



Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium

Bucharest, Romania

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Business Newsletter

Year VI – 4/16 27 April 2016



The 4th Belgian Week in Bucharest with the theme "Belgian Food and Gastronomy" organized by BEROBA between April 11-14 2016 in Bucharest was a clear success, allowing Belgian and Romanian business to meet and explore trade and investment opportunities.

Thomas Baekelandt
Ambassador of Belgium

VPK Packaging Group is expanding its site in Salonta, Romania



After the start-up of the greenfield project in 2008 by Belgian parenting company VPK Packaging group, the Salonta production site has recently expanded its existing buildings by 4,600 m². The Salonta site houses two brands: Corex as a cores manufacturing division and VPK Packaging as a corrugated cardboard packaging division.

The new section will provide accommodation for the cores division, which now offers an area almost twice the size of the original cores production space. Upon growing customer demand, the additional production potential will be put to good use by the extension of the current product range, planned to be executed shortly.

The 2,300 m² made available will give corrugated cardboard production the opportunity to integrate an additional converting machine, as well as to install an extra production line in the future. In addition, the sheet liner will be extended and automated. By focusing on both finished products as well as semi-finished products, VPK will be in a position to improve supplies to the packaging market and sheet customers. More improvements are in store half way through the year, when an automatic transport system is to be installed between the processing line and the automatic palletisation and strapping lines.

The expansion in corrugated cardboard is part and parcel of the expansion of VPK's European alliance Blue Box Partners. This growth is testimony to the increasing demand for pan-European supplies on the packaging market.

More info: www.vpkgroup.com

FIT Economic Mission May 2016: construction, environment and energy

**FLANDERS
INVESTMENT
& TRADE**



Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) organizes an incoming economic mission focused on construction, environment and energy, between the 23rd – 26th of May 2016 in Bucharest, Braşov & Ploieşti.

The program includes seminars on construction/infrastructure, environment/water & wastewater, individual business meetings in Bucharest (Novotel hotel) and Braşov (The

Chamber of Commerce and Industry) next to site-visits in Braşov (Aateq and WDP warehouse) and Ploieşti (Alinso Ploieşti West Park and WDP Ploieşti warehouse).

The following companies announced their participation: [Afix Group](#) (Aalter –scaffolding, construction), [AGT NV](#) (Aartselaar –advanced groundwater technics), [Envisan NV](#) (Aalst – dredging & marine construction, environmental specialized services), [HS Protect BVBA](#) (Ninove –coatings), [Latexco Solutions BVBA](#) (Tielt –customizing Latex and Polyurethane rebond foams), [Martin Mathys/Rustoleum](#) (Zelem –coatings), [Imperbel NV](#), Roteam BVBA (Zaventem –waterproofing, insulation, green solutions), [Sky Man International NV](#) (Boom – suspended access and BMU business), [Tractebel Engineering](#) (Brussels –global engineering consultancy company), [Vergokan NV](#) (Oudenaarde –European manufacturer of cable support systems), [Willemen Groep](#) (Mechelen –construction: civil engineering, industrial, residential, non-residential) and [FITA](#).

If you are interested in the topics or you would like to meet Flemish companies to discuss potential partnerships, contact FIT local agency: bucharest@fitagency.com / 021 231 56 07.

Belgium remains attractive for investors



In response to the “Belgium bashing” of recent weeks, 13 foreign Chambers of Commerce in Belgium declare in an open letter that Belgium remains an attractive place for investors. As representatives of the international business community in Belgium, which directly employs some 700,000 people in the country, these 13 Chambers of Commerce, representing more than 1,000 companies, have also declared that:

"Belgium continues to be a safe place for developing commercial activities and is an ideal place to live".

"Statistically, Belgium is one of the safest countries in the world" with "unique assets of Belgium as a destination for investment", namely a workforce which is "talented, highly qualified, multilingual and diverse"; an ideal geographic location with "a solid transport and logistics infrastructure providing access to key markets"; a position at the cutting-edge of technology and innovation; a quality of life illustrated by a "health and education system, gastronomy and culture that is famous around the world"; and, finally, a stable open economy with an international vocation.

All these factors "constitute an ideal environment for very effective business", explain the Chambers of Commerce, who also insist on "the modesty" which characterises the country, which "very rarely boasts about its own success." "The reality is that, day after day, we enjoy a comfortable, safe and professionally stimulating life in Belgium" conclude these foreign investors who, on behalf of the international business community, continue to "say yes to Belgium".

Source: Economic & Business news from Belgium – March 2016

Homemade Belgian chocolate in Bucharest shopping malls



If you looking for a special Easter present, you should read this article. Belgian Chocolate Carels Co, a producer of authentic Belgian pralines, will be in Bucharest in Mall Vitin and Mall Plaza Romania with their chocolates and Easter figurines. The products can be purchased in these shopping malls until the 29th of April from 10:00 am to 22:00 pm.

All products commercialized by Belgian Chocolate Carels Co are made entirely by hand in a small workshop in Crasna, Gorj county, employing local chocolate artisans. Only 100% Belgian chocolate is used in the manufacturing process, next to cocoa butter imported from Brussels. Also, all the other raw materials have Belgian origin.

With one shop in Târgu-Jiu, Gorj and another in the city center of Timișoara, Belgian Chocolate Carels Co also produces bonbons, dragées and sugar-free chocolate.

More info: www.chocolateriecarelsc.ro

Belgian Romanian musical correspondences



The Philharmonic "George Enescu" organizes the classical music concert "Belgian Romanian correspondences" in the Romanian Athenaeum, Studio Hall, on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 19:00 hours. The event takes place under the patronage of His Excellency Thomas Baekelandt, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in Romania.

The following artists will perform during the concert: Șerban Nichifor, Alma Boiangiu, Eduard Antal, Viorela Ciucur, Corina Bololoi, Manuela Giosa, Simona Samoil, Marius Limban, Trio "Mozai": Emil Vișenescu, Diana Spânu-Dănilă and Oana Spânu-Vișenescu.

The program includes works by Belgian composers André Laporte, Lucien Posman, Boudewijn Buckinx, Jacques Leduc, Raoul De Smet, Eugène Ysaÿe, Elias Gistelincx, Marc Verhaegen, Koen Dejonghe and poems by Yvonne Rombaut – Queuedecerise.

More info: www.fge.org.ro

The Open Network TON at Cluj University in May



On Friday May 13th, 2016 the publication "175 years of diplomatic relations between Belgium and Romania" published by the Embassy of Belgium will be presented at the University of Cluj. A historical round table is on the program.



During this event the history of the collaboration initiated by Action Villages Romania will receive special focus, as well as the activities currently developed in Romania by the two Belgian NGO's, ADR (Actie Dorpen Roemenië) and TON (The Open Network for Community Development).

A visit to the Belgian Literature Center in Cluj is also foreseen for the same day, next to the presentation of a project dedicated to Emile Verhaeren, a famous Belgian poet and playwright.

More info: Patrick.Vandennieuwenhof@adrvlaanderen.be

Wallonie Bruxelles Delegation - May calendar



May 7: Inauguration of the Tamango installation by artist Claudia Rădulescu in partnership with the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels and MNAC - the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest. More details at: www.mnac.ro/archives/5510

May 15: Piano recital by Belgian musician Olivier de Spiegeleir at the Romanian Athenaeum. During the concert works will be presented by composers of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, such as Jacques Leduc.

May 18-20: Mission in Bucharest of Olivier Vande VYVER, Operational Director Lieu Network (Link Enterprises-Universities).

May 20-22: Recital and music workshops by Belgian artist Cloe Defossez at the Festival of Francophone Music "Chants, sons sur scène" in Baia-Mare. Further info: www.chansons.ro

More info: www.wbi.be/bucarest

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

April 30 – May 08: Working visit ADR-Kruibeke to Moldovița, Suceava county*

May 7: Romanian folk music concert with artists Sofia Vicoveanca, Iulia Mihai, Cornel and Marius Solomon in Gemeentelijke Feestzaal Brussegem (Drinkeling 10, Merchtem), starting 18:00 hours. Info: Jean-Paul Van der Elst, 32 485 757 478*

May 10 Belgium will be represented at the European Film Festival with the Flemish film 'Violet' –screening at 18:30 hours in Elvira Popescu cinema, Bucharest. Info: www.ffe.ro*

May 12-15: Working visit Limburgs Platform Roemeniëwerkingen (LimPRO) to one of their partners in Dumitrești, Vrancea county*

May 17-30: Exhibition "Romanians and the Great War" organized by the Romanian Embassy and the Romanian Cultural institute in Brussels, will be open to the public in the Mirror Gallery of the Walloon Parliament (Namur). More info: www.icr.ro/bruxelles*

May 24: Networking event for the Romanian and Belgian energy community organized by the Romanian Center for Energy in Brussels*

May 26: Launching of the Bucharest Biennale with Belgian curator Niels Van Tomme. More info: www.bucharestbiennale.org*

May 28: Pay with your credit card in Mega Image shops and you can win tickets to the UEFA Champions League Finals on May 28. More info: www.mega-image.ro*

May 28: ADR Cehu Silvaniei-Dilbeek celebrates 25 years of existence in Dilbeek, Belgium. More info at: adr.dilbeek@telenet.be*

May 28-29: Photo exhibition "Greetings from Chiheru", 25 year cooperation between Merchtem and Chiheru de Jos, in August De Boeckhuis (Reedijk 1, Merchtem), on Saturday 14:00 -17:00 and Sunday 10:00-17:00. Info: Jean-Paul Van der Elst, 32 485 757 478*