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New beginnings!

The time is finally coming! We'll soon be happily making travel plans, organising job assignments, international meetings again – but in person. While screens have been useful, they will never replace an elbow bump, let alone a handshake or a peck on the cheek.

We haven't been wasting our time meanwhile, and have a new format to show for it. Take Justine Fourmeau's enthusiasm as an example. Regenerating bone tissue is no longer the preserve of comic-book super-heroines. This one is well and truly alive today – and she's made it onto our cover! While GSK is investing more than ever in research, our businesses are unleashing their energy in every sector, from a bustling design studio to the amazing sorting capacity of robots. From intelligence to sustainability, the currently booming logistics sector is not to be outdone. As a result of the recent Suez Canal incident, however, it is now undergoing a period of profound reflection, across the board, and in respect of SDGs. We've done a Focus feature about that.

Then you might like to slake your thirst with a beer, to breathe in the fresh air of our beautiful countryside, get an idea of the "Crazy" life of one of our ambassadors, the chance to travel by reading about new works – or how about reaching the stars? Art will be a connection between us and will take us to meet others in Europe, Africa and elsewhere.

So, talking about new beginnings, we invite you to discover our new-style magazine, featuring key texts and magnificent photos, which might seem lighter at first glance, but which is actually much more in-depth thanks to some augmented reality, which we hope you will find useful.

We are looking forward to seeing you and hearing from you: until then, take care!

Pascale Delcomminette







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GOLD MEDAL FOR THE RED FLO

The young company Les Brasseries de Flobecq, based in Péruwelz, won the gold medal at the 60th international "Monde Sélection 2021" competition. Its Red Flo organic beer beat over 3,100 competitors from 90 countries. Wallonia, a land of prodigious talents, bright futures, and yet-to-be-discovered beers!



© SPL Lascaux

THE RAMIOUL PREHISTOMUSEUM AND THE LASCAUX CAVE: A WORLD PREMIERE

On 3 December, the Prehistomuseum will host the world premiere of the 3D exhibition Lascaux Experience. It will be an opportunity for visitors to discover this masterpiece of cave art, which has been closed to the public for over 60 years, in its entirety and in an immersive way. What better way to awaken your primitive spirit!

THERAPEUTIC CANCER VACCINES

Walloon biotech OncoDNA and Flemish company myNEO are teaming up to create personalised cancer immunotherapies. Intended for patients with no other satisfactory treatment option, these personalised vaccines could help cure cancer by selectively stimulating the immune system: they would train the body to recognise and neutralise molecules produced by a tumour (neo-antigens), thus immunising the patient against their own cancer.



FIRSTLANE FROM AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS WINS THE 2021 RED DOT AWARD FOR HIGH DESIGN QUALITY

Automatic Systems has been designing and manufacturing equipment for pedestrian and vehicle access for over 50 years. Its new FirstLane speedgate design combines high bi-directional traffic flow with maximum safety. Its elegant design and its exclusive DIRAS detection system, which allows for precise user control, won over the international Red Dot Award product-design jury.



© Gorodenkoff

GOOD NEWS FOR A CANCER TREAT-MENT FROM ERC BELGIUM

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says the cancer vaccine from ERC, based in Namur, works. In a sign of its confidence in the vaccine, the FDA decided to ask ERC to end the double-blind second phase and move directly to randomised phase-three registration trials, thus speeding up the path to approval. Once it has been approved, Sitoiganap, as it is called (also known as ERC1671 in the US), will be the first immunotherapy treatment for glioblastoma, the most common and most devastating form of brain cancer. After 15 years of research, ERC has also submitted a marketing application for the European Union, to the European Medicines Agency.

MITHRA ANNOUNCES EUROPEAN APPROVAL OF ESTELLE®

The European Commission has accepted the registration application for the new combined oral contraceptive (COC) Estelle.® Manufactured by Mithra, a Belgian biotech company dedicated to women's health, Estelle® is composed of 15 mg of estetrol (E4), a unique native estrogen, and 3 mg of drospirenone. Once launched, it will be the first new estrogen in a COC in the European market in over half a century.





NOVADIP

JUSTINE FOURMEAU

Novadip, a spin-off of the Université catholique de Louvain and Cliniques Universitaires Saint Luc, a university hospital, was co-founded in 2013 by Denis Dufrane. Novadip has successfully treated the tibia of a child suffering from a rare disease, thanks to the development of a three-dimensional cell therapy that is still being studied.

Novadip, which specialises in tissue regeneration research, targeting fractures that will not heal, particularly in children who have congenital tibial pseudo-arthrosis, is achieving encouraging results. Justine Fourmeau, a 37-year-old bio-engineer who has been head of the Production Department since 2017, is already working on other applications.

"Congenital tibial pseudo-arthrosis affects about 1 in 100,000 children. It is extremely debilitating and can lead to amputation: the bone breaks and cannot be repaired. We isolate stem cells from the patient's own fat tissue to make three-dimensional, malleable bone tissue, like plasticine, which is then re-implanted to fill the fracture. Our first clinical study in adult patients with similar conditions was completed last year. In early 2021, we received approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration for a clinical trial in children suffering from this rare disease", Justine explains.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JUSTINE FOURMEAU Wakes up Arrives at Attends the Teamwork Team lunch Back to Lights out family, family Novadip stand-up beains management life - reading, meeting horse riding, gardening, and evenings with friends

JUSTINE **FOURMEAU**

In the meantime, Prof. Pierre-Louis Docquier, an orthopaedic surgeon at Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, requested Novadip's help to treat a young patient in 2018. "Two years later, the little boy is walking again. This is really encouraging for our team! Usually, we don't know the faces of the patients we're working for, or their stories. But seeing his joy, watching him walk and ride his bike, hearing his dad's account of his recovery, and just knowing that the project is working and that it will help treat other children – it's such a wonderful feeling!"

Three other children with congenital tibial pseudarthrosis have already benefited from a 3D bone graft, again on a compassionate basis.(1) Justine dreams of one day being able to offer other therapeutic applications, such as "treating adults whose bones no longer heal in their lower limbs following an injury or cancer, for example."



(1) Compassionate-use programmes allow the therapeutic use of drugs without marketing authorisation (MA) by patients for whom there is no effective treatment.



2013 - year of creation





2 Tirst in the world







When the founders of a new digital media company stabbed a dictionary to come up with a name, they didn't realize how fortuitous it would be.

For Dogstudio's CEO & Creative Director Henry Daubrez, the name definitely has some mojo: "Loyalty is a famous canine characteristic that fits our staff and our clients. Determination too: we work doggedly to build our vision. And once we have our teeth in something, we don't let go till it's ours. We also have a nose for the right moment."

That nose followed a trail to Chicago – when all the world goes to NYC – which led to being chosen as virtual media partner of the gigantic Museum of Science & Industry, which in turn led to landing numerous collaborations in North and South America, including projects for Time Inc., Microsoft, Rappi, the New York Times, the Kennedy Center, etc.

"When we first tried to crack the US market", continues Henry, "we were losing out to local firms, despite tendering the best offer with leading edge ideas. Americans need someone regional they can call during working hours. So, we set up in Chicago. We may not be in the world's hottest spot, but it couples quality of life with space to grow ourselves and our base."

If the MSI was a great catch to insiders, becoming the virtual vector of "Tomorrowland", the iconic electro-pop festival, brought the kind of mainstream recognition that not only enabled them to survive 2020 intact, but opened doors to hook-ups with some exciting brands in 2021.

"Lockdown treated us well. Since the massive success of virtual Tomorrowland, we are now acknowledged experts in such events. Yes, ours is a lucky name, but there's a lot of hard work behind it, as our clients can attest. For many people, our Dog logo has a totemic quality ... though for myself, I'm more of a cat person!"



9,000



2m doses/day



158



€900m over the last 2 years



Wavre & Rixensart

GSK STRENGTHENS ITS TIES WITH BELGIUM

In March, GSK announced a new €330 investment for its Wavre site. In two years' time, a total of €930m will have been invested in GSK's sites at Rixensart and Wavre - a significant amount for the country's biggest pharmaceutical company. Patrick Florent, CEO of GSK Vaccines in Belgium, explains why the country is playing a strategic role in R&D on vaccines.

What is the role of Belgium in GSK's vaccine business?

Our vaccine history started in Belgium more than 70 years ago, with our first vaccine against polio. Since then, we have researched, developed and manufactured a portfolio of 30+ vaccines, which we have been exporting to 160+ countries all around the world. Our historic R&D site is located in Rixensart, which is the reason why the vaccines we have developed here end with -RIX. Our vaccine manufacturing site in Wavre is the largest in the world.

How will these recent investments influence the development of existing and future vaccines within GSK Vaccines?

These investments are a recognition of the expertise and know-how of our employees in Belgium. Our business continues to evolve, and we will adapt to future needs. Together, we will develop the new skills and new technologies that we will need in the future to stay at the forefront of the industry and thus ensure our competitiveness. The formalisation of the recent investments does not mark the end of our efforts to seize other opportunities for our sites. Our efforts will be relentless to continue our activities in Belgium.

INVESTMENT I WORK





Rixensart



What it is about Belgium that GSK finds so special that it is locating the global headquarters

of its vaccine division here?

Not only does GSK have a very strong history in Belgium, where our vaccine activities started, but at the same time, the country has developed the perfect ecosystem to attract R&D investments. We benefit from a unique academic and industrial network. Authorities have also developed a framework to attract investments innovation. Additionally, the Belgian workforce is highly qualified and productive. Finally, with its central location in Europe, Belgium has invested in an excellent logistics infrastructure.



MULTIPICK A GIANT LEAP FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN WALLONIA

The recovery of metallic waste has significant potential for value creation based on extensive experience in metallurgy in Wallonia. After five years of hard work, a joint venture between Comet Group (metal recycling), the University of Liège (R&D) and Citius Engineering (machinery) gave birth to a world premiere: Multipick, a unique automated sorting tool for metallic waste.

According to Pierre-François Bareel. CEO of COMET Traitements, "besides steel, 25% of our metallic waste consists of many valuable metals such as copper, zinc, inox, brass and aluminium." With most of the waste being shipped to Asia. where it gets sorted at low cost, "we lose on both sides: manual sorting, too costly, has disappeared from our country and we have to re-import these materials once sorted."

Unique combination of sorting technologies

This very innovative tool enables sorting costs to be cut drastically: robots identify, pick and sort metal waste moving at 1m/sec on a conveyor belt. Its capacity is 20,000 tonnes/year, or 1bn pieces, at a rate of 16 pieces/sec, thanks to a unique combination of sorting technologies: X-ray transmission, hyperspectral camera and 3D scanning. Al uses information supplied by

the different sensors to decide a sorting option for each item of waste. "If you integrate new sensors, you can even extend the sorting options to other kinds of waste such as plastics or polluted metals (e.g., containing lead), and rubber, etc.", Bareel adds.

Creating local jobs

The €10m Multipick project was financed within the framework of Reverse Metallurgy, a public/ private financial partnership aiming to create, in Wallonia, an internationally recognised platform for industrial, technological and scientific excellence in the field of recycling. "Multipick is the proof that the re-localisation of our economy based on our R&D competence and our urban mines is realistic and can create non-relocatable qualified jobs", concludes Emmanuel Mossav. Director Research & Innovation at ECORES.



15



20Mt/year



€9.4m



Obourg (Mons)

"If you integrate new sensors, you can even extend the sorting options to other kinds of waste."



FOCUS I LOGISTICS





TAKING STOCK

OF LOGISTICS IN WALLONIA

A dense network in the heart of Europe, millions of tonnes of goods being shipped by air, road and rail, and along waterways, not to mention years of logistics knowhow and state-ofthe-art technological solutions.

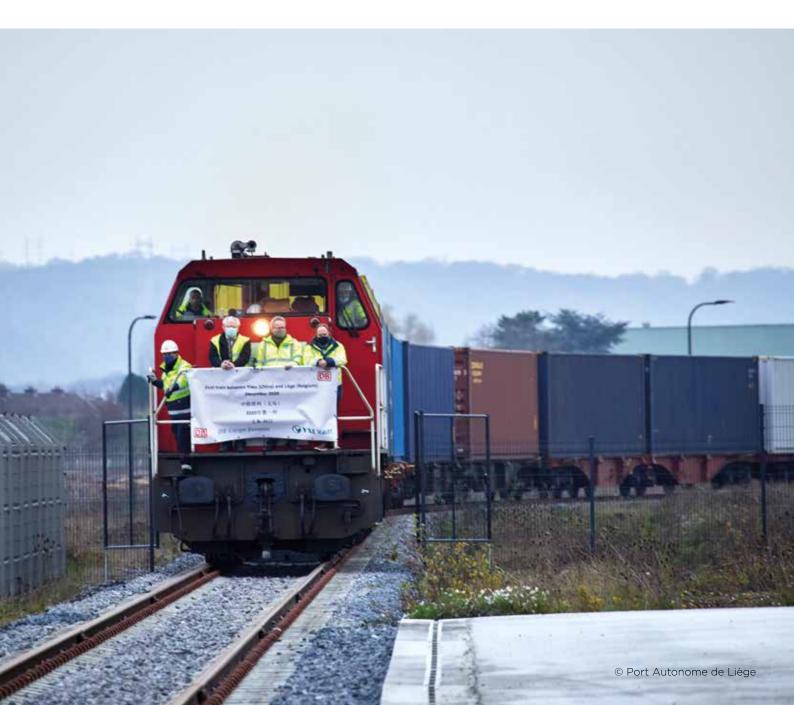
IS THAT A ROOSTER

CROWING?

It is. The rooster, symbol of Wallonia, is making itself heard loud and clear: in terms of transport, logistics, and mobility, the numbers Wallonia can point to are nothing if not impressive. The arrival of the first train from China at Trilogiport is further proof – if any were needed – of Wallonia's drive to strengthen trade links between Belgium and the rest of the world. At the same

time, Liege Airport, the sixth-largest cargo airport in Europe, transported more than a million tonnes of cargo in 2020 and has earned special recognition from both the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme for its crucial role in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. And the Liege Port Authority has, for its part, also been racking up impressive statistics. For instance, it recently transported 32,000 tonnes of steel coils for a

customer via the Albert Canal and the Meuse on several 5,700-tonne barges. This is the biggest shipment of its kind over that route in the last 10 years. While these numbers are impressive, it's what's behind them that really sets Wallonia apart as a major logistics hub: its drive to innovate, its unstoppable cando spirit, and its laser focus on efficiency.







PROMOTING INNOVATION AND GROWTH ... EXCEPT GROWTH IN CO₂ EMISSIONS. "Logistics, in the broadest sense of the word, is actually part and parcel of every company's operations, across all sectors", notes Bernard Piette, CEO of Logistics in Wallonia. "It is influenced, among other things, by everyday consumer choices, by how the global economic order is organised, and by technological innovations. Now, as we recently saw in the Suez Canal incident, even a single mishap can throw a spanner in the system's works. So, there's no room for complacency - far from it: we must also strive for greater resilience in the face of the unexpected."

Logistics in Wallonia currently supports 350 players in the transport, logistics, and mobility sector who, as Bernard notes, "promote a strong ethos of innovation and efficiency while seeing to it that they limit their carbon and other environmental footprints. And let's face it: becoming greener, more efficient and more profitable is a balancing act, but one that we're confident we can manage going forward." Wallonia is committed to meeting the European targets on climate: to cut greenhouse-gas emissions by 55% by 2030, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. To make this happen, Logistics in Wallonia has set up two initiatives in parallel.

Lean & Green

At the end of 10 days of guidance and coaching for businesses, an action plan is defined and submitted to an external authority for approval. "The aim of this programme is to increase the economic performance of our partners and to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 50% over the next five years", explains Bernard Piette. This clean - or rather, green - bill of health allows them to win new business in a world where a greener approach can make a difference. At the end of the five-year period, the results of the plan will be checked, and each company that has met its targets will be awarded a Lean & Green Star.

Multimodal Wallonia

This programme helps business in Wallonia to move away from road transport, at least in part, by exploring other options. For instance, a retailer might make deliveries by bicycle in urban centres, while a supplier might, where possible, have freight shipped by boat rather than by truck, to relieve congestion on motorways. "The Logistics Hub has also been lobbying for new regional regulations to introduce more-eco-friendly articulated trucks, up 25.25 m long and capable of transporting up to 60 tonnes at a time. They thus consume 30% less fuel per tonne transported. The aim is to increase the economic performance of our partners and to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 50%."

"We help the players in the sector become greener, more efficient, more profitable."

LIEGE AIRPORT: PLAYING A KEY ROLE WITH GUSTO

While the COVID-19 pandemic shook the global airline industry to its core in 2020, Liege Airport managed to grow by 24% last year, and that number is 45% for the current year to date. It has been winning new cargo business, "especially by transporting medical supplies that are key to the fight against the pandemic", as Liege Airport spokesman Christian Delcourt explains. While passenger planes were grounded, cargo planes took to the skies over Europe to carry the countless online orders from consumers and deliver nearly four billion facemasks, oxygen tanks, and items of personal protective equipment to busy hospitals in double-quick time. In transporting more than one million tonnes of goods to points near and far, Liege Airport has managed to pull out all the stops, making clear in the process just how efficiently its teams on the ground can work.

And, as Christian explains, Liege Airport also "builds environmental protection into its business strategy and actually goes beyond the legal and regulatory requirements. Over the last 20 years, the Walloon airport group SO-WAER has invested €400 million in buving 1.500 houses that have been found to be in an uninhabitable zone, and in soundproofing almost 5,500 more. Europe has never seen such an initiative on this scale." Carefully economising on the use of energy, constantly striving to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, protecting surface and ground water, and monitoring air quality - Liege Airport will be pursuing these initiatives and others besides, all the while respecting the needs and wishes of local communities and ensuring that it does everything it can to protect and foster biodiversity.

"Liege Airport is currently experiencing tremendous growth, thanks to the work it's been doing in transporting pharmaceutical and humanitarian products", concludes Christian.





"Thanks in part to its exceptional location, the Wallonia logistics hub is well placed to keep the region, and the logistics sector, on the move. The impressive range of sectors, the variety of means of transport (rail, waterways, air, and road), and the high concentration of consumers living along the Blue Banana - all of these factors constitute a major logistical challenge, as complex as it is exciting. One way to address these challenges, and to increase the ease with which transactions can be made, is through automation and robotisation. So, I'm pleased to see that companies are investing heavily in both of these areas."

Bernard Piette, CEO, Logistics in Wallonia



WALLONIA IS OUR DREAM, TOO

© Maxime Asselberghs



© WBT/JL Flemal

Wallonia enjoys a wide variety of lovely green spaces: castles surrounded by exquisite gardens, gorgeous provincial estates, and quite exceptional arboretums. They're all wonderful spots to take a relaxing stroll, play with the kids, or simply dream a little.



This summer, our region is opening the doors of its centuries-old castles, mapping its green spaces and promoting its exceptional sites. Let's see what's on offer.



Amazing parks and gardens

Spanning the Sambre River, the Namur cable car offers a panoramic view of the city and overlooks the ramparts of the Citadel as it heads to its stop at a height of 103 meters. Since 8 May 2021, the Namur cable car has been transporting visitors of all ages into the sky and across the river in only 3 minutes. The Citadel summit is full of surprises, such as the Citadel arboretum, which has a rich and unique collection of remarkable trees.

Arboretums and forest parks

Enchanting locations where a thousand and one species of tree grow alongside native and exotic plants, Wallonia's arboretums array the region in a vibrant range of greens. Whether you are visiting Namur, Arlon, Bertrix, Bouillon or Esneux, you can embark on walks full of discovery and relaxation, and enjoy the beauty of each season.

Castles steeped in history

Wallonia is home to many stunning castles, fortifications and estates,

surrounded by breath-taking parks. Centuries of history surrounded by meticulously maintained gardens. In Modave, for example, the château welcomes tourists and holds many exciting events. Located on a rocky outcrop that towers over the Hoyoux valley, it has more than 25 rooms, including one dedicated to the water-wheel built for the Palace of Versailles by Renkin Sualem, the local master carpenter. Its French-style park and gardens are part of the exceptional Parks & Gardens heritage of Wallonia.





© Brunehaut

The Brunehaut brewery in the Tournai region has been on an incredible journey towards becoming "a new kind of business that balances purpose and profit", as attested to by B Corp™ Certification this year.

BRUNEHAUT BEERS WITH A PURPOSF

took over the Brunehaut brewery in 2006, he realised that the balance sheet was so far in the red that he had to triple its production to break even. Hence, he travelled to every possible trade fair in "countries where people appreciate and want to buy good Belgian beer and could pay for it", such as the US and Japan. Once the brewerv was saved, his next step was "to move past the idea

of just producing and selling

beer, and have a positive impact

When Marc-Antoine De Mees

Making a strong impact

on society".

Key to making a strong impact was meeting people from NGOs and business circles with the same purpose, such as: Nature & Progrès, Groupement des chefs d'entreprise. Regenerative Alliance, and Prix juste producteur. They all set Brunehaut on the path towards progress: organic certification, the wellbeing of staff, company governance, and fair prices to local producers.

Its products have also evolved beyond organic certification. All the beers are now gluten-free, thanks to a unique filtration technique which has enabled the company to make "the world's best gluten-free beer", according to De Mees. Western countries where people eat industrial wheat products are its primary markets.

New challenges

B Corp™ Certification has to be renewed every three years, hence the bar is permanently set higher. Brunehaut brewery recently launched La Miche ("the bread loaf"), a beer 40% of which is made from unsold bread, to mitigate food waste. The next project is to reduce its water consumption, a huge challenge for the beer industry. "I'd like people to buy our beers as much for their qualities as for the values they embody", De Mees concludes, hoping to set an example for his peers to walk the talk of societal transition.





6,000 hl



€1,500,000



60-65%



€150,000 invested



Brunehaut (Tournai)

GEORGE BANGABLE MASTER OF CEREMONIES AT THE CRAZY HORSE

Crazy Horse, that brilliant reinvention of the fin-de-siecle Paris of our dreams: yet in 2021 it takes a special kind of talent to celebrate the charade that the world is still a stage populated by bright, curvaceous players. Can it even be done?

The French have a flair for the erotic, the coquette. It's their brand. So where did the venue go to find a host who blends post-modern irony and smooth international style, yet can hold the attention

of visitors from everywhere? Why, Belgium, of course, home of surrealism and offbeat humour!

George Bangable dazzles and flirts with his audience, gliding on air. On a charm offensive, he's like an elegant rooster who has yet to see a barnyard he can't change into il seraglio. It's quite a task, tying an evening together into a seamless whole, building the energy. That fluid grace belies the hard work it costs. Being effortless takes a lot of effort. It's a diplomatic skill.

How appropriate then, that this artist-diplomat is an Ambassador of the Wallonia Brand, his every gesture promoting the diverse, hard-to-pin-down subtlety of his birthplace, while serving up an ideal vision of Paris. The costumes may be mere projections on naked skin, yet George is perfectly tailored. A wave, a smile. You'll see what you choose to see. It's offbeat humour. It's surreal. It's Walloon, quoi!



George Bangable:

Crooner & Master of Ceremonies





PAPER PLEASE

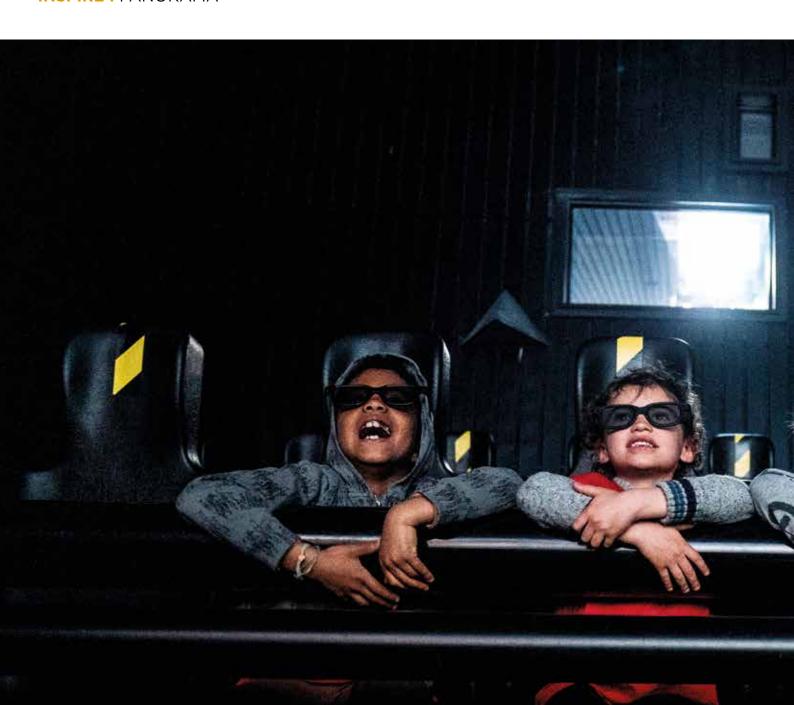
IONNYK

AN E-PAPER FRAME
THAT RESPECTS
THE STANDARDS OF
THE PHOTOGRAPHY
ART MARKET



Since 2019, La Hulpoise, a start-up supported by the Wing collective, has revolutionised the art of paper photography with the world's first e-paper digital art frame.

Mathieu Demeuse, the creator of IONNYK, dreamed of bringing new meaning, even a touch of magic, to the art of photography. The wireless frame connects to Wi-Fi and has an impressive battery life. It mirrors the natural visual effects of paper thanks to millions of remote-controlled ink microcapsules. Always in black and white, the photographs evolve and change day after day. A limited number can be purchased (NFT - H2/2021).



GALAXIA AND THE EURO SPACE CENTER

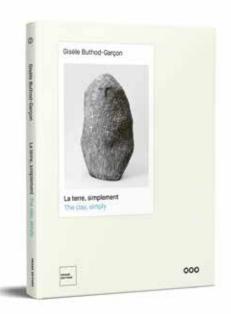
ONWARD AND UPWARD!

Ideally situated in Transinne, on the Brussels-Luxembourg-Strasbourg axis, the Galaxia business park is home to established companies and start-ups operating in the space sector: telecommunications, Earth observation and GPS programmes such as Galileo, and so on. And then there's the Euro Space Center, a learning hub that has been focused on space-related endeavours for nearly 40 years. This is one place you'll want to discover, or invest in, in a hurry.



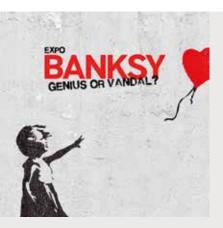


PRISME EDITIONS _



Based in Brussels, at the heart of Europe, Prisme Editions presents beautiful and timeless books "to bring you into compelling worlds." Artists and craftsmen, whether from Brussels or showcased by Keramis (a museum of ceramics), as well as readers and dreamers in search of transcendence, humanity and harmony – everyone can find here an echo of their talent and their thoughts.





Banksy: Genius or Vandal?

After a resounding success in 15 European, Asian and American cities, the phenomenon known as Banksy is displaying his works in Brussels. From 10 June to 28 August, *Genius or Vandal* takes you to the heart of street art and to Europe's capital.

A royal mission to the United Kingdom

From 5 to 8 September, AWEX organising an economic mission focusing on the agri-food, life sciences, cleantech and arbitration sectors in the London-Oxford-Cambridge triangle. The perfect opportunity to read its very comprehensive 2020 Brexit Guide!





Yes4 - Casablanca Business Meeting

The event "Un chef belge à Tanger" is broadening its horizons and is offering, from October 26 to 29, three convivial days of networking and discovery of the Moroccan business world, ending with a prestigious gala dinner. Not to be missed!

Belgian pavilion in Dubai

Dubai will host the World Expo from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. A mix of pavilion, business centre, restaurant and rooftop, the Belgian pavilion L'Arche Verte will impart a sense of gravitas to its entrepreneurs and culinary craftsmen. Walloon and Brussels know-how will be at the forefront from November 7 to 13!





FIFCL, take 6!

The only European festival to present awards to international comedies, the Liège International Comedy Film Festival will dazzle its visitors from 5 to 9 November. On the programme this year: 10 feature films, 30 short films, 1 walk of fame, celebrities, miles and miles of red carpet, and lots of laughs!

Feel inspired



1,602 FOREIGN INVESTMENTS ____ in 18 years

400 M CONSUMERS reachable WITHIN ONE DAY









70% — of business turnover comes from EXPORTS

