Belgium

THE ART OF COMPROMISE
At first glance...
As for finding anything valuable in life...
Finding Belgium on a World map...
Is not that easy...
You need to dig in...
A little bit more...
A little bit more...
A little bit more...
A little bit more...
There you go...
Some facts and figures

- Area: About the size of Maryland
- Population: 10.5 million people
- Languages: Dutch 60%, French 40%, German < 1%
- Capital: Brussels
- Total GDP: roughly $350 billion
- Per capita GDP: roughly $30,000 (14th)
- Currency: euro
- Time zone: UCT +1, summer UCT +2
- 5th best country in the world to live in
History

57 BC
Julius Caesar
« Belgians are the bravest of all Gallic people »

742-814 AD
Charlemagne
1st holy roman emperor

1790-1895 AD
Battle of Waterloo
**History**

- **1830 AD**
  - Independence of Belgium
- **1831 AD**
  - Leopold I
- **1957 AD**
  - EU Founding Member (6)
1830

- Willem I against the Unionists
- Independence on October 4, 1830
- London-convention imposes neutrality
- Progressive constitution adopted on February 7, 1831
- King Leopold I was sworn in on July 21, 1831

- Motto: Strength through unity
- Anthem: The Brabançonne
The federal system

- From a constitutional monarchy to a federal state
- 1 federal government and bicameral parliament
- 3 communities: Dutch, French and German
- 3 regions: Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels
- 10 provinces and 589 communities

- The issue of Brussels
The federal system

Flemish Community (Dutch-speaking)
French Community (French-speaking)
German-speaking Community
Flemish Region
Walloon Region
Brussels-Capital Region
Modern political scenery

Federal Bicameral Parliament =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senat</th>
<th>Chamber of Representatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40 directly elected politicians +</td>
<td>150 representatives elected under proportional voting system from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Community representatives +</td>
<td>11 electoral districs</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 coopted senators +</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Senators by right</td>
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↓

Every

4 years: Elections for the Federal Parliament
5 years: Elections for the Regional Parliaments + European Parliament
6 years: Elections for the members of Belgium’s municipal and provincial councils

↓

Many mandatory votes!!!!!!
Modern political scenery

Parties: Senat + Chambre

Lots of coalitions

1999: Rainbow coalition

2003: Purple coalition

2007: Temporary coalition

03/23/08: Leterme coalition
Current crisis

- Brussel-Halle-Vilvoorde: unconstitutional electoral district
- Increasing “nationalistic” political rhetoric
- Madame “Non”
- Parity-conditions in the government
Food and drinks
Chocolate
Art and culture
Art and culture
Sports
Why “we” love Belgium

Bart
Not because we are so good at playing football...
But because this is how we can dress up!
Why “we” love Belgium

Bart
Why “we” love Belgium

Younes
Not because we have one of the best Air Force...
Not because we have some of the best drinking games...
Because there is a place in the sun for everybody...
And it feels good to be yourself!
Le Chat – by Philippe Geluck

DEPUIS QUE J'AI MIS DES PLANTES VERTES SUR MON LIEU DE TRAVAIL

J'AI TENDANCE À MOINS M'ASSOUIR PENDANT LES HEURES DE BUREAU
Thank you for your attention
And now...

Let’s chat!