

# The Flemish Republic

*A quarterly newsletter explaining why  
Flanders should become an independent state*

N° 27 JULY-AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

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## Belgium in Limbo

Belgium is currently in a state of limbo. The regional elections of June 2009 resulted in a clear victory for parties striving for the independence of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. These parties obtained over 36% of the vote in Flanders, compared with 24% in the 2004 regional elections.

On the federal level, however, Belgium is still being governed by a cabinet of only 10 Flemings to 12 French-speakers, despite the fact that 60% of the population are Dutch-speaking Flemings and only 40% are French-speakers from Wallonia, the French-speaking southern half of Belgium, or Brussels.

### Unconstitutional

The federal government of Prime Minister **Herman Van Rompuy** has the support of only 41 of the 88 Flemish members of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, and 53 of the 62 French-speaking members. Mr. Van Rompuy, a pro-Belgian Flemish Christian-Democrat, is pondering how to save Belgium by solving the so-called "BHV problem." BHV stands for Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde. It is the name of an electoral constituency consisting of Belgium's bilingual capital, Brussels, and the Flemish (Dutch-speaking) district surrounding the towns of Halle and Vilvoorde. In 2003, Belgium's Constitutional Court ruled that the BHV constituency is unconstitutional and has to be split into two separate constituencies: one bilingual, the other Dutch-speaking.

Six years later, the Walloons in the government are still refusing to comply with the judicial verdict, despite

the fact that in November 2007 the federal parliament's commission for internal affairs approved a bill to split BHV. The French-speaking parties have so far prevented the bill from being tabled in the plenary session of parliament.

### Indicative

If, however, BHV is not split by 2011, the general elections of that year will be unconstitutional and, hence, cannot be organized. Mr. Van Rompuy is frantically trying to have Flanders "pay a price" which would persuade Wallonia to accept the ruling of the Constitutional Court and a majority vote in Parliament. It is indicative of Belgium's status as an artificial country that the matter of whether its Constitution and democratic majority rule should be respected is an issue for debate.

After the 2007 general elections, Belgium was without a government for over 7 months because the Flemish and the Walloon parties could not reach an agreement over BHV. The political crisis has been temporarily solved by a decision not to discuss the matter for the time being. This decision has imposed a state of limbo on Belgium. Soon, however, the matter will have to be brought up again, because more than half of the 4-year federal legislature has already passed.

The Vlaams Belang is opposed to Flanders paying a price in return for Wallonia's acceptance of the verdicts of the Belgian Constitutional Court. Since democracy and the rule of law seem to be impossible in Belgium, the country must be dissolved and Flanders set free.



**Democracy and the rule of law are impossible in Belgium. This is why ever more Flemings want independence.**

## Free Flanders

This newsletter provides ample examples of how harmful Belgium is for Flanders. At the behest of the French-speaking establishment which governs Belgium, the Dutch-speaking Flemish majority in the country is confronted with

- a legal system which is bankrupt and no longer protects people against criminals,
- a government deficit which Flanders has to fill,
- an amnesty for hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens, whom the taxpayers will have to provide with an income,
- a parliament with a majority that is hostile to the majority of the Flemish electorate,
- a royal family whose greed is appalling and whose unwillingness to learn the language of the majority of the population is insulting,
- a Belgian Constitution which the authorities refuse to uphold whenever it guarantees the Flemings their rights.

Non-Belgians often wonder why Flanders so patiently puts up with the humiliations and with the contempt for its culture, its traditions and its freedoms. Flanders, however, has always refused to resort to violence. We will achieve our liberty without bloodshed, even if it takes a little longer. Belgium is collapsing. The signs are there for all to see. Soon, Flanders will be a free Republic, able to establish a genuine democracy where respect for the rule of law is a reality.



**Bruno Valkeniers**  
Vlaams Belang party leader

# Walloon Socialists Bury Their Heads in the Sand

“Belgium is virtually bankrupt.” That is what **Guy Vanhengel**, the Belgian Minister of the Budget, told the Flemish newspaper *De Standaard* recently (Sept. 5, 2009). Mr. Vanhengel, a Flemish Liberal, used the interview to announce new taxes. Given that the Flemings, who constitute 60% of the Belgian population, pay 65% of Belgium’s taxes, new taxes mean that Flanders has to foot the bulk of the Belgian bill, while most of the money is spent in Wallonia.

For years the Vlaams Belang has been demanding that the tax-and-spend culture of the Walloon politicians stop. “If the Walloons refuse to cut back government expenditure, they have to pay their own bills instead of having the Flemings do so,” says **Barbara Pas**, a Vlaams Belang parliamentarian.

## Sacrifice

The Socialist Party, which is the largest party in Wallonia and dominates the federal government, refuses, however, to change its disastrous policies. “A state cannot go bankrupt,” **Elio Di Rupo**, the leader of the Walloon Socialists told *De Standaard* (Sept. 14, 2009). “The budgetary problems are not disastrous. Of course, we are not allowed to burden future generations with debts, but people live here and now. We are not going to sacrifice people of here and now in the name of I do not know what, such as another economic problem or another bank crisis.”

According to **Philippe Muylers**, the minister of the Budget in the Flemish regional government, Flanders already accounted for 90% of the Belgian government’s savings in 2008 (*De Standaard*, Sept. 17, 2009)

“If the Walloon leaders want to bury their heads in the sand, that is fine with us,” says Mrs. Pas, “but the Vlaams Belang will not tolerate that the interests of future Flemish generations are sacrificed for the foolish behaviour of Wallonia’s Socialists. Flanders has to cut itself loose from Wallonia and become an independent nation as soon as possible.”



**Barbara Pas, MP:** “Flanders is no longer prepared to pay Wallonia’s bills.”

# Urban Guerrilla in Brussels

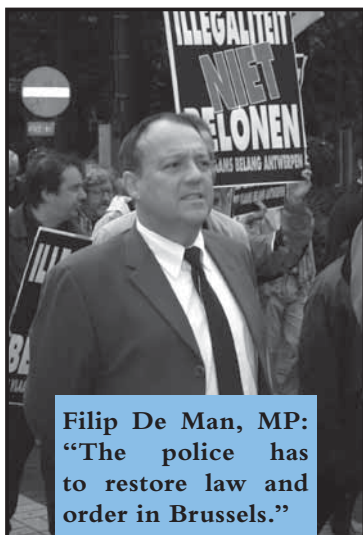


Several neighbourhoods of Brussels, the capital of Belgium and Europe, have become no-go areas, ruled by heavily armed gangs. Boroughs with large concentrations of Muslim immigrants, such as Molenbeek, Schaarbeek and even Kuregem, right next to the Brussels international train station (Brussels South Station), have been abandoned by the authorities. In early September, police officers confiscated a Kalashnikov (AK-47) assault gun in Kuregem. While the officers waited for reinforcements, they were attacked by a group of 50 immigrant youths. The officers fled... and the youths were able to retrieve the AK-47.

## Alarm

For many years, **Filip De Man**, a VB parliamentarian, has been urging the Belgian authorities to restore law and order in Brussels’ immigrant neighbourhoods. Mr. De Man was labelled a “xenophobe.”

The recent urban guerrilla in Kuregem has, however, alarmed even some among the Belgian leftist media establishment. **Claude Demelenne**, editor of the far-left *Journal du Mardi*, wrote recently (Sept. 4, 2009): “Anti-white racism is a taboo topic among the left. Nevertheless, it is a reality and it is growing among a minority of Arab-Islamic youths.”



**Filip De Man, MP:** “The police has to restore law and order in Brussels.”

# Flanders Doesn't Get What It Votes For

The regional elections of June 2009 resulted in a clear victory for parties striving for the independence of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. These parties, the Vlaams Belang (VB), the New-Flemish Alliance (N-VA) and the Dedecker List (LDD) obtained over 36% of the vote in Flanders, while the Flemish Christian-Democrat Party (CD&V), which also has a large pro-Flemish wing, got 23%.

Unfortunately, however, despite Flanders having voted for the centre-right, once again it got a centre-left government. Indeed, the leftist trade union wing of CD&V teamed up with N-VA and the Socialist Party (SP.a), the loser of the elections. Moreover, the Socialist leadership defenestrated one of their most popular politicians, **Frank Van den Broucke**, who is pro-Flemish, by vetoing his return as a minister. Mr. Van den Broucke was replaced as Minister of Education by **Pascal Smet**, a pro-Belgian politician, who, soon after becoming a cabinet minister, also outed himself as a homosexual.

**Filip Dewinter**, the group leader of the Vlaams Belang in the Flemish Parliament, regrets that Flanders has been saddled with a leftist government, while it voted for the right. He also criticised the N-VA for teaming up with the Socialists, especially because Mr. Smet explicitly opposes more autonomy for Flanders. “The N-VA cheated its voters by advocating Flemish independence before the elections, but teaming up with pro-Belgian forces afterwards,” Mr. Dewinter said.

# Only in Belgium...

## Deja-vu

Though some of these criminals have meanwhile been recaptured – most of them by... the Moroccan police in Morocco –

the escapes indicate that Belgium is still unable to keep its most dangerous criminals behind bars.

While in the Netherlands only one single prisoner escaped in the first eight months of 2009, Belgium already had 39 escapes.

Spectacular escapes from prison are not uncommon in Belgium. In 2007, there were two escapes involving helicopters, one from Ittre prison, the other from Lantin prison. In 2006, 28 prisoners escaped from Dendermonde prison in one single breakout. The figures for 2008 were 4 for the Netherlands, 22 for Belgium.

Following the escapes from the Brussels *Palais de Justice*, the security personnel at the “Palace of Justice” went on strike, while Belgium’s Justice Minister, **Stefaan De Clerck**, who was also the Justice Minister when the notorious Walloon pedophile and child murderer **Marc Dutroux** escaped from a courthouse in 1998, declared that the Belgian state lacks the means to guarantee security in its dilapidated prisons and court houses.

## Destructive

The *Parti Socialiste* (PS), Wallonia’s main party, is to blame for the judicial shambles in Belgium. The PS vetoes all attempts to remedy the situation. The PS blames society as the

cause of criminality, while the criminals are regarded as victims. The Vlaams Belang has been saying for many years that as long as the PS remains in the government, nothing will change. This was confirmed by **Marc Verwilghen**, a former Minister of Justice, in a recent interview in the weekly *Humo* (Sept. 8, 2009).

Mr. Verwilghen told *Humo* that all his reform proposals were blocked by a high-ranking civil servant at the ministry, who used to work for PS leader **Elio Di Rupo**. “A number of PS politicians was and is being investigated by the judiciary: perhaps that explains a lot,” Mr. Verwilghen told *Humo*, thereby indicating that this is the reason why the PS wants to destroy the Belgian justice system.

The Vlaams Belang wants to break the destructive hold of the PS over Flanders by cutting the latter loose from Wallonia. “*Our people deserve a proper judicial system,*” says **Bart Laeremans**, a lawyer and the VB’s parliamentary spokesman for justice. “*The state has the obligation to protect the people against criminals. That is why we pay taxes. Not to fill the pockets of the corrupt Walloon Socialists.*”



**Bart Laeremans, MP:** “A state that does not guarantee security and justice has no legitimacy.”

On 23 July, three of Belgium’s most dangerous criminals, with the very “Belgian” names of **Mohammed Johry**, **Abdelhad Kahjary Mulloul** and **Ashraf Sekkaki** escaped from the prison of Bruges by... boarding a helicopter, which an accomplice had landed in the courtyard of the prison.

Barely a week later, on 4 August, three others of Belgium’s most dangerous criminals, with the equally “Belgian” names of **Oussama Trimini Langeri**, **Youssef Oulad Has Chaib** and **Abdelhalim Akil**, escaped with the help of two heavily armed accomplices who liberated them... while standing before the judge in Belgium’s main courthouse, the *Palais de Justice* in Brussels.

Between the two events, on 28 July, two other (minor) criminals, **Vitezslav Mracek** and **Dave Annemans**, escaped from the prison of Merksplas with a ladder which a contractor, who was doing renovation works in the prison, had left standing against the wall.

## Leading Dutch Politician Supports Flemish Independence

The Dutch opposition leader **Geert Wilders** has called upon his government to help dissolve Belgium. As a first step towards this goal, Mr. Wilders wants to replace the Dutch ambassador to Belgium by an ambassador to Flanders, who is to help the Flemings achieve their independence.

“*The future is for an independent Flanders in a federation with the Netherlands,*” Mr. Wilders said.

The Vlaams Belang welcomes Dutch support to help Flanders achieve its independence. It is for the Flemings to decide what to do once they are independent, but there is no doubt that Flanders and the Netherlands, whose populations speak the same language, will work together closely. “*This will not only be economically advantageous, but is also needed to defend the Dutch culture and language,*” VB leader **Bruno Valkeniers** said in a response to Mr. Wilders’s statement.



## A Culture of Greed

In a televised speech on July 21, the country's national holiday, Belgium's King **Albert II** lambasted bankers and captains of industry for their "culture of greed," which in his view has caused the present economic crisis. The King told his compatriots that in times of economic crisis, everyone has to live frugally and thriftily.

Barely had he spoken, or the papers revealed that Albert had just spent 4.6 million euros on a new pleasure yacht. The ship, which is the King's private property, was built in Italy. It flies the flag of the Belgian Navy and is registered as a NATO vessel. In this manner the King avoids paying 970,000 euro in taxes (i.e. 21% VAT) on the purchase of his yacht. Albert used the bulk of this money to buy two luxury apartments in the Flemish coastal town of Ostend, for a value of 1.5 million euro.

### Bilingual

Meanwhile, Albert's son, **Prince Laurent**, is frugal in his own way. In early September, he sent his 6-year old daughter, **Princess Louise**, to the *Lycée Français* in Brussels. This is a school run by the French state. The Princess previously went to a private school, where her parents paid 25,000 euro per year. The *Lycée Français*, which is subsidized by the French Republic, only charges 500 euro per year.

Prince Laurent receives an annual stipend of 300,000 euros from the Belgian taxpayers – the majority of whom are Dutch-speaking Flemings. At the *Lycée Français*, Princess Louise will not, however, be learning any Dutch at all, despite it being the language of those who assure her family its lavish income. If Prince Laurent had sent his daughter to a Belgian government-run school, she would have been given a bilingual education in both French and Dutch, while it would have cost him nothing at all.

## Madness: Amnesty for Aliens

Last July, the Belgian government decided to grant official papers to illegal aliens who can demonstrate that they have "sufficiently integrated" into the country. The government says it expects that some 25,000 illegal aliens will apply for the amnesty. A high ranking civil servant of the Federal Agency for Aliens told the press, however, that his agency thinks the number of beneficiaries will be as high as 350,000 people. "This amnesty is madness," he said. "Our agency expects that one in every three is going to apply for welfare benefits." (*Het Laatste Nieuws*, Sept. 17, 2009)

The Belgian regularization also drew a lot of criticism from neighbouring countries, such as France and the Netherlands, including the Dutch Prime Minister **Jan-Peter Balkenende**.

Belgium is a member of the European Union. Under EU rules, people who legally reside in one of the member states, are allowed to legally reside in the other 26 member states as well. Belgium's critics say that its legalization of illegal immigrants will lead to "social security tourism" in Europe.

### Benefits

The illegal immigrants must fulfil a number of conditions, such as having learned one of Belgium's official languages. Because there are far more aliens who speak French than Dutch, especially when their country of origin is a French-speaking nation in Northern Africa, immigration is a demographic boost to the French-speaking element in Belgium. This explains why the French-speaking parties had been pushing very hard for the amnesty of the illegal aliens. A previous regularisation of illegal immigrants dates from 1999-2000.

The Vlaams Belang was the most outspoken opponent of the amnesty. VB Senator **Freddy Van Gaever** warns that since the regularised aliens are entitled to welfare benefits, the measure will lead to a run on welfare benefits. Half of the aliens who were regularised in 1999-2000 received benefits as a result; many of them are still on welfare today.

"The decision to grant an amnesty to illegal aliens is irresponsible," says Senator Van Gaever. "It tarnishes our international reputation and drains our welfare system."



**Senator Freddy Van Gaever:**  
"Illegal immigrants should not be rewarded."

## 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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