



Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

Bucharest, Romania

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Business Newsletter

Year VI – 3/16 25 March 2016

The Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Bucharest is grateful to all who expressed their sympathy and honoured the victims of the attacks in Brussels on the 22nd of March 2016.

Thomas Baekelandt
Ambassador of Belgium

Partnership for Active Rural Communities



In March 2016, the Foundation 'The Open Network for Community Development' (TON), in partnership with the Association of Mutual Support Slatina-Timiș (ADAMSlatina-Timiș) started the implementation of the project "Active Rural Communities in providing and monitoring home care services - Increasing the access to medico-social services for elderly in 5 rural communities". The project of an overall value of CHF 82,300.00 will be implemented during a period of 20 months and is co-financed by a grant of the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union.

The project will be active in 5 rural communities: Moldovița – Suceava county, Armeniș – Caraș-Severin, Batăr – Bihor, Dumitrești – Vrancea, Bunești – Brașov, as well as at national level, where TON and ADAMS will make advocacy efforts to enable the adoption of policies, which will facilitate the dissemination across the country of the project results. In each of the 5 communities, the project will develop organizational structures that will be able to provide home care services for the elderly. Effective services provision is foreseen during the months 9-20 of the project and will be delivered to a minimum of 500 elderly persons.

The sustainability of the services provision represents a major challenge for the project team, the project partners and mostly for the project beneficiaries. Fundraising plans from public and private sources will be developed for each of the communities. This project also represents a start in the implementation of the TON Healthcare Master Plan 2015-2024 in which homecare services among others constitute an important item.

More info: info@theopennetwork.ro

BMT group (IG Wateeuw Belgium) takes over supplier VCST (Gimv NV)



Gimv, a Flemish investment company based in Antwerp, Belgium, together with the other shareholders, sells its stake in VCST to the international industrial group with Belgian roots BMT. VCST will become one division with IG Wateeuw International, a BMT subsidiary.



The decision, announced on March 2nd, also implies that the current management of VCST will take up a driving and governing role in the combination VCST/IGW. VCST is a global player in the supply of precision gearing and other company critical components for engines, gearboxes and brake systems for passenger cars and commercial vehicles. The company has a diversified blue-chip customer portfolio, including Audi, Caterpillar, Continental, General Motors and Volkswagen, among others. Worldwide the company has 5 production facilities, including one in Alba-Iulia, Romania. Furthermore the company has an extensive in-house engineering capacity (120 engineers), through which it is a strong player in the field of product development, innovation and project realization. With its 1250 employees it realized a turnover of 169 million euro in 2015, nearly double compared to 2009.

The acquisition by the international industrial group BMT heralds a new phase for VCST. The company will be brought into one division with BMT subsidiary IGW, which is active in the more industrial applications of the gear market (transport, energy and industry). Next to the complementarity of their activities the combination also becomes less dependent of the evolution of one specific customer segment. By joining forces both companies strengthen their position, not only in Europe but also worldwide.

VCST and IGW combined generate nearly 300 million euro in turnover and employ 2750 people. This acquisition fits in the growth strategy that BMT has developed for each of its divisions. Next to IGW, BMT consists of BMT Aerospace, CNUD-EFCO and OMCO.

More info at: www.bmtgroup.com and www.gimv.com

Double record for port of Antwerp



End 2015 the port of Antwerp passed the 200 million tons mark for the yearly volume of freight handled, by a wide margin for the first time in its history. On 31 December last year the figure stood at 208,423,920 tons of freight.

That's 4.7% more than the previous year. Another million-tons record was broken in the container handling sector with a volume of more than 9.6 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units). In comparison with 2014, 7.5% more containers were handled.

With these growth figures Antwerp is performing significantly better than Rotterdam and Hamburg, the N° 1 and 3 respectively in North-West Europe. The port of Antwerp has seen its container volume growing strongly since the beginning of 2015, in particular due to Asian flow. During the past year not only did work go ahead on investments that had already been planned by among others Total (Optara), ExxonMobil (Antwerp EPC2) and Evonik (expansion of the butadiene and MTBE plants), but also new investments were announced.

Invoyn is planning a major investment in a large-scale potassium hydroxide plant that is due to enter production in 2017, while the Japanese company Nippon Shokubai began to work several months ago on an investment that will give its Antwerp plant more capacity for production of super-absorbent polymers and acetic acid by 2018. Together, all these investments are significantly reinforcing Antwerp's position as the largest integrated petrochemical cluster in Europe.

Source: <http://www.portofantwerp.com/en/news/double-record-port-antwerp#sthash.xpGgbtDX.dpuf>

InvestRomania – your partner for foreign investment in Romania



InvestRomania is the government organization dedicated to providing professional support and advice to foreign investors in Romania.

Its purpose is to attract and facilitate foreign direct investment in Romania and support new or existing Romanian companies leverage their capabilities to expand to new markets. Continuously contributing to FDI development in the country since 2002 under various forms, InvestRomania also builds partnerships and business relations in order to promote Romania's attractiveness abroad.

Its mission is to increase inward FDI by internationally promoting Romania's business offer and assisting worldwide entrepreneurs in project implementation. It is dedicated to fulfilling its primary responsibility towards international companies regarding guidance and support.

The activities include: providing general information on legal framework, the investment climate, key business sectors and locations, acting as main interface with public authorities (central/local) in relevant project areas, supporting companies that consider engaging with the Romanian market or developing their current units, match-making company's needs with the local resources and opportunities including identifying local suppliers.

InvestRomania also provides consultancy and guidance for project implementation during all stages of the decision-making process, high quality after-care services for companies already present on the domestic market and counseling to policy makers with the purpose of maintaining a level playing field for foreign investors and public sector stakeholders.

Contact: investromania@dpiis.gov.ro

.....Flash & Agenda.....

April 02: Quiz night Roemenië Comité Diest-Apold, in Julis hall, Vervoorstplaats 11, Diest, 20h. Info at: +32-496-25.74.32*

April 7-11: The film "The Black bear" (Belgium / France, 2014, 16 ') in competition at the NEXT Short Films Festival Bucharest. More info at: www.nextfilmfestival.ro*

April 8-9: "Les Marmites francophones" – training for teachers of French as a foreign language in Romania, provided by Paul Ernst, professor Wallonia-Brussels Federation*

April 09: Concert to the benefit of NONA: "Ein Deutsches Requiem" by J. Brahms by the Madrigaal choir of Gent. Tickets: +32 9 282 85 78 or nonamechild@telenet.be*

April 10: Family Meal to the benefit of Children in Need in Romania, starting 11:30 hours, in Huize Astrid, Gentstraat 6, Oostende. Subscribe to: andumon@hotmail.com*

April 11: The Belgian chocolatier Laurent Gerbaud will be present in Bucharest for a tasting and a demonstration as part of the Belgian Week 2016 held in Pullman Hotel*

April 15-17: Belgian cartoonist Benedict Delmelle, alias Bend, will present his work and host a workshop at the International Comics Festival in Sibiu. More info: www.bdsibiu.ro*

April 18-24: The film "Baden Baden" by director Rachel Lang (Belgium, 2016) will be presented in Bucharest at the Bucharest International Film Festival: www.b-iff.ro*

April 19: Presentation of exhibition "The Universe/Side A-Side B" at Henri Coandă high school in Bucharest within the competition "The man-observer between Earth and sky" *

April 20-22: Simon Degand, University of Namur, will represent PLACE Network (Link Enterprises-Universities) in Polifest salon, Polytechnic University of Bucharest*

April 24: Workshop "Painting Icons on Glass" by ADR-Vlaanderen and the Romanian Cultural Insitute, Turnhout, Belgium* Opening of Romanian Spring Festival by ARTHIS, Brussels*