

# The Flemish Republic

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

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**VLAAMS  
BELANG**

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## Vlaams Belang Opposes European Constitution

The Belgian Parliament almost unanimously ratified the European Constitution. Vlaams Belang was the only party to vote "no." Contrary to Belgium's neighbours, France and the Netherlands, the Belgian regime did not allow a referendum to take place in Belgium. Though the Liberal Party of Belgian Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** is theoretically in favour of referendums, the Prime Minister did not want a referendum on Europe. He was afraid that certainly in Flanders there would also be a popular majority against the European Constitution if the people were allowed to vote.

### Monster

According to Vlaams Belang the European Union is in essence an organisation for intergovernmental cooperation between member states that retain their full sovereignty and that choose to create an internal market and to cooperate in fields where there may be benefits of scale. The European Constitution, however, is a step towards the creation of a federal European state. Vlaams Belang is opposed to such a state. Moreover, the Constitution undermines national sovereignty.

Vlaams Belang aims for Flemish independence. It is not prepared to replace the federal kingdom of Belgium, the last surviving artificially created state in Europe after the collapse of the Soviet Un-

ion, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, by another artificial monster called "Federal Europe."

### Bad Idea

The idea of writing a "European Constitution" was an idea of Mr. Verhofstadt, which he suggested it at the EU Summit in December 2001. This summit was held in Laken Palace, the home of the Belgian King to the north of Brussels.

The Belgian authorities see the EU as a kind of "Greater Belgium." They have said repeatedly that Belgium is "the prototype of Europe." Following the Dutch "no" in the constitutional referendum Belgian Foreign Minister **Karel De**

**Gucht** personally insulted Dutch Prime Minister **Jan-Peter Balkenende** and scolded the Dutch government for not having prevented the vote against "Europe." "Verhofstadt and I would have dealt with this differently," an angry De Gucht lambasted. The Belgian PM simply did not allow a referendum to be held: "Brussels is the centre of Europe, in fact we are Europe. It is impossible to vote against one-

self," he said.

De Gucht's remarks led to a diplomatic incident between Belgium and the Netherlands. They show, however, how public opinion in Belgium is being manipulated by the regime in ways that are impossible in democratic countries such as the Netherlands.



## Common Sense

Vlaams Belang is growing. There is no doubt about it. All polls indicate that we are the biggest party in Flanders (and in Belgium as a whole), with more than a quarter of the Flemish vote. Due to the persecution by the Belgian regime, we have been forced to change our name from Vlaams Blok into Vlaams Belang, but our voters have not deserted us.

It is becoming ever more clear that our views are shared by a majority of Flemish voters. This explains why the Belgian regime did not allow a referendum about the European Constitution.

With a series of undemocratic tricks the Belgian regime has tried to silence us. After judicial harassment it is now trying to rob us of our finances. These shocking practices will not stop us from asking the right questions. Why are Walloon politicians dictating our laws if the Flemings are the majority in Belgium? Why does Flanders have to pay an annual sum of 10 billion euros to Wallonia? Why are immigrants not required to assimilate in our country? When will the authorities finally crack down on organised crime? Why are taxes still rising despite the promises of Prime Minister **Guy Verhofstadt** to bring them down?

Vlaams Belang will continue to criticise everything that is wrong in our country. We are the voice of common sense in Flanders.

**Frank Vanhecke,  
MEP**

**President of  
Vlaams Belang**



"Our views are shared by the majority."

# Long Live Secession

On 24 and 25 May, Hans-Hermann Hoppe, Professor of Economics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and senior fellow of the Ludwig von Mises Institute (Auburn, Alabama), visited Antwerp. At the invitation of the Vlaams Belang he gave a lecture on the economic surplus value of small nation states.

## **You have a lot of sympathy for secessionist movements worldwide. Why?**

According to the politically-correct view, closer political integration is good, whereas disintegration and secession is bad. It is said, for example by the bureaucrats of the European Union in Brussels, that economic prosperity has increased dramatically with increased political unification. In reality, however, political integration (centralisation) and economic (market) integration are two completely different phenomena. Political integration involves the territorial expansion of a state's powers of taxation and property regulation. Economic integration is the extension of the interpersonal and interregional division of labour and market participation. In general, the smaller a country and its internal markets the more likely it is that it will opt for free trade.

I think that a world consisting of tens of thousands of distinct countries, regions and cantons, and hundreds of thousands of independent free cities such as the present-day "oddities" of Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, Hong Kong, and Singapore, would be a world of unprecedented prosperity, economic growth, and cultural advancement.

**One of the economically most prosperous nations however is the United States, which is a big country.**

Yes, in fact there is no direct relationship between territorial size and economic prosperity. Switzerland and Albania are both small countries, while the U.S. and the former Soviet Union are large. However, there is a highly important indirect relationship. Smallness contributes to moderation. In principle, in taxing and regulating private property owners and market income earners all governments are counterproduc-



Hans-Hermann Hoppe

**"Throughout the entire period of European unification we have witnessed a steady growth of government taxation and regulation."**

ive. A small government has many close neighbours. If it taxes and regulates its own subjects visibly more than its neighbours it is bound to suffer because people will "vote with their feet": they will leave to live and work elsewhere. And they need not go far to do so.

**This is the situation we had in mediaeval Europe when the Low Countries or the Netherlands, of which Flanders was a part, were a confederalist cluster of semi-independent provinces.**

Indeed, and this explains why mediaeval Flanders was so prosperous. Contrary to the political orthodoxy of the contemporary Eurocrats, precisely the fact that Europe possessed a highly decentralised power structure of countless independent political units explains the origin of capitalism – the expansion of market participation and of economic growth – in the Western world. It is not by accident that freedom and prosperity first flourished under conditions of extreme political decentralisation: in the northern Italian city states, in southern Germany, and in the secessionist Low Countries.

**This probably makes you critical of the attempts to create a**

**federal European superstate. According to Flemish author Paul Belien, bilingual Belgium serves as a model for such a pan-European state.**

It is assumed that larger political units – and ultimately a single world government – imply wider markets and hence increased wealth. However, this is untrue. The larger the territories the lower a government's incentive to continue its domestic liberalism will be because people will lose the possibil-

ity of voting with their feet. Throughout the entire period of European and, indeed, global unification we have witnessed a steady and dramatic growth of government power, taxation and regulatory expropriation. In the light of social and economic theory and history a very strong case can be made for secession.

**In Belgium we have witnessed how during the 175 years of the country's existence, the tensions between Flemings and Walloons have only grown. What used to be a linguistic and cultural conflict is now a socio-economic conflict as well.**

Which is only natural. Forced integration invariably creates tension, hatred and conflict. In conflict voluntary separation leads to harmony and peace. Through secession hegemonic domestic relations are replaced by contractual – mutually beneficial – foreign relations. Rather than promoting a downward leveling of cultures, as under forced integration, secession stimulates a cooperative process of cultural selection and advancement. This is a lesson that is important, not just for Flanders and Europe, but for the world at large.

## **Different Culture**

There is a huge difference in work ethics between Flemish and Walloon youths. In the age group of 21 and 22 year olds, 62% of Flemings have a job, while 6% is on welfare and the remainder is studying. In Wallonia, only 27% has a job, while another 27% is on welfare. As the Flemings have to foot the bill for the Walloon welfare programmes, there is no incentive for young Walloons to take up their responsibilities. It would be better, both for Flanders and for Wallonia, if the two nations could go their own way. This would end the culture of government dependence in Wallonia.

Jan Mortelmans, MP

**"There is no incentive for young Walloons to take up their responsibility."**



# The Case of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde

When Belgium was established 175 years ago, Brussels was a Flemish, i.e. Dutch-speaking, town. Today, owing to the "frenchification" policies of the Belgian regime, Brussels has become a French-speaking enclave within Flanders. In order to stop Francophone imperialism Flanders obtained in 1963 that its boundaries would be clearly delineated. In return the Flemings, who are a 60% majority in Belgium, accepted the "parity rule" on the national level, meaning that the Francophones were granted 50% of political decision making powers in Belgium as well as vetoing powers.

Consequently, in 1963 Dutch became the only official language in Flanders, while French remained the official language in Wallonia and while the 19 boroughs of Brussels were given an officially bilingual status.

Notwithstanding the Belgian Constitution and their promises at the time, the Francophone parties have for over forty years refused to recognize the Dutch character of the Flemish regions immediately surrounding Brussels, i.e. the regions of Halle and Vilvoorde. They hope that by "frenchifying" Halle and Vilvoorde a territorial corridor linking Brussels to Wallonia can be established, which would end the enclave status of Brussels.

## Court Ruling

Despite it being unconstitutional since 1963, the 19 boroughs of Brussels and the regions of Halle and Vilvoorde still make up one single electoral and judicial district. Following the 2003 general elections the *Court of Arbitration*, Belgium's constitutional court, ruled that the Constitution had been violated throughout the



"Leugens en bedrog:" Lies and deceit, this is the way the Belgian regime treats Flanders.



past 40 years and that this situation has to end. The court ordered the government to separate Halle and Vilvoorde from bilingual Brussels and add them to the district of Leuven in the province of Flemish Brabant. If the government fails to do so by 2007, the next general elections will also be unconstitutional and the *Court of Arbitration* threatens to have them annulled.

The Francophone parties in government, however, want Flanders "to pay a price" in return for this compliance with the Constitution. The Flemings have refused to pay this price. One of the things the Francophones want is additional subsidies

from the Flemish regional government for French schools in Flanders. Currently the Flemings already pay an annual sum of 10.4 million euros for these schools (while Dutch schools in Wallonia receive not a single euro from the Walloon government).

According to Vlaams Belang the refusal on the part of the Francophone parties to adhere to the Belgian Con-

stitution clearly indicates that the rule of law has no significance in Belgium. The case of Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde (B-H-V) has made it clear that we are governed with lies and deceit. Vlaams Belang wants to abolish Belgium because we have concluded that the Walloon parties refuse to play by the rules. We do not want to live in a state where the rule of law and democracy have no meaning.

## The Belgian disease

The crisis concerning Brussels, Halle and Vilvoorde is not a crisis about B-H-V alone; it is a crisis of the Belgian regime. One positive thing about it is that Flanders now realises that the minority is imposing its will on the majority. A few years ago, when he was not yet in government, Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt wrote a book entitled "The Belgian disease." In this book he said: "The Flemings are being dragged down by Wallonia, by the paralysis of its leading establishment." Today Verhofstadt personifies the Belgian disease.



Senator Joris Van Hauthem

"The minority is imposing its will on the majority."



## Weapons for China

Belgium has a history of collaborating with inhuman and totalitarian regimes. It began with **Leopold II's** private Congo colony which was a huge labour camp where millions of Blacks perished. In the 1930s the Belgians were the most despicable appeasers of **Adolf Hitler**. During the Cold War Belgian **Queen Elisabeth** wrote friendly letters to **Josef Stalin** to tell him that she was an admirer of **Lenin**. Elisabeth's grandson, Belgian King **Albert II**, recently visited the People's Republic of China with a delegation of Belgian businessmen.

Together with France, Belgium is pushing to lift the European ban on the delivery of arms to China. The arms industry in Wallonia is eager to trade with the Chinese. The European ban was imposed after the 1989 massacre by the Chinese authorities of thousands of students clamouring for democracy on Tienanmen Square. Two thousand students who survived the massacre are still lingering in prison today. To make it perfectly clear that Brussels does not give a dot about human rights in China King Albert began his Chinese trip on Tienanmen Square on 4 June 2005, the very day of the anniversary of the massacre.



Guido Tastenoje, MP

"Belgium's king does not give a dot about human rights."

## Walloons Must Put Own House in Order

For many years Vlaams Belang has been saying that Flanders, which pays 10 billion euros in subsidies to Wallonia each year, cannot continue to do so. The subsidies are a drug that makes life so easy for Wallonia that it does not put its economic house in order.

A group of Walloon economists has now said that Vlaams Belang was right in opposing the flow of subsidies. "The financial transfers [from Flanders to Wallonia] keep Belgium together but they are an alibi for Walloon politicians allowing them not to tackle Wallonia's serious economic problems," the economists write. "Walloon politicians should concentrate their efforts on stimulating Walloon entrepreneurship instead of looking for new flows of subsidies to the region."

Exactly. Ending the steady supply of money would force the Walloon authorities to act in more responsible ways. They cannot continue to live above their means.

### The Truth At Last

So far only one Walloon politician, the liberal **Alain Destexhe**, is prepared to tackle the problem. Last March he published a report "*Wallonie: la vérité des chiffres*" ("Wallonia: The Truth of the Figures") about the economic situ-

ation of his country. According to Destexhe the figures released by **Jean-Claude Van Cauwenberghe**, the President of the Walloon regional government, are "incomplete" and even "mendacious." Wallonia is in an economic shambles. Official statistics have been falsified. Real unemployment is far higher than officially admitted because the government has created lots of civil servants that are not needed. Since 2002 the Walloon economy has regressed in comparison to the rest of Europe.

The *Parti Socialiste* is to blame, says Mr. Destexhe: "Wallonia has a form of political, administrative and economic culture that is totally outdated in Europe." Indeed, Wallonia is Europe's last People's Republic. The fact that this Socialist regime has not imploded like the other People's Republic in Eastern Europe is due only to the massive amount of Flemish taxpayers' money that keeps the system going.



## Interested?

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