



**Belgo-British Conference 2013**  
Conference Programme

**HISTORY** **AND**  
**RECONCILIATION:**  
**ENGAGING**  
**A NEW**  
**GENERATION**

London, 10-11 October 2013

## History and Reconciliation: Engaging a New Generation

**At a time** when all states involved in the First World War are preparing to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its outbreak and are organising a rolling series of war-related centennials up to 2018, the 14th Belgo-British Conference will bring together representatives and practitioners from the realms of education, culture, sports, media, diplomacy and International Law to discuss democratic rules and values. The Conference will also debate on how to engage the new generation in order to keep history alive and reflect on lessons learned from past conflicts.

**Reconciliation** is key to peace building, but our European experience shows that it is a very complex and slow process. The 20th century promise of the international community *'it should never happen again'* is not enough. Today, most of our continent is at peace. Yet, when the Nobel peace prize was awarded to the European Union in 2012, it came as a surprise to many, who may not realise the extent of the hard negotiation, rule-making and compromise that have been, and still are, necessary to ensure that we remain at peace. The Norwegian Nobel Committee justified the prize by simply remembering Europe's history: *'The Union and its forerunners have for six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe (...) this shows how, through well-aimed efforts and by building mutual confidence, historical enemies can become close partners.'*

**We must have a sense of history** if we want to have a sense of the future. When we think of conflicts that in our present world appear to be intractable, it is useful to record that for so long Europe was also a continent of permanent conflict. Have we forgotten? Is there a danger that a new generation, faced with serious and often acute social and

employment problems and confronted with resurgent populism in many countries, will take peace for granted and thereby erode its solidity?

**What are national institutions** in Belgium, Britain and elsewhere in Europe doing to engage new generations to ensure that these events are remembered and reflect on the democratic and human rights values that underpin this peace? To what extent are commemorations of world wars and of other major conflicts and their atrocities contributing to a better understanding of the importance of these values for our societies? How can social media be used to stimulate discussion on history and reconciliation? How do we engage those with a non-European background in reflections on a global war? How do we get the right balance between the individual and family history and the global? What original approaches can be used to bring a fresh perspective on histories which we think we know but often do not. How to inspire the young generation to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by past conflicts and upon their responsibilities as citizens of a democracy? How to encourage the new generation to cultivate a sense of moral responsibility so that they will consolidate the tools and structures needed to respond to the challenges that confront our world?

**The Conference** will focus as much as possible on 'best practices' as interventions by representatives from art and history museums, veterans' institutions, schools and universities, sports associations and international jurists will demonstrate. The young generation will be represented by young delegates with different backgrounds who will have the opportunity to comment and give their opinions in all sessions.

# 14th Belgo-British Conference

## Foreword

We are delighted to welcome you to the Belgo-British Conference 2013, which marks our 14th annual bilateral conference.

The Belgo-British Conference is a high-level event established and supported politically and financially by the British and Belgian governments to discuss issues where the two countries have shared interests, if not always common policies and approaches. It aims to explore differences, compare methods and look for common ground for progress bilaterally and, in partnership, within the European Union.

Traditionally, this event brings together around 100 politicians, business people, academics, journalists, and other opinion-formers to debate themes of common and crucial importance to Belgium, Britain and Europe. In recent years themes have included 'Player or Spectator, Europe in tomorrow's world', 'Natural resources: challenges and opportunities' and 'Two countries, how many Europes? A Belgo-British dialogue'. One important objective of these conferences is to enrich bilateral relations by stimulating active networking between representatives of the political, academic, cultural and economic spheres on both sides of the Channel.

This annual meeting is also a long-standing and valuable partnership between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EGMONT- the Royal Institute for International Relations and the British Council.

The success of this Conference is due to the hard work and dedication of many people and we would like to take the opportunity to express our thanks: firstly, to our two distinguished patrons, HRH Prince Laurent of Belgium and HRH The Prince of Wales; whose continued support and confidence in the value and future of this enterprise is of the greatest importance to us all. Secondly, may we express our profound gratitude to our two Chairs, Honorary Ambassador Lode Willems and Sir Stephen Wall, for their support and guidance during the preparation of this year's Conference. We would also like to thank the other members of the conference board: Robin Berkeley, Alexandra Cogels, Marina Cruysmans, Mia Doornaert, Piet Eeckhout, Jonathan Fenby, Piers Fotiadis, Katrina Johnson, David Kernohan, Bruno Nève de Mévergnies, André Oosterlinck, Véronique Petit, Yves Rogister and Catherine Stewart.

The organisation of this Conference would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors and we would like to express our sincere thanks to them all: BNP Paribas Fortis, BP, DeHavilland, Ernst & Young, Eurostar, GSK and UCB. We would also like to thank the chairs, the panellists, the practitioners and the rapporteurs of each session for their time and their valuable contributions.



Johan Verbeke  
Ambassador of  
Belgium to the United  
Kingdom



Jonathan Brenton  
British Ambassador  
to Belgium



Marc Otte  
Director General  
EGMONT – Royal  
Institute for International  
Relations, Brussels



Andrew Murray  
Director  
British Council,  
Brussels

# Plenary session 1

## Commemoration and reconciliation

### A. Keynote Speeches

#### **Prof. Sophie de Schaepdrijver**

Associate Professor of Modern European History, Pennsylvania State University

#### **Prof. Sir Hew Strachan**

Chichele Professor of the History of War, Director of Oxford Leverhulme Programme on the changing Character of War, All Souls College, Oxford

How should we define and pursue “reconciliation” in the light of the “lessons learned” of the First World War and what role is there for historical narrative and commemorations 100 years later?

Q&A session

**#BelgoBrit** is the Twitter hashtag for this year's conference.

The Chatham House Rule applies on Twitter: tweets can be posted about what was said at an event but only without identifying – directly or indirectly – who said it. Thank you for your understanding.

### B. Is reconciliation a message that still resonates in 21st Century Europe? How successful are we at reconciliation? How do we foster reconciliation?

Three case studies

Chair

#### **Ms Jacki Davis**

Managing Director, Meade Davis Communications, and Journalist, Commentator and Senior Adviser to the European Policy Centre

## **Plenary session 2**

### **Values: Engaging the New Generation**

1/ Reconciliation in the Balkans:  
Ethnic identity and reconciliation.

Discussant

#### **Mr Stefan Lehne**

Visiting scholar Carnegie Europe

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2/ UK-Irish Relations:  
History and Reconciliation

Discussant

#### **Dr. Edward Madigan**

Lecturer in Public History,  
Department of History, Royal Holloway,  
University of London

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3/ The case of the Sikhs in the UK

Discussant

#### **Mr Amandeep Singh Madra**

Chair of the UK Punjab Heritage  
Association (UKPHA)

Debate

#### **A. Introduction of the breakout sessions of the afternoon**

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Through History and Culture

Panellist

#### **Mr Jonathan Williams**

Deputy Director, British Museum

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Through Education

Panellist

#### **Ms Betty De Lanoeye**

Communication Manager Remembrance,  
Belgian Federal Institute of Veterans and  
Victims of Wars

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Through the Olympic spirit and sport

Panellist

#### **Lord Triesman**

Member of the House of Lords and former  
Chairman of the Football Association

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Through International Law and Justice

Panellist

#### **Prosecutor Serge Brammertz**

United Nations, International Criminal Tribunal  
for Former Yugoslavia

Debate

## **B. Breakout sessions**

The breakout session will each explore the above themes from a Belgian and British perspective and their implications for Belgian-UK bilateral relations and cooperation in and outside the European Union.

There will be three 'practitioners' in each breakout group. Participants in each group will share their comments and reactions on the three themes before the floor opens to all delegates at the final session.

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Theme 1  
Through History and Culture

Theme 2  
Through Education

Theme 3  
Through the Olympic spirit and sport

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Debate

## **Breakout group 1**

Chair

### **Ambassador Jonathan Brenton**

British Ambassador to Belgium

Practitioners

### **Mr Vasco Kretschmann**

MA, German PhD student to speak about "Dealing with German-Polish history: The City Museum of Wrocław" (Breslau)

### **Mrs Susan Woodroffe**

Principal of The British School of Brussels

### **Mr Thierry Zintz**

Vice-President of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physiotherapy, Université Catholique de Louvain

Rapporteur

### **Baroness Mia Doornaert**

Foreign affairs columnist of the newspaper *De Standaard*, and former independent advisor at the cabinet of Prime Minister Leterme

## Breakout group 2

Chair

### **Mrs Catherine Stewart**

Chairman International,  
Interel European Affairs

Practitioners

### **Prof. Rudi Van Doorslaer**

Director Centre d'Étude et de Documentation  
Guerre et Société contemporaine

### **Ms Joke van der Leeuw-Roord**

Executive Director, European Association  
of History Educators

### **Lord Triesman**

Member of the House of Lords  
and former Chairman of the Football  
Association

Rapporteur

### **Mr Marc Reynebeau**

Senior writer, *De Standaard* newspaper

## Breakout group 3

Chair

### **Ambassador Johan Verbeke**

Ambassador of Belgium to the United  
Kingdom

Practitioners

### **Mr Piet Chielens**

Director, In Flanders Fields Museum

### **Prof. Dr. Dave Sinardet**

Professor, Free University of Brussels

### **Mr Martyn Heather**

Head of Education, Youth Department,  
Premier League

Rapporteur

### **Mr Paul Lay**

Editor, *History Today*

## **Final session**

### **A New Generation has the Floor**

Chair

#### **Sir Stephen Wall**

British Chairman of the Conference

#### **Ambassador Lode Willems**

Belgian Chairman of the Conference

Report-back from the breakout groups'  
rapporteurs

Final debate and conclusion

Closing remarks



# Thursday 10th October

## Lancaster House

14.56

Eurostar departure from Brussels  
Midi / Zuid Station  
*Delegates travelling on this train should check-in no later than 30 minutes before departure*

16.10

Eurostar from Brussels arrives at London St Pancras

From 18.00

**Registration** at Lancaster House

18.30 – 19.15 *(in the Grand Hall)*

### **Official reception**

**Welcome** by the Chairmen of the Belgo-British Conference

### **Pre-dinner drinks**

### **Ministerial Speeches** by

Minister for Europe, **The Rt Hon David Lidington MP**, and Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs, **Didier Reynders**

19.15 – 21.15 *(in the Music Room)*

### **Official dinner**

hosted by UK Minister for Europe **David Lidington**

### **After dinner discussion**

A talk by **Ms Diana Souhami**, author of a biography on the life of Edith Cavell

### **Q&A session**

Around 21.30

End of the day

# Friday 11th October

## Lancaster House

From 08.15 *(in the Main Hall)*

### Registration

08.30 – 08.50 *(in the State Drawing Room)*

Welcome Tea-Coffee

08.50 – 09.00 *(in the Long Gallery)*

**Welcome** by the Chairmen of Belgo-British Conference

09.00 – 11.00 *(in the Long Gallery)*

### Plenary session 1

#### Commemoration and Reconciliation

##### A. Keynote Speeches

##### B. Is reconciliation a message that still resonates in 21st Century Europe? How successful are we at reconciliation? How do we foster reconciliation?

Three case studies

Panel discussion then opens up to participants (debate)

11.00 – 11.30 *(in the State Drawing Room)*

Tea-Coffee break and family photo on the grand staircase

11.30 – 12.30 *(in the Long Gallery)*

### Plenary session 2

#### Values: Engaging a New Generation

##### A. Introduction of the breakout sessions of the afternoon

Through History and Culture

Through Education

Through the Olympic spirit and Sports

Through International Law and Justice

Panel discussion then opens up to participants (debate)

12.30 – 13.30 *(in the State Drawing Room)*

Buffet lunch

13.30 – 15.00 *(in the Long Gallery)*

### B. Breakout sessions

15.00 – 16.30 *(in the Long Gallery)*

### Final session

#### A New Generation has the Floor

**Report-back** from the breakout groups' rapporteurs

#### Final debate

**Closing remarks** by the Chairmen of the Conference

16.30

End of the Belgo-British Conference

*Delegates should make their own way to London St Pancras Station*

18.04

Eurostar departure from London St Pancras  
*Delegates travelling on this train should check-in no later than 30 minutes before departure*

21.05

Eurostar from London arrives at Brussels Midi / Zuid Station

# Contacts

## Belgo-British Conference

Senior Project Manager will be available throughout the conference and can be contacted on her mobile:

**Alexandra Cogels** +32 475 721 241

## British Embassy, Brussels

**Katrina Johnson** +32 477 951 268

**Piers Fotiadis** +32 475 853 518 (Press)

## Belgian Embassy, London

**Véronique Petit** +44 795 72 47 509

## Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Yves Register** +32 471 812 760

**Véronique Vlieghe** +32 475 977 319

## Corus Hotel Hyde Park

1, Lancaster Gate

London W2 3LG

Tel. +44 (0)20 7262 5022

Fax. +44 (0)20 7724 8666

<http://www.corushotels.com/corus-hotel-hyde-park/>

## Lancaster House

Tel. +44 (0)20 7008 3533

Stable Yard Road – St James's

London SW1A 1BB

[www.the-ultimate.co.uk/venue/lancaster-house-venue/](http://www.the-ultimate.co.uk/venue/lancaster-house-venue/)



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### **DeHavilland**

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We would like to thank our sponsors for their support in this year's Belgo-British Conference.



## Eurostar

Eurostar is the high-speed train service linking St Pancras International, Ebbsfleet International, Ashford International, Paris, Brussels, Lille, Calais, Disneyland Resort Paris, Avignon and the French Alps. Up to 18 return services run between London and Paris and up to 9 trains a day between Brussels and London. Since the introduction of the first service more than 18 years ago, Eurostar has carried more than 130 million travellers.

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[www.ucb.com](http://www.ucb.com)

# Partners



## **Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation**

Strong bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and Belgium are a definite asset both for our government and society. The Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs thus fully supports the Belgo-British Conference and is proud to contribute to its success.

The yearly conferences fit in a long-term agenda aimed at addressing the concerns shared by our citizens and developing informal networks in all walks of life. The Belgo-British Conference has proven its value in connecting people across the Channel.

[www.diplobel.fgov.be](http://www.diplobel.fgov.be)



## **British Council**

Connecting the UK to the world and the world to the UK, the British Council is the UK's international cultural relations body. We build trust and understanding for the UK to create a safer and more prosperous world. In terms of our reach and impact, we are the world's leading cultural relations organisation.

Cultural relations is a component of international relations which focuses on developing people-to-people links and complements government-to-people and government-to-government contact. With our 7,000 staff working in 191 offices in 110 countries and territories, we use English, Arts, and Education and Society – the best of the UK's great cultural assets – to bring people together and to attract partners to working with the UK.

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[www.britishcouncil.be](http://www.britishcouncil.be)



## **EGMONT Royal Institute for International Relations**

The Royal Institute for International Relations is an independent think-tank based in Brussels.

Drawing on the expertise of its own research fellows, as well as that of external specialists, it provides analysis and suggests international policy options that are meant to be as operational as possible. Conferences, colloquia and seminars nurture the work of the research fellows and give participants the opportunity to exchange views with other specialists and with a well-informed public made up of representatives of the political, economic and academic spheres, the media and civil society. Closer collaboration with other research centres, both in Belgium and in the rest of Europe and beyond, has resulted in a growing number of joint conferences and in more structured cooperation on research and publications. It has proved to be mutually beneficial and enriching.

[www.egmontinstitute.be](http://www.egmontinstitute.be)



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

## **Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

The Belgo-British Conference symbolises the close relationship between the UK and Belgium. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), through the British Embassy in Brussels, has supported the event since its inception in 2000. Belgium and the UK have historically close ties. We share a common vision on numerous policy priorities. As neighbours, we work together on security, trade and investment, and foreign policy priorities. The annual Conference is an opportunity to strengthen our relations, further understand each other's priorities, and identify future areas of co-operation. It allows us to deepen our contacts with each other both as governments, business and civil society.

The 2013 Conference will be a chance to see how our two countries should respond to the 2014-2018 commemorations. History brings Belgium and Britain together? What do the different approaches to First World War anniversaries tell us about our present? How do we take the opportunity of upcoming anniversaries to engage new generations and to strengthen our values?

[www.gov.uk/world/belgium@UKinBelgium](http://www.gov.uk/world/belgium@UKinBelgium)





Conference '13



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