

The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why
Flanders should become an independent state

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**VLAAMS
BELANG**

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All the King's Men

Belgium has a new government. Last December, Prime Minister **Yves Leterme** and Justice Minister Jo Vandeurzen, a fellow Christian-Democrat, resigned following accusations that they had tried to influence a Brussels court to issue a favourable verdict in a case involving the government. The court case centred on the government-brokered sale of Fortis, Belgium's largest bank, to the French group BNP Paribas.

The resignation of Mr. Leterme caused a panic in the royal palace. **King Albert II** called on a veteran, the 72-year old **Wilfried Martens**, who was Belgium's Christian-Democrat Prime Minister between 1979 and 1992, to try to defuse the situation. Mr. Martens persuaded the 62-year old **Herman Van Rompuy**, the Speaker of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, to succeed Mr. Leterme as Prime Minister and to put the coalition of Christian-Democrats, Liberals and Socialists together again.

Platform

The royal palace is relieved that Mr. Van Rompuy, who was president of the Christian-Democrat Party twenty years ago when he led the party to its greatest electoral defeat ever, accepted to become Belgium's new Prime Minister. Mr. Van Rompuy belongs to the pro-Belgian wing of his party. He defends the unity of the state and does not advocate greater autonomy for Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern part of Belgium.

In June 2007, the Christian-Democrats won the general elections with a platform demanding more autonomy for Flanders, where 60% of the population lives. The Christian-Democrats even

aligned themselves with N-VA, a Flemish regionalist party. The 2007 elections led to a political deadlock, because politicians from Wallonia, Belgium's French-speaking southern half, refused to form a government with Mr. Leterme's party if he insisted on more autonomy for Flanders.

Democracy

More than six months after the elections Mr. Leterme had still had not been able to put together a coalition, and the country had been without a government for the longest time in history. King Albert subsequently asked Mr. Leterme's predecessor, the Liberal politician **Guy Verhofstadt**, to form an interim government to pave the way for Mr. Leterme. All the while Mr. Van Rompuy tried to persuade the Christian-Democrat leaders to renounce their alliance with N-VA.

Last September, the alliance between the Christian-Democrats and N-VA finally came to an end and N-VA joined the opposition. Mr. Leterme betrayed his voters by abandoning the election promises he had made for a constitutional reform that would give Flanders greater powers.

Since September the Belgian government, backed by 53 of the 62 Walloon members of Parliament, no longer has a majority in Flanders, where only 41 of the 88 Flemish representatives support it. This did not bother Mr. Leterme, nor did it bother Mr. Van Rompuy when he put the coalition together again.

It does, however, bother an ever growing number of Flemings who realize that as long as Belgium exists they will not be living in a country where Flanders is ruled by a democratic majority.



"Flemish money in Flemish hands"

Our Message

As you can read elsewhere on this page, the Belgian government does not represent a democratic majority of the Flemings, though the Flemings are the demographic majority in Belgium.

This democratic majority, moreover, pays most of the taxes, but most of the government money is spent in Wallonia. Each year every Flemish citizen – man, woman or child – pays €2,000 to Wallonia. That would not even be so bad if (1) the money served a good purpose instead of disappearing in corrupt pockets, and if (2) donating the money were a democratic decision taken freely by the Flemings. Neither condition is met in Belgium.

In the past weeks the Vlaams Belang has distributed 2.4 million piggybanks throughout Flanders. The piggies carry the message "Keep Flemish money in Flemish pockets" This campaign has been designed to show the 6 million Flemings visually how Belgium, apart from being undemocratic, also costs them money.

The Vlaams Belang advocates the dissolution of Belgium. Every nation has the right to decide about its own resources and the fruit of its own labour, every nation is entitled to freedom and democracy. That is the message of our party to the Flemings and to the world.



Bruno Valkeniers
Vlaams Belang party leader

A Curious Mistake

All the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Senate received an invitation from the U.S. Embassy in Brussels to attend the inauguration of **Barack Obama** at the Embassy on 20 January. Senators **Karim Van Overmeire** and **Freddy Van Gaever**, both members of the **Vlaams Belang (VB)** party, the largest party in Flanders, the Dutch-speaking northern half of Belgium, accepted the invitation.

On the very morning of the inauguration, the U.S. Embassy rang the senators to tell them that their invitation had been “a mistake.” They were asked “not to come.”

Senator Van Gaever, however, did not take “No” for an answer. That is how he made his fortune in the aviation business. Before he went into poli-

tics, Mr. Van Gaever was a successful businessman who knew the late President **Gerald Ford** personally and had been invited to attend the inauguration of **Ronald Reagan** in Washington. When he was told not to come to the Embassy he decided to go anyway and see what would happen. Would he, a democratically elected politician and a lifelong friend of America, whose grandchildren are U.S. citizens, be barred from entering?

Not Nice

As it happened, Senator Van Gaever was not prevented from attending the inauguration at the Embassy. He went in the company of the former Belgian Prime Minister **Mark Eyskens** and former Aviation Minister **Rik**

Daems and the guards did not dare to throw him out. “Everything went fine,” he said afterwards, “but it was not nice of the Embassy to ask us not to come.”

Who took the decision to snub the VB members of the Belgian Senate’s Foreign Affairs Committee by disinviting them, while members from other parties, such as the vehemently anti-American Socialists and Greens, were welcomed most heartily?

Because the VB strives for the dissolution of Belgium and the independence of Flanders, many people in Flanders suspect that the U.S. Embassy, after having initially invited the VB, might have disinvited its politicians at the request of the Belgian authorities.

Vlaams Belang European Congress

Not anti-European but EU-critical

In view of the upcoming European elections, Vlaams Belang held a congress about Europe and the European Union on Sunday 8 March.

Most of the attention went to **Marie-Rose Morel**, the 36-year old member of the Flemish parliament who suffers from uterine cancer and who is now undergoing chemotherapy. In her speech, Marie-Rose Morel praised the brave Irish people who rejected the Lisbon Treaty. She called Europe “a continent to be proud of” and said that Flanders is in need of politicians who “are prepared to clean out the cesspool that is the European Union, and who are willing to fight for the interests of the Flemish people.”



but Flemish independence!” An independent Flanders would be a member state of the EU. However, the EU should be a confederation, not a highly centralised and bureaucratic European superstate.



us with a new member state that **Frank Vanhecke**, former chairman and now leading Vlaams Belang MEP, criticised the lack of democracy within the EU: “Turkey, for example. The EU wants to saddle

is geographically situated for 97% in Asia, that has never been part of the European civilization except as a cruel occupier and that does not meet any of the economic entry conditions. Above all, Turkey is an Islamic country and a Turkish entry would create an enormous immigration flow into Western Europe.”

Switzerland Leads the Way

Switzerland is the last remaining true democracy in Europe. Its citizens prefer local autonomy and direct political participation through popular referendums and initiatives. The Swiss also want to preserve their national identity. No wonder that the Swiss People’s Party (SVP) is the country’s largest with 30% of the vote. The SVP advocates the preservation of Swiss freedoms and opposes Islamization. Its positions are similar to those of the Vlaams Belang.

In early January **Oskar Freysinger**, an SVP member of the Swiss federal parliament, spent three days in Flanders to visit the Vlaams Belang.

The VB was very interested to learn from **Oskar Freysinger** how the Swiss system of direct democracy works. Mr. Freysinger explained that in Switzerland the authorities are obliged to organize a binding referendum on an issue as soon as 50,000 citizens demand it. The Swiss citizens can also force their government to recall legislation which has already passed in parliament. The people are able to overrule the establishment. The Swiss are also heavily armed. Many Swiss citizens know how to handle assault weapons and keep them in their homes. The Swiss are their own masters and ready to defend their freedom, family and community.



Vlaams Belang chairman **Bruno Valkeniers** considers the “undemocratic Europe” to be “an ally of the undemocratic Belgium”. Valkeniers underlined what our party stands for: “No halfway solutions, no state reform,

Vlaams Belang Opposes Anti-Semitism

Bert Anciaux, the Flemish Minister for Culture, Youth and Sport, hates Israel. Mr. Anciaux, a Socialist, recently equated the Israeli operation in Gaza with the assassination of two babies by a deranged man in a nursery in Flanders. The only difference, Mr. Anciaux said, was that the deranged man “had been arrested, while the Israeli killers in Gaza go free.”

A few days later the minister called on all Flemish citizens to wear a keffiyeh (a scarf like **Yasser Arafat** used to wear) to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Muslim immigrants in Flanders.

Last December the minister sent greeting cards for the Islamic feast of Sacrifice (Eid al Adha) to all Islamic organizations in Brussels to wish them a “nice sacrifice feast.”

Resolution

Filip Dewinter, the group leader of the Vlaams Belang (VB) in the Flemish Parliament, demands the resignation of Mr. Anciaux. The governing coalition of Christian-Democrats, Liberals and Socialists,

however, continues to support the minister despite his recurrent anti-Israel diatribes and his submission to Islam.

The VB was also the only party to oppose a resolution of the Flemish Parliament which condemned the “disproportionate” violence of Israel in Gaza. During the parliamentary debate on 7 January **Karim Van Overmeire**,



the VB foreign affairs spokesman, said that Israel and Hamas should not be morally equated. He pointed out that while Israel is a democracy, Hamas does not allow any opposition to its rule over Gaza.

The resolution was approved by all the parties, those of the government coalition and those of the opposition,

except for two members of the Liberal Party who abstained, and the Vlaams Belang which voted against the resolution.

Imported Conflict

Mr. Van Overmeire also objected to members from the Socialist Party who had adorned their seats in Parliament with Palestinian flags. “We should not allow the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to be imported into our countries,” he said.

Unfortunately, the latter has already happened, as the attacks on Jews in Antwerp show. Again, the VB was the only party to speak out forcefully against these attacks. It criticised **Patrick Janssens**, the Mayor of Antwerp, for allowing immigrant youths to stage a demonstration in which banners were carried with texts like “Jews Out”, “Osama we need you” and “Jihad, yes we can”. Filip Dewinter accused the Mayor of having done nothing to prevent this. “Zero tolerance is the right answer here,” he said, “instead of cowardly giving in for fear of ‘provoking’ anti-Semitic youths.”

The Government's Dustbin

The credibility of the Belgian police forces was severely undermined in the second half of 2008 following a corruption scandal involving the highest officers of the federal police and the cabinet of **Patrick Dewael**, the Belgian Minister of the Interior. The scandal involved the appointment of the secretaries

of police chiefs – rumoured to be their mistresses – to lucrative top jobs in the police force for which they lacked the qualifications.

In the latest cabinet reshuffle Mr. Dewael, a Liberal, did not return to the government. Instead, he was appointed Speaker of the Chamber of Representatives,

which makes him the highest ranking civilian in the land.

Gerolf Annemans, the group leader of the VB in the Chamber, says it is a disgrace to appoint corrupt and/or incompetent politicians to chair the Parliament, thereby making it “the government's dustbin.”



Gerolf Annemans, MP:

“The government treats Parliament as its dustbin.”

Building the European Empire



Alexandra Colen, MP:

“A European Union from the Sahara to the North Pole would be a dangerous monster.”

In November 2002, in an address to the Belgian Foreign Affairs Committee, Belgian Minister **Louis Michel** explained that the EU intended to incorporate the whole of North Africa and the Middle East, but also Russia, i.e. the entire northern half of Asia as far as Vladivostok.

At the time many thought that Mr Michel, who is currently a European Commissioner, was voicing his own dream of a political Utopia. Today, however, it seems that

this dream is under construction. The EU recently granted Morocco an “advanced association status.” It is the first special association status granted by the EU to a third country and it is intended as a step towards fully integrating Morocco in the EU. Meanwhile, the EU is also proceeding with its plans to offer full EU membership to Turkey.

Some leading politicians in Europe are not only dreaming of, but also working towards the establishment of a European Empire, a nuclear superpower with a Muslim population of 50% and extending from the Sahara to the North Pole. **Alexandra Colen**, a VB member of the Belgian Parliament, has warned the Foreign Affairs Committee that hubristic schemes often end in tragedy.



Money for Nothing

Prince Laurent of Belgium is the third legitimate child of King Albert II. The Prince is the president of the Royal Institute for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the promotion of Clean Technology (KINT). This institute is a government-sponsored non-profit organization which was established to provide Prince Laurent with an income. The largest chunk of the KINT budget goes to the Prince.

In August 2007 Jacques Wirtgen, the director of KINT, was sacked after he told the Belgian press that the Prince "abuses the institute for his own profit." Prince Laurent has also been implicated in a corruption scandal in which funds of the Belgian Navy were spent on his villa.

Basics

In 2008 KINT did almost nothing at all, let alone develop projects in favour of natural resources and clean technology. Consequently, Luk Van Nieuwenhuysen, a member of the Flemish Parliament, asked the Flemish regional government to scrap its annual subsidy of €60,000 to KINT. Hilde Crevits, the Flemish Minister of the Environment, refused to do so, however. Mrs. Crevits, a Christian-Democrat, says that the subsidy to the Prince's institute does not depend on the projects developed by KINT, but is a "nominatum subsidy," i.e. it is aimed at securing the basic existence of the institute rather than any activities it develops.

In Belgium, the taxpayers provide an income for all members of the royal family, including Prince Laurent, who is only 12th in line for the succession to the throne. The people are expected to secure the "basic existence" of their princes and are not supposed to ask anything in return.

Collapsing Banks

Fortis and Dexia, two heavily politicized Belgian banks and major pillars of the Belgian establishment, were among the first to collapse in the global financial crisis. They were not only affected by the global crisis, but their problems were compounded by mismanagement resulting from the megalomania of owners such as Count Maurice Lippens. It is no surprise that the Fortis stockholders, who suffered heavy financial losses, voted Viscount Etienne Davignon away when he wanted to replace Count Lippens on the board following the latter's resignation. Count Lippens and Viscount Davignon are close friends of the Belgian royal family.



Barbara Pas, MP:

"The Belgian establishment has mismanaged the banks."

The Belgian Parliament has installed a committee to investigate the mismanagement of the banks.

Fallaci Prize for Dewinter

Continent of Castles and Cathedrals

Filip Dewinter, the group leader of the Vlaams Belang in the Antwerp City Council and the Flemish Regional Parliament, has been awarded the Oriana Fallaci Prize. Oriana Fallaci (1929-2006) was an Italian journalist who was known for her anti-fascism, her defence of freedom and her criticism of Islamist fundamentalism. During a ceremony in Florence, Oriana's friends gave Mr Dewinter the award for his courageous stand in defence of the Western values so dear to the late Mrs Fallaci.

In his speech, Mr Dewinter said that "the European intellectual,

political and social elite has been collectively lulled asleep by leftist multiculturalism. This multiculturalism has undermined the combativeness of our European, Western



Filip Dewinter and Bat Ye'or, the author of "Eurabia", at the Oriana Fallaci Memorial in Florence.

society; it has hollowed out the fundamentals and freedoms of our civilization; and it has affected democracy and freedom of speech. The ideology of multiculturalism has developed into a new religion with the equality and equivalence of cultures as its primary dogma."

Mr Dewinter also warned that "Mass immigration has become the Trojan horse of a religion and social ideology that has been Europe's original enemy throughout its history: Islam." He added: "Europe means Rome, Greece, Enlightenment and Judaeo-Christian roots. Europe is a continent of castles and cathedrals, not of mosques and minarets."

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