



Belgium-Japan Association
Chamber of Commerce
日白協会兼商工会議所



TRADE FLOWS & CULTURAL NEWS

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EDITORIAL

By Mr Kiyohito Morimoto, Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Europe NV/SA,
President Nihonjinkai and Vice-President BJA

It is a great honour and my pleasure to be the Vice-President of the Belgium-Japan Association & Chamber of Commerce. I will do my best to fulfil the expectations of the BJA and contribute to enhancing our relationship.

A year and six months have passed since I was assigned to work in Belgium. Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce myself briefly.

Thirty five years have passed since I started to work at Toyota Motor Corporation. I have been engaged in planning new vehicles for LEXUS and TOYOTA, vehicle development, and production engineering. It is the first time for me to live outside of Japan and I have been learning not only the culture and history of Europe but also some advanced technologies which many countries have in Europe.

I think the year of 2019 is special for us. The Emperor Emeritus Akihito has left the throne in April and a new era of "Reiwa" has started. In October, an inauguration ceremony will be held in Tokyo and 195 countries will be invited to the celebration. Also, the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games will take about one year to open, and I expect that in the future Japan will have more opportunities to gather global attention. As for Japan-Europe relations, the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

came into effect in February, and the world's largest free trade zone, which accounts almost 30% of world GDP and about 40% of trade, was created. I strongly believe that many companies in Belgium will have more and more active opportunities to involve with Japan or Japan related companies in Europe.

Meanwhile, the "Brexit" has been postponed to the end of October and new prime minister has been elected for the UK. I know that we all want to avoid Brexit with no deal but we also know that the situation is still chaotic.

In addition, the United States has begun to intensify the trade friction, not only towards China, but also towards Japan and the European Union. I have heard from the EU side that "we need to consider retaliatory tariff for American products", and the situation of trade friction between regions continues to be unpredictable. It is likely to be a year in terms of cultural and economic interest, both good and bad, which expects to increase interest in Japan.

Once again, I would like to express my strong appreciation to our friendship relation between Belgium and Japan for more than 150 years. And I want to contribute my best effort to continue this good relationship together, by sharing and learning from each other.



Mr Kiyohito Morimoto

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Exclusive Visit to Kaneka Belgium カネカベルギー特別訪問

Thursday, 9 May 2019 – Westerlo



Shinji Mizusawa, President of Kaneka Belgium, and Yasmina Bahlouli of Takenaka Europe enjoying a conversation together.



Members gather for the introduction to the company.

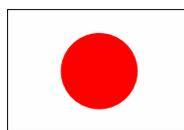


Prof Declerck of imec and BJA President, Jean Vandael, Plant Manager of Kaneka Belgium and Frans Hoorelbeke, Chairman of Daikin Europe, exchanging views on the industries in Europe.

The BJA was honoured to invite 50 members for an exclusive visit of Kaneka Belgium in Westerlo. Founded in 1970 Kaneka Belgium was as the company's very first subsidiary outside Japan, and the first production site of a Japanese chemical company in Belgium. Since then, Kaneka Belgium has expanded its business and R&D activities to encompass diverse functional and foamed plastics solutions, developing and manufacturing specialty materials for applications in industrial, automotive, building & construction, packaging, consumer, DIY, and residential sectors. In Westerlo, about 330 employees work across three production units, R&D and supporting back-office roles. In 2018,

Kaneka won the Foreign Investment of the Year Trophy, as recognition for its investment in a third cutting-edge modified silicone polymer production line at its facility in Westerlo. After some welcome drinks, the guests were welcomed by Jean Vandael, Plant General Manager, with a thorough presentation of Kaneka Belgium. The guests were then divided into two groups, and after putting on protective helmets and glasses, started a guided visit through the production facility of Kaneka MS Polymer™. The event ended with a networking cocktail, where the guests could discover a display of the many products using Kaneka's materials and taste local beers and delicacies.





Danielle Vermaelen: new Chair of the BJA EU Committee

Dear BJA Members,

Allow me to start by saying that I am very honoured to take on the role of Chair of the EU Committee of this long-established and respected association. I am committed to strive to excellence in fulfilling the objectives of the Committee. After a succinct presentation of who I am, I will hereafter elaborate on my first thoughts on how to fill in this role.

As Registered auditor (Réviseur d'Entreprises) and Audit Partner of EY, I have been serving a multitude of small, medium sized and large & multinational clients over the past 34 years, with, during the first 2 decades of my career, a focus on clients in the financial services industry. I have been auditor to ING Bank Belgium, KBC Group, but I also served several subsidiaries of Japanese banks, such as Ogaki-Kyoritsu Bank, Suruga Bank. Mitsubishi Trust & Banking Corporation, Joyo Bank.

Later, my focus shifted towards working for the European Institutions, when I became within our global EY firm, the partner in charge of Audit work for the European Commission and related institutions. In 2007 I established the Centre of Excellence for the audit of EU funds, a Brussels based department, composed of over 40 professionals who are fully dedicated to the audit of EU funded programmes and actions under various Audit Framework Contracts with the European Commission, the European Parliament, European Agencies and Joint Undertakings, e.a. The Centre has extensive experience in performing different types of audits in various EU policy areas such as development, research & innovation or structural funds. We work very closely with audit experts from EY offices all over the globe and as such, we bring together profiles with an excellent understanding of EU funds while ensuring that knowledge of local regulations and language when needed.

It is with this background that I will now embark on my journey in the EU Committee. My aim is to build on the Committee's mission statement:

"The EU Committee is focusing at finding ways to bridge the gap between EU activities and the member's business interest. The goals of this committee are, therefore, to continue to listen to the members, to try to identify their needs, and to organize meetings with EU Representatives and inform members on European issues accordingly. In order to increase its

visibility towards the EU institutions, the EU Committee will continue to "coordinate" more and more different initiatives together with other European sister organizations."

I intend to soon organize a sounding with the Members to better connect and understand the concrete needs and business interests. In this respect I want to emphasize that I always welcome your input and feedback.

As a minimum, I would like to organize half yearly meetings / business luncheons with EU representatives or relevant stakeholders within the EU, in order to connect the Japanese business with the EU Institutions. Topics to be covered in this respect could be, amongst others, analysis, with hindsight, of the outcome of the European elections; or, 1 year of EU / Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

Informing the members of the latest developments on EU matters could also be done through a series of articles in the BJA Trade Flows and Cultural Newsletter. This channel can also be used to explain the functioning of the European Institutions, for instance focusing in each edition on one Institution.

Last, but not least, we can explore the possibility to organize events together with sister organizations in neighboring countries.

It goes without saying that for the realization of all of the above, I can count on the valuable support of both the Secretariat of our Association, and all of the Members of the EU Committee.

I sincerely hope that the proposed ideas meet the expectations of the Members. I reiterate that I really encourage you to provide me with your feedback, either directly or through the said survey. I look forward to a fruitful continuation and development of the EU Committee and the BJA as a whole!

Danielle Vermaelen

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EU-Japan news

JAPAN-EU LEADERS MEETING

On Thursday, 27 June Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, during his stay in Osaka, Japan to attend the G20 Osaka Summit Meeting, held a Leaders Meeting (working lunch) with HE Mr Donald Tusk, departing President of the European Council, and HE Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, departing President of the European Commission.

1. Cooperation toward the G20 Osaka Summit

The leaders shared the view that both Japan and the EU should closely cooperate toward the success of the G20 Osaka Summit, which begins the following day.

2. Japan-EU Relations

- › Prime Minister Abe stated that Japan-EU relations have developed significantly under the leadership of President Tusk and President Juncker over the last five years, including the signing of the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Japan-EU Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). Prime Minister Abe expressed his appreciation for the achievements of the two EU leaders, and thanked President Tusk for his visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki prior to this meeting, and by which he showed consideration towards the wish of the Japanese people for a world without nuclear weapons.
- › In response to this, President Tusk stated that this G20 Summit would be a difficult meeting, but while feeling responsibility of ours for our common future throughout his visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it is fortunate that Prime Minister Abe is the Chair of the Osaka Summit under current situation and thus he would fully support Prime Minister Abe. President Juncker said that Japan-EU relations are the best of all time and a lot of achievements has been made over the last five years.
- › The leaders confirmed that Japan-EU relations have entered a new stage owing to the entry into force of the EPA, and

acknowledged the importance of continuously promoting trade and investment between Japan and the EU based on the Agreement.

- › Regarding the SPA, the leaders confirmed that they will promote Japan-EU cooperation under the Agreement, focusing on areas including sustainable connectivity, quality infrastructure and global issues.

3. Import measures on Japanese food products

- › President Juncker indicated that the Commission, on the basis of an in-depth analysis of the data provided by the Japanese authorities, is in a position to recommend further alleviation on the import measures on Japanese food products, and he expects that good results would be achieved within a few months.
- › In response, Prime Minister Abe stated that the recovery of the disaster-affected area is the first priority of the Japanese government, welcomed the actions taken by the EU for further alleviation on the import measures on Japanese food products, and requested for the EU's cooperation towards the achievement of lifting of the EU's import restrictions at an early time.

4. Regional situations

The leaders also held frank exchange of views on situation regarding Brexit, as well as regional situations including North Korea, Iran and China, among others. In particular, with regard to North Korea, Prime Minister Abe reiterated his request for understanding and cooperation toward the early resolution of the abductions issue which is a top priority issue, and gained support from President Tusk and President Juncker. The leaders also shared the view on the importance of the full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Source: www.mofa.go.jp/erp/ep/page4e_001039.html

VULCANUS IN EUROPE - HOST A JAPANESE INTERN AND GET A NEW INPUT INTO YOUR R&D PROJECTS FOR EU-BASED INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES

- › The EU-Japan Centre is inviting applications from EU companies to host Japanese trainees for 8 months, from August 2020.
- › The trainees come from leading Japanese universities and are students in engineering, IT, biology, chemistry, and other scientific/high-tech fields.
- › They will be able to communicate in

your company's local EU language.

- › EU Company's advantages: a valuable addition to the R&D workforce and an insight into the Japanese culture, extremely useful for successful business with Japan.

Application deadline:

23 September 2019

Info & application form:

www.eu-japan.eu/events/vulcanus-europe

Contact:

Margherita Rosada on +32 2 282 3715
or by e-mail: vulcanus@eu-japan.eu

Source: *EU-Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation*

THE JAPANESE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT MARKET READY FOR EUROPE?

While much of the news concerning the EU-Japan EPA is focused on the new tariff-regime and how to arrange preferential treatment, it also includes mutual commitments to further opening both sides governments' public procurement markets.

The Japan Tax & Public procurement (JTTP) Helpdesk of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation approached officials and offices in charge of contracting and procurement at various levels of the Japanese government. Over 900 government officials and offices were asked about their arrangements to facilitate participation by foreign suppliers in competitive tender procedures and whether the conclusion of the EPA would have impact on their activities.

With a reply rate of over 25% (222) the following picture emerged:

- › There is a high (>90%) awareness about the EU-Japan EPA among procurement and contracting officials, although a slightly smaller number stated they were not aware of the new commitments concerning public procurement;
 - › A little over half (54.1%) of the respondents stated that their organisation currently have arrangements in place to facilitate participation of foreign suppliers. In most cases this concerns the provision of English summaries of tender notices in their government gazettes. The overall majority of these organisations is currently not planning to implement additional arrangements to facilitate participation by foreign companies, due to the conclusion of the EPA;
 - › Among organisations that do not have any arrangements yet, close to 20% are considering new arrangements, primarily adding English summaries to their calls to tender. These initiatives are primarily found at the prefectural and national levels. The overall majority of the 'core cities', which are considered a major addition to the procurement market open to EU-companies, are not planning to implement any measures to facilitate participation by foreign suppliers. At this level of government, the prevailing view is that the EPA will have little impact on their procurement activities.
- › About 10% of the entities, primarily at the central government level, responded having earlier experience with suppliers based overseas in tender procedures. Many organisations therefore regard the participation of overseas suppliers as challenging in terms of differences in language, business culture, legal aspects of contracting and securing after-service. While organisations at the central level stated that they had received support to prepare for the implementation for the EPA, officials at the regional and local level felt that they have received little support to deal with the challenges.
 - › At the central government level, the majority of organisations expect to have more European suppliers participating in tender procedures. However, at the regional and core city level, expectations are substantially lower, with most officials believing that the EPA will have no impact on their daily activities.

The results of the survey confirm JTTP Helpdesk's belief that the conclusion of the EU-Japan EPA should be regarded as a starting point, as far as access to the Japanese public procurement market is concerned. A positive development is that a number of the government entities added by the EPA have already published their first tenders to an international audience. However, joint efforts by EU companies themselves and other stakeholders will be required to ensure that the agreement translates into concrete business opportunities and results in benefits for all parties involved. JTTP Helpdesk will also continue to aid EU SMEs during tenders and monitor and report on remaining obstacles, to ensure equal access to contracts with Japanese governmental organisations.

The complete survey report is available on the EU-Japan Center's website.

www.eu-japan.eu/news/are-japanese-government-procurement-officials-ready-epa-read-our-survey

source: www.eu-japan.eu/sites/default/files/publications/docs/june19.pdf

KEYS TO JAPAN - GET HELP TO DEVELOP A MARKET ENTRY PLAN FOR JAPAN

Looking to market your product or service in Japan?

If so, the European Commission-funded Keys to Japan Competition will help develop a tailored market entry plan for two winners. Each plan is worth €10,000 – the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation will cover 70% of the cost. The winning SMEs will have to cover the rest. The plans will be prepared

by the Japan Market Expansion Competition (JMEC).

Who is eligible?

Applicants must be citizens of an EU Member-State or COSME Third Country, be at least 20 years old, and work in a management position for a SME headquartered in the EU or in a COSME Third Country.

For more information, send an email to: KeysToJapan@eu-japan.gr.jp

Source: EU-Japan Center for Industrial Cooperation

Application deadline: 20 September 2019
Apply now: www.eu-japan.eu/market-entry-business-plan-support-keys-japan

Delicious Life of Japan “Kaiseki Ryori” Workshop 「会席・懐石 料理」ワークショップ

Sunday, 19 May 2019 – Restaurant Kamo, Brussels



Master Chef Kamo demonstrates the cooking of one of the 'Kaiseki' menu of the day.



The participants eagerly noted all the instructions about the 'Kaiseki' cuisine.



Master Chef Suetsugu of Nonbe Daigaku, is showing how to make 'Chawan-mushi' with foie gras to Isabelle Cavenaile and Valérie Amand, Finance Operating Officer of Toshiba Tec.

On Sunday 19 May 2019, the BJA Cultural Committee had the pleasure in inviting the members and friends to an exclusive “Kaiseki Ryori” workshop led by two exceptional Chefs, Yosuke Suetsugu of Nonbe Daigaku and Tomoyasu Kamo of Restaurant Kamo, both holders of the title of Knight of the Order of Leopold II from the Belgian Government. The workshop began with a demonstration by the two Master Chefs, with a highlight on the importance of ‘Dashi’ - Japanese soup stock usually extracted from sea weeds. Following this introduction, every participant took their turn to make every dish under the thorough guidance of the team of Master Chefs. Once the participants completed the preparations, they had

the opportunity to savour their own creations. It was the moment of pure joy to taste the refined delicacy of the meals they had just made themselves.

Kaiseki menu of the day:

- Appetizer:** ‘Somen’ (Japanese wheat flour noodles)
- Condiments:** ‘Aonori agedama’ (tempura crumbs with dried seaweed flakes), scallion, perilla leaves, sesame seeds, etc.
- Soup type appetizer:** ‘Chawan-mushi’ (steamed egg custard) with foie gras
- Sashimi:** Lightly roasted tuna with ‘Nori no Tsukudani’ (laver boiled in soy sauce)
- Main dish:** ‘Shabu Shabu’ (Japanese fondue) with Iberico porc and homemade ponzu.

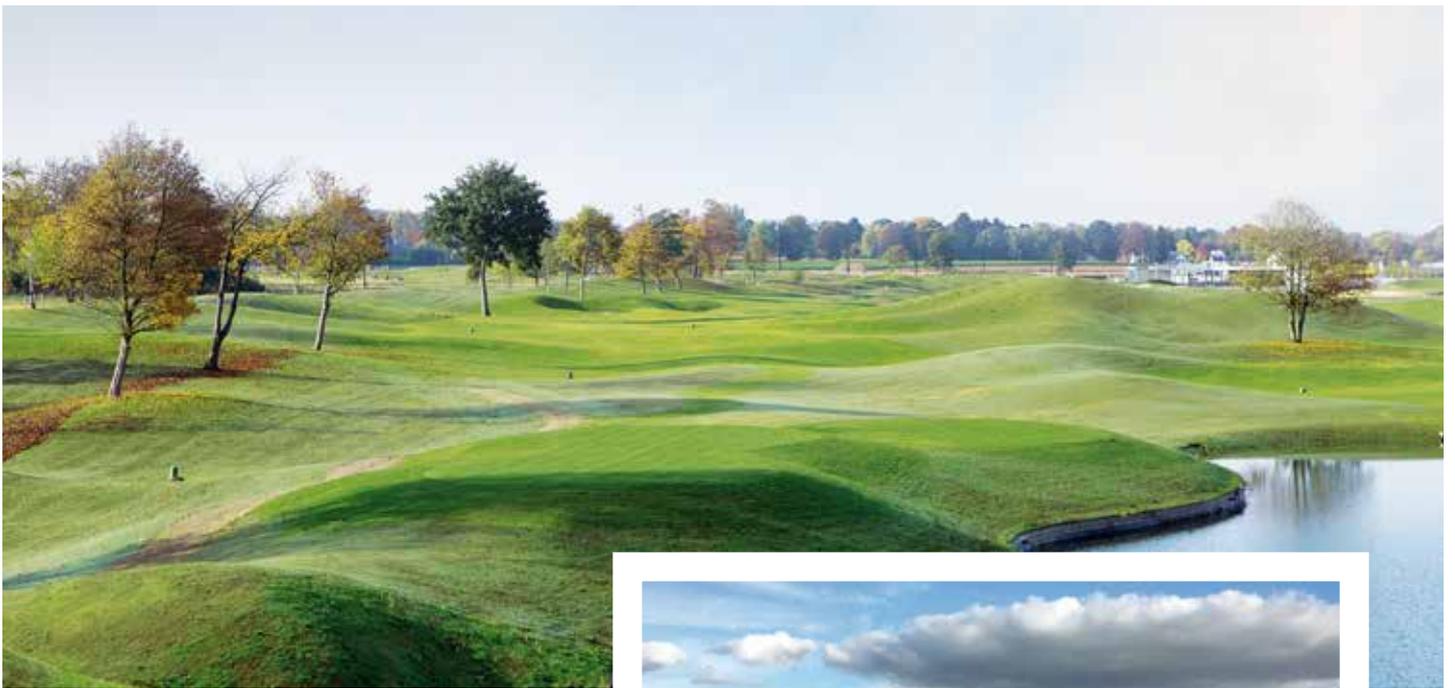


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No-Deal Brexit and its implications on Social Security

The UK's withdrawal from the EU will be one of the most impactful events to business in the coming months. Many of its consequences have been analysed and discussed already, but one that has not received as much attention is the effect it will have on the social security liability and protection of moves of personnel between the EU and the UK. In this article, we discuss the various concerns this will raise for companies and employees and propose some contingency solutions to minimise costs and risks.

Ursula van der Leyen (President of the EU Commission), and Charles Michel (President of the European Council) have already warned that they will not be shifting position over Brexit. While everything remains possible in political negotiations, the most pragmatic approach remains preparing for the worst while hoping for the best, especially because the worst still remains the most likely scenario.

The worst scenario in this case is a hard Brexit on the 31 October – a withdrawal of the UK from the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement in place. This will have a variety of major consequences because the UK would become a third country and the entire EU law would stop applying to it. At the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, the EU Member States started preparing contingency measures to limit, as much as possible, the impact of a hard Brexit on people. A substantial part of these plans focuses on protecting the immigration status of UK nationals residing in an EU country prior to Brexit, be they local hires or posted on temporary assignments. Although their immigration status is very important, it is not the only element to be considered. Just as important is the social security status of UK nationals who are and will be assigned to EU countries.

Currently, cross-border social security matters within the EU are governed by

so-called Social Security Coordination Regulations. These Regulations determine the applicable national social security scheme on intra-EU moves and ensure that social security benefits are protected to a maximum possible extent. In the likely event of a hard Brexit the EU legislation would cease to apply to the UK, including the Social Security Coordination Regulations. This would have a considerable impact on a number of social security related aspects.

The validity of A1 certificates

Under the current arrangements provided by the EU Social Security Coordination Regulations employees can be subject to the social security legislation of a single Member State only, predominantly to the legislation of the Member State of work. The Regulations seek to avoid situations where employees finding themselves in a cross-border situation would become subject to the social security system of several Member States, or on the contrary, would not be covered at all. For this purpose, a specific statement on the applicable national social security scheme known as the A1 certificate has been implemented. This certificate serves as a proof of social security affiliation in the home country, for the duration of the assignment in the host country. It exempts both the employer and the employee from local social security contributions in any other EU jurisdiction of work.

As long as the UK is part of the EU, UK employers sending their employees on assignment to Europe (including EEA and Switzerland) can continue to request and obtain A1 certificates preserving UK social security for their posted employees. However, this will no longer be the case in the event of a hard Brexit.

As of the final Brexit date, A1 certificates will not be applicable to the UK and it is up to each individual Member State to decide on future arrangements of social security implications for UK as-

signees. While one of the possible solutions may be a revision of the old Bilateral Agreements concluded between the UK and some Member States, the majority of Member States have opted for national legislative acts as part of their Contingency Measures to manage negative consequences of Brexit. The reason given for this choice is that the old Bilateral Agreements are no longer fit for purpose.

Member States have varying approaches to the validity of A1 certificates. While some Member States are willing to continue to accept the UK A1 certificates until the end of the grace period provided by the contingency measures adopted, other Member States plan to limit the validity until the end date of the certificate. In contrast, a considerable number of Member States will stop accepting A1 certificates as of Brexit day. As a result of those measures, employers and employees should prepare for tailored and country specific solutions across the EU with regards to the validity of A1 certificates.

Additional administrative and cost implications

The diversity of the measures implemented by Member States, as well as the level of their domestic rules on social security contributions compared to the UK, will create complexity and most probably a significant financial burden on companies. In some situations, the employer and the employee might end up with a liability to pay social security contributions in both the home and host country for the duration of the assignment. This could have significant cost implications especially for moves to a high social security cost country (exc. France and Belgium). Dual liability will bring additional challenges related to administrative formalities and registration, and will require timely planning before the assignment starts.

Moreover, employees building social security rights (pension) in different ju-

risdictions, in general, will not be able to withdraw their contributions at the end of their assignment. Then at the time of retirement, they would need to check with the pension authorities in the countries where they worked, to find out the value of the pension available to them, if any.

Access to healthcare

In addition to social security affiliation and the possible cost implications, one should also take into consideration changes related to access to healthcare. At the moment, in order to be fully covered during temporary visits within the EU, UK nationals can make use of the European Health Insurance card (EHIC). This card allows the holder to receive necessary healthcare treatment while temporarily abroad, under almost the same conditions as the nationals of that country. While having some restrictions, the card can be seen as a useful instrument for the necessary healthcare coverage for short term assignees as well as business travellers.

In the scenario of a hard Brexit, the UK EHIC will no longer be valid in the majority of Member States. Loss of access or reduced access to the healthcare system of the host country will lead to additional costs and travel insurance implications. Short term assignees and business travellers moving from the UK will need to arrange additional travel insurance. This restrictive approach is followed by countries such as France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands etc. Nevertheless, it should also be noted that several Member States have decided to extend the validity of the EHIC as per their National Contingency Measures for the duration of the grace period outlined (subject to reciprocity by the UK). This approach is favoured by countries such as Belgium, Italy and Spain.

Conclusions and recommendations

Companies should not overlook the social security implications created by



a no-Deal Brexit and should start planning in advance to minimise the risk of cost implications and non-compliance. This might include, but is not limited to:

- › Assessments of the position of Member States
- › Strategic planning to manage the impact based on the approach taken by various Member States
- › Hypothetical cost projections reflecting the worst case scenario of double contributions to analyse financial impact
- › Timely communication with employees and relevant stakeholders to increase awareness of possible impact

Last but not least, companies should keep an eye on the future social security arrangements between the UK and the EU, but also Member States bilaterally. The UK's exit from the social security coordination instruments

of the EU will create additional burden and red tape on economic growth, so a new framework will have to be found to minimise the disruptions between two very integrated economies with generous people mobility provisions.

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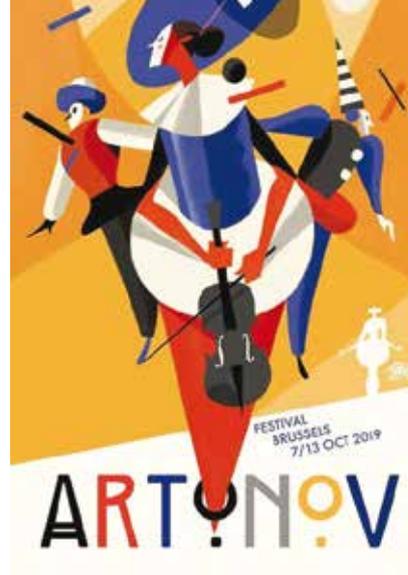
Artonov

The 5th edition of the ARTONOV Festival will take place in Brussels from 7 to 13 October 2019 in various Art nouveau, Art Deco and stunning architectural venues, making it a sensory journey where the ar-

chitectural space becomes part of the art. With audience attendance increasing every year since the first edition, the festival will extend this year to a whole week. The event will present several exceptional international and Belgian interdisciplinary creations such as Carolyn Carlson's new creation "The Seventh Man", who has been invited following her remarkable visit in 2018, which was full of symbolic and poetic significance at the CAB Art Center.

"L'intuition du geste" (The Intuition of Gesture) is the theme of this 5th edition. The movement of an artist's body carries the intuition of the work as a whole and its creative force. The body is the common denominator and a true interdisciplinary element. The various artistic performances emphasise the importance of the body and gesture in the various disciplines. For example, for the opening night at Villa Empain, the show "Il Corpo Dentro" pays tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus style. The result of a collaboration between world-renowned butoh dancer Atsushi Takenouchi and costume designer Sonia Biacchi of the Venice Centre for Theatre Research, this performance features costumes inspired by Oskar Schlemmer's Triadic Ballet and the Bauhaus style. It represents the shapes of space and creates a true architecture for the body.

For the first time, the festival introduces a modernist space with Olivier Strebelle's former home-workshop, where company Le Geste qui Sauve presents a performance representative of the creative work promoted by the festival following a 15-day residency in situ. It's a dialogue that promises to be a great mix of architecture and gestural theatre. The festival will also take place in a venue of contemporary architecture, the MAD Brussels Fashion and Design Platform. It's a way to celebrate architecture as the mother of all the arts and to extend the festival's interest to other periods and styles while preserving common themes. In a style that is both contemporary and highly sensory, writer Ryoko Sekiguchi and chef Sugio Yamaguchi invite



us on a cartographic journey through the sights and sounds of the food we eat.

Hotel Metropole, a new partner of this edition, will welcome "La Tentation des Pieuvres", a creation for a chef, four musicians and one hundred guests. "La Tentation des Pieuvres" attempts to create a form of contemporary communion between the arts and individuals, resonates with all the spectators' and performers' senses, and invites them to an original artistic and social experience.

At Atelier Colpaert in Schaerbeek harpsichordist Bernard Focroulle will meet the contemporary painter Fabienne Verdier, known for her work on pictorial gesture and music, in an intimate and ephemeral dialogue where music seeks its ally in the image. Eliane Reyes and Michel Draguet take over Saint-Gilles Town Hall to talk about Fernand Khnopff's work, while Pierre Hamon takes the audience to a new world with his South American whistling vases at the Autrique House. Les Halles Saint-Géry and Les Ateliers des Tanneurs, two places typically known to Brussels residents, welcome the public. In the first, composer Jacopo Baboni Schilingi offers several performances on the theme of the body and writing (this world premiere will be repeated in Tokyo in 2020 for Chanel) and the second hosts a family show, "Peau d'Âne", a tale in verse and music based on texts by Charles Perrault and music by Lully.

This 5th edition testifies to the anchoring of the ARTONOV Festival in the European cultural landscape, thanks to original creations that will never cease to surprise the public and were created especially for exceptional venues of Brussels' heritage.

For more information:
www.festival-artonov.eu

PROGRAMME

Il Corpo Dentro

The 100th anniversary of Bauhaus
 Bauhaus design - Butoh dance - Music

- › Monday 7 October 2019, 18.00 / 20.30, 1h
- › Boghossian Foundation – Villa Empain
 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 67
 1050 Ixelles
- › ATSUSHI TAKENOUCHI, Butoh dancer, choreographer
 HIROKO KOMIYA, musician, object sound, percussion and voice
 SONIA BIACCHI, costume designer
 C.T.R. Centro Teatrale di Ricerca – Venezia



Cartographie sensorielle

Culinary art - Poetry - Parfum - Sensations - Music – Creation

- › Wednesday 9 October 2019, 20.00 / 21.30, 1h
- › MAD Brussels Fashion and Design Platform
 Place du Nouveau Marché aux Grains 10
 1000 Brussels
- › RYOKO SEKIGUCHI, writer
 TRAMI NGUYEN, musician, visual and performance artist
 SUGIO YAMAGUCHI, chef



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FUJIFILM Belgium, 30 years in the FUJIFILM Family

Thirty years ago, on 16 May 1989, FUJIFILM acquired a share in the company Olin Hunt Chemicals, more specifically the unit which produces photography chemicals. Fuji Hunt Photographic Chemicals was subsequently created. In May, the personnel at FUJIFILM Belgium NV (the company has changed its name a few times over the years) celebrated the thirtieth birthday of the company within the FUJIFILM group in the presence of Mr M. Yamamoto (President & Managing Director FUJIFILM Europe GmbH) and Peter Struik (Executive Director FUJIFILM Europe GmbH). The programme was spread over 2 days in order to celebrate the various aspects



of the two branches of the company and the corresponding staff.

Celebrations began on 16 May in Zaventem, where both Fujifilm Advanced Printing Technology Centre (APTC) and Fujifilm Imaging BeLux (FFIB) are

based. The APTC was created from the digital division of FFBE, which was founded back in 1998, because the latest technological developments had found a fertile 'breeding ground' there. The FFIB department, a former distributor for Fujifilm's photography products,





was integrated into FFBE in 2012. The two departments are collectively home to 34 employees.

On 17 May, the programme continued in Sint-Niklaas, where FFBE's production, sales & marketing and corporate services (Finance, Procurement, EHS and HR) are based. A total of 100 employees work here, with almost one fifth of them having been involved right from the start of Fujifilm in Sint-Niklaas.

The content of the programme was the same for both days/sites. The European top management (in Zaventem joined by Mr Katagiri, Business Domain Manager Graphics, due to the activities of the APTC) were welcomed by directors and local managers. After a short introduction with a summary of the company's history, there was an opportunity to meet the managers and exchange ideas regarding challenges and any concerns. Mr Yamamoto and Peter Struik were very open-minded and took the time to listen and offer their

responses. Their interest and engagement in the company was very much appreciated by the management. There was then a comprehensive visit to the site thanks to a tour provided by management which showcased the demo and training centre (APTC) and the showroom (FFIB) in Zaventem, and the production and automated warehouse in Sint-Niklaas.

The high-point of the celebration was the cutting of the birthday cake, after speeches at the end of the afternoon, in the presence of all of the staff. In his birthday speech to the top European management and staff, Alexis Van Oostende endeavoured to identify the DNA of FFBE in order to explain why Fujifilm had taken over Hunt Chemicals at the time. The obligatory overview of the most notable developments from the last 30 years spoke volumes; ownership, a sense of enterprise and rejuvenation, and the skills to adapt to the most difficult situations and carry on. Mr Yamamoto endorsed this in his thank-you speech, on the basis of

what he had seen and heard during his visit and the uninterrupted, positive financial contribution from FFBE to the group over the past 30 years. He also referred to the Basic Policy for FY 2019 and summarised the building blocks of our collaboration with the words 'Never Stop'.

Mr Yamamoto, Alexis Van Oostende (President & Managing Director FFBE) and one member of staff (the longest-serving on the site) then all held the knife and cut into the birthday cake. Everyone then enjoyed a piece of the delicious cake and were given a bottle of champagne. In Sint-Niklaas, there was an even more impressive grand finale, with a symbolic medal issued by Alexis Van Oostende to all members of staff who has been with Fujifilm right from the start.

Onwards and upwards, to our next milestone!



news from the members

TERUMO INVESTS 26 MILLION EURO IN NEW PRODUCTION LINES FOR ITS BELGIAN FACILITY

Terumo Corporation, a leading global medical device manufacturer, announced on July 8, 2019 an investment of 26 million euro in the production facility of Terumo Europe in Leuven (Belgium), where Terumo produces and assembles medical devices. Terumo extends its production capacity at Terumo Europe to meet the growing demand for Terumo products. The new production lines will be operational within two to three years. Terumo Europe employs approximately 1,300 people in the EMEA region.

At the site in Leuven, Terumo produces and assembles medical devices in two production entities.

‘For the Alliance division, we will extend our capacity in moulding. We will increase the number of needle assembly lines and we are investing in a flexible assembly line that will allow us to customize production for our customers. For our Interventional Systems division,

we will further automate production processes in assembly and packaging’, said Henk Houf, Chief Operations Officer of Terumo Europe.

‘We are excited that Terumo invests in the production site in Leuven. We believe this investment will accelerate the growth of these two divisions, which will drive the overall Terumo growth in mid-to long-term’, said Nori Kunitomo, CEO Terumo Europe.

About Terumo Corporation

Tokyo-based Terumo Corporation is one of the world's leading medical device manufacturers, with approximately US\$6 billion in sales and operations in more than 160 nations. Founded in 1921, the company develops, manufactures and distributes world-class medical devices, including products for use in cardiothoracic surgery, interventional procedures and transfusion medicine; the company also manufactures a broad array of syringe and hypodermic needle

products for hospital and physician-office use. Terumo contributes to society by providing valued products and services to the healthcare market, and by responding to the needs of healthcare providers and the people they serve.

About Terumo Europe

Terumo Europe is a core player in the EMEA healthcare market. Terumo Europe produces, distributes, markets and sells a vast range of medical devices across the EMEA region. As a strong actor of Terumo Corporation, it conducts business locally while pursuing a unified EMEA strategy. The EMEA headquarters and production facilities are based in Leuven (Belgium). The European Distribution Center is based in Genk (Belgium). In addition, we have a production facility in Liverpool (UK) and sales and marketing offices across the EMEA region. Terumo EMEA employs approximately 1,300 Associates.

Source: Terumo Europe



ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION 2019 BLUE PLANET PRIZE

Prof Eric Lambin from Université catholique de Louvain is awarded the prestigious 2019 Blue Planet Prize by the Asahi Glass Foundation for his research on global environmental issues.

He has clarified the land use changes taking place on a global scale, the effects on ecosystems and the effectiveness of policies, using satellite remote sensing technologies and his original method of time-series analysis. From early on, he has pointed out that land use changes are causing adverse effects globally on natural systems. He has explained the relationship between economic activities and land use by linking socioeconomic data. His research activities have significantly influenced how public authorities and private enterprises de-

velop land use policies for conserving forests. Those research findings have provided scientific support for making the most of forest certification programs, for implementing green purchasing commitments, and for promoting green procurement. He has made great contributions by stimulating the adoption of concrete interventions and practices to improve the sustainability of socioeconomic activities from the individual to the global scales.

ENG

www.af-info.or.jp/en/blueplanet/introduction.html

日本語

www.af-info.or.jp/blueplanet/introduction.html

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT: FAITH AND REASON IN CONTINENTAL AND JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY: READING TANABE HAJIME AND WILLIAM DESMOND (BLOOMSBURY, 2019)

By Dr Takeshi Morisato (BJA Cultural Committee Member & Université libre de Bruxelles, EAST)

This book brings together the work of two significant figures in contemporary philosophy. By considering the work of Tanabe Hajime, the Japanese philosopher of the Kyoto School, and William Desmond, the contemporary Irish philosopher, Takeshi Morisato offers a clear presentation of contemporary comparative solutions to the problems of the philosophy of religion. Importantly, this is the first book-length English-language study of Tanabe Hajime's philosophy of religion that consults the original Japanese texts.

Considering the examples of Christianity and Buddhism, this book focuses on finding the solution to the problem of philosophy of religion through comparative examinations of Tanabe's meta-noetics and Desmond's metaxology. It aims to conclude that these contem-

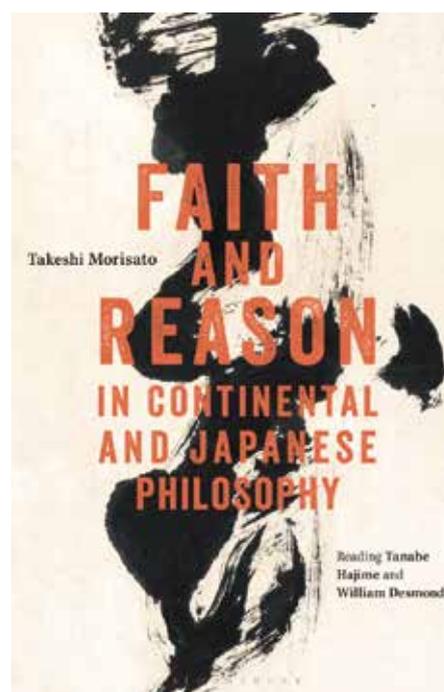
porary thinkers - while they draw their inspiration from the different religious traditions of Christianity and Mahayana Buddhism - successfully reconfigure the relation of faith and reason.

Faith and Reason in Continental and Japanese Philosophy marks an important intervention into comparative philosophy by bringing into dialogue these thinkers, both major figures within their respective traditions yet rarely discussed in tandem.

For more information

www.bloomsbury.com/uk/faith-and-reason-in-continental-and-japanese-philosophy-9781350092532/

This book is available at the publisher's website and any other major online retailers or at English bookstores in Belgium.



news from the members

BRUSSELS AIRPORT ACHIEVES CARBON NEUTRALITY

Brussels Airport has obtained the carbon neutrality certification, the highest possible Airport Carbon Accreditation certificate from ACI, Airport Council International. This certification affirms that Brussels Airport is committed to permanently reducing the airport's CO₂ emissions and that residual emissions are offset. The presentation of the certificate took place on the 20th of June, 2018 during the annual ACI World and ACI Europe congress, of which Brussels Airport is the host.

“Brussels Airport has been working for years to limit its impact on the environment. This forms part of our long-term vision of further developing the airport in a sustainable way. Each and every business activity, project and management decision is tested against its impact on the environment. This conscious global approach has enabled the airport to reduce its carbon footprint year-on-year. Our target is to emit 40% less CO₂ by 2030. Last year, we achieved a reduction of 34% in comparison to 2010. We are therefore well on our way to achieving our target”, says Arnaud Feist, Brussels Airport Company CEO.

Brussels Airport joined the Airport Carbon Accreditation program in 2009. After mapping its carbon footprint, the decision was immediately made to purchase exclusively green energy and to self-generate solar energy using solar panels. Various measures were additionally taken to reduce the electricity and fuel consumption of installations and the fleet.

In addition, each new construction or renovation project is assessed to de-

termine which initiatives can be taken to make these buildings more energy efficient. The Connector building for example uses thermal energy storage, which means less energy is required to heat or cool the building. Heating or cooling is derived from circulating groundwater between 10 wells.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General, Airports Council International Europe commented: *“I warmly congratulate Brussels Airport on becoming carbon neutral within the global Airport Carbon Accreditation programme. Over the past 8 years, we have witnessed the airport’s sustainability drive, as it made its way through the various levels of the programme, investing in solutions - such as solar power generation, LED technology and low emission vehicles - for reducing the carbon emissions within its direct control. It has engaged others on the airport site to do the same, through early adoption of initiatives such as Airport-Collaborative Decision-Making and, finally, it is addressing residual CO₂ under its direct control, by investing in responsible carbon offsets. I know that Arnaud and his team do not plan on stopping there and are aiming for higher reductions at source in the coming years. Thus their achievement is not just for today – it is part of an ongoing climate initiative that they are genuinely passionate about.”*

Continuing to reduce CO₂ and compensate for residual emissions

Brussels Airport has held accreditation level 3 of the Airport Carbon Accreditation Scheme since 2012. This means that the airport is continuing to reduce CO₂ emissions on a permanent basis and that it is also collaborating with

the other partners at the airport to reduce their carbon emissions as well. A series of initiatives have already been launched in this context, including the “green landings” and ‘collaborative decision making’ principles, as well as a joint initiative on the greening of the vehicle fleet.

“Our commitment to taking care of the environment, meant that we decided to go one step further and make Brussels Airport a carbon neutral airport. To offset our residual emissions, we support the “Saving Trees” climate project in Uganda which, in addition to reducing CO₂ emissions, is contributing to various United Nations objectives, and in particular protecting biodiversity, combating poverty and promoting social equality”, says Feist.

The “Saving Trees” climate project by Belgian company CO₂ Logic opposes the deforestation of the rainforest in Uganda through the purchase of energy-efficient stoves for the local population. These stoves consume 40 to 50% less wood or charcoal and consequently help to save trees. As less wood is required, women have more time and resources for providing an education to their children. Since less harmful substances are released, cooking with these stoves is also healthier for the entire family.

The stoves are also more energy-efficient, helping the population to save up to 75 Euros on their family budget, which equates to approximately one quarter of their annual income. And the stoves are made in local workshops using local materials, which stimulates the local economy.

Source: www.brusselsairport.be/en/env/news/brussels-airport-achieves-carbon-neutrality-under-the-aci-airport-carbon-accreditation-program

CALL FOR FUNDING AND DONATIONS FOR THE PROJECT 'INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY' AT UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES (EAST)

What is it about?

The Centre of East Asian Studies (EASt) at Université Libre de Bruxelles seeks to promote a project of editing an introductory textbook. EASt is a research foundation devoted to the study of East Asia in multifaceted ways. Japan plays a major role not only in the region of Asia, but also at the international level. Yet understanding Japan without considering its cultural roots and the ways in which contemporary Japanese philosophy reflects on these origins and new beginnings has been mostly neglected, at least with regards to students newly acquainted with Asian Studies. Thus, EASt will promote an editorial project for an introductory textbook to contemporary Japanese philosophy. This step is crucial to build the student's knowledge of Japan through direct sources. We believe that this will foster further interactions and opportunities between Japan and Belgium. The aim of the EASt 'Introduction to Contemporary Japanese Philosophy' Project is to help the Université Libre de Bruxelles grow its research expertise and teaching on Japan.

Who can donate or fund this project?

Any company or individual willing to help the growing Belgian passion for Japan.

Timing

Submission deadline: 15th November 2019

Financial support

The ULB EASt is looking for funding from 20.000 euro up to 100.000 euro.

More details

msh.ulb.ac.be/equipement/east/?sub=cophi

For direct questions, inquiries on return on investment, and much more, do not hesitate to contact: Pierre Bonneels, Researcher and PhD candidate, PHI, ULB, phone: 0470 54 47 40.



news from the members

A LETTER TO THE BJA FROM THE FORMER AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO JAPAN, HE MR GUNTHER SLEEUWAGEN

Tokyo, 19 July 2019

Dear Friends,

After having had the unique opportunity to have worked four years in Japan, it is now with great sorrow that I have to say goodbye to all of you.

In the month of August, I will take my leave from this beautiful and exciting country to join my new posting. In September I will take up my task as Consul General of Belgium to Los Angeles.

Indeed, I am looking back with enormous pleasure and proudness for what has been realized in these four years: the celebration of the 150 years of friendship between our 2 countries, the State Visit, the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement and the Strategic Partnership Agreement, the increasing exchange of our mutual citizens, growing investment, ...

For all these positive results I have to thank you as an organization, and as an individual member. The efforts and dedication that you have devolved have considerably contributed to these successes.

Please continue to do so and never underestimate the impact that you create on the development of our bilateral relations.

Personally, I have enjoyed very much this cooperation and I esteem it very high.

Please extend this same level of cooperation to my successor for the coming years.

Arigato gozaimashita!

Gunther Sleeuwagen



TOYOTA STARTS AUTOMATED DRIVING TESTING ON URBAN PUBLIC ROADS IN EUROPE

Toyota Motor Europe (TME) announced on 11 July 2019 that it is beginning automated driving (AD) on public roads in Europe. After successful simulations and trials on closed circuits, TME is now taking its in-house developed AD systems to a real-life urban setting: the vibrant city centre of Brussels, Belgium. At the heart of the European institutions, a Lexus LS will repeatedly complete a fixed loop for the next 13 months.



“Within Toyota’s global operations, TME’s Brussels R&D facility is the Regional Centre of Excellence for Computer Vision – making computers ‘see and understand’ the environment around them. Toyota’s ultimate goal is zero casualties from traffic accidents, and the main goal of this pilot is to study complex and unpredictable human behaviour and its impact on automated driving system requirements. Responding to the complexity and diverse population of an urban environment like Brussels – the European capital and home to citizens of 184 different nationalities – is key to understanding human behaviour. After successful trials on public roads in Japan and the US, we are now adding European conditions to the technology’s understanding.” Killmann, Toyota Motor Europe (TME) Vice President Research and Development.

“The Brussels-Capital Region, and Brussels Mobility in particular, is committed to staying on top of the latest technological developments regarding automated vehicles. We are conscious of the potential of the technology as a solution for urban mobility, whilst at the same time prioritizing safety. This acknowledgement is reflected in our new Regional Mobility Masterplan, called Good Move, and in one of the 50 actions that we put forward in order to make our vision a reality: to anticipate the automation of vehicles. Our ambitious strategic study on the transition towards automated vehicles determines the necessary steps for a strong framework and positive development of automated vehicles. I think we can be proud that our city and Region is the laboratory for this kind of cutting-edge mobility solutions. We are definitely encouraging innovation in mobility and that is being recognized internationally.” Christophe Vanoerbeek, Brussels Mobility.

Safety First

The Lexus LS is a regular series production vehicle that will be driving on regular, open roads. The only difference is the roof mounted pack of sensors including LIDAR, radars, cameras and high precision positioning system. In the car, a Safety Driver, who can intervene and overrule the AD vehicle control system at any time, will be accompanied by an Operator supervising the entire system. Toyota is bringing this car to the open roads, after months of thorough preparation of the vehicle: validating the AD system, training the drivers, analysing the route and engaging with authorities to acquire the necessary approvals.

This research ties in with Toyota’s global vision to create safe and Ever-Better Mobility for All. Toyota sees the relationship between a driver and the car as teammates working together, a mobility approach which it has dubbed ‘Mobility Teammate Concept’. With the aim to realise more safe and accessible mobility, Toyota is working on two different automated driving models in parallel: Guardian and Chauffeur¹. Whilst developing these cutting-edge technologies, Toyota is also popularizing safety features in an affordable way, across the range. Toyota equips all its newly sold cars with advanced driving assistance systems (ADAS), called Toyota Safety Sense and Lexus Safety System+².

European L3Pilot

The automated vehicle will also be used for collecting data as part of Toyota’s involvement in the European “L3Pilot project,” along with 34 other partners, including major car manufacturers, automotive suppliers, research institutes and authorities. The L3Pilot is a four-year European project launched in 2017 and partially funded by the European Commission³. The project paves the way for large-scale AD field tests of around 1,000 drivers in 100 cars across 10 countries in Europe. Within this framework, TME will concentrate on researching customer behaviours and the safe operation of systems in complex and diverse urban environments.



news from the members

BRUSSELS PARTICIPATES IN THE U20 MAYORS SUMMIT IN TOKYO



The presentation of the official communiqué to Shinzo Abe, the Japanese Prime Minister

The Brussels-Capital Region participated in the Urban 20 Mayors Summit in Tokyo from 20 till 22 May, 2019. The representatives of the world's metropolises were received by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government on this occasion.

Besides Yuriko Koike, the Governor of Tokyo, who hosted the summit, the Urban 20 Mayors Summit of Tokyo gathered the mayors of Berlin, Helsinki, Osaka, Rome, Rotterdam and the Governor of Jakarta, as well as high-level representatives from other metropolises such as New York, Buenos Aires, Paris, Johannesburg, Montreal, Seoul and São Paulo. The leaders of the C40, UCLG and Metropolis networks also actively contributed to the success of this major international meeting.

A strong message for a sustainable world

The official communiqué, which was presented at the end of the summit, contained a strong message from 30 large metropolises to the Heads of State of the G20, which was held in Osaka on

28 and 29 June. It offers specific recommendations regarding climate action, sustainable economic growth and social inclusion and integration.

The communiqué was personally presented to the Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe, in the run-up to the G20.

Active participation of the Brussels-Capital Region

Christian Lamouline, the Secretary General of the Brussels Regional Public Service, represented the Brussels-Capital Region at the U20 Mayors Summit. He actively participated as a panellist during the session on Gender Equality and reaffirmed our Region's support for the ambitious objectives outlined in the official communiqué during the summit's final Strategic Meeting.

Meetings in the run-up to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo

The Brussels presence in the Japanese capital was also a good opportunity to make progress on the Region's actions in the framework of the Olympic Games

(OG), which will be held in Tokyo in July-August 2020.

After a meeting with His Excellency Gunther Sleenwagen, the Belgian Ambassador, Brent Van Tassel, responsible for the OG within the embassy, and William Delsemme, the economic and commercial Attaché of the Brussels-Capital Region, the participants had a better idea of the opportunities. Among other things, a Belgian House will be set up, in front of the embassy, to host various events, including seminars, networking events and press conferences.

The economic and commercial Attaché of the Brussels-Capital Region also held a meeting with officials of the Organising Committee of the OG who are in charge of hockey. Brussels is particularly well-known in the world of hockey. In fact, it is practically the world capital of this sport. Many of the players of the Red Lions, the Belgian national team which took home silver at the 2016 Olympics in Rio and was the 2018 World Champion, come from Brussels. Last April, a team from the Brussels fringe, the Waterloo Ducks Hockey Club, won the most prestigious club competition, namely the Euro Hockey League. So hockey will definitely play an important part in the programme that Brussels International, hub.brussels and visit.brussels are developing for the Olympic Games. In the meantime, we are already keeping our fingers crossed that our Red Lions will pull off another coup at the 2020 Summer Olympics!

Source: international.brussels/2019/07/participation-bruxelloise-au-u20-mayors-summit-a-tokyo/?lang=en

TICKET SALE FOR THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS

Eventeam is the official ticketing and hospitality agency of BOIC (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee) for the Olympic Games of Tokyo 2020.

We are pleased to announce that the first ticket sale for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics was a success and has now ended. The ticket sale started on the first date the Tokyo Organizing Committee gave its go. This was on Thursday June 20th.

As the official ticketing & hospitality agency for Belgium, we provide tickets and packages to the Belgian and European residents. During and after the first ticket sale, we got remarks from our Belgian costumers. "Why would

you open the website and the sales to citizen of other European countries?" The EU laws states that EU citizens have to be able to purchase products and services through the free movement of goods and services in Europe.

For sport fans who still want to go and who didn't get tickets at the first sale, no worries, the second sale will be announced very soon. The date will be communicated through the newsletter. We invite you to register on our information website www.eventeam.be/tokyo2020.

The aim of Eventeam is to create emotions through sport and sport events, such as Roland Garros (we're the of-

ficial PR agency of the French Tennis Federation), or rugby during the Rugby World Cup held in Japan in September-October this year. Besides being the PR agency of several federations, we also partner up with other organisations such as the Accor Hotel Arena or the Paris Nanterre la Défense. We want to provide access to high-level sporting and cultural events.

For more information, visit the official website www.eventeam.be or follow us on our social media.



THE PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE WINS FERRY PORT OF THE YEAR AWARD

For the first time, the organisers of the annual Ferry Shipping Summit in Amsterdam, handed over two awards. The Port of Zeebrugge was named Ferry Port of the Year. The Ferry Port of the Year award was presented to Mr Joachim Coens, CEO Port of Zeebrugge.

Zeebrugge is the absolute and efficient ro-ro hub by excellence. Zeebrugge connects Scandinavia, the Baltic, the UK and the Iberian Peninsula. Centrally located in Europe, and with these excellent links to many European ports, Zeebrugge is a key logistics centre. This

modern deep-sea and short-sea port is suitable for the largest ships. It focuses on a wide range of cargoes, with a strong position in ro-ro traffics.

The port is known as the world leader in the handling of new cars. Thanks to good hinterland connections, Zeebrugge is well suited for intercontinental companies to organise their European or worldwide distribution. In the port's logistic centres, value is added to the cargo before distributing throughout Europe.

The professional staffs at the Port of Zeebrugge are supporting some of the most important ferry operators in the world.



Source: www.apzi.be/nieuws/the-port-of-zeebrugge-wins-ferry-port-of-the-year-award

The BJA would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest members:

Corporate Member

CNR RECORDS BELGIUM

As the largest independent entertainment company of Belgium CNR Records chooses in full to develop local talent, first in the home country but also internationally. Through a broad and varied label set-up CNR plays the entire music scene, through successful partnership with artists, media and brands. Leading in many local genres CNR is also the exclusive music partner of Tomorrowland; it has a joint-venture dance label set up with Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike (#2 DJs in the world) and has many successful projects, such as Regi, the Belgian dance godfather and currently working on a Japanese music path.

A special bond between Japan and Belgium has always existed. Both royal families are close and so is CNR Records with his Japanese partners: Avex and DMM. By becoming a member CNR wishes to expand its long-term partnerships with other interested parties and to share its full entertainment experience

in Europe and the world with new partners, with possible collaborations in Japan mixing the best entertainment elements from Europe in a respectful and at the same time innovating way with the Japanese values.



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KU LEUVEN

Established in 1425, KU Leuven is Belgium’s oldest and highest ranked university. It has a vibrant student community of nearly 60,000 national and international students. As Europe’s most innovative university (Reuters 2019) and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven consistently scores as a top-100 university worldwide in all disciplines individually and top-50 overall (Times Higher Education). The university’s relations with Japan not only contributed to the reconstruction of the university library after World War I, but also to the establishment of an institute focusing on East Asia with a thriving Japanese studies section that

has taken up a leading role in the academic community ever since. In recent years, the continued collaboration between KU Leuven and the Japanese community led to foundation of the Japan-EU Research Center at KU Leuven, the establishment of an alumni chapter in Tokyo and KU Leuven hosting several innovation seminars in Japan as well as many collaborative agreements with the most prominent universities in Japan.



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