



Newsletter

Embassy of Belgium in Bucharest

September 2017 - January 2018



Introduction by the Ambassador

Dear readers of the newsletter, dear friends of the Belgian Embassy,

Thanks to the technical support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, the editing team in the Embassy has modernized the layout of our newsletter for your easier reading pleasure. It illustrates the willingness of the young team to strive for a better product. The content will remain informative to the friends of the Embassy, presenting interesting programs of Belgian Romanian associations as well as articles on Belgian activities in Romania, mostly in the economic development of the country.

Have a good read!

Thomas Baekelandt
Ambassador



THERMOFORM - New Production site in Alba Iulia

The Belgian company Thermoform, specialist in acoustic & thermic insulations for industrial vehicles, has opened a new production site in Alba Iulia.

An industrial hall of over 2.000 m² is used for the production of cabin interior lining parts as well as acoustic & thermic insulations parts for engine compartments. Among others, headliners, foams, glass fibers and other interior parts made through thermo-compression will be produced at this new site. Also, a brand new machine park of pneumatic and hydraulic presses as well as waterjet cutting and gluing lines have been installed.

The 2.000m² hall is already fully utilized and plans are ongoing to increase capacity through the expansion of another 2.000m². The objective is to serve local customers as well as expand its activities in Eastern Europe through this new Romanian production site.

Alba Iulia was chosen for its strategic location and the highways currently under construction connecting it with other major cities and facilitating access to other European countries. Thermoform looks forward to expanding its current employee base of 10 employees and to becoming an employer of choice in the Alba region.

Thermoform has over 20 years of experience in the industrial vehicle market with customers such as Caterpillar, Yanmar, Fritzmeier, Renault Trucks, Bobcat, Hitachi, Kubota and many other leading construction companies.

More info: www.isoform.be



The Belgian-Romanian Business Association "BEROBA" becomes Bilateral Chamber of Commerce

The Belgian-Romanian Business Association "BEROBA" and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium in Bucharest proudly announce the change of the association's status to Bilateral Chamber of Commerce. This change occurs following the accreditation of BEROBA as member of the Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce (BLCCA) in July 2017.

The event takes place nearly four years after the founding of BEROBA and marks the beginning of a new stage in the evolution of the institution and of the commercial relations between Belgium and Romania. Thus, BEROBA stands next to other similar institutions, among which the British Bilateral Chamber of Commerce BRCC and the French Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Established in 2013 at the initiative of the Belgian Embassy in Bucharest and of Belgian investors in Romania, BEROBA has developed over time as a stand-alone organization, today counting 85 members, mostly Belgian companies and business people or entities with Belgian interests in Romania. Since its beginnings, the association has organized networking meetings and monthly debates on a variety of valuable subjects, managing to build a solid community of business people interested in the development of the Romanian-Belgian relations.

The most prominent event of the association is the Belgian Week, which takes place every year in April, in Bucharest or in other big cities in the country, and brings together workshops, social initiatives and business seminars, along with culinary traditions authentic hallmarks of Belgian lifestyle.

For membership and other info: alain@beroba.com
www.beroba.com



TON organizes conference on homecare services at the Romanian Parliament

On Thursday the 21st of September 2017, the Romanian Parliament through the Committee of Health and Family of the Chamber of Deputies hosted the International conference "Increasing access to home care services for Romanian Elderly".

The conference was organized by The Open Network for Community Development and ADAM Slatina-Timiş in the framework of the project "Active Rural Communities in providing and monitoring homecare services - Increasing the access to socio-medical services for the elderly in 5 rural communities".

The project developed homecare providers in six rural areas of Romania providing multiple services such as support to accomplishing required legal provisions, identification of volunteers, training of community teams, hiring of a part-time nurse for each community and ensuring homecare for about 100 elderly in each of the pilot communities (a total of 550 beneficiaries).

In addition, twelve Belgian cyclists of ADR-Vlaanderen ended their 1000 km tour including the Transfăgărăşan at the Parliament the same day, bringing a strong wave of empathy, solidarity and commitment into the Conference room.

The project "Active Rural Communities in providing the access to homecare services - Increasing the access to socio-medical services for the elderly in 5 rural communities" is co-financed by a grant from Switzerland through the Swiss Contribution to the enlarged European Union. The project has an overall value of CHF 82300, out of which CHF 74050 represent a grant from Switzerland.

More info: www.adrvlaanderen.be



H.Essers Expansion in Bucharest

On October 3, 2013 the Belgian logistics service provider H.Essers opened a new warehouse of 33.000 m² near the Romanian capital Bucharest. Today this state of the art warehouse is expanded with another 10,000 m² for pharmaceutical products and hazardous goods, while the company has bought another 150,000 m² in the same location in order to ensure its future growth.

The new warehouse, scheduled to be finished by the end of October 2017, is built according to the strictest safety standards to meet the high quality demands of its customers. The warehouse is not only earthquake resistant according the highest standards, but its high Seveso storage space - equipped with foam sprinklers and complete leakage retention - offers an answer to the scarcity in the market. There are only 2 such warehouses throughout Romania, including this one owned by H.Essers. In addition, this site has a specialized on-site fire team permanently available. In total, the Bucharest site will cover an area of 260,000 m².

For H.Essers, this new warehouse complex marks the company's international growth, serving as the second headquarter to further align the strategic plans for Eastern-Europe and at the same time it operates as a hub with Central Europe and Turkey.

Currently, 180 people are working in this facility. Across Romania, the company employs 850 people for a turnover of 60 million euro. This expansion involves an investment of 7 million euro through which 285 extra jobs will be created in time.

Leading logistics service provider H.Essers is a family business established in 1928 by Henri Essers. Nowadays, the company is active throughout Europe and beyond, providing personalised and integrated transport and logistics solutions for sectors such as chemistry, pharmaceuticals/healthcare and high-quality goods. The company currently has over 950.000 m² of warehouse space, a fleet of 1.460 vehicles and 3.050 trailers and employs 5.400 people. H.Essers has 67 branches in 15 countries worldwide. Over the last years, the family business has undergone significant expansion through strong organic growth and a number of strategic acquisitions. In 2016, the company recorded a turnover of € 571 million euros.

More info: www.essers.com



News & Events

AWEX Economic mission

Bucharest, October 9-10, 2017

[Click here for more info on the participating companies](#)

Wallonie-Bruxelles events

Graphic art exhibition "A dream inhabited"
Bucharest, National Art Museum
September 29, 2017 - January 28, 2018
Program: www.mnar.arts.ro

Christine Polis, illustrator, art dolls & stop-motion puppets at Anim'est Film Festival
Bucharest, October 2-6, 2017
Program: www.animest.ro

David Gianoni, director of the l'Arbre à paroles Publishing House (Maison d'Amay) at FILIT The International Festival of Literature and Translation
Iaşi, October 4-7, 2017
Program: www.filit-iasi.ro

Wyatt E. (oriental doom) concert
Timisoara, Manufactura club, October 17, 2017
Info: www.facebook.com/manufactura.timisoara/

Urban poetry / Slam poetry evening
Hosted by La Délégation générale Wallonie-Bruxelles and the Romanian Cultural Institute
Part of the European Literature Month - EUNIC Romania Cluster project
Bucharest, Control Club, October 30, 2017
Info: www.control-club.ro

Conference "Femmes de la Francophonie"
Bucharest, November 1-2, 2017
[Info & full program](#)

Belgian Sacred Music Festival
Bucharest, September 29 - October 8, 2017
[Program](#)

ADR agenda

Meeting ADR region Kempen
Kasterlee, September 27, 2017
administratie@advvlaanderen.be

Food Festival for SOS Măcăreşti Maldegem
Oostakker, October 1st, 2017
roger.cockuyt@skynet.be

Pancakes Festival: Nijlen for Hodora
Nijlen, October 1st, 2017
lieve.verhelst@pandora.be

Exhibition Romania in Meerhout
Meerhout, October 4-11, 2017
maurice.daems@skynet.be

Meeting ADR region Brabant
Tremelo, October 5th, 2017
administratie@advvlaanderen.be

Decentralized Forum 2017 Belgium-Romania
Grand Hornu, Mons, October 12-14, 2017
www.lobero.eu

Wine Evening for Vatra Limburg
Zonhoven, October 14, 2017
eduard.fron@chem.kuleuven.be

Quiz for Tremelo & Rotselaar
Rotselaar, October 20, 2017
kristofvandenplas@hotmail.com

Food Festival for NONA De Pinte
De Pinte, October 22, 2017
nonamechild@telenet.be

Meeting ADR region Limburg
Genk, November 9, 2017
administratie@advvlaanderen.be

Contact Day ADR-Vlaanderen
Antwerpen, November 25, 2017
administratie@advvlaanderen.be

Christmas Fair ADR Meerhout
Meerhout, December 17, 2017
maurice.daems@skynet.be



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