



Business Newsletter 2016/3 — April 2016



Dear friends,

Unfortunately, in March our country has been victim of horrible attacks. Our thoughts go to the victims of these attacks, and I wish to thank all those who addressed us their messages of sympathy and condolences.

We must remain strong and confident in the future, and that's why it is pleasant to share positive news, such as the new important contract signed by Cordeel or the good ranking of Belgium in the field of technology. The Belgian trade mission in the region is another sign of trustful relations between our countries, and finally, other initiatives, such as Techpark in Tetovo and the Solvay Innovation in Action show us how important it is to be confident in the future and invest in young people.

Best regards,

Anick Van Calster,

Ambassador

Cordeel becomes general contractor for the new factory of Osram in Plovdiv

Cordeel Bulgaria, subsidiary of the Belgian group Cordeel achieved recently a very important partnership, by becoming General Contractor (design & build) for the new factory of the German company Osram in Plovdiv. Osram is a world leader in lighting and is moving its factory from China to Bulgaria. The ground breaking ceremony took place on 22nd of March, in presence of Minister Lukarski.

Congratulations to Cordeel for this performance.



Belgian trade mission to Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia

The Belgian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce of Antwerp-Waasland is organizing a trade mission to Bulgaria and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. The mission will be lead by M. Pieter De Crem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade. The mission will take place between 16th and 20th of May, with business meetings in Sofia, Plovdiv and Skopje.

If you want to learn more about this mission, contact M. Jill Suetens at VOKA : jill.suetens@voka.be or see our Facebook page.



Belgian technology attracts interesting investors



A European comparison by Omar Mohout, technology and venture capitalist specialist at [Agoria](#), shows that Belgian technology, last month, raised an exceptionally large amount of money because of venture capital funds. If this trend continues, Belgium will soon be a top tier player in the international investment market. Only major parties, such as United Kingdom and France, closed more deals in January. In order to be ranked, companies have to raise a minimum of 1 million euros. In 2014, Belgium landed 8th place with more than EUR 232 million.

In the European ranking, Belgium takes a striking 5th place according to the amount of deals per country. With 8 tech-deals landed in January, our country performs better than the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark and Finland.

Our Ambassador visits Techpark in Tetovo.

Our Ambassador paid a visit on the 7th of April to the South East European University in Tetovo and to South East European Tech Park. This park was created in May 2013 by the University to create conditions to stimulate the creation of new start-up companies, by creating a synergy between the companies. Furthermore, it aims to encourage the growth of existing SMEs (small and medium enterprises) which in the long term provides new job opportunities.

More info on : www.seeutechpark.com



Third Edition Solvay Innovation in Action



Solvay launched on 13th of April the third edition of its « Innovation in Action ». With this Academy, Solvay Sodi is trying to further the tradition initiated by Ernest Solvay.

Ernest Solvay, who lived from 1838 to 1922, invented very young the new way to produce soda ash or sodium carbonate. He started his own factory where he further perfected the so-called “Solvay Process” for which he received a patent in 1872. Solvay invested a lot to stimulate innovative scientific research. He founded the Solvay Business School in 1902 and initiated a series of important conferences in physics, known as the "Solvay conferences.

Innovation in Action aims to support young people with innovative ideas, to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of innovation in order to help them transform their ideas into projects ready for realization. The Academy is open to all students or graduates with an interest in the field of practical innovation. It is organized in three stages (open seminars, workshops, recent award ceremony) and in two cities (Sofia & Varna).

<http://innovationinaction.eu/?lang=en>