



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,

After a short look backwards, to the festivities on July 21th, we resolutely look forward. September means a new start, and within the Embassy we welcome 3 new members, who briefly present themselves. The BBL Business Club is organizing an event in Varna, and shortly after that there will be a presentation of several economic sectors and initiatives in Wallonia, in a programme opened by a comic exhibition and organized by delegate Benoît Rutten. In the same period, Best2b will open their Plovdiv office. We are also trying to get a picture of the problems our companies face with VAT-issues in Bulgaria and would like to get your feedback on this.

Yours sincerely,

Anick Van Calster

Belgian National Day 2013



This year, our national day was a special day as it was also the day of King Philip's ascension to the throne. We all had the opportunity to celebrate this during a party in the garden of the residency of the Belgian Ambassador. This event was also an opportunity to promote some Belgian companies present in Bulgaria with Belgian food, but also Bulgarian products, like wine. You can find more info and pictures on Facebook (Embassy of Belgium in Sofia)



New diplomats in Belgian Embassy.

This summer, the two Belgian diplomats of the Embassy left Sofia at the same time. After four years in Sofia, Katherine Raeymaekers and Mattias Creffier are now facing a new challenge in Budapest for Katherine and in Strasbourg for Mattias. Two departures mean two new arrivals: Katrijn Coppens and Marc Fieremans.

Katrijn is a young diplomat who arrived in Sofia after working for four years at the Belgian Embassy in Kiev. In 2006, she graduated as a Master in Political Science at the K.U.Leuven and, after spending some time in Ireland, she worked on a research project at the same university, before starting her diplomatic career.



Marc is not so young anymore and started a new career after more than twenty years in the finance industry. He studied economics at the University of Namur and will be mainly in charge of the consular section.

Not only the Embassy could welcome new people but also Awex welcomes a new attaché. Anne Defourny is indeed the new Awex- Economic and Commercial Counselor in Sofia since September 1st.

After her studies in economics, she worked 2 years at the economic department of the Catholic University of Louvain as a researcher. After that, she worked 4 years at the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium and 6 months at Comeos (Belgian Federation of Commerce). Now, she is experiencing her first expatriation. She replaces Eric Santkin who has moved to the Awex office in Barcelona, after 6 years spent in Bulgaria.



Problems with VAT refund



We are trying to get an overview about the problems Belgian companies face with VAT-issues in Bulgaria. We would like to receive feedback from your side. We are happy to meet you to discuss this or you can inform us by email sofia@diplobel.fed.be

Don't miss the promotion operation of Wallonia-Brussels in Sofia the 1st week of October!



The culture, the education and the technological potential of Wallonia and Brussels will have the place of honor in Sofia during the 1st week of October. Gathering important Bulgarian, Walloon and Brussels actors as keynote speakers, the program promises very interesting exchanges about culture, economics and technologies. The Delegate of Wallonia-Brussels, Mr. Benoit Rutten, has the pleasure to invite you to this promotion operation.

- **2nd October, 18:30:** Launch of the exhibition 'Des Cases et des Hommes' - *National Library of Bulgaria (Vassil Levski Str. No 88, Sofia, 2nd floor)*

- **3rd October:** *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Great Hall*

- **10:00:** (1) Conference about the Marshall Plan ("Wallonia, Which Way to Success?")
(2) Conference about the structural reforms and competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy in the Context of the EU–2020 Strategy,

- **15:30:** (1) Presentation of LIEU, the Technology Transfer Network of Wallonia
(2) Presentation of GIS, the transfer Center Foundation, Bulgaria

- **4th October:** *Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Great Hall*

- **10:00:** Presentation of the Audiovisual Sector in Wallonia-Brussels: Cinema and Digital

This promotional event is the result of a long term partnership between the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Delegation of Wallonia-Brussels, the Walloon Export and Foreign Investment Agency, IFAG, and the Embassy of Belgium in Sofia.

The Belgo-Bulgarian association *best b*

The Belgo-Bulgarian association *best2b* is already active in Bulgaria for more than 15 years.

Recently a further step has been taking in the development of its activities: in close collaboration with Maritsa municipality, Respekt Consult Group and Sienit Holding a new **best2b-Plovdiv Office** is operative (154 Maritsa Blvd, Block A, floor 9). Please contact **Neli Delgyanska (+359 32 26 45 75 or plovdiv@best2b.org)** for investment opportunities and more information about the services we offer.



The official opening/reception of the new office will take place on 2 October 2013 in the presence of Belgian ambassador Anick Van Calster. You are more than welcome to confirm your presence at the telephone number or email address mentioned above

Privatization of the Macedonian company "Eurokompozit".

The authorities of FYROM recently published an invitation to tender about the privatization of the company Eurokompozit, actually owned by the state. If you are interested, you have to ask the complete candidature file to the Macedonian ministry of economy before 6th September. You can find more information about this company on <http://www.eurokompozit.mk/>