

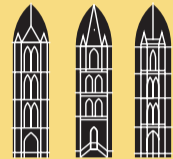
# InGhentive

UPDATE ON GHENT & EAST-FLANDERS FOR THE MEETING PLANNER



semestrial publication  
May 2007

5



Tel. +32 (0)9 224 44 95  
info@gentcongres.be  
www.gentcongres.be

Gent Congres

## Mayor Daniël Termont

**“The richness of Ghent is that we have everything to offer.”**

Mayor Termont was born and bred in Ghent and knows the strengths and international ambitions of our East Flanders capital better than anyone.

**What do you remember most about your childhood in Ghent?**

“My best childhood memories go back to the city centre. We once had to write a school essay on the façade of St Nicholas’s church. As a young boy I suddenly realised how beautiful this city actually was. I can hardly say that I thought Ghent was a dazzling city in those days. We went out on Kuipers Quay and St Baaf’s Square, but I was never a big partygoer. I preferred a beer in the café or playing billiards with my friends in Mariakerke.”

**As a keen cyclist you are probably as proud as a peacock to see the Tour de France coming to Ghent in early July?**

“It is unbelievably important for the image of our city. Not only will Ghent come under the international spotlight on the 9th of July, but a full weekend of festivities will start on the 6th, featuring countless cultural and sporting initiatives. During the final stage pictures of Ghent will stream through for a quarter of an hour, and the most beautiful corners and monuments in our city will be visible from the helicopter. It looks as though we can expect a good 200,000 people that day, and, of course, it underlines the fact that Ghent is a cycling city.”

**What makes Ghent a world-class city?**

“I wouldn’t dream of pretending that Ghent is a city of world significance, but it is my ambition as mayor to put Ghent on the map of Europe. I think the Europe of tomorrow will be more a Europe of cities than of countries. I am in contact with the mayors of other European cities almost every day, working with them on all kinds of things. Ghent certainly holds a place of its own in that network of European cities. As the biggest student city in this country we have a strong international character. The spin-offs from the university and polytechnics give us a tremendous dynamism. I believe very strongly in everything to do with bio-related economy and industry as a source of innovative potential.”

**What sets Ghent apart as an international congress city?**

“The input and attraction of the university and polytechnics is extremely important. When I look at most of the congresses held here, I see they have mostly to do with disciplines in which Ghent excels. The people associated with these are often active in the business world too, and this helps to attract businesses into the congress arena. Ghent is as beautiful as Bruges, but people actually live in our monuments. Our baseline is ‘Ghent, city of knowledge and culture, open to all’. We are busy working out a strategic exercise with the bench of Aldermen



Mayor Daniël Termont

and management team, to establish where we want to be with the city by the year 2020. Aside from the fact that it is good to live here, we want to give the city a strongly international character and it is our ambition to show ourselves as the European leaders in several areas. The richness of Ghent is that we have everything to offer in this city. People taking part in congresses want to relax too, enjoy good food, and discover a bit of culture. They will find it all here.”

**What effect will the opening of a prestigious hotel like the Ghent Marriott have in attracting congress delegates?**

“People who really want to stay at a top level hotel can now do so at the Ghent Marriott. I know from experience that managers at that level demand nothing but the best hotels. The people at the Ghent Marriott are already convinced that the hotel will attract a mass of American tourists to Ghent. In the coming years another four hotels will be added, and so we will gradually build up the hotel capacity we need. When it comes to business it is important that we offer the conference facilities needed to organise larger congresses. We can concentrate on a scale that suits us, congresses that are well organised, interesting and varied, and through which we can show that our city has a great deal to offer. Ghent is not New York, but then again, neither is it the back of beyond!”

## International HPLC Symposium promotes the city of Ghent

From the 17th to the 21st of June the ICC ghent will host HPLC 2007, the 31st International Symposium on ‘High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques’, which is a real mouthful, for this is a highly specialised symposium.

Professor Patrick Sandra of the Analytical Chemistry research group at UGent puts it like this: “It is principally a congress on analytical chemistry, and the topics under discussion are in the field of chromatography (editor’s note: a method of separating mixtures). It deals with techniques used in all kinds of analysis applications. The key words are pharmacy, biochemistry and biotechnology. The symposium’s participants come from some 50 countries, not just in Europe and America but from China, Japan and Australia too. The last symposium was held in San Francisco and the next one will be in Baltimore.”

This puts the city of Ghent in an exclusive company, and it is no coincidence that the symposium is coming to our country for the first time. Prof Sandra: “Belgium has a number of leading specialists in this field. Our congress location has to be cosy, in a pleasant city, and Ghent combines these qualities perfectly. The ICC ghent entirely satisfies our needs in terms of capacity, to host about 1 200 participants. Hotel capacity in Ghent is tight, and we will probably have to look out towards the edge of the city, because we expect the big exhibition related to this symposium to attract a total of 1 500 guests.”

In organising this scientific symposium the Analytical Chemistry research group and the RIC (Research Institute for Chromatography) have collaborated intensely with Gent Congres.

Prof Sandra: “With all that experience they were able to give us good guidelines on the best way to go about things and how to establish the contacts needed for a symposium of this size. Every two years I organise a foreign congress, but this is my first time in Belgium. Gent Congres also put me in touch with Mrs De Vriese of the ICC ghent, who handled things excellently from there. I walked through Ghent a couple of times with Mrs Debels of Gent Congres, to have a look at where we might organise some of the activities. That was particularly interesting, because even the locals from my environment aren’t always aware of how much Ghent has to offer in this area.”

“I am convinced that this introduction to Ghent is extremely important”, concludes Prof Sandra. “Experience of other congresses tells us that when people discover a city in this way they are more likely to return for a holiday. And if you consider that 80% of our participants are guests from foreign countries, that’s all to the good.”

► ICC international convention center ghent

Citadelpark  
9000 Gent  
T: +32 (0)9 242 89 00  
info@iccghent.com  
www.iccghent.com

www.hplcsymposium.org



# The future of heritage in an old monastery

The third international Ename Colloquium from 21 to 24 March was a unique world forum on the subject of what heritage will look like in the decades to come. As in previous years, international academics, heritage specialists, teachers and officials gathered in Ghent for three days to hold discussions, take part in workshops and reflect on our heritage. The port of call for the event was the exquisite Monasterium PoortAckere on the Oude Houtlei.

The choice of Ghent was no coincidence, but was based on a number of determining factors, says Eva Roels of the Ename Center.

“The Colloquium is always held in Ghent because it is organised with the help of the province of East Flanders. This close link with the provincial capital makes us feel at home here. Ghent provides an extremely pleasant backdrop, has excellent hotel facilities and is easy to get to.”

Though the Ename Colloquium is not a huge gathering, it does receive international guests who appreciate quality in a beautiful setting.

“There are 180 participants this time around, specialists in the heritage sector at the world level, from lots of different countries, including ones outside Europe. The future of heritage is very topical, because it affects everyone. We need to think about how we can steer heritage in the right direction for the generations to come. We invited a number of speakers to Ghent from UNESCO, ICOMOS and international universities to introduce these themes. In the afternoon sessions we cover a variety of subjects such as economy, philosophy, technology and tourism.”

## Historic location

The Monasterium PoortAckere is, of course, a unique historic location, particularly in the heritage context, but it has other strengths too, thinks Eva Roels. “The advantage is that the Monasterium is directly linked to a hotel, which is not always the case. This is convenient for participants, because it means they don't need transfers. The small number of rooms in the Hotel Monasterium does force us to look to a few hotels in the wider area, such as Hotel Ibis and Hotel Gravensteen.” I got in touch with these hotels through Gent Congres, which offered extra support and advice in organising this colloquium. “To start with, Gent Congres obtained for us the prices and availability of affiliated hotels and conference locations.

**“The service we got from Gent Congres was extremely important to us.”**

Having looked at this information we selected the Monasterium

PoortAckere as the ideal location for our event. Their service was extremely important to us.”

Since this is an annual colloquium, Eva Roels is well and truly relieved that she will be able to continue this collaboration with Gent Congres. “We try to vary the locations, so that people don't have to go through the whole scenario again when they return. For example, if we offer dinner as part of the itinerary, we also provide an interesting alternative, always in a historic building in Ghent. We also provide a guided excursion, and this year it is a guided tour of the city centre, including a visit to St Baaf's Cathedral and a boat trip through the city centre. The participants are very enthusiastic about Ghent and we hear nothing but praise.”

## ► Ename Center

Abdijstraat 13-15  
9700 Oudenaarde  
T: +32 (0)55 30 03 44  
info@enamecenter.org  
www.enamecenter.org



## New conference rooms in the Monasterium

The Monasterium PoortAckere has just been extended to include two large conference rooms and a number of guest rooms.

Peter Laureys, Sales Manager of Monasterium PoortAckere, explains the renovations. “The chapter rooms on our top two floors have been empty for the last five years. We were unable to turn them into hotel rooms because we had to preserve the ceilings. So we opted to turn the area into an extra seminar centre.

We have added two large rooms, the Saint-Lucas and Saint Marcus rooms, and six smaller rooms. The conference rooms offer every modern equipment the business guest might expect. At the moment we are also finishing the renovation of our hotel rooms. The double rooms have been completely renewed and given a private bathroom, and the single guest rooms have all had a facelift too. Altogether we now have 36 hotel rooms, 13 single guest rooms and

4 double guest rooms. Work is also underway to create extra rooms on the top and ground floors of the monastery and these should have reached completion by the end of the year.”

► Monasterium PoortAckere  
Oude Houtlei 56  
9000 Gent  
T: +32 (0)9 269 22 10  
info@monasterium.be  
www.monasterium.be



# Holding your next reception or walking dinner in the Butchers' Hall?

The Butchers' Hall, a promotional centre for regional products from East Flanders, celebrated its fifth birthday on 21 March. To mark the occasion the magnificent 15th century building was dressed in trendy fashion with colourful textile banners draped from the step-gables. And with this, the Butchers' Hall, a non-profit organisation, announced its intention to promote other, typically East Flanders sectors alongside food and regional products, such as the textiles industry, the horticulture and the construction sector.



This location in the heart of Ghent gives you everything you need to surprise your customers or personnel. Organise your reception, seminar or walking dinner here and enjoy a unique experience in an architectural mix of medieval and modern building styles. Or bring your guests to the Butchers' Hall as part of your excursion to Ghent. You will also find a whole range of original promotional gifts to make that ideal special gesture to your professional relations.

## Variety of packages

The Butchers' Hall offers a 60 m<sup>2</sup> glass room with air conditioning, which can hold 50 people seated or 75 standing. There is also an indoor terrace in the original hall, with gas heaters. At 300 m<sup>2</sup> this terrace can accommodate 120 people seated or 250 standing.

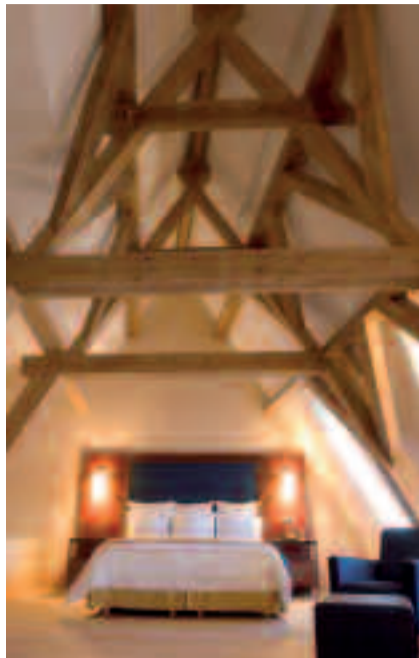
Seminars can be held in the glass room between 1 October and 30 April. The Butchers' Hall is open every day from 10 am to 6 pm, except on Mondays. The Groentenmarkt can be reached quickly and easily via the E17 or E40: exit Gent-centrum.

## ► The Butchers' Hall

Promotion Centre for the Regional Produce of East Flanders  
Groentenmarkt 7  
9000 Gent  
T: +32 (0)9 223 23 24  
grootvleeshuis@oost-vlaanderen.be  
www.grootvleeshuis.be

*The Butchers' Hall is an initiative of the Economic Council of East Flanders and the support of the Province of East Flanders.*

# Ghent Marriott combines charming past with modern refinement



The opening of a new hotel is always a joyful event, and this is doubly true for the new Ghent Marriott, which officially opens its doors on 22 May. Not only is it an important event for the city of Ghent; its central location on the Korenlei canal combined with its unique architecture make the Ghent Marriott a real star on the Flemish firmament.

The Marriott chain takes the opening of this prestige hotel in the heart of 'medieval Manhattan' extremely seriously. Its festive inauguration, to be held in the week in which the international hotel chain celebrates its 80th birthday, will be attended personally by John Willard 'Bill' Marriott Jr, son of its famous founder and current Chairman and CEO of Marriott International.

## An extraordinary newcomer

The Ghent Marriott lies on the banks on the Lys and brings a modern look to a charming location. History and the latest trends in fashion flow harmoniously together, in the hotel and in the city! The hotel is just a few minutes from the shopping streets and university by foot and offers an exceptional view of a few of the city's important historic sites.

The elegant Ghent Marriott is an invitation to discover a fresh new approach, far removed from the traditional hotels. Among the 150 rooms are a Presidential Suite and 10 rooms and suites in the restored 16th century houses, with an unrivalled view on the Lys.

## Architecture, something a little different

The Ghent Marriott has all the elements needed to delight the most varied of guests with plenty of unexpected contrasts. Although the hotel front on the Korenlei remained unchanged, the interior has an ultramodern look, emphasized by the spectacular glass construction over the spacious atrium.

This will also be a restful place where visitors can spend a moment of relaxation watching the comings and goings at this international and trendy hotel.

For the convenience of its guests the hotel also provides an underground car park, fitness area, business centre, Internet connections throughout and 24-hour room service. The entire hotel is a non-smoking area.

## The 'Korenhuis' Restaurant

The restaurant owes its name to the fact that it lies on the Korenlei, on the former grain quays, and is located in a renovated 16th century merchant's house. The interior too evokes the atmosphere of a classic mansion, with tasteful modern details and the design and expectations of the modern-day global culture.

The menu and cuisine were inspired by the historical influence of the grain and shipping trades on city's culture, through the import of wines, exotic spices and new ingredients from far and wide. The cuisine is best described as 'contemporary Belgian': modern and fresh with sharp details and extremely varied elements, against a background of local specialities and products.

## Meeting of the Minds

And, last but not least, the organisers of meetings and events will be delighted with the 420 m2 conference area, which can be divided into seven separate areas. All areas have plenty of natural light and the large room *de Korenlei* also offers a magnificent view on the Lys and the beautiful guild houses on both banks.

► Ghent Marriott  
Korenlei 10  
9000 Gent  
T: +32 (0)9 233 93 93  
F: +32 (0)9 233 93 94  
info@marriottghent.com  
www.marriottghent.com



Photo © A.S.O. (B. Bade)

## The Tour de France arrives in Ghent

On Monday the 9th of July Ghent will be completely wrapped up in the Tour de France. Ghent is the destination for the second stage of the Tour de France 2007. The highpoint will be when the riders compete for the finish on the Charles De Kerchovelaan. And on the days and months leading up to this, Ghent will be firmly in the saddle, with theatre performances, cycle trips, Tour and cycling events, musical performances, and so much more.

Since its start in 1903, the Tour de France has grown into the biggest cycling event in the world. These days the Tour caravan has 9 helicopters, 2 airplanes, 140 trucks and 2 400 cars. More than 1 800 journalists will be reporting on the event for 617 different media. There will be TV broadcasts in 185 countries spread over five continents. Last year the Tour was watched for the first time in China and Australia, and this year TV viewers in India and Brazil will be able to join in. When the riders arrive a good 13 million viewers across Europe will turn their gaze towards Ghent and its historic monuments and charming city views.

The Tour has arrived in Ghent before, in 1951 and 1958, and now a good half-century later we can again look forward to this matchless spectacle!

## Tour de Force and Sur la route

The cycling fever will start already in May with the theatre presentation *Tour de Force* in 'het Kuipke', the covered stadium. *Tour de Force* is a sparkling, exciting and humorous musical performed by the Compagnie KAIET! The story is about the legendary Tour de France of 1948. In this musical monologue Geert Hautekiet takes the audience to a little village near Roubaix, where a local rider is hoping to write himself into the history books as the first man crossing the village square.

The S.M.A.K. museum is organising its own tour, in which 17 artists from a variety of disciplines will each complete a section of the Tour de France. In this way the 'artists-cum-racing cyclists' will complete the entire course. The journey will result in a documentary and artistic work, to be recorded in a book entitled *Sur la route* – an artists' tour.

On Saturday 7 July the Tour de France 2007 will start with a prologue in London. Once the Tour officially starts, all kinds of peripheral activities will kick off in Ghent, and St Peter's Square will be the place to be. There will be countless cycling activities, big screen presentations, a music programme and many more.

## Cycling in Ghent and East Flanders

Professional and amateur cyclists alike will come into their own during the Tour weekend. On the 8th of July families can take part in 't is uwen Tour (It's your Tour), a series of cycle rides for young and old. On the 9th of July in-shape touring cyclists can have great fun taking part in a retro trip on the track a few hours before the actual riders.

As with the Start to Run project, *Start to Bike* is a motivational project, this time designed to get East Flanders on their bikes in numbers. By following a 10-week training programme, participants will build up enough fitness to complete a 25, 50, 75 or 100 km cycle ride by the 9th of July. This training programme starts on the 1st of May 2007 and will be announced via the media. Monday the 9th of July will be the apotheosis, in which individual cyclists will be able to follow signed cycle routes to Ghent from six starting points spread across the province of East Flanders. The cyclists will easily be able to find their way to Ghent via the bicycle junctions. The aim is to convince as many people as possible to come and witness the arrivée of the Tour de France on the 9th of July by bike.

## Too much to list

This article mentions just a small selection of the peripheral activities planned. At the time of going to press the list was far from complete.

Throughout the month of May the reception hall of the Ghent main library will give an overview of the activities surrounding the Tour from the 7th to the 9th of July 2007. For information visit [www.tourgent.be](http://www.tourgent.be) or call GENTINFO at +32 (0)9 210 10 10



## Museum of Fine Arts reopens with Flemish and British masters

The Ghent Museum of Fine Arts will finally reopen its doors after four years. The festive reopening will take place over the Whitsun weekend of the 26th, 27th and 28th of May 2007. For these three days admission to the museum will be free for everyone.

The one hundred year-old building in the Citadelpark was in urgent need of repair and the museum did not have the technical facilities for safety, lighting and climate control. The Ghent city council decided to bundle all this into one huge renovation project, with support from the Flemish Community and the province of East Flanders. The Ghent museum, designed by architect Charles Van Rysselberghe, is an internationally celebrated example of museum architecture. When the museum reopens, visitors will be able to rediscover it in all its glory, for the building's interior and outside walls have been completely cleaned and restored. The new facilities include a permanent print gallery, new covered patios, a library, a brasserie and an auditorium.

### Portraits of Flemish artists

To mark the reopening, the MSK's large central hall will host an exhibition organised by the three partners of the Flemish Art Collection: the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Antwerp, the Groninger Museum in Bruges and the Ghent Museum of Fine Arts itself. This exhibition consists of almost one hundred self-portraits and artists' portraits of each other, from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

The MSK's rich collection offers a varied overview of Flemish art from the Middle Ages to 1950. For the first time since the 1950s all 40 of the museum's rooms will be used to exhibit the restored and enlarged collection of works by the likes of Maarten van Heemskerck, Michiel Coxie, Laurent Delveaux and Theodore Rombouts.

### Free opening weekend

On the weekend of the 26th to the 28th of May 2007 entry to the Museum of Fine Arts will be free for everyone. The museum will put on a varied musical programme to add lustre to the visit. On this occasion visitors will also see the new 'audio guide' and visitors' guide for the first time.

Another new feature will be the new labels and panel texts in four languages. When the museum reopens, the new catalogue for the painting collection will be presented too.



### British Vision

From the 6th of October 2007 to the 13th of January 2008 the MSK is organising a major exhibition entitled British Vision. Observation and Imagination in British Art, 1750-1950. This exhibition gives a broad overview of two centuries of British art, and includes all the big names: Hogarth, Gainsborough, Stubbs, Blake, Constable, Turner, Burne-Jones, Spencer, Sutherland, Bacon, Hockney, etc.

It has been prepared in collaboration with British specialists and museums, and no less than 55 museums from the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe have given works on loan, altogether about 300 paintings, sculptures, drawings and engravings.

► Museum of Fine Arts  
Citadelpark  
9000 Gent  
T: +32 (0)9 240 07 00  
museum.msk@gent.be  
www.mskgent.be

## Ricorso, a new start for Octave Landuyt

From the 6th of May to the 26th of August 2007 the province of East Flanders, the city of Ghent and the town of Deinze pay special homage to Octave Landuyt, who is 85 years old this year. This internationally renowned Flemish artist is a painter, sculptor, graphic artist and designer of stage sets, jewellery and tapestries.

The young Landuyt finds his inspiration outside everyday reality. Later his works are strongly influenced by fantastic and tragic elements. Life and death are central in his oeuvre. Existential fear, which he expresses in ever new forms, affects us to the depth of our being.

This retrospective is exceptional because it makes use of three entire museums simultaneously. More than one thousand works of art will be exhibited in the Caermers Monastery, the St Peter's Abbey

art hall, and the Museum of Deinze and the Lys Region. It is a concept, in which a living artist-designer offers a characteristic 'view' of his long and multifaceted career. Octave Landuyt has designed the exhibition's overall set-up in collaboration with its initiators.

For the last few months he has also been working with Elie Saegeman on a book about his multifaceted and complex oeuvre. As the centrepiece of the visual communication for this total project Octave Landuyt has produced a new painting, Ricorso. This Italian term refers to the philosopher Giambattista Vico (1668-1744), who postulates that after chaos and disorder everything begins again, only in a new way.

► Octave Landuyt, Ricorso  
Info and guided visits  
T: +32 (0)9 269 60 02  
miet.demuynck@skynet.be



## Congress calendar

A complete overview of the congresses being held in Ghent can be found on our website [www.gentcongres.be](http://www.gentcongres.be)

Below, you can find an overview of the congresses that will be taking place in Ghent over the next few months:

Date	Conference	N° of participants
13 – 17 May	Civil Services	150
24 – 26 May	EURAPS – European Association of Plastic Surgeons	300
31 May – 3 June	EPP – European Pig Producers	150
7 – 11 June	ISTS – Congress on the International Society of Twin Studies	
17 – 21 June	HPLC 2007 – 31st International Symposium on High Performance Liquid Phase Separations and Related Techniques	1000
24 – 27 June	FBPS 07 – 7th International Symposium on Frontiers in Biomedical Polymers	
24 – 27 June	Heifer Mastitis	
25 – 29 July	Taiji Congress	600
16 - 19 August	Hydrangea 2007 – International Hydrangea Conference	150
19 – 23 August	WAAVP 2007 – World Congress of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology	
23 – 26 August	FESS Course	
27 – 31 August	SOHO 20	300
12 – 15 September	Holebi Congress	140
17 - 22 September	ECER 2007 - Contested Qualities of Educational Research	1200
21 – 23 September	JCI NC2007 – National Congress JCI Junior Chambre of Commerce	1100
21 – 24 September	Catfas II Congress	300
23 - 26 September	Baekeland 2007 Symposium, 100 years after Bakelite	
29 September	Physical Education: past, present and future	
3 – 5 October	Eurofinish – European trade fair for surface treatment technology	
4 - 9 October	Informal European Theater Meeting	400
19 October	Bioscience Engineering	
19 October	International Contest Arts+Sports vzw	
19 – 21 October	International Forum Eupea	100
20 October	Centenary Celebration KBBLO 'Koninklijke Belgische Bond voor Lichamelijke Opvoeding'	
6 November	Flemish government – dep. Agriculture and Fishing	100
7 – 11 November	10th ENAS Conference	150
21 November	Belgian Society of Intensive Care	
30 November	International VK Symposium	150
30 November – 1 December	Stichting Marketing	1300

Important congresses over the next few years:

Date	Conference	N° of participants
2008		
29 February	Congress KVLV	1000
22 - 24 May	ERC - European Resuscitation Council - 9th Scientific Congress on the Resuscitation Council	1800
9 – 11 June	FATIPEC 2008 – European Organisation of Paint Scientists and Engineers	600
26 – 30 August	EAAE 2008 – XIIth International Congress of the European Association of Agricultural Economists	600
4 – 7 September	ECVIM	700
October	ISCA – General Assembly International Sport and Culture Association	
2 – 4 October	6th International Congress on Spondyloarthropathies	350
5 – 7 November	International Panathlon Congress	
2009		
February	IAPCO	150
9 – 12 April	Championship Twirling	2800
September	Flemish Community – dep. Roads & Traffic East Flanders	450
2010		
25 – 28 August	IADH 2010 - 20th congress of the International Association for Disability and Oral Health	600
2011		
NA	International Congress of the European Hernia Society	
7-13 August	BAMST - Belgian Association of Meat Science and Technology	400

COLOPHON  
InGhentive  
2nd volume n°5  
semestrial

PUBLISHER  
Lieven Decaluwe,  
President of the Board of Directors

EDITORIAL STAFF  
Annick Debels  
Jo Petrus  
Tom De Smedt  
Marianne Lippens  
Iris Parisis  
Wim Vandendriessche  
Dirk Rasschaert  
Catharina Segers  
Erwin Van De Wiele

EDITING AND REALISATION  
Magelaan cvba  
[www.magelaan.be](http://www.magelaan.be)

INFO AND REACTIONS  
Gent Congres vzw  
Citadelpark bus 3  
B-9000 Gent  
BELGIUM  
Tel +32 (0)9 224 44 95  
Fax +32 (0)9 224 44 98  
[info@gentcongres.be](mailto:info@gentcongres.be)  
[www.gentcongres.be](http://www.gentcongres.be)

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