



**ПОСОЛСТВО НА КРАЛСТВО БЕЛГИЯ
EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

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**BUSINESS NEWSLETTER
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Dear friends,

This month, a motivational speaker, some background news, information about our know-how in dealing with waste and some data about the Belgian-Bulgarian economic relations. We are already looking forward to the Belgian days that will bring us Fun, Food and Architecture. The program will be revealed later this month, and we're sure you'll find something interesting there. Best regards,

Anick Van Calster

Belgian Days 2014 – save the dates

Don't forget to save the dates : the 9th edition of the Belgian Days will take place from 9th to 21st of November. You can expect a very well filled program, with, of course, fun and food but also for this year architecture. You will have more information about the program in our next newsletter or through personal Invitations.



Belgian waste & recycling solutions



Waste recycling is one of the major challenges public authorities have to face to. Belgium benefits from a very high expertise in this field. For instance, according to the European Waste Framework Directive, 50 % of municipal waste must be recycled by 2020. Belgium is one of the only four countries who are currently achieving this target. If you are concerned by this sector of activity or you just want to understand why Belgium is so performant for this, you can download a publication on the website of the Foreign Trade Agency : http://www.abh-ace.be/en/binaries/20140822_ace_brochure_waste_BD_tcm450-254639.pdf

38 % more Belgian tourists in Bulgaria

In the report by end of July from the Ministry of tourism, you can see that Bulgaria is a more and more popular destination for Belgian tourists. Between January and July 2014, 47.146 Belgian citizens visited Bulgaria for tourist purposes. This is an increase of 38 %, compared with the same period in 2013. Belgium takes the 19th place in number of tourists. Top 3 is composed with Greece (nearly 590.000 visitors this year), Romania (538.501) and Russia (432.499). The total number of tourists who visited Bulgaria till end of July increased with 5,6 %.

In the same time, 22.496 Bulgarian tourists visited Belgium, 12,8 % less than last year



Belgian-Bulgarian economic relations



Statistics of economic trade between Belgium and Bulgaria show an important increase in the value of the transactions. Import in Belgium from Bulgaria increased by 37 % (in value) , and export from Belgium with 22 %. Main sector of import in Belgium are base metals, with 70,5 % of total volume. Top three is completed by machinery and appliances (9,5 %) and food (5,8 %). For the export from Belgium, the first place is taken by machinery and appliances (23,5 %), followed by chemical products (17,3 %) and textile (14,3 %)

BBL Business Lunch with Mr. Petar Stoychev, World champion swimmer

During the next business event the BBL Business Club will welcome Mr. Petar Stoychev as a guest speaker. The Bulgarian Petar Stoychev is one of the most successful long distance marathon swimmers in the world in the last decade. In this discipline Mr. Stoychev has won 11 consecutive world titles and on Aug 24th, 2007 he achieved a world record crossing the English Channel. Mr. Stoychev is definitely the expert in human motivation and goal achievements!

Please save the date **October 17th, 11:30h**. For any additional information : iliyana.atanasova1@gmail.com.

