

The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why
Flanders is seceding from Belgium

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Local Elections: New Victory for Vlaams Belang

On 8 October 2006 voters in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium, elected a total of 809 municipal councillors for the Vlaams Belang, as compared with 459 in the previous local elections in 2000. The VB also won 88 provincial councillors, compared with 54 in 2000. Whilst in 2000 the VB won 14.2% of the vote, it now drew the support of 21.5% of the electorate in Flanders. The primary aim of the VB is the independence of Flanders.

In Antwerp, Flanders' largest city, the party won 33.5% of the vote, compared to 33.0% in 2000. This may look like a small gain, but it is significant since immigrants have been given the right to vote in local elections in Belgium.

According to the marxist sociologist Jan Hertogen "The immigrants saved democracy in Belgium" (*Gazet van Antwerpen*, 9 Oct. 2006). Hertogen calculated that if the franchise had not been extended to immigrants the VB would have polled 40.4% in Antwerp.

Native Exodus

The demographic makeup of Belgium's cities is rapidly and dramatically changing. Between 1999 and 2004 14,756 Flemings left Antwerp while 22,754 immigrants moved in. On 1 January 2006 the city had a population of 116,614 foreigners (25.3% of the inhabitants), while 57,444 of its Belgian population

(12.5% of the inhabitants) are foreign born but became Belgian citizens through naturalisation. Since the immigrants vote overwhelmingly Socialist, the Socialists managed to win 35.3% of the Antwerp votes and become the largest party in town – a position previously held by the VB.

Biggest Party

Consequently, the leftist Belgian media (followed by the international press) depicted the local elections as a defeat for the VB. The VB, however, became the largest party in suburban towns such as Schoten (34.7%), Stabroek (32.0%), Borsbeek (28.7%), where Antwerpians moved when they fled the city. The party also did well in middle-sized Flemish towns such as Sint-Niklaas (26.6%), Mechelen (26.5%), Lier (24.2%), Ninove (23.6%), Aalst (22.8%), forcing the other parties to team up in governing coalitions forged with the sole aim of keeping the VB out of power. The Belgian establishment does not want the Flemish secessionists to participate in government anywhere. It fears that even more people might vote for Flemish independence if the VB did a good job in local government.

Jan Hertogen pointed out that without the immigrant franchise the VB would also have done far better in the smaller towns. In Vilvoorde, e.g., it would have obtained 30.8% instead of 21.9%.

A Grand Ambition

Last October, the Vlaams Belang won the Belgian local elections. It was our 13th successive election victory. Next May (or June at the latest) the Belgians will have to go the polls again in order to elect a new federal parliament. The VB usually does better in federal and regional elections than in local elections. This is why the Belgian authorities are already extremely nervous, fearing that a new VB-victory will mark a major breakthrough which might make Belgium ungovernable.

The main aim of our party is and remains the independence of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of the country, which is tired of having to subsidize Wallonia, the Socialist-dominated French-speaking southern half.

As our name, *Vlaams Belang* (Flemish Interest), indicates, we stand for the interests of Flanders. The Flemings are a hard-working people with an entrepreneurial spirit, who realize that citizens have to take care of their own future and cannot expect everything from the state.

Because we defend Flanders the Belgian regime considers us to be a mortal enemy. It has brought us to court in an attempt to defund us. By robbing the biggest Flemish (and Belgian) party of its finances, the Brussels establishment hopes to silence the voice of freedom in Flanders and kill the spirit of liberty of the Flemings. However, a people's demand for liberty, its yearning for freedom, cannot be killed. The Belgian authorities even try to use the Pope to get the Flemings to submit, but their efforts will be in vain. In the past Flanders was the most prosperous and free region in Europe. It is our ambition to reclaim that position.



Frank Vanhecke,
MEP, President
of the Vlaams
Belang:
Flanders wants
to reclaim its
position as
Europe's most
prosperous and
free region.



Turning Red: Immigrants Prefer Socialism

The Muslim Vote Tips the Balance

In last March's local elections in the Netherlands the immigrant vote tipped the balance in favour of the Left. A staggering 92% of the non-indigenous electorate voted for parties of the Left. Moreover, they voted almost exclusively for candidates of their own ethnic groups on the parties' electoral lists, driving out indigenous candidates. Instead of starting their own parties immigrants have begun to take over existing ones.

The same phenomenon marked last October's local elections in Belgium. In Brussels, the capital of Europe, more than one fifth (21.8%) of the municipal councillors are now immigrants of non-European origin. Most of them are Muslims, and most of them have been elected as Socialists. The non-European immigrants vote overwhelmingly Socialist, owing to the fact that many of them migrated to Western Europe attracted by the subsidies of its generous welfare states. The immigrants have become the electoral life insurance of European Socialism.

Genocide

In the Brussels borough of Sint-Joost-ten-Node (where the party headquarters of the Vlaams Belang is located) 11 of the 16 Socialist municipal councillors are non-European immigrants.

The most popular of these is Emir Kir, the Socialist secretary of state for public monuments in the Brussels regional government. Mr Kir, who is Turkish, wants to demolish the Brussels monument commemorating the genocide of the Armenians. According to him the genocide is a hoax.

In Antwerp almost one third of the Socialist councillors (7 of 22) are Muslims, as are one third of the Christian-Democrat councillors (2 of 6). In Ghent, one quarter of the Socialist councillors are Muslims. In Vilvoorde, a Flemish town north of Brussels, half the Socialist representatives are Muslims.

Grey Wolves

As the Muslim voters constitute a growing segment of the population, all parties, except the VB, were eager to welcome Muslim candidates. Belgian establishment parties, such as the Socialist Party and the Christian-Democrat Party, even put forward Muslim candidates who belong to dangerous Fascist, racist and Islamist organizations in their countries of origin.

Mehmet Özçelik and Mesut Yucel are members of the Socialist Party in Antwerp. At the same time, however, they belong to the Turkish "Grey Wolves," which has been ac-



Laurette Onkelinx, the Belgian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, sold out the Parti Socialiste to the Islamists.

cused of assassinating political adversaries, including Socialists, in Turkey. The same applies to Fuat Korkmaz, a

"Christian-Democrat" from Ghent. Last April, both Yucel and Korkmaz attended a meeting in Brussels in honour of the late Alparslan Türkeş, who founded the far-right Turkish Nationalist Movement Party MHP. Though the Belgian Socialists and Christian-Democrats are aware of this, they do not seem to mind.

Identity Crisis

Another "Grey Wolf," Murat Denizli, was elected a councillor for the *Parti Socialiste* (PS) in the Brussels borough of Schaarbeek, the home of PS politician Laurette Onkelinx, the Belgian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Justice.

Onkelinx wants to have the Vlaams Belang outlawed by the Belgian authorities. She accuses the VB of being a "Fascist and racist" party. At the same time, however, Onkelinx welcomes real Fascists and racists within her own party. According to the Brussels newspaper *Le Soir* (11 Oct. 2006) the election of Denizli led to "open warfare and an identity crisis" within the Schaarbeek PS because Denizli was generally known to be "ultra-nationalist, racist, anti-European." PS members told *Le Soir* that the local section of the party had rejected Denizli and "other immigrants adhering to religious and conservative Muslim values." Onkelinx, however, demanded that the candidates be accepted because "they are popular and the party had to win the elections at any price."

It bothers many traditional indigenous Socialists that their party sold out to the immigrant hard-right and the Islamists. They told *Le Soir* that Onkelinx had the PS conduct its campaign partly in Turkish and Arabic. The party members had been obliged to visit mosques to attract voters and to hold "ambiguous speeches denying the Armenian genocide." "Whenever one of the Belgo-Belgians [the indigenous Belgians] complained he was told off for being a racist."

Subsidies for Islam

Islam is one of the six officially recognized religions in Belgium. Marino Keulen, the minister of Integration, recently announced that next year the first mosques will receive government subsidies and the wages of their imams will be paid by the authorities. Catholic priests, Protestant vicars, Jewish rabbis and secular lay counselors are already paid by the Belgian state.

Muslim groups also demand access to state radio and television. They want to air programs in Turkish and Arabic. The Vlaams Belang opposes using taxpayers' money for the promotion of Islam, a non-Western religion opposed to fundamental values such as freedom of speech, democracy, equal rights for men and women and the separation of church and state.



Gerd Van Steenberge, MP

The promotion of Islam should not be funded by the taxpayer.

Belgium Prepares for the Kill of its Major Opposition Party

On 28 November the *Council of State* (CoS), a Belgian administrative court, rejected the demand of the Vlaams Belang that French-speaking CoS judges be taken off the case that has to decide whether or not the VB will be defunded.

Political parties in Belgium are funded by the state in accordance with the number of voters gained in the last elections. State funds are basically the only source of income for parties since it is illegal for parties to accept corporate and private donations. Parties that are considered to be “enemies of the state” can, however, be defunded by the CoS on the grounds that it is illogical for the state to fund its own enemies.

The VB, which strives for the independence of Dutch-speaking Flanders, is Belgium's largest single party. As it keeps growing in every election it is seen by the establishment parties as the most dangerous enemy of the Belgian state. Last May all the French-speaking parties plus the Flemish Socialists started procedures to have the VB killed by defunding it.

Masons

The CoS judges are political appointees. Half of them are Francophones. The VB challenged the latter, arguing that a French-speaking judge cannot issue an impartial verdict in a case involving a Flemish secessionist party. The party also challenged judges who are members of so-called “irregular” masonic lodges. Most Belgian masons belong to “irregular” lodges, i.e. lodges not



recognized by the (“regular”) international masonic lodges because they reject the belief in a Supreme Being. “Irregular” freemasonry, which is ardently anti-Christian, is dominant in France and Belgium.

Jacky Goris, the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of Belgium, has repeatedly ordered Belgian masons to “fight [the VB] at all costs,” in their “social as well as professional lives.”

The CoS turned the VB request down. It stated that the impartiality of judges cannot be doubted. Luc Vermeire, the CoS judge who wrote the rejection of the request, is an irregular freemason. Vermeire lives together with Reinhilde Thielemans, another CoS judge. Both are Socialist appointees. Thielemans worked for former Socialist Vice Prime Minister Louis Tobback before being appointed to the CoS. Tobback, who had his son succeed him as a government minister when he became mayor of Leuven, is an outspoken enemy of the VB. He once said that “the VB has to be fought with all means.”

Unions Organize Witch Hunt

Belgium has three official trade unions, which are recognized by the authorities as the *only* representatives of the workers. These are the Christian-Democrat, the Socialist and the Liberal union. As their names indicate, the unions are closely linked to the three Belgian establishment parties. The unions expel all members who dare to stand for the Vlaams Belang in the elections or who express their sympathy for this party. This happened to among others Linda Osmani, a VB-candidate of Algerian origin. Her expulsion exposes the unions' hypocrisy. Luc Cortebeek, the president of the Christian Trade Union ACV recently said that the ACV had already expelled “more than one hundred” members because of their political opinions. The unions say that the VB ideas about social welfare reform and about the multicultural society are incompatible with the ideals of the trade unions.

Vandalism

The intolerance of the establishment towards the VB increases as the party grows. During last autumn's campaign for the local elections, many VB candidates became the victims of vandalism. In Amsterdam self-declared “anti-fascist” activists demolished a car which they mistook for the car of VB politician Filip Dewinter. The car belonged to a French business woman.

Numerous VB members standing for the local elections had their car tyres knifed, the windows of their homes thrown in or other property damaged. In Antwerp there was an arson attempt on the house of one of the VB candidates. The party has established a fund to reimburse candidates and members whose properties get damaged.



Masked vandals destroyed a car which they mistook for that of a Vlaams Belang politician.

Flemish Entrepreneurs Favour Independence

On 28 November the British Chamber of Commerce visited the Belgian federal and Flemish regional parliaments in Brussels. The visit included a debate between the representatives of the different parties about the role of Flanders in a united Europe. Karim Van Overmeire, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Relations and European Affairs of the Flemish Parliament and member of the VB party board, had been asked to participate in the debate. One hour before the debate was about to take place, however, the party was informed that it was no longer welcome. Apparently the governing Flemish Christian-Democrats had vetoed its participation.

Meanwhile an ever growing number of Flemish businessmen favours Flemish independence. Seventy per cent of the Flemish entrepreneurs is opposed to the so-called “cordon sanitaire” – the pact between the other Belgian parties to exclude the VB from all political agreements and coalitions, no matter how big the party becomes.



Karim Van Overmeire, MP
An ever growing number of Flemish entrepreneurs favour Flemish independence.



Brussels' Controversial Beauty Queen

Last September Halima Chehaima, the 18 year old daughter of a Moroccan father and a Flemish mother, was elected Miss Brussels. Last October the beauty queen stood for the Marxist-Leninist Workers Party of Belgium (PvdA-PTB) in the local elections in the Brussels borough of Molenbeek. Molenbeek is a predominantly Muslim area, where radical Islamists rule. During her campaign Halima declared that Israel had to be wiped off the map. It did not help her to get elected in the municipal council, though. Radical Islamists do not vote for a Muslim woman who can be found in all the glossy magazines wearing swimsuits instead of a veil. The Belgian media, however, considered Halima an ideal candidate for the Miss Belgium pageant in December. Being half-Moroccan she was seen as the perfect symbol of the multicultural paradise that contemporary Belgium has become.

Torture

A few weeks later, however, the media discovered that she was the girlfriend of a notorious Brussels criminal, Bilal Ould Haj. This Belgian of Moroccan origin has been convicted three times so far for armed robberies. He still has to stand trial for torturing the 84-year old Maria Reyntjes. Two years ago, Ould Haj broke the old lady's legs with a hammer and set her hair on fire. He was angry because she only had a meagre 500 euros (650 dollars) at home when he broke into her house. Shortly afterwards Ould Haj was imprisoned, but last summer he managed to escape from jail and resumed meeting Halima in his hiding place. Miss Brussels' re-

lationship with him was discovered when he found out that she was cheating him with another lover: an Albanian criminal. When last November, Ould Haj bumped into Halima and the Albanian in a Brussels street the two men started fighting. The Albanian stabbed Ould Haj twice in the neck with his knife. He was rushed to hospital where the police arrested him.

Preferred Partners

The affair seems to have thwarted her chances of becoming Miss Belgium. If it had not been for her relationship with criminals, however, Halima Chehaima could very well have become the symbol of Belgium. The establishment hardly cared about her political extremism and her outspoken hatred of Israel.



Halima's party, the PvdA-PTB, is the only Belgian party that still refers to Lenin. It won one seat in the Antwerp borough of Deurne and two seats in Hoboken. In order to keep the VB out of power in these VB strongholds all parties teamed up against it. Even the Christian-Democrats preferred a coalition with the Leninists than with the Flemish secessionists. According to the Belgian establishment the VB is "undemocratic" but the Leninists are not.

Work for a Living

Fifteen officers of the Belgian Navy will soon be standing trial because they had devised a scheme which allowed Prince Laurent, the second son of the Belgian king Albert II, to renovate his private villa with taxpayers' money. In the late 1990s the Prince received at least 175,000 euros in services and goods from the Navy. According to the judicial authorities there are no indica-

tions that the Prince knew he was not paying for his own villa. Hence, no charges have been brought against him. The Prince has not even been questioned in the affair. Prince Laurent, whose private fortune is estimated to be 38 million euros, is constantly complaining that he does not earn enough. Though he is only 11th in line for the Belgian throne he receives an annual

Royals Abuse Vatican

Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium, long used to be one of the most Catholic regions of Europe. The Belgian bishops were frequently asked by the Belgian kings to admonish the faithful to remain loyal to Belgium and its corrupt dynasty. Unfortunately, the Church has always allied itself with the Belgian establishment.

In 1926 Baron Beyens, the Belgian ambassador to the Vatican, was ordered by the Belgian king Albert I to ask the Pope to condemn Flemish demands for independence. Beyens wrote to the Vatican Secretary of State: "I regret that I have to add that the most fervent and blinded propagandists of an independent Republic of Flanders belong to the lower clergy and to the religious orders. These clerics remain deaf to the admonitions of the Holy Father." By allying itself with the despised Belgian state the Church has lost much of its authority in Flanders.

Indispensable

80 years later, nothing much seems to have changed. Monsignor Karl-Josef Rau-

ber, the Vatican nuncio to Brussels, is outspokenly anti-Flemish. Two years ago, when the Flemish regional government wrote him a letter explaining that within the federal structure Flanders has considerable autonomy, he replied that he did not want to have anything to do with Flanders, stating literally: "All evolutions towards separatism have to stop. The monarchy has an indispensable role as a unifying force." Last October, Pope Benedict XVI received Franck De Coninck, the new Belgian ambassador to the Vatican. The Pope held a speech, undoubtedly written by Rauber, perhaps with the assistance of De Coninck, the former chief of ceremonies at the Belgian royal palace, who, ironically, is known to be a fervent secularist. In his speech to the ambassador the Pope condemned Flemish nationalism and said: "The King guarantees the unity of the country and the mutual respect of its different linguistic communities." Sadly, the Church does not seem to realize that by allying itself with the artificial Belgian state it hurts many loyal Catholics.

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tax-free allowance from the Belgian government of 306,000 euros. It is time the Belgian princes learned to work for a living instead of relying on the taxpayer to foot their bills.

Marie-Rose Morel, MP:
It is time the princes learned to work for a living like everybody else.

