



ПОСОЛСТВО НА КРАЛСТВО БЕЛГИЯ
EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

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BUSINESS NEWSLETTER
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Dear friends,

Happy international women's day!

This March edition is bringing us a multitude of topics: fashion, both for men and women, food, industry, and the opening of a branch of Euroconsultants. We also wish to draw your attention to the possibility of choosing Brussels as your arbitration center. Invest in Bulgaria organizes a conference in Brussels as part of its world tour.

Here in Sofia, we look forward to seeing you at the yearly general assembly of the BBL BC, followed by a conference of M. Plamen Rusev on social media.

Best regards,

Anick Van Calster



BUSINESS CLUB

www.bblbg.com/

BBL General Assembly on 26 March

On 26 March the Belgium Bulgaria Business club holds its General Assembly at the brand new Sofia Novotel, number 115 on Tsarigradsko Shose. This is the moment where the members can have their say and the BBL looks back on what has been achieved and what lies ahead. For the occasion the BBL invited Mr. Plamen Rusev, an expert in the use of social media, for a short presentation. The meeting starts at 11h in meeting room Europe 3. We are looking forward so seeing you in large numbers. Please confirm to Iliyana until 11 March. Iliyana.Atanasova1@gmail.com.



International Woolmark Prize for Belgian fashion made in Bulgaria

During the recent London Fashion week, Antwerp-based designer Christian Wijnants took home the ultra-prestigious International Woolmark Prize, an award that already counts Yves Saint Laurent, Dolce & Gabana and Karl Lagerfeld among its winners. The jury included the designers Victoria Beckham, Donatella Versace and Diane von Furstenberg. On 28 February, Christian showed his complete Fall 13 collection during the Paris Fashion week. Few people know that a major part of this collection was developed in Legia, one of the 2 production sites of the Belgian Caroline Biss group in Rakovski near Plovdiv. Since 1997, the Caroline Biss group has a big part of its production located in Bulgaria, where they employ more than 500 people. Apart from their own brand, they also produce garments for 16 other Belgian fashion houses. The Antwerp designers AF Vandevorst are also amongst their clients. The show, with most of the silhouettes developed in Legia, was a top moment during the recent Paris Fashion Week.

www.caroline-biss.com

<http://www.style.com/fashionshows/review/F2013RTW-CWIJNANTS>

<http://www.style.com/fashionshows/review/F2013RTW-AFVVORST>



Belgian textile excellence on show in Sofia

The Bulgarian fashion group Agressia presents its summer collection of menswear on 19 March at 19h in the Kempinsky Hotel. The event is on invitation only. Since 2009, Agressia is the importer in Bulgaria of the Belgian textile label Scabal. It also works with Dormeuil, Ermenegilde Zegna, Loro Piana and others. The general theme of the show is kept secret, but the keywords are “fresh”, “bold” and “colourful”. The show will be followed by a networking reception. A selection of the textiles of

Scabal en Dormeuil will be available for people who want to acquaint themselves with the look and feel of these fine fabrics. <http://agressiagroup.eu/>; <http://www.scabal.nl/>.



Belgian heavy machinery for Macedonian mining

The Belgian company ALC from Tournai won an important contract for the delivery of a rotating drying unit for the ferro-nickel mining company FENI in Kavadarci (former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The huge piece of machinery is more than 30,5 metres long and has an internal diameter of just over 3 metres. The transport is scheduled for end of March and the assembly works for May.

The machinery company ALC Tournai is a technological benchmark for the dimensioning, revamping, commissioning and revamping of large rotating machines, from 50 to 230 tons. They sell the heavy equipment to industrial sectors like cement, chemicals, steel production, energy and mining. FENI belongs to Cunico Resources, an international mining and metals company specialised in ferro-nickel.



Bulgarian Investment Forum in Brussels

The Bulgarian Investment Forum is on a World Tour on three continents to promote Bulgaria as an attractive place to do business. On 20 March, they organize an Investment Forum in the Brussels’s Crowne Plaza Hotel. The forum focuses on growth sectors such as automotive, logistics and outsourcing. It is an opportunity to meet senior government officials, managers of prominent Belgian investors in Bulgaria, local companies and potential Belgian investors.

Solvay, KBC, Univeg, Liberty Food Services and Aurubis will present their perspective on doing business in the country. Attendance is free of charge. Please register at: <http://investbg.government.bg/conferences/index.php/brussels> or contact Mr. Dimitar Bozhilov (Email: dbozhilov@entrea-capital.com; Phone: +359 884 918 631).



Euroconsultants opens subsidiary in Bulgaria

Belgian Consulting group EuroConsultants decided to set up shop in Bulgaria. The consulting group based in Wavre (Brabant Wallon) is a specialist in quality improvement for organisations (management consulting). The group mainly operates in the agro-food and agro-processing industries offering a variety of services to different sectors: catering, hotels and tourism, industry, retail, international and institutional cooperation. EC Bulgaria is becoming a trustworthy partner of Bulgarian business in catering, retail and hotels. Thanks to an internship organised by Awex and WBI, Velichka Terzieva, a graduate from IFAG (www.ifag.auf.org), spent 2 months at the mother company in Wavre and one month in Sofia to examine the potential of the Bulgarian market. As results look promising, the company is now up and running from the Welcome Office of Awex Sofia, an incubator for start-up companies.

<http://www.euroconsultants.be/en>



A journey to the World of Cheesecake

March is Baba Marta's month, and like most ladies her age, Granny March can not say no to a delicious piece of cheesecake. From 1 to 31 March, BBL members Delhaize and Puratos joined forces to bring no less than five original "чийзкейк" recipes to a Piccadilly shop close to you: a delightful dessert to enjoy any time.



Belgian rapeseed oil in Bulgarian stores

Fans of Belgian culinary delights will be happy to hear that the full range of oils and dressing from the company Alvenat is now on sale in Sofia. Alvenat is a Belgian company specialising in the production of an exceptional non-GMO rapeseed vegetable oil sourced from local sustainable agriculture. The oil is extracted from cold-pressed rapeseeds with a unique and fully mechanical method, which makes it a very eco-friendly product. The result is healthy and pure oil with a perfect balance of Omega 3 and Omega 6. It can be appreciated on its own, with a subtle flavour of hazelnuts, or infused and macerated with selected products and spices. Alvenat is on sale at the "Bread and Cheese" shop in ul. Tsar Asen, and the "Wine and Cheese" shop in the Iztok quarter. For more information, please contact sales representative Stela Stoynova, +359 877 80 85 84, alvenat.production@gmail.com.



Brussels, the European Arbitration Hub

One of the topics during the annual conference of Belgian Ambassadors in Brussels was the potential of Brussels to become a hub for arbitration in commercial disputes. Currently Paris is the arbitration capital of the world, with 111 cases in 2011, followed by London (62) and Geneva (53). Brussels is in 8th position, with 13 cases in 2011. However, the popularity of Brussels as a place for arbitration has been rising steadily and the quality of Belgian arbiters is internationally recognized. Fifty Belgian experts currently work as arbiters in arbitration centres around the world. Brussels has many assets: it is easily accessible by transport, relatively cheap compared to other arbitration centres and has a huge pool of translators and international experts available due to the presence of the European Institutions. To highlight the potential of Brussels as an arbitration

centre, the Belgian Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (CEPANI) set up a study group to propose improvements in the law think of an action plan. The aim is to streamline the communication about arbitration in Brussels, set up a unique contact point and start with a postgraduate study program for future arbiters. More info on: www.cepani.be.

New inscriptions in the consular register



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