the direct democratic right to decide about an eventual admission of Turkey. We cannot accept the legitimacy of the decision taken recently by Europe's political leaders to start admission negotiations with Ankara. A matter of such importance can only be decided in a popular referendum.

## Interested?

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## The Flemish Republic

A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Flemish Independence Party Vlaams Belang  
Publisher: Karim Van Overmeire, MP  
Madouplein 8/9, B-1210 Brussels  
Website: [www.flemishrepublic.org](http://www.flemishrepublic.org)  
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