



SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT BELGIUM

BELGIUM IS A GLOBAL LOGISTICS HUB, ideally situated geographically with a strong transportation and logistics infrastructure providing access to key markets:

- **Belgium is centrally located in the European Continent** with access to more than 500 million consumers and 80% of Europe's purchasing power within a radius of 800 km.
- **Belgium is connected to Europe and the world** thanks to a highly developed logistics infrastructure of airports, roads, railways and ports, including Europe's second largest seaport (Antwerp).
- **Belgium offers excellent transportation options and highly-efficient distribution solutions** with low costs and short distances to Europe's major markets.
- **Brussels Airport is a Centre of Excellence in Pharmaceutical Logistics** and was the first airport in the world that received the **CEIV Pharma certification**.
- **Brussels Airport is Europe's gateway to Africa**, with Belgium's national carrier Brussels Airlines only serving 30 direct connections in Africa.

BELGIUM IS A GLOBAL R&D HUB with a strong, internationally competitive research infrastructure driven by its universities and major research facilities. Spin-offs and incubators are set up nationwide, boosted by the network of internationally-renowned university research centers.

- **Belgium is one of the world's preferred locations for conducting clinical trials and is 2nd in the EU in terms of clinical trials per inhabitant** (19% of the EU's clinical studies in the area of cancer research only).
- **Belgium is a leading hub in the world for medicine and vaccine exports.** It is the EU's second largest pharmaceuticals exporter (12.3% of EU) and a world leader in vaccine research, development and production: with a share of ca. 35%, Belgium is the main supplier of vaccines for human medicine in the EU.
- **Belgium is a global pharma valley** with over 200 innovative pharma businesses, including world renowned companies like UCB, Janssen Pharmaceutica, GSK, Pfizer, Baxter.
- **Belgium is a global hub for chemicals and life sciences**, accounting for 1/3 of total Belgian exports and with a world-class petrochemical cluster at the port of Antwerp (2nd largest petrochemical cluster in the world after Houston, Texas).
- **The business sector in Belgium scores higher on both the financing and performance of research and development (R&D)** than the average in the European Union.

BELGIUM IS AN OPEN ECONOMY that is export-driven with well-established trade connections to the world, including China and India.

- **Belgian exports amount to more than 80% of national GDP and it is the 10th largest exporting country in the world.** Intra-EU trade accounts for 72% of Belgium's exports. **Bilateral trade between India and Belgium** during the fiscal year 2018-19 was US\$ 17,2 billion, which makes Belgium a **top-3** trading partner with India **from the EU**.
- **Brussels is an international decision-making centre with an international presence second only to New York**, with some 1,500 institutions employing around 3,000 diplomats, and a base of more than 2,000 European headquarters of multi-national organisations.
- **Belgium is a favourite destination in Europe for foreign direct investment.** Foreign corporations account for about one-third of the top corporations in Belgium. More than 2,000 multinationals have established their European head office or branch in Belgium.

- **Belgium takes pride in creating a positive environment for entrepreneurs** where start-ups, university spin-offs, and small and medium-sized enterprises can work closely together with larger multinationals.

BELGIUM HAS A HIGHLY SKILLED LABOUR FORCE

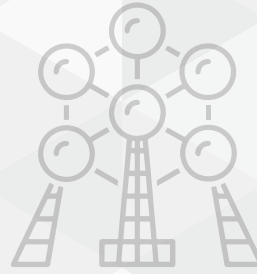
- **Belgium has an exceptionally qualified and well educated labour force** that is renowned for its productivity and language skills. A strong national commitment to education makes the Belgian system one of the best for higher education and training (5th) in the world.
- **Other attractive assets are the workforce's flexibility, versatility and eagerness to learn in changing working conditions and environments.** The constructive social dialogue enhances a positive business climate. Furthermore, 35% of the labour force has at least one higher-education degree, well above the OECD average.
- **Belgium has 16 high-level universities among which 7 are listed in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities.** The KU Leuven has been voted the most innovative University in Europe and the 7th most innovative university in the world.
- Belgium ranks 2nd for management schools, 3rd for maths and science education, 5th for quality of scientific research institutions and 6th for University-industry collaboration in R&D according to the Global Competitiveness Report 2015 - 2016 of the World Economic Forum.

BELGIUM FACILITATES THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

- **Setting up a business in Belgium is quick and simple.** It only takes four days and three start-up procedures to take off, making **Belgium the fastest place in Europe to establish a business.**
- **Recent tax reforms and a series of investment incentives** further increase Belgium's attractiveness as a global business hub.
 - Numerous **corporate tax deductions** are available, such as notional interest and patent income, and there is a very favorable taxation system for expat employees.
 - Thanks to these measures, the effective corporate tax rate can be significantly lower than the nominal rate and lower than many other countries. In addition, the **advanced tax ruling system provides legal certainty for investors.**
- The Federal-Regional Liaison Unit for Foreign Investment ensures **smooth cooperation between all the partners involved in supporting your investment project.** Each of the three regions has its own agency to assist you with practical matters related to your investment

BELGIUM IS A GOOD PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE

- **Belgium consistently is good location for expats to live.** Brussels, where many expats choose to base themselves, is cheaper than other western European capitals, such as London, Copenhagen, Vienna and Zurich.
- **Belgian cities offer less expensive real estate than neighbouring European cities** and the capital, Brussels, is significantly cheaper than other international centres such as Paris, London and Frankfurt.
- **Belgium is located at the heart of Europe at a crossroads of cultures with a rich multicultural population and history** which translates into a staggering amount of beautiful historic cities, fine restaurants, exceptional art collections, performance halls and a very broad range of music and city festivals.
- **Belgium boasts an exceptionally rich culinary heritage.** The country's gastronomy ranks among the most diverse and most highly rated in Europe. The love of good food is an integral part of its national culture.
- **Belgium has world-class healthcare** which is widely available, enhanced by large university hospitals.



Your Pharma And Life Sciences Hub in Europe **BELGIUM**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 30,
2019**

5:00pm | Park Hyatt Hotel, Hyderabad

Mark Van de Vreken,
Consul General of Belgium in Chennai

G V Prasad,
Honorary Consul of Belgium in Hyderabad

invite you to an
interactive, high-level seminar & networking event

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BDMAI BULK DRUG
MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION OF INDIA



Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India
(Set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)




Confederation of Indian Industry

AGENDA

05.00pm :  Opening remarks by **Mr. Mark Van de Vreken**, Consul General of Belgium in Chennai

05.05pm :  Welcome address by **Mr. Ravi Udaya Bhaskar**, Director General, Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil)

05.10pm :  Introductory address by **Mr. G V Prasad**, Honorary Consul of Belgium in Hyderabad

05.20pm :  Belgium as a global Pharma and Life Sciences Hub - An overview by **Ms. Tineke Van Hooland**, Founder and CEO, Epic 10, Deputy Secretary General, bio.be

05.30pm : Video message by Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)

05.35pm : Panel discussion – Belgium as a global R&D hub

 **Mr. Joachim Galand**, Advisor Indian Subcontinent, Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)

 **Mr. Philippe De Potter**, Deputy Director Inward Investment, Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

 **Ms. Tineke Van Hooland**, Founder and CEO, Epic 10 – Deputy Secretary General, bio.be

 **Mrs. Michela Ritondo**, International Tax Expert, Belgian Ministry of Finance

 **Mr. Rakesh Pathak**, Director, IBA India


 Moderated by **Mr. Hubert Goffinet**, Trade and Investment Commissioner, Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)

06.05pm :  Belgium as center of excellence in Europe – An R&D stakeholder perspective by **Mr. Rakesh Pathak**, Director, IBA India


06.15pm :  Remarks by **Mr. Krishna Reddy**, National President, Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association India (BDMA)

06.20pm : Video message by Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

06.25pm : Panel discussion – Belgium as a global logistics hub

 **Mr. Nathan De Valck**, Cargo Business & Product Development Manager, Brussels Airport Company


 **Mr. Franck Toussaint**, Executive Director & Co-founder, Biotech Supply Management Alliance (BSMA), Supply Chain Expert, Wallonia Export-Investment Agency (AWEX)

 **Mr. Pascal Vanzieleghem**, Direct Tax Partner, Ernst & Young (EY)

 **Ms. Malini Dutt**, India Representative, Port of Antwerp

 **Ms. Babette Desfossez**, Customs Attaché, Embassy of Belgium in New Delhi

 Moderated by **Mr. Jayant Nadiger**, Trade & Investment Commissioner, Flanders Investment and Trade (FIT)

06.55pm :  Belgium as Gateway to Europe – A Logistics Stakeholder Perspective by **Mr. Nathan De Valck**, Cargo Business & Product Development Manager, Brussels Airport Company


07.05pm : Video message by Brussels Invest & Export (HUB)

07.10pm :  Remarks by **Prof. P Reddanna**, Executive Vice President, Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA)

07.15pm : Coffee break

07.30pm : Global talk “**Overseas trading and doing business with Europe after Brexit**”

 Minister of State **Mr. Karel De Gucht**, Former EU Commissioner for Trade, Former Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

 In conversation with **Mr. R. Srinivasan**, Editor, The Hindu Business Line

08.15pm :  Vote of thanks by **Mr. D Raju**, Chairman, CII, Telangana & MD&CEO, Kirby Building Systems and Structure India Pvt. Ltd., followed by networking and dinner



KAREL DE GUCHT

**Former EU Commissioner for Trade,
Minister of State**

Belgian Minister of State Karel De Gucht is one of Europe's most experienced, respected and connected political figures with a strong background in global and EU affairs.

From 2010 until 2014 he served as the EU Commissioner for Trade in the second Barroso Commission. As the EU Trade Chief he concluded and implemented a number of major trade agreements with South Korea, Singapore, Canada (CETA), Colombia, Peru, Central America, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine.

He initiated and negotiated the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the US (TTIP), the Economic Partnership Agreement with Japan, the FTA agreement with India, and a number of Economic Partnership Agreements with African States (East African Community, SADC and ECOWAS).

As EU Commissioner for Trade Mr. De Gucht directed and managed the trade defense policy of the EU, comprising anti-dumping and anti-subsidies measures as well as dispute settlement cases before the WTO, he reformed the preferential trade regimes with developing countries, and he concluded a compact with Bangladesh to improve labor conditions in the garment industry after the Rana Plaza tragedy. He also took the initiative for the EU regulation to break the link between trade in minerals and the financing of rebel groups in conflict-ridden countries.

Prior to his stint as EU Commissioner for Trade, Mr. De Gucht served as EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid in the first Barroso Commission (2009-2010) and as Belgian Deputy Prime Minister (2008-2009) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004-2009). In his capacity as Foreign Minister he was, inter alia, Member of the Security Council of the United Nations (2007-2008) and Acting President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Before entering the Belgian government, Mr. De Gucht served as President of the Flemish Liberal Party, as a Member of Parliament and as a Member of the European Parliament. As Member of the European Parliament (1980-1994) he was, among other assignments, Co-Rapporteur of the Spinelli Report that resulted in the start of the European internal market (European Single Act) and Member of the Convention on the Future of Europe that led to the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr. De Gucht currently serves, among other assignments, as Member of the Board of Directors of Arcelor Mittal (the world's largest steel company) and of Proximus (Belgium's largest telecom company), and he is a Member of the Advisory Board of CVC Capital Partners (Europe's largest private equity firm). He holds or held various teaching assignments on the EU and global affairs, including at Brussels University and the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University. Married with two sons and two grandsons, he also started his own wine company in Tuscany and has a passion for Contemporary Art and Architecture.