



ПОСОЛСТВО НА КРАЛСТВО БЕЛГИЯ
EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

02/988 72 90 * e-mail: sofia@diplobel.fed.be * www.diplomatie.be



BUSINESS NEWSLETTER
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Dear Friends,

As we are slowly getting out of holiday into working mode again, some classic BBL events are profiling itself on the horizon. Companies that have been successful in developing the business between our two countries are kindly invited to apply for the third edition of **the Primus Inter Pares Award**, which runs under the motto "simply the best". Please also note that **the Belgian Culinary Week will take place in the last week of October**, in the Sofia Hilton. This year we are looking at a **Belgian Week Plus**, adding some cultural spice to the excellent food and drinks.

Best regards,

Marc Michielsen,
Ambassador



Primus Inter Pares 2011 - Call for Candidates

"Simply the best" not only sounds familiar to the fans of Tina Turner, it is also the motto of the 2011 edition of the Primus Inter Pares Award. With the award the BBL wants to honour the company that was most successful in strengthening the economic ties between Belgium and Bulgaria. The winner will get public attention at the opening night of the Belgian Food Week and become the proud owner of the redesigned PIP-statulette. If you

think you are simply the best, or better than the rest, send your motivated application to: Iliyana.atanasova1@gmail.com. The competition is also open to non BBL members.



Delhaize gets green light for Delta Maxi acquisition

End of July the competent merger control authorities gave the Belgian food retailer Delhaize the green light for its acquisition of Serbian retailer Delta Maxi. The 932.5 million euro deal makes Delhaize a leading player in south-eastern Europe and complements its existing operations in Greece and

Romania. Delta Maxi owns approximately 450 stores in Serbia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania.

Contacts: Geert Verellen: + 32 2 412 83 62, Saskia Dheedene: + 32 2 412 96 11, Steven Vandenbroeke (media): +32 2 412 86 69



CIBANK to lend 112 mln EUR to SME under JEREMIE initiative

KBC's CIBANK is one of five banks that signed a First Loss Portfolio Guarantee agreement with the European Investment Fund. The agreement is under the Joint European Resources for Micro to Medium Enterprises Initiative (JEREMIE) and will allow CIBANK to provide up to 112 mln euro of new loans to Bulgarian small and medium enterprises. The guarantee enables CIBANK to increase its lending to more risky businesses, including new businesses without a credit history. Existing clients will benefit from even better lending conditions. The deal with the EIF will allow the five selected Bulgarian banks to create a total loan portfolio of up to 400 million for SMEs, thus giving a push to growth and innovation. For CIBANK the deal help to focus on the SME market in Bulgaria, which has become a clear priority since KBC became the sole owner of the bank end of 2010.

Contact CIBANK: Ina Indjieva, Management Assistant to Peter Andronov, IInjeva@cibank.bg, 0878987501.



Cordeel lays first stone for confection plant in Ruse

On 6 July Cordeel Bulgaria laid the first stone for the construction of a new confection plant in Ruse, in the presence of Regional Development minister Rosen Plevneliev. The new production facility belongs to the company Top Man and will make men's suits for top brands such as Hugo Boss, Joop and Rollmann. The facility provides 2200 sq. metre of workspace for 700 employees and will include a showroom for the international clients of Top Man. The building and the machinery represent a 10 million leva investment. Within one year, the plant should be operational.



Fytolab moving towards permanent recognition for food safety tests in Bulgaria

Due to a recent decision of the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, Fytolab Bulgaria has been added to the lists of recognized laboratories which can perform tests of food products destined for export to Russia. For the daughter company of the Belgian laboratory group Fytolab this is a first important step toward permanent recognition as laboratory that can perform food tests for the Bulgarian market. Fytolab is not yet included on the "Bulgarian" list, but it recently won a tender to perform analyses of feed /pesticides and mycotoxines/ for the official control in Bulgaria by the BFS.

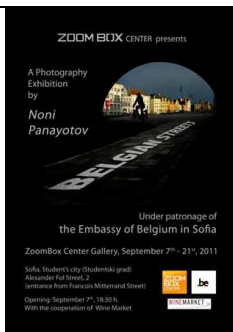


Roger Vanden Berghe starts production at Decotex Sliven

The Belgian carpet maker Roger Vanden Berghe has started production in a plant of the Bulgarian company Decotex in Sliven. Decotex concluded a renting agreement for part of the weaving facilities of Decotex and will take over part of the management of Decotex. The aim is to restructure the company and make production more cost efficient. The agreement goes beyond a simple outsourcing arrangement and falls short of a takeover of

Decotex by Vanden Berghe. Decotex will continue its production for the Bulgarian market and remains active in real estate.

For more information: www.zboxcenter.com



Belgian Streets

7-21 September

The Bulgarian photographer, Noni Panayotov, will host a photography exhibition at the ZoomBox Gallery (Alexander Fol Street 2) from 7 until 21 September.

The official opening took place on September 7 at 18h30 by the Belgian Ambassador in Sofia, Mr Marc Michielsens.

The exhibition will show 26 street images of the city of Ghent. It is a nice opportunity to look at the city of Ghent in a somewhat unusual way.

For more information: www.zboxcenter.com



Belgian-Bulgarian youth exchange "art without borders"

27 young people from Belgian and Bulgaria spent an unforgettable 10 days together in and around the city of Kyustendil. The purpose of the project "Art exchange without borders" was to bring people together in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding and to jointly participate in cultural activities. The programme consisted of artistic workshops, hiking in the Rila and

Osogovo mountains, a discussion on the social problems of the region with mayor Paunov and a press conference with Belgian ambassador Michielsen. And of course quite a few parties. At the final "concert happening" on 14 July on the central square the participants shared their enthusiasm with the people of Kyustendil. The event was widely covered by local media. Pictures and commentaries can be found on a dedicated page on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belgium-Bulgaria-Art-exchange-without-borders#!/pages/Belgium-Bulgaria-Art-exchange-without-borders/241025079249652>



University Saint Louis offers two master programs for 2011-2012

The francophone university Facultés universitaires Saint Louis in Brussels bring to our attention two master programs it will organise in the academic year 2011-2012. One is a complementary master which offers an interdisciplinary approach to human rights, in cooperation with the Université catholique de Louvain and the Facultés universitaires Notre-

Dame de le Paix in Namur. The other one is a complementary master in environmental and real estate law. It focuses on the interaction between environmental law and the regulations for urban planning. <http://www.fusl.ac.be>

.....Agenda.....

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS IN BELGIUM

* Jeff Wall. The Crooked Path
Till 11 September 2011
Exhibition, Brussels, Bozar

* Hôtel Aubecq. Victor Horta
Till 9 October 2011
Exhibition, Brussels, Royal Museums for Fine Arts of Belgium

* Jorge Macchi, Music Stands Still
Till 18th of September
Exhibition, S.M.A.K (Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art), Ghent
www.smak.be

* Festival de Wallonie
Till 16th of October 2011
Classical music
www.festivaldewallonie.be

* Andy Warhol and co ... w
Till 25 September 2011
Stavelot Abbey
<http://www.abbayedestavelot.be>

* Tutankhamen
Till 6th of November 2011
Place de Belgique, Brussels
www.kingtutbrussels.be

* Liege in Victor Hugo's Time
Till 26th of September 2011
Exhibition, Palace Curtius, Liege
www.grandcurtiusliege.be

* Horta, a Lost World
Till 31st of December 2011
Autriquehouse, Schaarbeek
www.autrique.be

* From Pablo Picasso to Joan Miro
Till December 2011
Oud Sint Jan, Bruges
www.oudsintjan.eu

UPCOMING EVENTS IN BELGIUM

* Palazzo Rubens. The master as architect
11 September - 11 December 2011
Exhibition, Antwerp, Rubens House

* Belgacom Memorial Van Damme
Famous international athletics event (Diamond League), Brussels, 16 September 2011

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