

Seminar

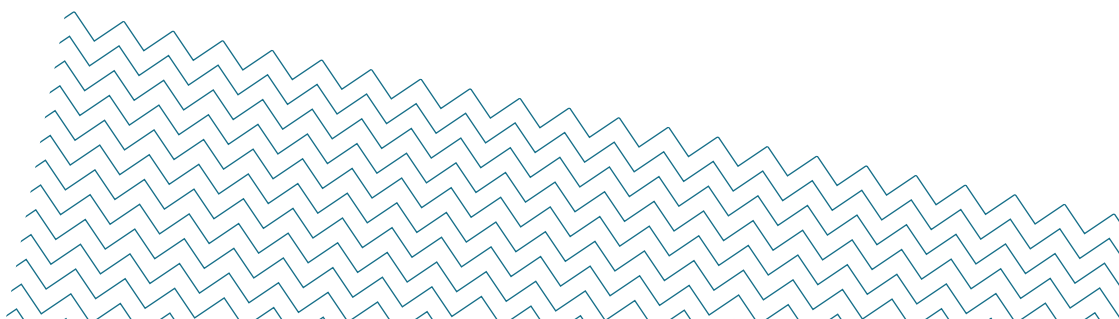
A Science Diplomacy Approach for Belgium?!



Thursday, 1 December 2016

9:00 – 14:00

Royal Library, Boulevard de l'Empereur 4, Brussels



We live in a quickly evolving global landscape characterised by a digital knowledge society and faced with several global challenges, which can only be tackled through international cooperation. A collective and structured effort is needed, with a certain degree of urgency, to uphold the position of Belgium as a significant player on the global map, while taking into account our decentralised institutional landscape in which different entities can work by building on complementarities and by mutually reinforcing each other.

Science Diplomacy based on different types of interactions among the scientific community and the policy and decision-making world becomes increasingly a part of a broader contemporary public diplomacy (more hybrid, more multi-actor).

At the European level, Science Diplomacy has clearly become a high priority on the political agenda. The European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation are working towards the development of a common approach to this external dimension of science and innovation policies. In a recent note, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas declared that science diplomacy is becoming an increasingly important element of the EU's foreign policy and he committed to fostering the development of EU science diplomacy.

Several Belgian entities have similar interests as well as questions with regard to the roles of different actors and way of investing in and framing of "Science (and innovation) Diplomacy". Our common challenge is to define how to best link scientific and innovation cooperation with diplomacy and political influence in order to tackle global changes, to promote knowledge and our country and to improve our international relations and cooperation. All the players involved (autonomous actors from the R&D&I performing community, policy-makers and private sector) may benefit from exchanging experiences and best practices and aim to come to a common understanding and drawing up of a (joint) win-win strategic approach for the future.



The Belgian Science Policy Office (www.belspo.be) is the federal administration responsible for the preparation and implementation of R&D programmes in several fields. It includes 10 Federal Scientific Institutions, represents the Belgian federal authority in various committees and consulting bodies and co-ordinates research activities at an international and national level.

The ideal mix between economy, science and innovation to bring Flanders to the top of European regions: that's what we're looking for. The Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI) seeks to achieve this through the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of policy. Working in a climate of openness and cooperation, we tailor our ideas to those of our partners in our own policy area and with the other policy areas.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMY
SCIENCE &
INNOVATION



**Wallonie - Bruxelles
International.be**

Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI) is the public body in charge of international relations for Wallonia and the French-speaking Community of Belgium. The relations with foreign partners proceed on a bilateral (ability to sign treaties) or

multilateral level, e.g. with representations within international organizations such as the OECD, the European institutions and specialized organizations of the UNO (ILO, UNIDO, UNESCO, etc.).

The Institute for European Studies (IES) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) is an academic Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and a policy think tank that focuses on the European Union in an international setting.



The Institute advances academic education and research in various disciplines, and provides services to policy-makers, scholars, stakeholders and the general public. The IES acts as the coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project EL-CSID.

09:00 Registration & Coffee

09:15 Welcome and Stocktaking of Belgian practice

Johan Hanssens, Department of Economy, Science & Innovation

09:25 The EU Approach to Science Diplomacy

Kostas Glinos, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

9:45 Concept and best practice

- Pierre-Bruno Ruffini, Université du Havre (FR)
- Zehra Sayers, Sabanci University (TR)
- Guillermo Orts-Gil, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FEYCT), Embassy of Spain in Germany (ES)

10:45 Coffee break

11:00 Presentation of Horizon 2020 Project on “European Leadership in Cultural, Science and Innovation Diplomacy” (EL-CSID)

Luk Van Langenhove, Institute for European Studies (IES-VUB)

11:15 Panel discussion on a Science Diplomacy strategy for Belgium

MODERATOR

Caterina Carta, Vesalius College & Institute for European Studies

PANEL

- Koen Verlaeckaert, Department of Foreign Affairs (iV)
- Mark Vinck, FPS Foreign Affairs, DG Bilateral Affairs, Office of Economic Interests
- Florence Balthasar, SwissCore
- Véronique Halloin, Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)
- Pascale Delcomminette, Walloon Trade and Investment Agency (AWEX), Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI)
- Claire Tillekaerts, Flanders Investment & Trade Agency (FIT)
- Ernesto Fernandez-Polcuch, UNESCO

12:50 Wrap-up and concluding remarks

Richard Higgott, Institute for European Studies (IES-VUB)

13:00 Closure and Invitation to networking lunch

Frank Monteny, Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

14:00 End

The proposed reflection amongst the various governmental policy entities in Belgium will allow for a proactive attitude with regard to the development of a European strategy for Research, Innovation and Scientific Cooperation and will optimise the benefit gained from European policy.

In addition, this event can cater for a more solid ground for the (future) activities of all Belgian entities in the context of the European Research Area (ERA) Roadmap priority 6 (international cooperation beyond Europe) as well as for other activities initiated from the Strategic Forum on International S&T Cooperation (SFIC) for which a joint Belgian position often needed.

The organising committee intends to produce a summary of the best practices presented by the representatives of the European Commission, EU member states and third countries as well as the Belgian authorities. It will also propose a set of recommendations for the way forward in formulating a Science Diplomacy approach for Belgium.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

Questions addressed to the speakers and the panellists

1. Science in diplomacy

- What are Belgium's areas of comparative advantage?
- In which topics can scientific advice support decisionmaking with regard to international relations?
- What are the available science advisory mechanisms?

2. Diplomacy for science

- How can diplomacy and research better complement each other?
- Which structures could help bring diplomacy and science together?

3. Science for diplomacy

- Which scientific areas are most relevant to diplomatic relations?
- How can scientists take up diplomatic roles?
- Which structures could help bring science and diplomacy together to reinforce each other?

4. Horizontal issues

- How to determine which geographical and topical issues are the most relevant to address with limited resources?
- How should the above mentioned mechanisms be monitored or evaluated on results or impact and, if needed improved?

Johan HANSSENS

**Secretary-general of the Department of
Economy, Science & Innovation**



Johan Hanssens has been Secretary-general of the Department of Economy, Science & Innovation within the Flemish administration since 1 December 2015 and is president of the CIS-CFS which is the intraBelgian administrative science and innovation concertation platform.

In the past, he was (deputy) Head of Office to former minister for Economy Patricia Ceysens and to former Vice-Minister-President of the Government of Flanders Annemie Turtelboom. In the latter function he was competent for economy, innovation, work matters and Flanders foreign affairs. He holds master's degrees in economic sciences and law.

Johan Hanssens strongly believes in cooperation as an answer to the huge societal challenges. According to him "3 processes are key in innovation-driven economies such as the Flemish economy, viz. entrepreneurship, innovation and internationalisation. Systematic feedback and coordination and dynamic interaction are essential to achieve sustainable solutions throughout these processes".



Kostas GLINOS

**DG Research & Innovation
European Commission**

Kostas Glinos has been with the European Commission since 1992. He leads the "Strategy, EFTA and enlargement countries, Russia, Asia and Pacific" unit within the directorate in charge of International Cooperation of the Directorate General for Research and Innovation.

Before that he was in charge of the e-Infrastructures unit of the Directorate General for Information Society and Media from January 2009 to December 2013. From 2003 to 2008 he was Head of the Embedded Systems and Control unit and interim Executive Director of the ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking.

Previously he was deputy head of Future and Emerging Technologies. Before joining the Commission Kostas worked with multinational companies and research institutes in the U.S., Greece and Belgium.

He holds a diploma in Chemical Engineering from the University of Thessaloniki, a PhD from the University of Massachusetts and a MBA in investment management from Drexel University.

Pierre-Bruno RUFFINI

**Professor at the Faculty of International
Affairs at University of Le Havre**



Pierre-Bruno Ruffini, former President at the University of Le Havre, is currently Professor at the Faculty of International Affairs at this university. From 2007 until 2013, he was a Science and Technology advisor within the French diplomatic network.

He is the author of 'Science et diplomatie – Une nouvelle dimension des relations internationales', which was published in 2015 by the Editions du Cygne (Paris). The English version will soon be published by Springer.



Pro. Dr. Zehra SAYERS

**Director, Foundation Development
Program, Sabanci University and Chair,
SESAME Scientific Advisory Committee**

Dr. Zehra Sayers is a molecular biophysicist working on structure-function relationships in biological molecules. She is a founding member of the Genetics, Molecular Biology and Bioengineering program at Sabanci University in Istanbul. She is also the Director of the Foundations Development Program coordinating core curriculum courses at Sabanci.

Since 2002 Dr. Sayers has been the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) project in Jordan. SESAME aims to foster scientific excellence in the Middle East and in the neighboring countries, and to develop better understanding through scientific collaboration among people of different cultures and political systems. Members of SESAME are currently Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey.

Dr. Sayers obtained a BSc in Physics from Bogazici University in Istanbul and completed her PhD at Guy's Hospital Medical School, University of London. She worked as a staff scientist at EMBL Hamburg conducting pioneering work in use of synchrotron radiation for structural studies of cytoskeletal proteins and chromatin. After returning to Turkey her main area of research is on signaling proteins and metal binding proteins in plants. She pioneered structural investigations in Turkey and was instrumental in training young scientists in this field.

Dr. Guillermo ORTS-GIL

**International Science Coordinator
European Office of FECYT
Embassy of Spain in Germany**



Dr. Guillermo Orts-Gil is the Scientific Delegate of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) in Germany, depending of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, at the Embassy of Spain in Germany. Since 2015 he is also member of the “Berlin Science Attachés Circle”.

After finishing his PhD in physical-chemistry at the Technical University in Berlin (TUB), he was nanotechnology project manager at the Federal Institute for Materials Research (BAM) in Germany and group leader at the Max Planck Society (MPG). During this time, he also worked as a Head of Communications of the Society of Spanish Researchers in German (CERFA).

He has large experience in project management, starting in 2008 with the International Management program at the TUB. In the last years, he has been invited as a guest lecturer at the TUB and at The School of Management of UPF Barcelona. Moreover, from December 2016 on he will attend the Center for Cultural Diplomacy Studies in Berlin.



Dr. Luk VAN LANGENHOVE

**Institute for European Studies
(IES-VUB)**

Dr. Luk Van Langenhove is a Research Professor and the Scientific Coordinator of the EL-CSID project at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Senior Advisor European Strategy at the University of Warwick.

Previously, he was the Director at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Bruges and the Representative of the UNU Rector at UNESCO in Paris.

He also worked as the Deputy Secretary-General at the Belgian Federal Ministry of Science Policy, Deputy Chief of Cabinet at the Belgian Federal Minister of Science Policy and as a researcher and lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. Dr. Van Langenhove is a graduate of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and received his Ph.D. in Psychology from the same university.

He has published widely on regional integration, social sciences theory, positioning theory and psychology. Recent books include *People and Societies* (Routledge, 2010), *World-Regional Social Policy and Global Governance* (with Deacon, Yeates and Macovei, Routledge, 2010).

Prof. Dr. Richard HIGOTT

**Institute for European Studies
(IES-VUB)**



Prof. Dr. Richard Higgott is a Research Professor at the Institute for European Studies and Distinguished Professor of Diplomacy at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, and Emeritus Professor of International Political Economy at the University of Warwick. Prior to joining the IES, he held senior administrative appointments as Pro Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Warwick and Vice Chancellor of Murdoch University in Australia.

He also held early career junior appointments at several universities including the University of Western Australia and the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard followed by appointments as Professor of International Politics and Public Policy at the Australian National University and Director of its Graduate Training Programme for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Professor of Government at the University of Manchester.

He is the author and/or editor of 20 plus books and monographs and 120 plus peer reviewed book chapters and articles in major journals such as International Organization, Political Science Quarterly, International Political Science Review, International Affairs, International Journal, Review of International Studies, Review of International Political Economy, New Political Economy, International Relations, Politique Etrangère, International Politik, and others.



Frank MONTENY

**Director-General of Research and Space of
the federal science management at
BELSPO**

Frank Monteny (26 April 1963) is Director-General of Research and Space of the federal science management, BELSPO. He obtained his degree as Engineer in science and agricultural industries at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. After his studies he worked as researcher at the same university, as project manager at the environmental study and advice bureau ERM, in diverse capacities at the federal science management and as coordinator European projects at the Vlaams Innovatie Agentschap (IWT).

He currently supervises the preparation and execution of several research programmes managed by BELSPO, including Belgium's participation in international space programmes and the coordination and monitoring activities of science policy affairs the department is involved in. He is sits on the management board of several federal scientific institutions.

Dr. Caterina CARTA

**Vesalius College &
Institute for European Studies**



Dr. Caterina Carta is Assistant Professor of International Relations Vesalius College. Her research interest is on foreign policy, cultural and public diplomacy, International Organizations and Discourse Theory and Analysis.

Her publications include *The European Union's diplomatic Service: Ideas, Preferences and Identities* (Routledge, 2012); *Making Sense of Diversity: EU's Foreign Policy through the Lenses of Discourse Analysis* (eds., 2014, with J.F. Morin, Farnham: Ashgate) and *The European External Action Service and National Diplomacies: From Complementarity to Convergence?* (2015, eds., with R. Balfour, and K. Raik 2015, Farnham: Ashgate).

Her works have been published in journals such as *Cooperation and Conflict*, *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*; *Review of International Studies*, *Journal of Language and Politics*, *Journal of European Integration* and *European Foreign Affairs Review*.



Koen VERLAECKT

**Secretary-General of the
Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs (iV)**

Koen Verlaeckaert was born in 1966 in Dendermonde, Belgium. He obtained his university degree in history and his Ph.D. degree in archaeology, both at the University of Ghent, where he was active in archaeological research. Nationally and internationally, he published several books and articles, specializing in the archaeology of the Bronze Age (c. 2000-750 BC), both in Flanders (Belgium) and Denmark.

In 1997 he joined the Flemish Science and Innovation administration, first as a senior researcher in the Sciences Division, since 2003 as acting head of division of the Technology and Innovation Division. He was responsible for policy monitoring and policy preparation in various topics, ranging from basic research to bilateral international S&T co-operation. At European level, he was active as a programme committee member in the European Framework Programme for Research and Development, both for research infrastructures and the Marie Curie actions. He was also a member of the Steering Group Human Resources and Mobility and was closely involved with policy discussions preparing the Code of Conduct and the European Quality Charter for Researchers. From 1 March 2006 to 9 October 2007 Koen Verlaeckaert served the Government of Flanders as Head of Cabinet and as senior advisor in charge of science and innovation policy.

On 21 April 2008 he was appointed by the Government of Flanders for a first 6-year mandate as Secretary General of the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs. The Department has been entrusted with the preparation, evaluation and monitoring of Flemish governmental policy in the field of foreign affairs, development cooperation, foreign trade and tourism. Koen Verlaeckaert started his second 6-year mandate as Secretary General on 21 April 2014.

Marc VINCK

**Ambassador
FPS Foreign Affairs, DG Bilateral Affairs,
Office of Economic Interests**



Ambassador Marc Vinck was born in 1956 in Mortsel, Belgium. He is married with three children. Currently, ambassador Vinck heads the Office for Economic Interests at the Directorate General for Bilateral Affairs in the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs (FPS FA). The office for economic interests strives to inform Belgian economic actors about opportunities worldwide, introduce Belgian economic actors at the relevant level in third countries, intervene in case of problems abroad and promote the image of Belgium internationally.

He has been active at the FPS FA since 1980 and has held numerous consular and diplomatic positions. His previous posts include Hanoi, Kinshasa, Casablanca, London, Brasilia, Geneva, Rabat and Lubumbashi (where he was appointed Consul-General). Furthermore he was the Belgian ambassador to Kiev and Riyadh and holds different national decorations and awards.



Florence BALTHASAR

**Co-Head of Office
SwissCore**

Florence Balthasar is Co-Head of Office at the Swiss Contact Office for European Research, Innovation and Education (SwissCore) since January 2016.

SwissCore is part of the Swiss network of Science and Technology counsellors and swissnexes abroad. In her function, Florence is chairing the working group on International Cooperation of the Informal Group of RTD Liaison Offices (IGLO).

She was European Advisor for Education at SwissCore between 2011 and 2015 and prior to that worked in Switzerland at the National Agency dealing with the Erasmus+ programme and at the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union.

Véronique HALLOIN

**Secretary-General of Fonds de la
Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)**



Véronique Halloin graduated in civil chemical engineering in 1986 and obtained a PhD in applied sciences in 1992. She became full professor at Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2000, at the head of the chemical engineering research group, and hold the position of vice-head and head of the bioengineering school from 2000 to 2006, and vice-rector in charge of research and development, from 2006 to 2008. Since October 2008, she is Secretary General of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

She is member of several boards and organizations, such as Science Europe, ESF, Academia Belgica, Welbio, the Queen Elisabeth Medical Foundation, the Fulbright Commission Belgium, The Federal Council of Science Policy, the Simone et Pierre Clerdent Foundation. She also acts as Belgian delegate at the CERN Finance Committee and General Council, and at the Global Science Forum (OCDE).



Pascale DELCOMMINETTE

**CEO Walloon Trade and Investment
Agency (AWEX), Wallonia-Brussels
Internationals (WBI)**

Pascale Delcomminette graduated with a Master's Degree in translation (English-Spanish) from the School of International Interpreters in Mons, a Master's Degree in Economic and Social Sciences from the University of Mons-Hainaut and a Post-graduate diploma in International Trade from the Free University of Brussels.

Before serving as CEO of Wallonia-Brussels International and Wallonia Export-Investment Agency, she has been working for the European Commission, the University of Liège and the Governments of the Walloon Region and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation as the Chief of staff of the Minister-President from 2009 to 2013.

Claire TILLEKAERTS

**CEO Flanders Investment & Trade Agency
(FIT)**



Since October 2006, Mrs. Claire Tillekaerts has been the general manager of Flanders Investment & Trade, the government agency supporting Flemish companies in their effort to deploy business internationally abroad and assisting foreign companies seeking to set up business or expand operations in Flanders, the northernmost region of Belgium. From May 1st 2012 on, she was appointed CEO of FIT by the government of Flanders. Claire Tillekaerts has been an independent barrister at the Ghent Court of Law for 2 decades, along with various academic teaching commissions at Ghent University.

In 2001, she was commissioned to establish the law department at the Hogeschool Gent, in a bid to bring about the merger with other centres of higher education, an assignment combined with that of advisor at the creation of the Ghent University Association and with establishing international research fundings. Mrs. Claire Tillekaerts was born in Ghent, Flanders on 16 February 1957. She holds a Master's degree in law and a postgraduate degree in Management Studies.

Her main interests are languages and music.



Ernesto Fernández POLCUCH

Chief of Section for Science Policy and Partnerships at UNESCO

Ernesto Fernández Polcuch is a Science Diplomat, a specialist in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, with a M.Sc. in Science, Technology and Society from the National University of Quilmes, Argentina.

He is currently Chief of Section for Science Policy and Partnerships in the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO. In this position he manages global UNESCO programmes in Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, Gender and STEM, Science Diplomacy, Science Communication, and Science-Policy-Society linkages.

He was previously posted at UNESCO Montevideo as Senior STI Policy and Capacity Building Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean, at UNESCO Windhoek, Namibia, as Programme Specialist for Natural Sciences for Southern Africa, and at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montréal, where he led the Science and Technology Statistics team. Before joining UNESCO he worked, among other places, at RICYT, the Ibero-American Network on Science and Technology Indicators, in the Academic and Government sector in Argentina, and as a consultant to various National and International agencies.

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