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**FRANCOPHONE
BELGIUM WINS BIG**
AT THE 2023
CÉSAR AWARDS



BIG PICTURE

Diane Govaerts
Manager of the Year

FOCUS

Renewable energy and
water management

AMBASSADORS

Etienne Bouillon
Master Distiller Belgian Owl

INNOVATION, TRADITION, AND A LOT MORE!

We often describe our beautiful Wallonia as the land of innovation, proudly highlighting its progress in biotech, information and communication technology and in tomorrow's industries. But did you know that Wallonia also offers unparalleled creativity in terms of logistics, and the reuse of industrial areas?

Here, innovation goes hand in hand with tradition, in a smart and sustainable way. Diane Govaerts, CEO of Ziegler, was made Manager of the Year because she successfully demonstrated that it is possible to combine yesterday's modes of transport with those of tomorrow. And Etienne Bouillon's whisky was ranked as the 5th best in the world because he uses proven methods to achieve fair and sustainable targets.

The integration of new generations, whether human or machine, is this vital thread that connects the past to the future and that helps build a Wallonia for those who work for it, as well as for those who will work for it. This is proven by the French group Safran's investment in Marchin's former sheet metal factory sites, where it is aiming to build a much greener future. Similarly, Eternum is relying on traditional manufacturing techniques to produce cutlery with some of the most modernistic designs, while Pairi Daiza and Revatis are succeeding in revitalising endangered species thanks to their stem cell technologies.

But that is not all! The Las Vegas CES has welcomed and praised our most dynamic digital enterprises, commending O-Boy and MinTT, while the gaming industry, with the help of Revomon, is raking in cryptocurrency from Dubai.

This strength, highlighted throughout this edition of the magazine, is the fruit of Walloon creativity, transcending borders and combining innovation, tradition and transition. This strength will bring a better tomorrow that will benefit everyone.

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RECORD-BREAKING NEW YEAR FOR EVS

The Liège-based company EVS, a global leader in live video technology for broadcast and new media productions, announced that, in 2022, they had received orders valued at a record-breaking €218.8 million. In the same year, they had achieved a historic turnover of €148.2 million despite longer delivery times. It looks like such records are here to stay, as EVS also recorded a robust revenue growth in 2021, along with increasing orders and a growing team.



LIEGE AIRPORT COMMENDED FOR REDUCING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe) has issued Liege Airport with a Level 3 Accreditation, in recognition for the efforts made to reduce its environmental impact. The airport cut its carbon emissions by 56% within 5 years. By 2030, it aims to lower them by 75% and offset the remaining 25% through sustainable projects. The airport is expected to achieve complete carbon neutrality by 2050.

UNIVERSITY OF NAMUR HEADS EUROPEAN BABOTS PROJECT

The University of Namur is gearing up to lead the European BABots project along with 6 other partners. The project's objective will be to create and analyse small animals, such as 1-mm long worms, whose nervous system will be genetically reconfigured to produce novel behaviours. The project's ultimate goal is to implement innovative solutions in agriculture, bio-industry and medicine. Professor Elio Tuci from the Faculty of Computer Science at UNamur's naXys Research Institute will be the project's lead coordinator.



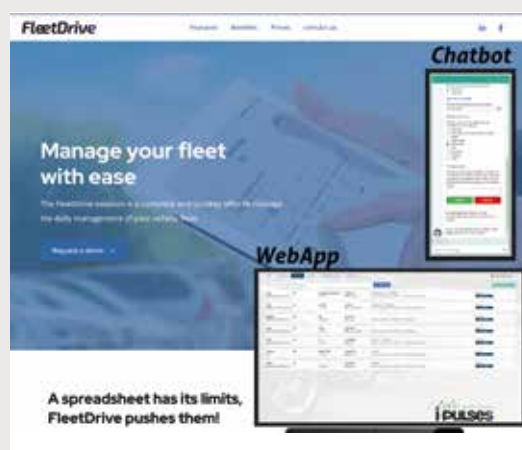


AMOS TESTS A NOVEL AND INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

AMOS successfully tested a new adaptive optics (AO) system dedicated to optical communications between Earth and space. This successful project is financed by the Walloon Region and carried out in collaboration with the ULiège STAR team, the UCLouvain ICTEAM, the Centre Spatial de Liège (Liège Space Center), and Redu Space Services. The project could not only help improve optical communications with satellites in Earth's orbits, but also facilitate the future moon gateway, and establish communications with deep-space probes around planets like Mars.

I-PULSES CHATBOT COMES TO FLEET MANAGERS' RESCUE

The newly established Liège-based company I-Pulses is going from strength to strength. It has developed an application for fleet management, and has created two particularly innovative chatbots. The first chatbot enables companies to negotiate a lease payment plan with their clients, leading to a higher recovery rate. The second chatbot answers the questions most frequently asked by company car drivers. Together, these innovations offer more scheduling flexibility along with a better understanding of issues, ultimately resulting in significant time savings.



ATHLETICS: NOTHING CAN STOP THE BELGIANS!

Nafissatou Thiam broke the indoor pentathlon world record at the Istanbul European Athletics Indoor Championships in early March, scoring 5,055 points. The 28-year-old now has two Olympic medals, three World Championship medals, two European Championship medals for the heptathlon, as well as a European Championship medal for the pentathlon.

As for the Belgian Tornados (Dylan Borlée, Alexander Doom, Kevin Borlée and Julien Watrin, who is also a silver medallist in the 400m and the new Belgian record holder), they won the gold medal in their 31st 4X400m relay final, reaching the podium for the 17th time in a major international championship.





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© Caroline Sénécal, Charlotte Heulland, Natsumi Grandpierre, Elie Koaho - ENS Louis Lumière pour l'Académie des César 2023

FRANCOPHONE BELGIUM WINS BIG AT THE 2023 CÉSAR AWARDS!

"I am so happy, it was such a joy to act in this film... Fuck, I mean, I live in Liège!" Bouli Lanners, 58, was awarded the César for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Dominik Moll's "The Night of the 12th", in which he plays a policeman haunted by the unsolved murder of a woman. And all of Liège celebrated with him!

"Viscerally attached to Liège, a constant blend of tragedy and comedy", Bouli Lanners is an actor, screenwriter, and a theatre and film director. Ever since winning a Grand Jury Prize for "Muno" at the 2003 Lille

European Film Festival, he has won award after award, but this first César Award carries special significance for him: "I do not know why Belgium still has this inferiority complex towards France. When the entire French film industry praises you, it's even more significant," he said.

A French-Belgian co-production, "The Night of the 12th" won 6 César Awards in total, including Best Film and Best Director.

At the same time, Virginie Efira won the César for Best Actress for her

role in Alice Winocour's drama "Paris Memories", even beating the talented Juliette Binoche and Fanny Ardant. This award, for which she had already been nominated four times, comes after two years of hard work: "I made 63 films this year, so the odds were in my favour," she joked. "This film is accurate, beautiful, consolatory, cathartic; thank you for honouring the victims," she added.

Virginie Efira dedicated her award to Alice Winocour, the film's director, and to all "the other female directors" who have worked with her.

“WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE BELGIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT’S TAX SHELTER AND INVER TAX SHELTER”

Authorised by the Belgian Finance Ministry as a Tax Shelter intermediary for Audiovisual and Theatre Arts, Inver Tax Shelter is especially proud of the 6 César awards won by Dominik Moll’s “The Night of the 12th”, including the César for Best Supporting Actor won by Bouli Lanners.

“This French-Belgian co-production would not have seen the light of day without the support of Tax Shelter, which arranges financial collaborations for films,” said Grégory César, the Deputy Managing Director of Inver Tax Shelter. “Inspired by a dramatic headline and an open investigation, it was not the easiest production to finance!”

Inver Tax Shelter persuaded five Belgian businesses to make use of the federal government’s tax incentive to support the production, which proved to be fruitful indeed. “This is not the first time that a film benefiting from Tax Shelter has won awards: we also supported “Titane”, which won the 2022 Palme d’Or in Cannes.

But it is the first time that a production has won so many awards in one go, including one for a Belgian actor,” he said. It is also worth mentioning that the various productions involving Bouli Lanners that won awards at the Magritte (see below) likewise involved many Tax Shelter investors.



AND THE WINNER IS... BELGIAN CINEMA!

After their incredible César wins, Virginie Efira and Bouli Lanners continued their winning streak at the 12th Magritte Awards. Efira won the award for Best Actress for her role in “Paris Memories”, and Lanners won three Magritte awards: Best Film and Best Director for “Nobody has to know”, and Best Actor for his role in “The Night of the 12th”.

THE OTHER MAGRITTE WINNERS WERE:

- Emilie Dequenne, [Best Supporting Actress](#) - “Close”
- Igor Van Dessel, [Best Supporting Actor](#) - “Close”
- Lukas Dhont and Angelo Tijssens, [Best Screenplay](#) - “Close”
- Sophie Breyer, [Most Promising Actress](#) - “The Hive”
- Eden Dambrine, [Most Promising Actor](#) - “Close”
- “Soy libre” by Laure Portier - [Best Documentary Film](#)
- “The Night of the 12th” by Dominik Moll, co-produced by Jacques-Henri Bronckart and Gwenaëlle Libert - [Best Foreign Film in Coproduction](#)
- “Close” by Lukas Dhont - [Best Flemish Film](#)
- “Zero Fucks Given” by Julie Lecoustre and Emmanuel Marre - [Best First Feature Film](#)
- “Ma gueule” by Grégory Carnoli and Thibaut Wohlfhart - [Best Live Action Short Film](#)
- “Câline” by Margot Reumont - [Best Animated Short Film](#)
- “Arbres” by Jean-Benoît Ugeux - [Best Documentary Short Film](#)
- Hannes De Maeyer, Oum and Aboubakr Bensaihi, [Best Original Score](#) - “Rebel”
- Mathieu Cox, Pierre Mertens, David Vranken, Philippe Van Leer, and François Aubinet, [Best Sound](#) - “Animals”
- Nicolas Rumpl, [Best Editing](#) - “Nobody has to know”
- Eve Martin, [Best Production Design](#) - “Close”
- Prunelle Rulens, [Best Costume Design](#) - “Zero Fucks Given”
- Frank Van Den Eeden, [Best Cinematography](#) - “Close”

LES VICTOIRES

de la Musique 2023

STROMAE AND ANGÈLE

IS A SMASH HIT AT THE VICTOIRES DE LA MUSIQUE

With two awards for Stromae (Best Album and Male Artist of the Year), two for Angèle (Female Artist of the Year and Most Streamed Album - Female Artist) and one for Pierre de Maere (Male Newcomer of the Year), Belgium was well-represented at the 38th Victoires de la Musique Awards. Mentissa, who had been nominated in the Female Newcomer category, sadly came back empty-handed, but we are certain she will have better luck next time!



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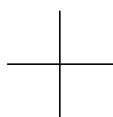
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WORK | BIG PICTURE



“I AM SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE TRULY INVESTED AND MOTIVATED; PEOPLE WHO ARE REAL ENTREPRENEURS.”

Diane Govaerts, Manager of the Year 2022



Diane Govaerts, 38, CEO of the Ziegler Group for 6 years, was awarded Manager of the Year 2022 by Trends Tendance magazine. The only woman among the finalists, she stood out for her participative management style and her innovative business vision at her family-owned company.

After graduating in business engineering from the Solvay Business School, Diane Govaerts won her spurs during a 7-year stint at the Degroof Bank, before joining Arthur Ziegler, her grandfather, for 2 years of training within the company. “Given my young age, my relationship with my grandfather, and my completely different domain background, it was quite a challenge,” Govaerts said. A challenge that this fervent believer in meritocracy met with flying colours.

The Ziegler Group, one of Europe’s leading transport and logistics companies, combines 6 sectors: transport (by road, sea and air), railways, customs and storage. This diversity enables the company to offer blended solutions that are particularly flexible with regards to the requirements of clients. The company can therefore work with a variety of niche sectors, such as wines and spirits, cosmetics, hazardous materials and oversized cargo projects. Present in 15 countries, most of them European, the company has 154 offices

and a team of more than 3,200 employees, including 650 in Belgium.

Diane Govaerts realised soon after taking the helm of the company that she had to interact with her employees, explain the new projects and pass on her passion for innovation and hybrid solutions. “I visited, and have continued to visit, nearly every office in every country.” Making sure she is always easily approachable, she understood the importance of maintaining genuine contact with the different teams in order to develop innovative solutions rooted in the practicalities of each country, and inspire ambition, dynamism and loyalty among her partners. “These global visits have made me realise that I am surrounded by people who are truly invested and motivated; people who are real entrepreneurs,” Govaerts said.

“We are working very hard on two approaches: sustainability and innovation. The sustainability approach is integrated right within the company strategy, as it is a pure necessity.” Ziegler even raised



Two blue lights on the forklift's mast.

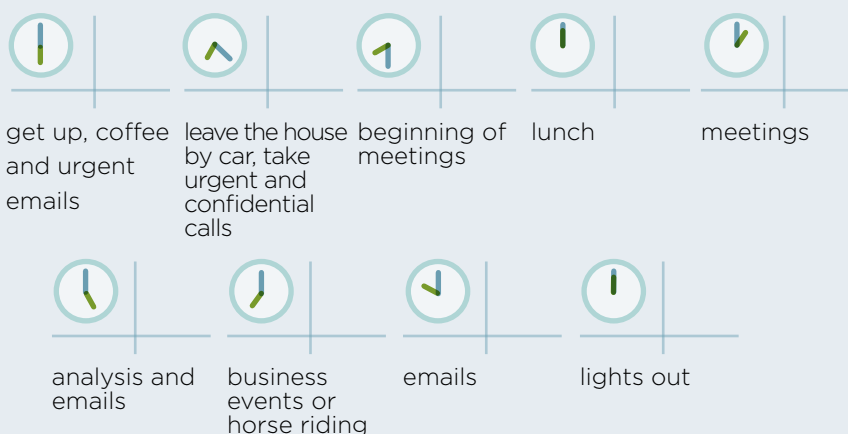
CARRIERS
SHORT TERM HIRE

the bar by welcoming a new Corporate Sustainability Manager. As for innovation, the company is digitising its data, launching cargo bikes for last mile deliveries in cities, setting up drone-enabled warehouse management systems, and will soon test delivery by self-driving vehicles.

When asked about her goals for the coming years, Govaerts said, "I would like to fan the curiosity of young talents about the still relatively unknown transport sector, and come up with more solutions for improving the flow of global transport networks."

-  **€1.3 billion invoiced sales**
-  **3,200 experts**
-  **154 offices in 15 countries**
-  **195 countries coverage**
-  **4.5 million road shipments/year**
-  **180,000 freight orders/year**
-  **90,600 air shipments/year**
-  **930,000 m² of warehouses**
-  **600,000 custom declarations/year**

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF DIANE GOVAERTS





WALLOON START-UPS

SHOW PROMISING GROWTH
IN LAS VEGAS



The Las Vegas' Consumer Electronic Show (CES) saw 3100 companies from 173 countries exhibiting their products to 120,000 visitors over four days. Belgium was awarded an Innovation Champions Award, while the 16 Walloon start-ups and scale-ups chosen by AWEX (Walloon Agency for Export and Foreign Investments) signed several promising contracts.

First held in 1967, CES has always stood out for shining a light on major innovations, like the video recorder in 1970, the CD player in the 1980s and the HDV television 10 years later. Even today, CES remains an essential step for tech companies all around the world, who participate in the hopes of attracting investors and filling up their order books. "It is also about keeping an eye on the competition, particularly in terms of public relations," said Guy Vanpaesschen, Digital Company Business Developer for AWEX. "Besides, companies also benefit from CES' reputation, because your ticket to Las Vegas will also get you entry into other tech shows."

Walloon companies especially benefit from the close link that

the AWEX team has forged with Gary Shapiro, the founder of CES, and his team. "When Gary Shapiro inaugurates your stand, an entire team comes out with him. It increases your visibility," Vanpaesschen added. "This year, we also worked strategically with the press to raise the profile of our companies around the world."

Vanpaesschen said, "We provide our companies with a very supportive ecosystem within the Francophone Village as well as other cross markets. We also organise Belgian Beer Time, where companies can invite their clients and prospects." A very Belgian way of maintaining ties!

Formyfit has designed an app to digitise physical education in secondary schools and stimulate physical activity in businesses. For CEO Laurent Baijot, CES “is a truly global platform for cutting-edge solutions like ours. It’s where we learned that we have no competitors and that our product indeed meets a need. We also met European decision-makers and a distributor for schools in France thanks to this CES. We will come back again.”



CES 2023 also exceeded all expectations for Vincent Agie, CEO of **BIMPrinter**. He said, “Our mobile topographic printer scored very highly among our target audience of construction professionals. At our stand, they discovered a practical, ready-to-use plotter robot. Nothing compares to CES 2023 when it comes to connecting with the right people in the right place! And we received incredible media coverage!”

Dr. Agnieszka Pozdzik, nephrologist, founder and manager of **Renal Care & Research**, is delighted to have “captured the heads and hearts of key medical decision-makers so well that our kidney stone prevention program was considered as a major solution for significantly reducing overall health care costs in the United States and around the world.” Renal Care & Research also won MyGlobalVillage’s MedTech section pitch competition.

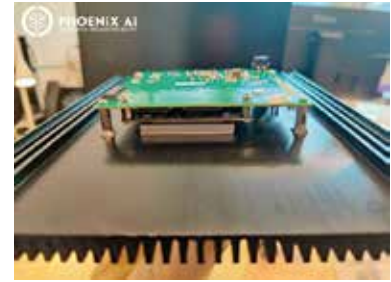


Created in 2020 by Nicolas Debye, **Feelin** was the only Belgian MarTech present in Las Vegas, with a solution for pre-testing TV spots and other videos for social media. The founder experienced “a really intense, very rich and very diverse experience which allows you to come to grips with the world alongside stakeholders from around the globe. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, As we made quite a few contacts and received expressions of interest that we are currently following up on.”

Masana.care has developed an “all in one” app, which links patients who are monitored/treated at home and all the teams that support them. “The CES offers our company significant exposure, enables us to monitor cutting-edge technologies and, above all, helps us make very human contacts. And not just in the American market: we have started a partnership with a Swiss company!”



With the **Phoenix AI** team, “any camera can be transformed into a smart camera, thanks to the AI technology embedded in the electronic boards.” Phoenix AI made a big impression at CES, achieving 2 major successes along the way. “We have started working for a large French public sector company, and we met a new Korean partner, with whom we are working on a European R&D project,” said CEO Laurent Renard.



For Hadrien Dorchy, CEO of **O-Boy**, “CES is the only trade show that allows you to make a name for yourself on the international scene: once you have been there, you are “worth talking to”. This opportunity opened several doors for us and, as the press coverage was good, O-Boy was mentioned in several international articles.”

Already represented by 14 international distributors, **Alvalux-Cicalux** wanted to promote its unique range of combo-therapy devices for scar tissue healing at CES. According to CEO Michel Alvarez, it was mission accomplished: “After 2 months, we can look forward to 5 signed agreements or advanced negotiations, 26 avenues under discussion and only 2 that have not been successful. We will be there again in 2024: the CicaLux Energized Scar Therapy range keeps growing.”



Comtoyou creates music and advertising programs designed to be broadcast in shops and public places. Its director and founder, Jean-Michel Barthe, believes that CES is essential for keeping up to date with the evolution of technology. However, going beyond that, it is also essential for “building ties with other companies present at the Belgian stand: you can also meet compatriots who work in a similar sector to ours and who are complementary to our business!”

“We presented our energy management and optimisation solution for public and private companies to several delegations, such as the RATP (Autonomous Parisian Transportation Administration), and met other technology partners, working with whom will help enrich our solution,” said **Dapesco** CEO Jean-François Potelle.



Since 2006, **IntoPIX** has been providing unique, low-power, and zero latency video compression solutions. Present in Japan and Korea, but especially in North America, the company is equipping more and more devices, from telephones to wireless televisions and cameras. “For the first time, we had our own stand at CES and we were on several clients’ stands, including Nikon! Another client presented our prototype designed for autonomous cars,” said Marketing & Sales Director Jean-Baptiste Lorent.



Best known in Belgium and France, **Mintt** is targeting the North American and Asian markets with its fall detection and prevention solution. “Hospitals and nursing homes are increasingly interested in our technology. By coming to CES, we also wanted to connect with other sensor manufacturers, to ensure that we are bringing the latest cutting-edge technology to our clients,” said CEO Eric Krzeslo. Mintt is currently rolling out the technology at an exponential rate, allowing several thousand people to be rescued extremely quickly.



“In order to ensure a more sustainable future, it is crucial that we improve our energy management methods. This could be done by implementing solutions such as harnessing ambient energy and discouraging the use of disposable batteries, paving the way for highly sustainable machinery,” said Geoffroy Gosset, co-founder and CEO of **e-peas**. This is how e-peas, a Walloon manufacturer of semi-conductors, won everyone over at CES. The company continues to expand thanks to its innovative energy recovery solutions that meet market needs more effectively.





€443 million turnover (2021)



1500 employees



December 2023 – Safran Blades, a subsidiary of Safran Aero Boosters in partnership with Wallonie Entreprendre and SFPIM.



Marchin (former ArcelorMittal site)



Production of compressor blades for aircraft engines



Mathieu Deladrière
CEO

NEW SAFRAN PLANT GIVES MARCHIN WINGS

Safran Aero Boosters, a Liège-based company and a subsidiary of the Safran group, a specialist in designing and manufacturing aero-engine components, is constructing a new manufacturing plant in Marchin (Liège). This investment of 50 million euros will lead to the creation of about a hundred jobs by 2025.

The brand new centre of excellence, spread out over 10,000 m², will be called Safran Blades, and will focus mainly on the production of titanium compressor blades, as well as other components, for the LEAP engine that will be installed in the Airbus A320neo and the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. This project will strengthen Safran Aero Boosters' expertise in its flagship product, the low-pressure compressor. Besides, it will make the company more autonomous, as the necessary components are currently produced mainly in China, France, Canada and Israel.

The choice of the location is not a trivial one; Safran Blades are not investing in a bare land site,

but in an industrial area steeped in the region's steelmaking past, as it used to be an ArcelorMittal group site. "Needless to say, the site will be completely refurbished. We will use the site to bring together Safran's best industrial technologies to meet the highest global standards," said Mathieu Deladrière, head of the project.

With a powerful combination of automation, highly qualified personnel and the most advanced digital technologies, this 4.0 plant will produce more than 2,000 blades per day, while conducting a real-time, autonomous and innovative quality evaluation at each critical stage of the manufacturing

process. "Additionally, the site has been designed to comply with our sustainable development requirements, allowing for a significant reduction in energy and water consumption levels, and using renewable energy options instead (solar panels, hydraulic turbines, etc.)," said Deladrière. "This is how we are heading towards the decarbonisation of the aviation industry."

Safran Aero Boosters have a 56% stake in Safran Blades, while Wallonie Entreprendre (WE) holds 22%, with the Société Fédérale de Participations et d'Investissement (SFPIM) making up for the rest.





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© Safran Adrien Daste



© Safran Adrien Daste



PAIRI DAIZA AND REVATIS

A WALLOON PARTNERSHIP FOR SAVING WILD LIFE

In 2022, the Pairi Daiza Foundation partnered with Revatis biotech in a bid to save endangered species.

The Pairi Daiza Foundation, located in Brugelette, and the Revatis spin-off, based in Marche-en-Famenne, are only around a hundred kilometres away from each other. The former was founded by the famous zoo of the same name in 2015 to conserve biodiversity and various animal species, while the latter was created by the University of Liège in late 2013. A specialist in regenerative medicine, Revatis has a patented technology to harvest and produce stem cells for organ regeneration.

The organisations' mutual concern for wildlife preservation brought them together to work on creating a biobank for endangered wildlife species. It is an ideal partnership, combining the Pairi Daiza

Foundation's experience, know-how and field data, with Revatis' lab work on the collected data. "Working in close proximity with these animals on a daily basis enables us to observe certain behaviours and collect samples," said Catherine Vancsok, Scientific Director at the Pairi Daiza Foundation.

The technology developed by Revatis makes it possible to harvest stem cells from a minimally invasive sample collection. *"It involves a muscle microbiopsy amounting to a few milligrams which results in very little discomfort for the animal. The samples are collected from anaesthetised animals by our veterinary team while also discharging other care duties,*

which allows us to intervene without causing any stress to our patients," Vancsok said.

At this stage, three animals have contributed to the study: a bison and two lions. In the laboratory, Revatis cultivates the stem cells extracted from the samples collected at Pairi Daiza and stores them in liquid nitrogen. Not only do these stem cells safeguard the genetic heritage of the animals, they also make it possible to study their energy metabolism functions, which could be influenced by their living conditions. *"These stem cells offer tremendous potential for scientific research, including genomic analysis, toxicological studies, disease modelling, etc. In short, stem cells could also allow*



us to develop innovative therapeutic applications. Treatments developed using stem cells could thus be applied to locomotor system diseases, injuries, autoimmune diseases, metabolic disorders and even diseases involving inflammatory syndromes," Vancsok further stated.



This Walloon partnership has exciting long term plans. "In cases where the population of a species has declined too much to survive, and when all attempts involving traditional reproduction methods have failed, male and female gametes could be obtained from stem cells to create an embryo," Vancsok said, thus hinting at a hope shared by the whole planet: the hope of bringing extinct species back to life.



REVOMON

THE MONSTER COLLECTION GAME THAT JUST KEEPS GROWING

Video games are now the largest sector in the entertainment industry, in terms of revenue, ahead of other sectors such as cinema or music. In many European countries, including the UK, Finland, Germany and France, video game studios are creating thousands of jobs and making billions of euros in revenue. But what about Belgium?

Wallonia has significant economic potential in this field. Not only does it have a complete ecosystem of dynamic game development studios, it also offers a vast pool of creative talents as well as internationally recognised courses. However, it suffers from brain drain.

Revomon (short for “Revolution Monster”) and its CEO, Jordan Ietri, are among those who have decided to stay. “Revomon is a virtual reality (VR) game that takes place in a metaverse (virtual universe), in which users ‘play-to-earn’: the more they evolve in the Revomon universe, the more monsters they capture, and the more \$REVO they earn. \$REVO is the game’s cryptocurrency,” Ietri explained. Although it is free to access the Revomon metaverse — as long as you have a VR headset — it can be very tempting to buy NFTs (not just monsters, but also clothing and accessories, for example) after converting real money into \$REVO. This cryptocurrency has a regulatory function. “The more \$REVO the player earns, the more they invest (in all senses of the term) by playing, collecting monsters and buying accessories,

and the more company shares they own. In this way, it is an investment where the players/investors are themselves banking on the success of the concept,” Ietri said. “One \$REVO equals one representative vote, which can be used by the players for the upcoming decisions that we will have to make when further developing the gaming platform. It is as if these dedicated players were on the company’s Board of Directors!”

As of today, Revomon has totalled 125,000 installations, with an average of 6,000 players every month. “In 2022, our very first fundraiser came close to \$2 million in two hours! We are organising a second fundraiser at the end of 2023, to make Revomon available on other platforms (IOS and PC),” the young CEO from Liège added. The company has already signed up 20% more players since the game was released on the Meta store (Facebook’s parent company) last February. “Making it to the Meta store is an achievement in itself!,” Ietri said.





125,000 installations



6,000 players/month



\$2 million



RENEWABLE ENERGY AND WATER MANAGEMENT: WALLONIA IS PLAYING ITS CARDS RIGHT

Wallonia is spearheading creative solutions for challenges linked to renewable energies. Currently surpassing the EU's target of spending 3% of GDP on innovation, the region is setting an example.

We met with Cédric Brüll, the Managing Director of the TWEED and H₂O clusters, which offer comprehensive infrastructure expertise related to energy, water, hydrogen, CO₂ and even sustainable transport. He explained the role of these Walloon ecosystems and highlighted 6 remarkable projects that are not just local, but also exportable.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE TWEED CLUSTER PLAY?

For 15 years, TWEED's primary objective has been to encourage investment and innovation in the energy and water sectors by stimulating high-potential projects through a consortium of companies and stakeholders in research, innovation and training, as well as

governmental and administrative authorities.

In practical terms, we initiate, direct and help set up innovative projects, whether technological or not, then we analyse the results. We study the synergies between public and private stakeholders, at the Walloon, national, European and international levels. Among our members, 85% believe that the cluster has had a positive or very positive impact in terms of project development, partnership, added value and R&D thanks to our actions.

WHY IS THERE SUCH DYNAMISM IN WALLONIA?

When we say innovation is essential, we are no longer talking about ecological transition, but



Cédric Brüll

Managing Director of the TWEED and H₂O clusters

about an ecological revolution. We must adapt to the consequences of climate change and, in terms of water management, renewable energies represent a real paradigm shift. The government is investing heavily in the priority value chains of the future and facilitating economic, social and administrative links between stakeholders. To be competitive, Belgium must offer trailblazing and efficient solutions. We simply cannot let this opportunity pass us by!



TWEED'S 6 PILLARS OF ACTION

▶ ENERGY SHARING

Since 2019, the TWEED cluster, in collaboration with the MecaTech cluster, has supported around twenty energy sharing and energy community projects, with a total budget of more than €35 million. Sharing takes place between private and public sector stakeholders, between citizens and between companies, with the aim of decentralising the production of renewable energy, optimising sub-zones, encouraging self-sufficiency and, ultimately, reducing congestion problems.

In Verviers, Ans and Chapelle-lez-Herlaimont, the SOCCER project provides social housing tenants with access to solar energy. This socio-economic initiative counts on social cohesion to fight against household energy poverty.

▶ GREEN HYDROGEN

In 2018, the TWEED cluster produced a roadmap of all the valid and interesting projects involving hydrogen sector stakeholders. The first commercial hydrogen-powered boat will soon be sailing on the Meuse thanks to electrolysis, a technology currently pioneered globally by none other than the John Cockerill Group. Hydrogen-powered trucks are already transporting beer, water, chocolate, potatoes and fries across Europe. Thanks to the cluster, green hydrogen projects have received more than €40 million in investment.

The COLOMBUS project, based in the Charleroi region, was approved by the EU in February 2023. It combines CO₂ with green hydrogen produced by electrolysis to create a carbon-neutral synthetic fuel, called "e-methane", which is intended to be used as an alternative fuel by industrial stakeholders and the transport sector.

▶ TRANSPORT

Transport accounts for 25% of CO₂ emissions in Wallonia. There is a clear overlap between energy challenges and transport solutions. While the transport sector is currently a disruptive force, it could become a crucial support in the ecological shift. This ecosystem's projects encourage flexibility in the electricity network and aim to smooth consumption peaks.

Launched in Liège, the REMOHUB project is replicable in the short term and easy to implement within many companies. It uses solar, photovoltaic and wind energy, as well as second-life batteries from electric vehicles in order to eliminate intermittency issues and offer a renewable, reliable and consistent production profile, all year round.

▶ STORAGE

Driven by a desire for independence, and recognising the intermittent nature of renewable energy, stakeholders in the renewable energy sector are looking for energy storage methods in order to better manage consumption. Belgium is leading in this field, with solutions for connecting the electricity grid and for recycling electric vehicle batteries.

The Brussels start-up OCTAVE is already booming in this regard, with its solution to give a second life to used electric car and scooter batteries in order to store excess electricity and stabilise energy costs. It kills two birds with one stone, by avoiding the use of raw materials and by providing an infinite number of possible applications and direct financial benefits to its users at the same time.



▶ ENERGY PERFORMANCE

By relying on the expertise of motivated industrialists, Wallonia stands out from the pack when it comes to energy efficiency, that is to say, being more effective to offset the cost of energy. With its environmental agreements, known as "Accords de Branche", Wallonia and its companies notably facilitate the use of renewable energy sources and energy performance on more than 250 industrial sites (steel, glass, cement, etc.).

The Liège-based company ANATIS treats the industrial effluents from the cheese-making and brewing processes of Orval Abbey, near Florenville, whose world-famous beer needs no introduction. Thanks to the ANATIS biomethanation process, the abbey can reinject this biofuel directly into its production chain. Could Belgium be the home of the world's most sustainable beer?

▶ WATER

The H₂O cluster is entirely dedicated to water, and shares the digitalisation and ecological transition challenges of the TWEED cluster. Set up last year, it brings together and supports the various grassroots stakeholders in order to encourage the exchange of ideas and study possible synergies, from resource management to distribution, including water harvesting and storage.

The HYDROFLEX project, the result of a collaboration between SWDE, ULiège and Haulogy, links the water and renewable energy sectors together. It aims to establish an energy management system to optimise pump operations. First of all, it enables distributors, such as water towers, to activate their very energy-intensive pumps at the right time, ensuring an ecological and economical transition, while maintaining excellent and consistent water quality.



-  Established 15 years ago
-  212 members
-  85% member satisfaction
-  80% of companies
-  In 2022: more than 2350 participations in proposed activities
-  More than 60 projects supported since its creation
-  Helped set up 19 projects over the past two years, with a 74% success rate
-  10 sector maps of stakeholders & technological roadmaps
-  Average of 5 international missions per year

Portrait Georges Simenon © Victor Dinitz
© Simenon.tm Collection John Simenon



VISIT
Wallonia
.be

[VISITWallonia.be/spring](https://www.visitwallonia.be/spring)

Congo belge, Eté 1932 © Simenon.tm /
Collection Fonds Georges Simenon ULiège



Portrait Georges Simenon © Sanjiro
Minamikawa © Simenon.tm Collection



A SPRING DEDICATED TO **SIMENON**

This February 13 would have been Georges Simenon's 120th birthday, and his native Liège will pay tribute to the most famous Belgian novelist with an inspiring programme.

From the 8th to the 11th of March 2023, Liège will dance to the tune of Simenon Spring, a literary festival originally started by Simenon's son, John, and the University of Liège to showcase and revisit the life and works of Maigret's creator through exhibitions, literary events, film screenings, seminars and a thematic tour. "Most of the events listed in the festival's schedule are free, but bookings are welcome," said Benoît Denis. "The festival is open to all, and encourages the spirit of togetherness and the joy of meeting and interacting."

SIMENON: PHOTOS OF A WORLD IN CRISIS

From March 8 to August 27, the Grand Curtius will be exhibiting the

photos taken by Georges Simenon between 1930 and 1935. The pictures depict the many journeys he embarked on around the world and illustrate major universal themes. Their spontaneity and authenticity make these photos very human.

SIMENON, FROM "ROMANS DURS" TO COMIC BOOKS

The Fonds patrimoniaux (Liège Heritage Museum) is organising an exclusive exhibition of Christian Cailleaux's comic strips for the adaptation of Simenon's novel "Le Passager du Polarlys" (The Passenger of Polarlys). Also exhibited will be the comic strips by Yslaire and Jean-Luc Fromental for "La neige était sale" (The Snow was Dirty) and those by Jacques de Loustal for the biopic

"Simenon, l'Ostrogoth" (Simenon, the Ostrogoth). The 3 comic books will be published by Dargaud in 2023.

ON SIMENON'S TRAIL

The Simenon Trail recounts the author's young years in Liège, particularly in Outremeuse. Inaugurated in 1983 and refurbished in 2023, the Trail offers a revised route, a smartphone application and a series of brand new content, including photos from the time, audio recordings of excerpts by the author, and a virtual reality experience.

Buy Tickets At:
www.printemps-simenon.com



Varsovie, Mars 1933 © Simenon.tm /
Collection Fonds Georges Simenon ULiège

Portrait Georges Simenon © Sanjiro
Minamikawa © Simenon.tm Collection

ETERNUM

TIMELESS ELEGANCE ON EVERY TABLE

Founded in 1924, Eternum is currently one of the top 5 cutlery manufacturers in the world. This proud, innovative company based in Gembloux, Belgium's historic cutlery capital, exports its products to more than 70 countries and 5 continents. It is now undergoing a complete rebrand for its 100th anniversary.



Eternum specialises in the design, production and distribution of high-end cutlery and table accessories, made from stainless steel. The company caters to both the hospitality and retail sectors. Thanks to a well established network of sales representatives, together with a robust supply chain, the company's Gembloux plant annually supplies more than 20 million cutlery products all over the world.

"The Signature, Classic and Young collections together include more than 50 original designs, made of 18/10 and 18/0 stainless steel by well-known

tableware designers. These products can be personalised on demand, be it by engraving a logo, by changing the colour to copper, champagne or black, or by applying a vintage effect to the product," said Brice Visart, Eternum's Head of Operations. "Not only are these collections both unique and timeless, they also meet the most demanding criteria in terms of ergonomics, quality and durability." Eternum also offers a range of more than thirty sturdy yet elegant steak knives, including both serrated and straight edge variants.

From the sophisticated tables of well-known chefs and restaurant owners

to jam-packed school canteens, this Belgian SME has carved out a special place for itself in the cutlery industry, all thanks to the know-how of its company experts and their understanding of the challenges specific to the different sectors that they cater to.

Bought by another Belgian family last year, Eternum is getting a makeover on the eve of its 100th anniversary and "is counting on its team of 10 or so sales representatives to explore new markets and ensure that the brand keeps on expanding on the global stage," Visart said.



€14 million



One of the world's Top 5 leading cutlery brands



20 million cutlery products



30 employees + 10 sales representatives



70 countries over 5 continents



Thriving for over 99 years





NEW MAKE

BLUE EVOLUTION

GREEN IDENTITY

PURPLE PASSION

BLACK INTENSE

ETIENNE BOUILLON, A BELGIAN CLASSIC!

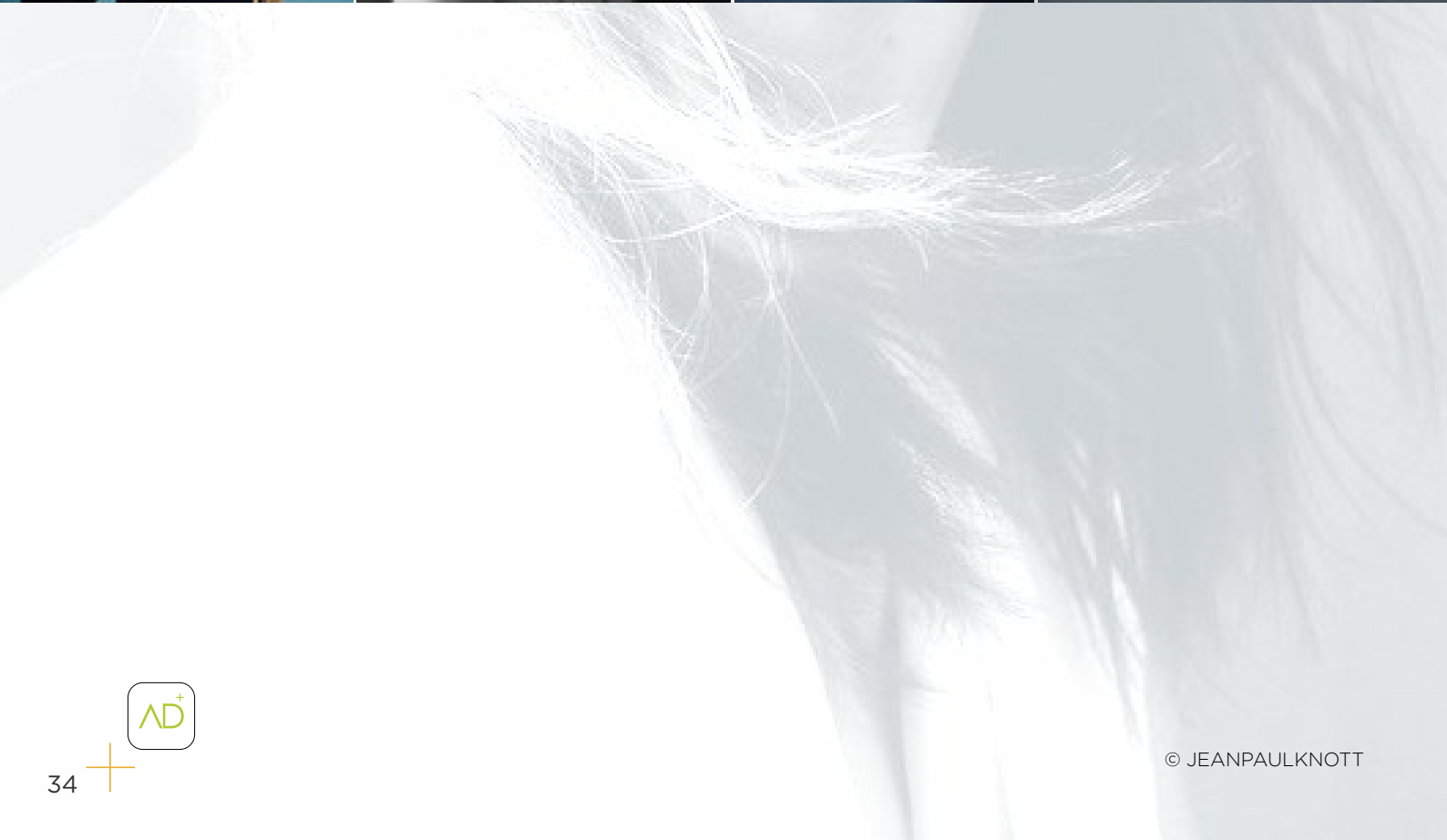
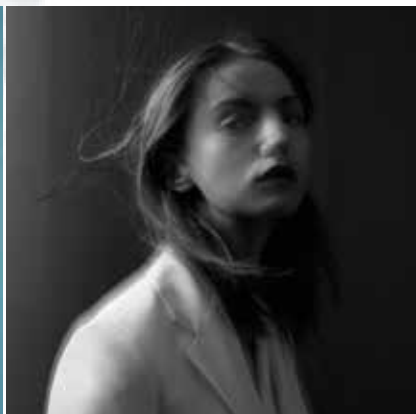
How does one become a Master Distiller capable of making, if not the best whisky in the world, then at least the fifth best, according to Jim Murray's Whisky Bible? By training in Scotland, of course, but also by working with farmers (and paying them fairly for their barley grown in the Hesbaye region) to create a rather crazy, 100% Walloon project.

Driven by exceptional passion and a profound understanding of the natural balance, Belgian native Etienne Bouillon has created a range of 4 single malt whisky products and 1 spirit, each encapsulating the story of its native region. Mentored

by the great Jim McEwan, one of the best whisky distillers in the world, Bouillon developed his own unique signature style. His company, Dexowl, exports nearly 50% of his whisky abroad, mainly to France, Japan, South Africa, India and the USA. Being the visionary and resolute person that he is, Bouillon says, "It is thanks to the AWEX team, nothing short of magicians who materialised meetings and opportunities out of thin air, that our Single Malt Whisky is reaching more countries than ever. It is a moment of immense pride to see this crazy bet end up on the shelves of whisky lovers all over the world."



Etienne Bouillon
Master Distiller Belgian Owl



Jean-Paul Knott was born in Verviers, studied in New York, worked alongside Yves-Saint Laurent in Paris, and, in 2000, finally established his own label: JEANPAULKNOTT. His outfits celebrate organic materials and are practical, affordable, sustainable and timeless. The perfect blend of Haute Couture and Ready-to-Wear.

Making the most of the Covid-19 pandemic, the fashion designer continued his search for meaning and expressed the desire to come up with a timeless, unisex range. He then moved to a townhouse with a garden, on Rue Franz Merjay, and met Gaëtan, his agent.

INTRODUCING **JEAN-PAUL KNOTT'S** EXCLUSIVE, UNIQUE AND SUSTAINABLE CAPSULE WARDROBE

Together, they are launching a new collection for men and women, perfectly blending some of the most luxurious fabrics, such as alpaca wool, silk and cashmere. Designed as squares, these new outfits follow the shape of the body harmoniously. Everything has been painted laboriously by hand, in the Pollock style, with hues of rich cobalt blue and intense black. "It all fits in two suitcases," says Knott, forever the traveller.

While Knott takes inspiration from his family and friends when designing his collections, his patrons, who do not fall into any specific age or gender category, stand out for their sensitivity and their love of all things timeless. With the WBDM 2023 grant, the fashion designer plans to expand his label to France, one region after another, and one meeting at a time.





| 1 |

© Studio Cagibi - (Lucille Dizier)

MAAK & TRANSMETTRE

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The Brussels-based non-profit, Maak & Transmettre, was established by Mathilde Pecqueur, Salomé Corvalan and Alice Emery, a trio of textile and industrial designers who studied at La Cambre. They organise fortnightly textile workshops for handicraft enthusiasts while working on ambitious, large-scale projects.

Through exhibitions, podcasts, workshops and conferences, they regularly question the textile industry's attitude towards female designers. They also champion women in interior design, and have created an international network of female designers.

Their signature design transcends techniques and plays with verticality, structure and space, as well as the visual phenomena of transparency and opacity.



| 2 |

© Kenia Raphaël



| 3 |



© Studio Cagibi - (Lucille Dizier)

| 4 |



© Rafael Guendelman

PROJECTS

- | 1 | Atelier Anderkids avec la Maison Des Enfants d'Anderlecht - cours aide aux devoirs
- | 2 | Salomé Corvalan / Mathilde Pecqueur / Alice Emery
- | 3 | Le tapis comme langage avec La Maison Des Enfants d'Anderlecht - cours femmes en alphabétisation
- | 4 | À l'ombre alanguies - Exposition solo - Galerie 550 - Santiago Chili
- | 5 | À l'ombre alanguies - Exposition solo - Galerie 550 - Santiago Chili

| 5 |



© Kenia Raphaël

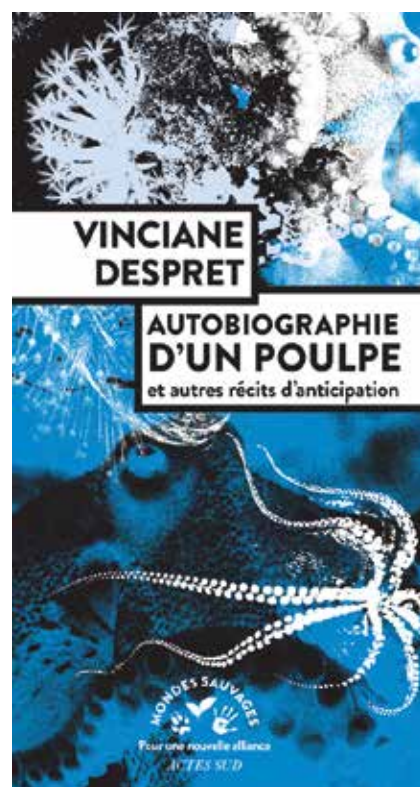
VINCIANE DESPRET

Autobiography of an octopus: a therolinguistic journey

What if spiders, wombats and octopuses were sending us more or less coded messages using their vibrations, their webs, or their clouds of ink? Somewhere between scientific fact and poetic fiction, Vinciane Despret depicts an unsettling third millennium, setting the stage for a “decentering of the human position on Earth”.

“Therolinguistics” is a major scientific (and fictional) discipline that studies the stories that animals are, in fact, constantly telling us. Through this field, Vinciane Despret, a philosopher and psychologist from Liège, professor at the University of Liège and the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and recipient of the Freedom of the City of Liège, encourages us to think differently about our relationship with other living beings. Her book is funny, unique, and in a nutshell, unnerving. It shatters literary benchmarks and conventional schools of thought, all for a just cause.

“Autobiographie d’un poulpe et autres récits d’anticipation”
 (Autobiography of an octopus and other social science fiction stories)
 Vinciane DESPRET - Actes Sud





NAB: 16-19/04

Las Vegas – For the 17th year in a row, AWEX, the media cluster TWIST and Digital Wallonia will be taking Walloon companies to the NAB Show, the broadcasting, media and entertainment industry’s global trade fair.

Milan Design Week 2023 – SaloneSatellite: 18-23/04



Milan WBDM and the collaborators of Belgium is Design will be in Milan for Design Week from 18 to 23 April 2023.

Wallonie-Bruxelles Design Mode, in collaboration with Flanders DC, will be supporting young Belgian designers in particular, at the Salone internazionale del mobile in the SaloneSatellite section, with a collective stand under Belgium is Design.

Casa Valonia: 25-27/04

Madrid – The prestigious Fundación Carlos de Amberes, in collaboration with the ESNE (University School of Design, Innovation and Technology) will be a part of this major, 3-day visibility and networking event aimed at the various stakeholders of the Walloon creative and cultural industries that are present in Spain.



Sial: 09-11/05

Toronto – This is THE unmissable event involving the Canadian food-processing industry. This event will open the doors to North American and international markets.

Vivatech: 14-17/06

Paris – This will be Europe’s largest innovation, digital transformation and start-up acceleration event. It will be a unique opportunity to meet tech giants and big companies from all over the world, as well as many investors and top speakers.



Hannover Messe: 17-21/04

Hanover – For this international knowledge transfer and networking platform, dedicated to the manufacturing industry and the energy sector, AWEX and WBI Innovation will be participating in the field of Automation, Motion and Drives.



ISM: 23-25/04

Cologne – This is a must-attend trade fair for companies in the sweets and savoury snacks sector. This year, AWEX has chosen around thirty talented companies, eager to present their responsible and sustainable creations and products at the BELGIUM WALLONIA pavilion.



BIOTRINITY 2023: 25-26/04



London – During this event’s 2023 edition, AWEX will be accompanying companies looking to participate in targeted meetings relating to core therapeutic areas such as oncology, infectious diseases, medtech, microbiome, inflammations, rare diseases, neuroscience, and cell-based and genetic therapies.

VITAFOODS: 09-11/05

Geneva – AWEX will be participating in this major international event focusing on the ingredients and raw materials required for making nutraceutical products, food supplements, functional foods, the drinks industry and nutricosmetics.



Belgian Economic Mission in the presence of HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium – Republic of Senegal: 21-25/05

This multi-sectoral mission will showcase the following key sectors: energy, water and environment; pharma and biotech; creative and cultural industries; food processing; and port and intermodal logistics.



Paris Air Show (SIAE): 19-25/06



Paris – AWEX, in collaboration with Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT) and SKYWIN, will be organising a business meeting involving multiple companies at the Paris Air Show.



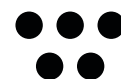
Wallonia, the land of **SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION**



- ✓ **Circular materials** eco-design, industrial symbiosis, encouraging the reuse and repair of these materials within the economy, recycling innovation, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for **enhanced health** biotechnologies, medical equipment, eHealth, mHealth, silver economy, prevention, etc.
- ✓ Innovations for agile and safe **design** and **production methods** (IoT, 3D printing)
- ✓ Sustainable **energy** systems and **housing**
- ✓ **Agri-food** chains of the future and innovative management of the **environment**

CONTACT US TO EXPLORE GREEN OPPORTUNITIES IN WALLONIA

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