

The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter explaining why
Flanders should become an independent state

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Van Rompuy vs Democracy

Herman Van Rompuy, a Belgian Christian-Democrat, was appointed President of Europe in a secret meeting of the heads of government of the 27 EU member states. The peoples of Europe had no say whatsoever in deciding who their first President was going to be. In the June 2007 Belgian general elections, the last elections he participated in, Herman Van Rompuy got 31,403 votes in an electoral district of 850,248 voters (voting is compulsory in Belgium). This means that only 0.23% out of 375 million EU voters got a chance to vote for him and only 0,008% did so.

It is indicative of Van Rompuy's character that, following the elections, he immediately betrayed his own voters. Van Rompuy's electoral district is the Brussels-Halle-Vilvoorde (BHV) district. BHV encompasses both Belgium's bilingual (French and Dutch) capital Brussels and the surrounding Dutch-speaking Halle-Vilvoorde region. In 2003, Belgium's Constitutional Court ruled that the BHV district was unconstitutional and that Parliament should remedy the situation by dividing it into two electoral districts, a bilingual electoral district Brussels and a Dutch-language electoral district Halle-Vilvoorde. This complaint had been lodged by Herman Van Rompuy, a Flemish inhabitant of Halle-Vilvoorde.

Tricks

In 2003, however, the Christian-Democrats were in opposition. Van Rompuy's complaint was designed to cause political problems for Belgium's Liberal government, because the French-

speaking parties in the government refused to accept the verdict of the Constitutional Court. The Flemish Christian-Democrats went to the June 2007 general elections with as their major theme the promise that, once in government, *they* would split BHV. Van Rompuy campaigned on the issue, his party won the elections and became Flanders' largest party.

After the elections, however, Van Rompuy became the Speaker of the Parliament. In this position he refused to split the district because the French-speaking politicians objected. To prevent Parliament, and the Flemish representatives there, from voting a bill to split BHV, Van Rompuy used all kinds of tricks. One day he even had the locks of the plenary meeting room changed so that Parliament could not convene to vote on the issue. On another occasion, he did not show up in his office for a whole week to avoid opening a letter demanding him to table the matter.

Cynicism

His tactics worked. In December 2008, Van Rompuy succeeded the previous Belgian Prime Minister, **Yves Leterme**, who had to resign in the wake of a financial scandal. During the following 11 months, he skillfully managed to postpone any parliamentary vote on the BHV matter, thereby prolonging a situation which the Supreme Court, responding to his own complaint in 2003, has ruled to be unconstitutional.

This man has now become President of Europe, a position where his cynicism and his skills to circumvent the democratic will of the people will come in handy.



All Together

The appointment of **Herman Van Rompuy** as President of the European Union marks the conquest of Europe by Belgium.

Belgium does not exist as a nation. It was constructed by the big powers in 1830 as an artificial state, incorporating both Dutch-speaking Flemings and French-speaking Walloons, under a German prince, **Leopold of Saxe-Coburg**, who lived in England and married a French princess. Once king, Leopold ruled the country in alliance with its French-speaking minority.

The parallels between Belgium and the new superstate which the EU has become through the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by its 27 member states, are striking. The EU, too, is an artificial construct, ruled by a Franco-German alliance. Belgium now has both a King and a President, but both men despise the only source of democracy, the nation state.

Consequently, the struggle of the Vlaams Belang for a democratic and sovereign Republic of Flanders, has now become the struggle of all Europeans for the reestablishment of the democratic and sovereign nation in which they once lived. Our struggle against the undemocratic establishment in Brussels is now the struggle of all Europeans against Brussels.

Bruno Valkeniers
MP, leader of
Vlaams Belang



"We are all in this struggle together."

Meet President Van Rompuy

Master of Compromise

Flemings do not like the Belgian state. They despise it. They say it represents nothing. They are no Belgian patriots, because no-one loves a flag which does not represent anything. Belgian politics is by definition deeply immoral because without patriotism, without a country to love, politicians can only serve their own self-interest.

The new European President, **Herman Van Rompuy**, realizes this more than anyone. He is extremely intelligent but equally cynical. 25 years ago, he went through a crisis of conscience and confessed to the Flemish journalist **Paul Belien** that he wanted to leave politics. Both Van Rompuy and Belien were deeply influenced by the Flemish political philosopher **Lode Claes**. In 1985, in his book *De Afwezige Meerderheid* (The Absent Majority), Claes (1913-1997)

argued that without identity and a sense of genuine nationhood, there can also be no democracy, no respect for the rule of law and no morality.

Shrewd

In the mid-1980s, Claes offered Van Rompuy, a young Christian-Democrat and conservative Catholic, the opportunity of succeeding him as the director of *Trends*, a Belgian financial-economic weekly magazine. It is in this context that Belien made Van Rompuy's acquaintance. "He invited me for lunch one day to ask whether, if he accepted the offer to enter journalism, I would be willing to join him. It was then that he told me that he was considering leaving politics," Belien wrote in a recent article on his website *The Brussels Journal*. "I am not sure what happened next, however. Maybe word had reached the leadership

of the Christian Democrat Party that Herman, a brilliant economist and intellectual, was considering leaving politics; perhaps they made him an offer he could not refuse. He was made a Senator and entered government as a junior minister. In 1988, he became the party leader of the governing Christian-Democrats."

Van Rompuy was asked to sell his soul. This he did. Though he had always said to be an opponent of abortion, in 1990, as leader of the Christian-Democrats, he made it possible for a very liberal abortion bill to pass. In an article in the British newspaper *The Daily Mail* (Nov. 21, 2009), Belien calls him "a shrewd master of the shabby compromise."

Instead of leaving Belgian politics, which he knows to be immoral and undemocratic, Van Rompuy embraced it and made it to the top.

Say Hello to Taxes

"In the Belgian Parliament, **Herman Van Rompuy** was an opponent of tax reductions," says **Hagen Goyvaerts**, a Vlaams Belang MP and member of the finance committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. "In Europe, too, he is likely to continue the tax and spend policies."

At a secretive Bilderberg meeting a few days before his appointment as EU President, Van Rompuy called for taxes to be imposed directly by the EU. The Lisbon Treaty has given the EU new taxation powers. Previous treaty law only demanded that taxes in member countries must not interfere with the functioning of the market. Lisbon adds the imperative that taxes in EU member states must also avoid the "distortion of competition." Hence, taxes have to be 'harmonized' – read 'equalized' – across the whole EU, which in practice means that they will be raised to the highest level.

"Tax policy is a symbol and an important element of national sovereignty. This is why Van Rompuy opposed the right of the Belgian regions, such as Flanders and Wallonia, to raise their own taxes," says Mr. Goyvaerts. "I expect the same thing to happen in Europe. More than anything else, Van Rompuy wants to see the destruction of national control over taxes. That is because his political ideal is to destroy the national sovereignty of EU member states."



Hagen Goyvaerts, MP:
"Van Rompuy favours pan-European taxes."

Say Hello to Turkey

Some people hope that EU President **Herman Van Rompuy** will prevent Turkey from joining the EU. "Those who have known him in the Belgian Parliament harbour no such illusions," says **Francis Van den Eynde**, a Vlaams Belang MP and member of the foreign affairs committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. "Van Rompuy has a long record of breaking his own principles and promises, from ethical issues, such as abortion, to issues relating to the constitutional rights of the Flemish people in Belgium."

It is true that Van Rompuy in a speech in the Belgian Parliament, in 2004, opposed Turkey's admission to the EU: "Turkey is not Europe and will never be Europe," he said. "It is a matter of fact that the universal values which are in force in Europe, and which are also fundamental values of Christianity, will lose vigour with the entry of a large Islamic country such as Turkey." Exactly. But does Van Rompuy mean it?

In 2004, Van Rompuy was in opposition and was criticizing the Belgian government which favoured Turkey's admission. However, since he became a member of the Belgian government, he has remained silent on Turkey, despite the fact that he considers the issues of fundamental importance for the Christian values about which he claims he cares so much. Now that he has become President of Europe, Van Rompuy says "that his own opinion no longer matters." "I would not be surprised to see Van Rompuy advocate Turkish EU membership soon," says Mr. Van den Eynde. .



Francis Van den Eynde, MP:
"I do not expect Van Rompuy to oppose Turkey's EU membership."

Say Hello to Global Governance

“**Herman Van Rompuy** is your typical centralizing technocrat,” says **Rita De Bont**, a Vlaams Belang MP and member of the constitutional affairs committee of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives.

Speaking at his first press conference after his election as EU President, Van Rompuy said; “2009 is also the first year of global governance with the establishment of the G20 in the middle of a financial crisis. The climate conference in Copenhagen is another step toward the global management of our planet.”

“He is very clever,” says Ms. De Bont, “and he feels that it entitles him to meddle in the affairs of everyone else.”



Rita De Bont, MP:
“*Van Rompuy is a centralizing technocrat with global ambitions.*”

The Deputy Prime Minister's Family

Last November, the Belgian judiciary confiscated all the copies of the Brussels satirical weekly magazine *Père Ubu*. The weekly had reported – correctly – that 17-year old **Sarah Guenned**, the daughter of 51-year old **Laurette Onkelinx**, Belgium's Minister of Health, former Minister of Justice, and one of the leaders of the Walloon *Parti Socialiste* (PS), had been arrested in the company of a notorious drug dealer. Minister Onkelinx, who is also Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister, personally went to the police station to arrange for her daughter, who is a drug addict, to be released and return home with her.

In the 1980s, a younger sister of the minister spent some time in jail as a drug trafficker. Minister Onkelinx' former husband, **Abbès Guenned**, a Belgian of Moroccan origin and the father of her daughter, is also a drug dealer. In 1996, Morocco issued an international arrest warrant against Guenned, who at the time was still married to Onkelinx, then Prime Minister of the Walloon regional government. In 1997, Guenned was arrested at Brussels airport, but the Belgian authorities had to let him go because, though not a diplomat, he had a Belgian diplomatic passport. The minister subsequently divorced him, but they remained close. She got him a job

at the Justice Ministry and he was her best man when in 1999 she married her second husband, **Marc Uyttendaele**, a Belgian government's lawyer.

Intimidation

In 1998, Guenned was again arrested for drug trafficking. This time at Izmir Airport in Turkey. Morocco asked for his extradition, but the Belgian

Minister of Justice intervened with his Turkish colleague and had Guenned released and put on a plane to Brussels, where he was allowed to go free.

The family affairs of Madame Onkelinx are her private business, but the political interference on behalf of criminal members of her family is not. Neither is the intimidation of the Belgian press to ensure that no paper dare to write about the issue. Apart from *Père*

Ubu the events have not been covered anywhere. The confiscation of the magazine ensures that this remains so.

As Minister of Health Mrs. Onkelinx wants to introduce legislation to guarantee the quality of illegal drugs. Given her family background, this is not at all surprising. The Vlaams Belang demands that combating drug trafficking, be the government's top priority rather than catering to the needs of the Deputy Prime Minister's family.



No Improvement

During the eleven months that **Herman Van Rompuy** was Prime Minister of Belgium, political corruption increased. Compared to 2008, the country fell from the 18th to the 21st place in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International. The index, which is based on appraisals from renowned institutions such as the Economist Intelligence Unit, the World Economic Forum, the World Bank and others, rates countries from 0 (a high level of corruption to 10 (a low

level). Belgium was rated 7.1, which is worse than nine other of Western Europe's 15 nations.

New Zealand, Denmark, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland are considered to be the least politically corrupt countries in the world. “The Vlaams Belang is appalled that Belgium is doing so badly,” says VB Senator **Nele Jansegers**. “Neighbouring countries, such as the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom are all doing better than Belgium.”



Senator Nele Jansegers:
“*Belgium is one the most corrupt countries in Western Europe.*”



Prince Woof

Prince Laurent, the youngest legitimate child of Belgium's **King Albert II**, loves dogs. A couple of years ago, Laurent, whose nickname is "Prince Woof," wrote a book on dogs. Last Summer, when his favourite canine died, the Prince had the animal put in a freezer at the University of Ghent because he could not part with it. On All Saints Day, the Prince decided the time had come to bid his favourite dog farewell and have the animal cremated.

Prof. Koen Chiers of the pathology department at Ghent, and his staff had to "reassemble" the dog. "The limbs were deformed because the dead animal had been lying on the cold floor for a long time," the professor told the Belgian press. "We had to dry the hairs and bend the limbs back into a natural shape."

When the Prince arrived, all staff had to leave the room so that Laurent could be alone with his old friend. "It was an emotional moment," the Prince told the media afterwards. "People get attached to their pets. It hurts when they die. All Saints Day is a perfect day to remember our darling pets."



Europe's Capital of Crime

During the last week of November, thugs in the immigrant Brussels neighbourhood of Anderlecht burned down the local police headquarters. The Belgian press has hardly mentioned the incident, but the international press is beginning to take notice of the growing insecurity in the capital of Belgium and Europe. On 19 October, the German newspaper *Die Welt* wrote that Brussels is "Europe's Capital of Crime."

The Germans were shocked by the barbaric assault with baseball bats on 46-year old **Angelika Niebler**, a German Member of the European Parliament (MEP), by two Brussels youths. They continued hitting the MEP after having robbed her of her purse and blackberry. The assault happened in the European district, which is assumed to be one of Brussels' safest areas.

Worsening situation

Brussels is the seat of both the European Union and NATO, the home to 35,000 EU civil servants and 2,500 diplomats, plus several hundreds of foreign journalists, whose security the Belgian authorities seem unable to guarantee.

After the violent attack on Mrs. Niebler, witnesses called the police. They had to wait 90 minutes before police officers arrived on the scene. The officers shrugged their shoulders and said they are understaffed.

In the wake of the incident, which received a lot of attention because a non-Belgian MEP was involved, the Belgian authorities have promised European Parliament officials that police patrols in the European district will be increased.

Brussels ranks as one of Europe's most criminal cities in the statistics of Eurostat. The Brussels police is badly equipped and officers' wages are low. *Die Welt* points out that 40% of Brussels' inhabitants are immigrants. As the number of immigrants continues to rise, the situation only grows worse.



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