



L'Anglophone

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 2011

Day 333: The Waiting Continues

EU NEWS

NORMALEMENT... ...WE HAVE A FORMATEUR

BRUSSELS — In a country where “normally” often means “in an ideal world, but not in your case,” the words used in Belgium to describe “one who forms a government” seem to be lost in translation as well for the time being.

386 days after the collapse of Belgium’s last “normal” government, there is new talk of appointing a *formateur* who would attempt to form a coalition.

On Thursday, King Albert II received the latest status update from Wouter Beke (CD&V), aka The Negotiator. According to press reports, - no surprise here - a lack of consensus persists on the issues of BHV and financing (how federal revenues are divided among regions and other bodies). Many politicians are calling for an end to Mr. Beke’s “negotiation” mission, which began March 2 after failed missions by The Informer, The Clarifier, The Mediators, The Conciliator, The Informer II and the Pre-Former (SEE L'ANGLOPHONE.COM FOR BACKGROUND). One alternative to naming a *formateur* is a new round of elections, an idea that is now being openly discussed as a “possible” but not yet “desirable”.

In the meantime, measures are being proposed to strengthen the powers of the caretaker government. Belgium’s non-politicians, which still retain a majority in the population, continue going about their business.

Economy Doing Fine Without Government, Thank You

BRUSSELS – According to the European Commission, Belgium’s economy will grow at a rate of 2.4% in 2011, with inflation of 3.6%. Across the Eurozone, rates of 1.6% and 2.6% are predicted.

In the Flemish Press

BRUSSELS – On Friday, *De Morgen* published the results of a study titled “Jong in Brussel” that claims half of Brussels’ Muslim students are anti-Semites. Sociologist Mark Elchardus of the VUB called the figure “worrying.”

Brussels to Join “Cold Chain”

BRUSSELS – Iberia will begin a refrigerated Brussels-Madrid cargo flight June 1, creating a link to South American markets.



Disunited Colours of Belgium: A shop window display in downtown Brussels, taken in February 2011. (photo: L'Anglophone)

France, UK Find New Reason to Fight

PARIS – Laurent Wauquiez, the French EU affairs minister, lashed out against Britain for its “unacceptable attacks” on the status of Strasbourg as the seat of the European Parliament.

Earlier this week, British PM David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg came out in support of centralising the EP’s activities in Brussels and praised MEPs’ recent decision to hold fewer Strasbourg sessions in 2012.

Commission Threatens Yet Another Angry Letter

BRUSSELS – Denmark is poised to become the first “Schengen” member to reinstate its border controls, and the European Commission is displeased, having just planned a meeting to set rules on this very topic. EC President Barroso has sent a letter to the Danish PM expressing his “grave concern.”

Many states have threatened to beef up border security since Italy’s April decision to grant visas to 25,000 Tunisian refugees.

THIS WEEKEND ON TV



xXx (2002)

Van Diesel plays an extreme sports junkie forced into the spy game. With Asia Argento and Samuel L. Jackson. Saturday at 21.00 on VT4.



Austin Powers in Goldmember (2002)

Yeah, baby! Austin’s Belgian roots are explored in the trilogy’s finale. With Beyoncé & Caine. Saturday at 23.10 on VT4

WEATHER

TODAY



19° | 19°C
66° | 48°F

TOMORROW



17° | 17°C
63° | 45°F

SUNDAY



15° | 17°C
59° | 45°F

15-MINUTE SUDOKU

6		1					
		4					1
	5			6	7		
2		1					
			4	7	2		3
	3			5			6
		3			6		2
4		9					
	2						5 7