



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

2/ UK-Irish Relations:
History and Reconciliation

Discussant

Dr. Edward Madigan

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

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

Through History and Culture

Panellist

Mr Jonathan Williams

Deputy Director, British Museum

Through Education

Panellist

Ms Betty De Lanoeye

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

Through the Olympic spirit and sport

Panellist

Lord Triesman

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

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.

Theme 1
Through History and Culture

Theme 2
Through Education

Theme 3
Through the Olympic spirit and sport

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 Chielsens

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

16.30

End of the Belgo-British Conference

08.50 – 09.00 (*in the Long Gallery*)

Welcome by the Chairmen of Belgo-British Conference

Delegates should make their own way to London St Pancras Station

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)

18.04

Eurostar departure from London St Pancras

Delegates travelling on this train should check-in no later than 30 minutes before departure

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)

21.05

Eurostar from London arrives at Brussels Midi / Zuid Station

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

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 Rogister +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

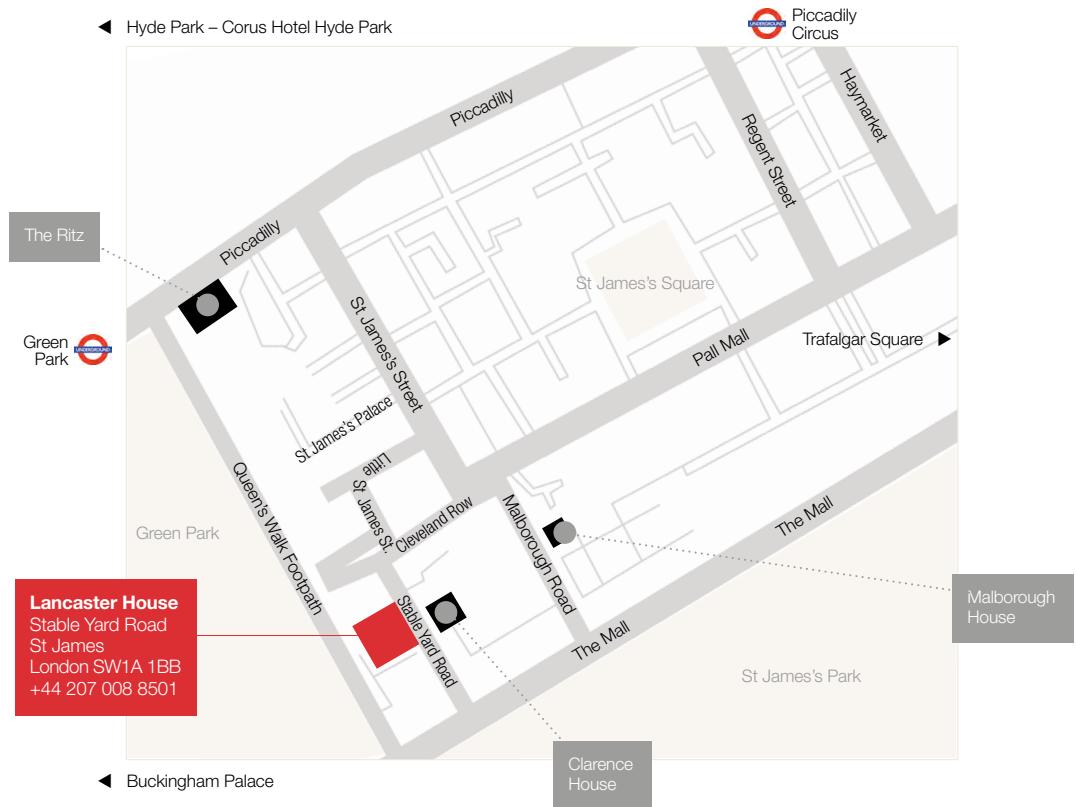
Tel. +44 (0)20 7008 3533

Stable Yard Road – St James's

London SW1A 1BB

www.the-ultimate.co.uk/venue/lancaster-house-venue/

◀ Hyde Park – Corus Hotel Hyde Park



Sponsors



BNP Paribas Fortis

BNP Paribas Fortis, the no. 1 bank in Belgium, offers the market a comprehensive package of financial services for private and professional clients, wealthy individuals, corporate clients, public entities and financial institutions. Today, it is organised around 4 core activities: Retail & Private Banking, Corporate & Public Banking, Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions. BNP Paribas Fortis supports its clients abroad with a unique pan-European network reinforcing the Group's worldwide positions. BNP Paribas has a presence in 80 countries with nearly 200,000 employees, including more than 150,000 in Europe. It ranks highly in its three core activities: Retail Banking, Investment Solutions and Corporate & Investment Banking.

In Europe, the Group has four domestic markets (Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg) and BNP Paribas Personal Finance is the leader in consumer lending. BNP Paribas is rolling out its integrated retail banking model across Mediterranean basin countries, in Turkey, in Eastern Europe and a large network in the western part of the United States. In its Corporate & Investment Banking and Investment Solutions activities, BNP Paribas also enjoys top positions in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas and solid and fast-growing businesses in Asia. Rated AA- by Standard & Poor's, BNP Paribas is one of the best rated banks in the world.

www.bnpparibasfortis.com



BP

BP, headquartered in London is of one of the world's leading international oil and gas companies. We operate or market our products in more than 80 countries, employ over 85,000 people and provide our customers with fuel for transportation energy for heating and light, retail services and petrochemicals products for everyday items. Our interests and activities are covered in two business segments: Exploration and Production, and Refining and Marketing. Exploration and Production's activities include oil and natural gas exploration; field development and production; hydrocarbon transportation, storage and processing; and the marketing and trading of natural gas including liquefied natural gas (LNG). Refining and Marketing's activities involve the supply and trading, refining, manufacturing, marketing and transportation of crude oil, petroleum and petrochemicals products. Our activities in low-carbon energy, primarily focussed on biofuels, are managed through our Alternative Energy business.

www.bp.com



DeHavilland

DeHavilland is the definitive provider of political intelligence, monitoring, research and consulting services in the UK & EU. Our service helps public affairs professionals track, monitor and evaluate the impact of the political environment, enabling them to effectively plan, implement and evaluate their organisation's objectives. Our political intelligence, parliamentary monitoring and consulting services deliver news, information and bespoke research via our online platform and team of political researchers, giving you the inside track on the latest developments in Westminster, Parliament and Whitehall as well as the EU institutions, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

www.dehavilland.co.uk



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.

To book tickets or for more travel information, please visit eurostar.com or call +44 8432 186 186.

www.eurostar.com



EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. We are 175,000 people, including 9,500 member-firm partners, based in 728 offices in more than 150 countries. We are organized into 29 Regions that are grouped into four Areas: Americas, Asia-Pacific, EMEA and Japan. We serve more than 200,000 clients around the world, across all industries, including 80% of the Fortune Global 500 and our revenues for our latest financial year (FY12) were US\$24.4b. EY Belgium is headquartered in Diegem (Brussels) and employs over 1,500 people with 14 offices across the country, offering professional services to national and international companies, including small and middle-sized enterprises, as well as public sector and non-profit organisations. EY is passionate about entrepreneurship and has long recognized the potential of entrepreneurs. We work with entrepreneurs, adapting our experience, industry capabilities and resources to work for entrepreneurial, fast-growth companies. Our commitment to entrepreneurial companies, in both emerging and developed economies around the world, helps ensure that we're working with more of tomorrow's leaders today.

[@EY_Belgium](http://www.ey.com/be)



GSK Vaccines

The group GSK has a challenging and inspiring mission: to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. This mission gives us the purpose to develop innovative medicines, vaccines and products that help millions of people around the world. GSK Vaccines, a division of the GlaxoSmithKline Group, is one of the main global players in the research, development and production of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines. We employ more than 12,000 people. GSK's global vaccine headquarter is in Belgium with 8,000 employees. Our research and development activities and our 14 manufacturing sites are spread throughout the entire world. Our portfolio comprises 30 marketed vaccines and more than 15 candidate vaccines in development. Last year, we distributed 900 million doses of our vaccines in 170 countries. Over 80 % of these doses went to developing countries, where they are supplied at preferential prices.

www.gsk.com



UCB

UCB, Brussels, Belgium (www.ucb.com), is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of innovative medicines and solutions to transform the lives of people living with severe diseases of the immune system or of the central nervous system. With more than 8 500 people in about 40 countries, the company generated revenue of EUR 3.4 billion in 2012. UCB is listed on Euronext Brussels (symbol: UCB).

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



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-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. We are a registered charity in England, Scotland and Wales. We operate under Royal Charter and our patron is Her Majesty The Queen.

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



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?

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



Conference '13



Designed by lbp studio