

The Flemish Republic

A quarterly newsletter of the *Vlaams Belang*,
Flemish interest Party.

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■ There is a better way

Right after the summer holidays, the Vlaams Belang kicked off its new campaign for Flemish independence. More than five hundred billboards displayed the message “There is a better way”, showing

the removal of a Belgian flag in favour of a Flemish one. Advertisements promoted a booklet on the orderly split-up of Belgium. All households in Flanders received a leaflet in which the Flemish patriotic party

calls for action instead of negotiating on a pointless Belgian State reform. More than fifteen months after the general election, there was still no federal government.



■ Stop Talking. Time for Action

More than a sixteen months after the federal elections, Belgium's most profound political crisis in its existence was still not resolved. Flanders clearly voted for radical change and far-reaching autonomy. Wallonia chose for the status-quo. Like always, Belgium will have a left-wing government, and no meaningful autonomy for Flandres will be achieved.

We cannot go on like this. The current political crisis is the ultimate proof that negotiations are useless. Even the N-VA has to admit that the step-by-step strategy can-

not solve anything. The truth is that it is simply impossible to form a government that reflects the will of the voters in Flanders and in Wallonia.

That is why we urgently need to change course. The Vlaams Belang has always strived for an independent Flemish state. Today, we are proven right. The question is no longer *whether* Flanders will become independent, but *when*. “Taking a firm



stand” during the negotiations is not enough. It is time to stop talking and take action. We have recently launched a new campaign called “There Is a Better Way”. This is the way towards Flemish independence! We therefore call upon all Flemish parties to side with us in our struggle for independence!

Bruno Valkeniers
President of the Vlaams Belang

■ Gerolf Annemans: “Let’s put an end to this Belgian misery”

After Belgium, *The Orderly Split-Up* is the book on Flemish independence written by Gerolf Annemans MP and Steven Utsi, head of the Vlaams Belang research department. It was originally written in Dutch, but was published in an English translation last June. In this book, Gerolf Annemans and Steven Utsi urge politicians, diplomats and academics to prepare for the post-Belgian future, and the emergence of two new States, Flanders and Wallonia. **The Flemish Republic** spoke with Gerolf Annemans, who chairs the Vlaams Belang group in the federal Chamber of Representatives.

Why should Flanders be independent? Is it strong enough to survive on its own?

Gerolf Annemans: The current political stalemate in Belgium heralds the country’s total collapse. Walloons and Flemings are constantly at cross-purposes about almost every important issue, while there is no prospect of improved relations at all. The most logical and candid conclusion would be to start negotiations between the two communities about a fair and balanced split-up of this failed State. Moreover, it is our right to rid ourselves from Franco-phone domination and blackmail, which has lasted more than 180 years now. Of course Flanders would be a strong and viable nation State from the start. The Flemish Region is already characterized by reliable political institutions and a thriving

economy. Until now Flemings have been able to solve the main problems of the whole of Belgium, so they will undoubtedly have enough strength to take care of their own wealth.

Is there popular support for Flemish independence?

The results of the last two federal elections have shown that a significant part of the Flemish people is in favour of far-reaching autonomy. However, the talks on administrative reform have been dragging on for more than four years now, without any satisfactory outcome. We feel confident that the sole alternative, the orderly split-up of Belgium, has won the hearts of many Flemings during this crucial period. All these people have come to understand that Flanders will never get its badly need-

ed autonomy, as long as it is enshrined in Belgium.

Who should pay the debts of the Belgian State? How will this be regulated?

It would not be equitable to divide the inherited Belgian debt over both successor States on the basis of a simple 50-50 formula. We urge for the observance of the allocation principle, which dictates that the largest part of former debt is allocated to the successor State accountable for it. In that case Wallonia, which has always maintained a lavish social benefit economy at the expense of Flanders, will inherit the main part of former Belgian debt. Naturally, we do not want our sovereign neighbour to collapse into bankruptcy from the very beginning, so this principle should be applied with some leniency.

Isn’t the financial crisis more important at the moment?

The financial crisis is affecting more and more Flemish households. On both sides of the language border, politicians realize that keeping aloof is no longer an option, but as long as they do not come to terms with each other, nothing will change. That’s why the Flemings urgently need to turn their back on Belgian misrule and go for a proper independent State. Only then, Flanders will gain the decisiveness, necessary to adequately tackle the financial crisis and its related problems. We are convinced that also holds for an independent Wallonia.

Brussels is often viewed as being the major obstacle to the orderly break-up of Belgium. How will you fix the problem with Brussels? Most of its inhabitants are French-speaking. What about them?

For us, Brussels is rather an opportunity than an obstacle. Brussels is home to the Flemish government and Parliament, whereas the Walloon equivalents are located in Namur. Irrespective of the Francophone majority, the city is entirely situated on the territory of the Flemish Region. According to the international principle of *uti possidetis juris*, which guarantees the integrity of territories, Brussels will completely fall to the Flemish successor State and will become the Flemish capital. The rights of the French-speaking inhabitants





Steven Utsi and Gerolf Annemans.

will be preserved by means of a bilingual (Dutch-French) statute.

Are you confident that Flanders will be recognized by the international community?

I call upon all Flemish statesmen to reassure the international community by means of an orderly and peaceful transition to sovereignty. The last few years have shown that Flanders has done eve-

rything - and according to me: too much - to keep this Belgian household together. Putting an end to this misery can only be seen as a lawful and acceptable step towards liberty, coming from a peaceful and goodwill-showing Flemish nation.

Francophone politicians argue that a Flemish departure from Belgium would violate the logic of the EU project. Is that correct?

Flemish statesmen must take pains to convince other Member States' representatives of the justness of their cause. The right of self-determination has been inscribed in many EU treaties. Also the Flemish nation is entitled to exercise this universal right, certainly after it has sufficiently been proven the Belgian union fails to justly meet Flemish interests. Yet again, we need to make it clear to our European neighbours and allies, that the division of former Belgium will proceed quietly and smoothly. In that case, the EU surely won't obstruct Flanders (and Wallonia) becoming an independent Member State.



**After Belgium
Order now**

After Belgium, The Orderly Split-Up can be ordered with Egmont Publishers, www.uitgeverijegmont.be. It costs €5. Shipping costs are €4.98 for the EU or €5.7 outside the EU.

Info@uitgeverijegmont.be.

■ Vlaams Belang: Mass immigration has to be stopped - now

In April, the Vlaams Belang held a successful congress on immigration and integration policy. The party wants to bring mass immigration to a halt, and wants immigrants to fully endorse European and Western values. The party leadership established a list of neces-

sary measures that have been carried out by several European countries like Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland.

For many years, the party seemed to be alone to put up a struggle against the Belgian open doors policy, but it recently got some unexpected indirect support. At the beginning of the judicial year, two prominent magistrates from Antwerp, Yves Liégeois and Piet Van den Bon, devastatingly criticized the lax immigration policy of the successive Belgian governments. The resulting mess, the judges said, not only puts a threat to the welfare State, but also to democracy.



Filip Dewinter, leader of the Vlaams Belang group in the Flemish Parliament, advocates a strict immigration policy that puts Flemish interests first.

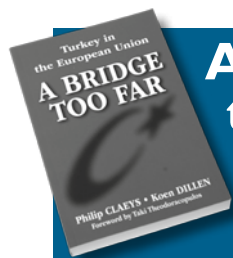


In his yearly speech on July 21, King Albert once again demonstrated his pro Francophone bias. Stating that (the failing to form a government) "could threaten the social and economic well-being of all the Belgians", he conveniently ignored the fact that the huge money flow from Flanders to Wallonia is precisely doing that - impoverishing the Flemings.

Albert II also called Belgium a model for the European Union, which is hardly an attractive prospect for the other Member States:

"Our country, with its cultural diversity, was to a certain extent considered to be a model for the European Union. Our current situation causes concern among our partners, which could harm our role within Europe and even harm the momentum of European unification - which is already sufficiently under opposition by the euro-sceptics and populists."

The King was way out of line with his implicit attack against the Vlaams Belang, Flanders' only eurocritical party. Parties like the Vlaams Belang, by the way, are not against European cooperation, but want to tackle EU meddlesomeness, the waste of taxpayers' money and the lack of democracy. Is it a coincidence that these 'European' problems are also typically Belgian?



A bridge too far

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Vlaams Belang joins European Alliance for Freedom

Philip Claeys, member of the European Parliament for the Vlaams Belang, joined the recently established European Alliance for Freedom (EAF), a pan-European alliance of Members of the European Parliament, together with national and regional parliamentarians and parties, united under a political platform calling for national freedom and democracy in opposition to centralised, supranational control. The EAF is one of eleven 'European Political Parties at a European Level' and is partially funded by the European Parliament.

The EAF advocates the right of individuals and peoples to freedom and self-determination. Its main objective is to safeguard and strengthen fundamental



Philip Claeys

democratic principles and accountable representation towards effective individual and national freedom.

It therefore commits itself to the following objectives:

- to campaign for a non-centralised, transparent, flexible and democratically controlled EU towards the rejection of any development leading to a European superstate, given that there is no such thing as a 'single European people';
- to pursue true subsidiarity and self-rule ensuring that democracy is preserved on the basis of sovereign



parliaments in Member States, over which the citizens exercise democratic control;

- to sustain diversity and accountable cooperation at a European level among free peoples able to regulate themselves in accordance with mutually agreed common standards;
- to uphold freedom of political expression and association across Europe and especially within the structures of the EU;
- to promote a political environment in which movements, political parties and other political organisations are given equal opportunities to voice their concerns and advance their political positions;
- to ensure that the peoples and nations of Europe are allowed to pursue their right to strengthen their own historical, traditional, religious and cultural values to defend civil liberties and ensure that no characteristics of a totalitarian nature emerge in the continuing political development of the European Union, while identifying already existing anti-democratic legislation with an aim to revoke it.

Other members of the European Alliance for Freedom include its president Godfrey Bloom (UK Independence Party), Franz Obermayr and Andreas Mölzer (Austrian FPÖ), Kent Ekeroth (Sweden Democrats), Thorsten Gross (Bürger in Wut, Germany), Rolandas Paksas and Juozas Imbrasas (Lithuanian Order and Justice party).

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