



Business Newsletter 2015/1 – February 2015



Dear friends,

Good results from our companies, we are happy to share them with you. As spring is coming closer – maybe an idea to go for some touristic tour?

Best regards,

Anick Van Calster
Ambassador



Devnya Cement Investor of the Year 2014

InvestBulgaria Agency declared Devnya Cement Investor for the Year 2014. Devnya Cement is a plant with production facilities and an annual capacity of approximately 2 million tons, located near Varna. The company is subsidiary of Italcementi Group which has an annual production capacity of 2,5 million ton and provides about 500 direct and 1 500 indirect job positions. The Company invested more than 400 million BGN in the country. Italcementi owns also a plant in Belgium, near Tournai. CEO of Devnya Cement is a Belgian citizen : Mr. Serge Schmidt. Congratulations to him and his team.

www.devnyacement.bg



First Surveillance Audit EN 15838 at Euroccor successful

Last week, Euroccor was undergoing its first EN 15838:2009 (ECCS) annual surveillance audit, and was completely compliant with the strict requirements of this standard. Congratulations to all the staff of Euroccor.

www.euroccor.com



Newsletter Spotlight

Solvay Sodi launched for the second time "Innovation in Action" to give the chance to young people with innovative ideas to develop them. More info :

<http://innovationinaction.eu>

Belgian women launch a new project for tourism in Bulgaria

Mrs. Noelle Hanegreefs and Mrs. Boriana Savova, two Belgian ladies who really appreciate Bulgaria, propose new tourist circuits. The main purpose of the programme is focused to historical and archeological monuments, monasteries or Bulgarian traditions (wine, crafts, folk art).

The first trip is devoted to the north-central Bulgaria from Sofia to Veliko Tarnovo (<http://stravellux.com/bulgaria-tourism-nature-history-spirit>), and the second one to the UNESCO protected sites in Bulgaria (<http://stravellux.com/bulgaria-unesco>).



We Engineer The Sustainable Future.

MELEXIS Q4 and 2014 results: Highest sales growth since 2000

On the 4th of February, the board of Directors of Melexis communicated the results of 2014 : sales were 332.4 Million EUR, an increase of 21 % compared to 2013. Gross margin was 161.3 Million EUR, an increase of 26 % compared to the previous year, and the operating result increased by 40 %. Mrs. Françoise Chombar, CEO of the Company commented these results : « 2014 is the first year since 2000 that Melexis experienced a sales growth of over 20 %, except of course for the post-crisis year 2010 which was by all means very exceptional. »

www.melexis.com

Belgium ranks fourth in the Innovation Index 2014



For the third year in a row, Belgium takes up the fourth place in the Innovation Index. With this fourth place, Belgium outclasses the Netherlands (8th), France (17th) and Germany (6th).

The Innovation Index is a study executed by a consortium of three research institutes: the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) and the Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (MERIT).

According to the study, Belgium takes up the 4th place in the ranking thanks to its large number of hidden champions in the small industrial subcontracting markets and thanks to the fact that the Belgian innovation system is very balanced.

<http://www.zew.de/en/>

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