

flemish
peaceInstitute



2009

ANNUAL REPORT



2009

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Table of contents

	FOREWORD	5
1	ARMS TRADE AND ARMS PRODUCTION	9
1.1	Yearly report on the Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items	11
1.2	Research into firearms in Belgium	15
1.3	Continuous monitoring of European developments	16
1.4	Brokering in military and dual-use items: an overview of the international framework and the Belgian control regime	16
1.5	Arms acquisition patterns and the dynamics of conflict	17
1.6	Dutch-language summary of the SIPRI Yearbook 2009	18
2	PEACE AND SOCIETY	19
2.1	Research into the state of foreign news coverage	20
2.2	Remembrance education in Flemish education	23
2.3	Peace Education	25
2.4	Young people and violence	26
3	SUPPORTING PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES	27
3.1	Involvement in parliamentary activities	28
3.2	Advice	30
3.2.1	Advice on draft decrees regarding the arms trade	31
3.2.2	Advice on the improvement of foreign news coverage in the Flemish media	33
3.2.3	Memorandum for the Flemish and European elections	35
3.3	Documentation centre	37

4	EVALUATION REPORT	39
4.1	Preface	40
4.2	Methodology	41
4.3	General Comments	42
4.4	Comments on research reports, background notes and advisory notes	44
4.4.1	Research reports	44
4.4.2	Background note	46
4.4.3	Advisory notes	46
4.4.4	Acknowledgement	48
5	THE INSTITUTE	49
5.1	Context	50
5.2	The Board of Directors	52
5.3	The Scientific Council	54
5.4	The Scientific Secretariat	55
5.5	External relations	56
5.5.1	Network	56
5.5.2	Events	59
5.5.3	Communication	61
5.5.4	The Peace Institute in the press	62
5.5.5	Publications in external journals	65
6	FINANCIAL REPORT	67

7	LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 2009	71
7.1	Publications in Dutch	72
7.2	Publications translated into English	74

Foreword

In 2009, the Flemish Peace Institute completed its fourth year of existence as a para-parliamentary institute of the Flemish Parliament. As in previous years, the guidelines for completing its missions were provided by the Institute's tasks laid down by decree: research, advice, documentation, and information work.

The Peace Institute consolidated its two research programmes on Arms Trade and Arms Production, and Peace and Society. These two pillars were further developed and the research base extended. Within the Arms Trade and Arms Production programme, the Institute's yearly report on Flemish arms trade has become a true work of reference, and its presentation provides the occasion *par excellence* to inform Flemish Members of Parliament, the press and the public of what is happening in the field of arms trade at Flemish, Belgian and European level. European developments relating to export control and a liberalised defence market again received ample attention in 2009, and investigations were launched into firearms in Belgium and brokering activities.

Within the pillar Peace and Society, the Peace Institute supplied information for political and social debate on a number of concrete topics. In the setting of the ongoing heated debate on media and their role in society, the Peace Institute has made a relevant contribution by conducting extensive and in-depth research into the actual state and impact of foreign news reporting. This study, together with an advice note on the issue, was presented to the Media Commission of the Flemish Parliament. Within the area of education – another key area of Flemish competence – the Peace Institute drew attention to topics concerning peace and the prevention of violence, and in particular to remembrance education and peace education.

In line with its advisory mission and at the request of the Flemish Parliament, the Peace Institute submitted advice on a number of draft decrees. Further, in the run-up to the regional and European elections in June 2009, the Peace Institute identified focal points for Parliamentary activities in the 2009-2014 legislature, including the following three work areas: 'peace can be learned', peace and the economy, and Flanders in the world. The Peace Institute elaborated on its research and advisory work in appearances before several Parliamentary committees, such as the Sub-committee on Arms Trade, the Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities, and the Committee on Foreign Policy.

The Board of Directors, consisting of experts and representatives of Flemish Parliamentary party groups, the universities, socio-economic actors and the peace movement, ensures that the Peace Institute stays abreast of current developments in society, science and politics, and that its advice and research enjoy broad support in society. The Scientific Council also plays an important role in the Institute's work; the evaluation report made by this panel of international experts has been added to the present annual report.

This annual report provides a detailed portrayal of the Peace Institute's development in 2009. A first section deals with the tasks entrusted to the Peace Institute: research programmes, activities in support of the work of Parliament, and the evaluation report. The second part of the report presents an overview of major organisational developments at the Institute.

The Peace Institute looks forward to further developing its work as a para-parliamentary institution: through scientifically grounded activities fitting into a long-term vision, by producing well-founded advice, by providing comprehensive information for the Flemish Parliament and the Flemish people, and by enriching the democratic operation of Flemish institutions. In 2010, a newly established Board of Directors will deliberate on the next strategic plan to support this further development. Finally, in its capacity as a research institute for the Flemish Parliament – maintaining high standards of quality, and in dialogue with all stakeholders – the Peace Institute will pursue its efforts to contribute to a more peaceful society in Flanders and worldwide.

Tomas Baum
Director





Arms Trade and Arms Production

Within the 'Arms Trade and Arms Production' programme, the Flemish Peace Institute examines the national, regional and international legal framework for foreign arms trade and monitors developments in arms production and arms trade in Flanders. Among other things, research by the Peace Institute focuses on the international legal framework against which the regional competence for the control of foreign arms trade must be assessed. As a member of international organisations and regimes, Belgium undertakes a host of obligations and commitments concerning control practices and reporting. This international context is closely monitored and its importance for Flemish policy is explained. In addition, current control policy (licensing and reporting) is examined, and the Peace Institute provides a factual digest of foreign trade in military equipment and the defence-related industry in Flanders.

In line with previous years, in Spring 2009 the Peace Institute published a yearly report with figures, analyses and explanations concerning arms trade developments over the previous year. Details were included both on the licensed trade in military equipment and on Flemish exports of dual-use items. The analyses included in the annual report are the result of continuous research throughout the year.

As requested by the Flemish Parliament, the Peace Institute presented advice notes on three draft decrees. In all three cases, the advice was based on research conducted at the Institute since 2006 in the frame of the Arms Trade and Arms Production programme. Further, the Peace Institute closely monitored current developments in European policy relating to arms trade. It was active in this regard at international level as well, resulting among other things in Flemish Peace Institute inputs on the European defence package and on the role of brokering at the COARM-NGO meeting held in Brussels on 19 November 2009, which was organised by the Swedish EU Presidency together with Saferworld, SIPRI, the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society and GRIP.

Details of publications, networking and activities within this research programme can be consulted in the second part of this annual report. What follows will cover the profile and implementation of the Institute's research activities under each project.

1.1

Yearly report on the Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items

Each Spring the Peace Institute publishes a yearly report with figures, analyses and explanations concerning arms trade developments over the previous year. The yearly report 'Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items 2008' contains data related to the import, export and transit of military equipment in 2008, together with an analysis of these figures. Further, the annual report for 2008 contains an analysis of Flemish dual-use items exports.

Military equipment

Since the regionalisation of control of foreign arms trade in 2003, the three Belgian regional governments are in charge of policy with respect to the import, export and transit of military equipment. The Flemish Government issues annual and six-monthly reports to the Flemish Parliament on licence applications approved and denied. In addition, the Arms Trade Monitoring Unit issues monthly reports. The annual report of the Peace Institute analyses the applications for Flemish import, export and transit licences for military equipment on the basis of these published data. Alongside total figures it also provides a detailed study of the nature and destination of this trade.

In 2008, the Flemish Government issued a total of 430 licences for the **import** of military equipment into Flanders, with a combined value of € 107.8 million. These figures for 2008 indicate a strong increase in Flemish arms imports: 2007 saw 276 import licences issued at a combined value of € 65.9 million. In other words, in 2008 the *number* of licences for Flemish arms imports rose by 60% as compared to 2007, and the *value* by 50%. The reason for this increase in the *value* of licences for arms import was provided by a limited number of very high-value import licences, mainly for French and Israeli fire control systems destined for the Flemish defence-related industry, with the Belgian armed forces as the reported end user in most cases. Apart from fire control systems, licensed Flemish arms imports mainly consisted of (components of) military vehicles, and small arms and light weapons and corresponding ammunition.

Recent years have seen a remarkable increase in the value of Flemish licensed imports of small arms and light weapons and related equipment. Between 2005 and 2008 the value of licensed imports of these products rose from € 5.4 million to € 13.4 million.

The value of the imported ammunition, in particular, rose spectacularly: from € 1.7 million in 2005 to € 9.1 million in 2008. Another notable change is that in 2008 the value of licensed imports of rifles, revolvers and similar small arms and light weapons doubled by comparison with 2005. These licences are mainly intended for dealers.

For the **export** of military equipment from Flanders, the Flemish Government issued a total of 256 licences with a combined value of nearly € 240 million in the year 2008. Compared to 2007, the *number* of export licences issued rose sharply, by 40%. After two consecutive years of increases, the *value* of Flemish licensed arms exports dropped by about 10% in 2008, owing mainly to the strong decrease in the value of licensed exports of military vehicles and their components (to the United Kingdom and Switzerland) and of fire control systems (to India).

Flemish licensed arms exports in 2008 mainly consisted of visualisation screens (36% of total value) and military electronics (32% of total value), which together represented more than two thirds of the value of licensed arms exports in 2008. Other significant military export products included aircraft components, fire control systems and imaging equipment. Licensed arms exports were destined mainly for countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia. The top 5 recipient countries are the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and India.

Half of all Flemish export licences issued in 2008 had a national armed force as the last reported user, while about 40% were intended for the (defence-related) industry of a country. In terms of *value*, more than 70% of Flemish licensed arms exports in 2008 were intended for foreign industry. It goes without saying that the (defence-related) industry will not be the final end user of the Flemish military equipment: after the Flemish goods are incorporated into larger weapon systems, these weapon systems are sold to third parties, possibly in another country. This means that for nearly three quarters of the Flemish licensed arms exports, the final end user is unknown at the time of the Flemish licensing procedure, and the Flemish Government transfers the decisions on and responsibility for the possible re-export and ultimate end use to the government of the country of destination.

In 2008 the Flemish Government issued a total of 24 licences at a combined value of € 235.9 million for the **transit** of military equipment. Given the specific nature of transit activities (sometimes very large shipments) and the limited number of licences that are granted, the value of licensed transit varies greatly from one year to the next. For instance, the high value of the licensed transit in 2008 (more than six times higher than in 2007) can almost entirely be ascribed to one single transit licence, namely a licence at a value of € 217.8 million for the transit of guns, ammunition for heavy weapons, and weapon sights from Switzerland to Saudi Arabia via Flanders. A better indicator than value for the trend in transit is the *number* of licences issued each year. In 2008, 50% more transit licences were issued than in 2007. Even so, there has been a strong downward trend in the number of transit licences issued in Flanders over the years: from 136 transit licences in 1999 to only 24 in 2008.

As regards trends in development, the yearly report on the Flemish foreign arms trade in 2008 showed that the volume and nature of Flemish arms *exports* did not fundamentally change compared to previous years. As regards the import of arms, the rising trend in the number of Flemish licences issued was confirmed in 2008, in terms of both value and numbers. The licensed *transit* of military equipment via Flanders was also remarkably low in 2008, thus confirming a pronounced fall that started in 2000.

Dual-use items

Dual-use items are items that were not developed specifically for military purposes but nonetheless have a military application. For security reasons, the trade in these items is also controlled. The Flemish Government follows the same procedure for dual-use items licence applications as for licence applications for arms trade: in both cases decisions are taken by the Arms Trade Monitoring Unit and the competent minister. Under the Flemish control system, dual-use items are considered, in principle, to have a civil end-user. If the end-user is military, the transaction falls rather under the '*catch-all clause*' and the goods will be considered military products. Each month, the Arms Trade Monitoring Unit of Flanders publishes a report on all export and transit licences that were granted or refused for these products during that month. These figures provided the basis for the analysis provided in the Peace Institute's annual report on applications for Flemish export and transit licences for dual-use items in 2008.

It is important to note that a large part of the trade in dual-use items is unrestricted (within the EU) or subject to a general Community licence (with some other industrialized countries). The Flemish Government does not issue licences for these types of trade and consequently, such transactions are not included in the analyses presented in the report.

The Flemish Government issues two types of licences for the export of dual-use items: individual and global export licences. While individual export licences refer to a specific individual transaction (the export of certain items to a certain recipient), this is not the case for global licences. A global licence allows Flemish exporters to export a number of previously defined products to all the countries listed on the licence and up to the licence's maximum value. Since exports to the various countries named in the licence do not usually carry a set value, the values mentioned in the global licence applications must be regarded as potential maximum amounts.

In 2008 the Flemish Government issued 92 **individual export licences** for dual-use items, with a combined value of € 126.2 million. It also issued 43 **global export licences** in 2008 with a combined value of € 1.1 billion. With a total value of € 126.2 million, the licensed export of dual-use items and technology for which individual export licence applications were submitted was significantly lower in 2008 than in 2007 (€ 245.5 million). 2008 saw, notably, a drop in the value of individual licences issued for nuclear materials (a decrease of € 76.4 million), and chemical and related materials (€ 43.5 million less). The *value* of global licences – which, as discussed above, is a potential maximum – remained fairly

stable in 2008, although it is striking that the *number* of global export licences issued for these dual-use items and technologies rose sharply (from 30 in 2007 to 42 in 2008).

In 2008 as in 2007, individual licences for the export of dual-use items from Flanders mainly concerned two types of products: nuclear materials, and chemical and related materials. Together, these accounted for more than 80% of the value of Flemish licensed dual-use exports in 2008. Most *global* licences applied for in Flanders for the export of dual-use items involved a multitude of chemical and related materials, as well as products and systems for telecommunications and information security, and a wide range of other products.

The continent to which Flanders exported most dual-use items under individual licences in 2008 was Asia. Half the licensed value of exports under individual licences (€ 63.8 million) related to goods destined for Asian countries. Many individual licences were also issued for exports to Europe, all of them for nuclear materials, since the movement of other dual-use items within the European Union is in principle free. The top 5 recipient countries for individual licences in 2008 were China, France, Iran, Germany, and Israel.

Recipient countries for global licences are harder to pinpoint because of the nature of these licences: on average, a global Flemish export licence for dual-use items in 2008 encompassed more than 11 potential recipient countries.

In 2008 the Flemish Government issued two licences for the **transit** of dual-use items. No transit licences were issued in 2007.

Given the nature of regulations on trade in dual-use items and the licensing procedures, it is difficult to provide a full picture of the export and transit of such items. For the annual report on 2008, available data were therefore collected and analysed within a strict and limited methodological framework. Analysis showed that in 2008 far fewer individual licences were issued for the export of dual-use items, whereas the number of global export licences remained fairly stable. As reporting on the Flemish licensing policy on dual-use items did not start until 2007, long-term developments and trends will not become evident for another few years.

Although often of a hi-tech nature and not always perceived as ‘weapons’, goods that require a licence are not precisely ‘everyday’ or ‘innocent’ products, as shown by the European and international attention paid to establishing a legislative framework and strong controls over them. Because of their uses or possible military applications, the trade in these goods has major implications for the security of Flanders and Europe and for the well-being of citizens worldwide. The trade in military goods and dual-use items, relevant licensing policy, and the decisions adopted therefore deserve the closest attention. Through publication of its annual report on the arms trade, the Peace Institute seeks to proffer an instrument that will help enhance Parliamentary and societal scrutiny of Flanders’ foreign arms trade and the export of dual-use items, as well as debates in society on the subject.

For more information see

Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items in 2008 (research report)

Author: Nils Duquet

Brussels, 17 March 2009 - ISBN 9789078864196 - 178 pp.

1.2

Research into firearms in Belgium

In its annual report on Flemish foreign arms trade in 2008, the Peace Institute identified a significant increase in the value of licensed imports of small arms and light weapons and related equipment. Between 2005 and 2008 the value of licensed imports of these products rose from € 5.4 million to € 13.4 million. Imports of ammunition rose spectacularly from € 1.7 million in 2005 to € 9.1 million in 2008. Licensed imports of rifles, revolvers and similar small arms and light weapons doubled in 2008 compared with 2005.

These research findings resulted in a number of questions and a debate in the Flemish Parliament, and the Peace Institute subsequently started a research project in 2009 aiming at a more exhaustive and in-depth analysis of the data and at providing insights into the legal and social context. This research project will run from September 2009 until September 2010.

1.3

Continuous monitoring of European developments

European initiatives for harmonisation and liberalisation of the European defence market have been under way since 2008. A new legal framework for intra-EU trade in military equipment and for security and defence related procurement has been created for the purpose. This so-called ‘European Defence Package’ contains two Regulations that must be implemented by the Member States in 2011. These initiatives at a European level have important consequences for Flemish arms trade policy and for the Flemish defence industry. Consequently, the Peace Institute continued to closely monitor European developments in 2009.

For more information see

Depauw, S. (2009), Het Europees beleid inzake wapenhandel: de EU als voorvechter van vrede en veiligheid of als katalysator voor economische groei [*European policy on arms trade: the EU as a champion of peace and safety or as a catalyst for economic growth*], *Internationale spectator*, 63, no.11, pp. 578-583.

1.4

Brokering in military and dual-use items: an overview of the international framework and the Belgian control regime

In 2009 it was reported that the notorious Belgian arms trader Jacques Monsieur had been summoned to appear before the US courts on charges of illegal arms trade to Iran. Despite the reputation of ‘*the fox*’ as a notorious arms trader and broker, this was the first time he was actually facing imprisonment for his activities as an illicit arms trader.

The Belgian courts never succeeded in securing a conviction against him for the illicit weapon trading activities he allegedly carried on as a ‘middle-man’ from within Belgium since the 90s. Several reports and publications have already stressed the difficulty in trying to prosecute such *mala fide* brokers. As a result, various international fora have developed initiatives to get a grip on the phenomenon of brokering within the frame of the broader issue of arms trade control.

The Flemish Peace Institute started an investigation in 2009 that will provide an overview of international initiatives on the control of brokering. These consist of legally and politically binding agreements, best practices, and international recommendations made within the UN, the EU and other international organisations. Aside from the international framework, the investigation also highlights the Belgian control system for brokering. As well as describing the relevant legal provisions and administrative practice, the paper examines how far Belgian legislation meets the provisions of the supranational obligations *in casu*. Further, the report analyses whether the Belgian legislation and complementary administrative practices are effective. The research project will run from September 2009 until January 2010.

1.5

Arms acquisition patterns and the dynamics of conflict

To carry out their militant activities, armed rebel groups depend on the acquisition of weapons. The specific way these groups arm themselves has important consequences for the dynamics of violent intra-state conflicts. Previous global research into the relationship between the acquisition of arms and conflict has focused solely on the impact of the availability of arms. Research carried out by the Peace Institute looks at the impact of two specific aspects of armament patterns - namely, the concrete methods used and the control exercised by rebel leaders - on the dynamics and nature of armed conflicts. This approach has already been applied, for example, in a 2009 qualitative case study on the armed conflict in the Niger Delta (Nigeria) between 1995 and 2005. The findings showed that both the specific method for acquiring weapons and the control of leaders over this armament process greatly influence the dynamics of the conflict.

For more information see

Duquet, N. (2009), 'Arms Acquisition Patterns and the Dynamics of Conflict: Lessons from the Niger Delta', *International Studies Perspectives*, 10, 169-185.

1.6

Dutch-language summary of the SIPRI Yearbook 2009

Since 1969, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Sweden has published a SIPRI Yearbook. The yearbook contains objective data and extensive analyses on the most important aspects of arms control, peace, and security, compiled by SIPRI researchers and independent experts. Since 2005, the Flemish Peace Institute has undertaken the translation and publication in Dutch of this yearbook's summary.

2009 saw the 40th edition of the SIPRI Yearbook. The SIPRI Yearbook 2009 presents a compilation of original data in areas such as global military expenditure, international arms trade, arms production, nuclear powers, major armed conflicts and multilateral peace operations, combined with recent analyses of important aspects of arms control, peace and international security.

Among the focal points of the 2009 edition of the *SIPRI Yearbook* are the 'uprooting' effect of conflicts, the conflict in Afghanistan, and stocks of nuclear fissionable material. In line with tradition, the SIPRI Yearbook also highlights a number of key developments in international relations and peace issues, e.g. in relation to military expenditure, international arms supplies, management of nuclear arms and non-proliferation. Finally, the SIPRI Yearbook also includes extensive annexes on arms control and disarmament agreements, international organizations and intergovernmental bodies, and a chronology of 2008 events in the area of security and arms control.

For more information see

SIPRI Yearbook 2009 – Armaments, Disarmament and International Security – (Summary in Dutch)
Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels, 10 July 2009.



#2

Peace and Society

The Peace and Society programme focuses on ‘micro-’ peace in families, on the streets, in schools and in cities. After all, a culture of peace is rooted in social dynamics. On this logic the Peace Institute investigates how people feel about peace and violence. The Institute also researches how local networks, civil society and citizens in Europe and the world contribute to a peaceful society.

In 2009, under a commission from the Peace Institute, the research group M²P of the Antwerp University investigated the current state of foreign news reporting in the Flemish media. In addition, the Peace Institute took a close look at the concept of remembrance education and continued its activities relating to research into peace education. Further, it launched an investigation into the role of violence in the social world of young people.

Details about publications, networking, and activities within this project can be consulted in the second part of this annual report. Below follows an account of the content and implementation of research work.

2.1

Research into the state of foreign news coverage

News about foreign countries has an important role to play: news on international society offers a “window on the world”, making sure that citizens in a globalised world are adequately informed. Further, the amount and nature of foreign news are thought to have a major impact on people’s knowledge, attitudes and visions.

Concern has been voiced for some time in various social fora about the amount and quality of foreign news reporting in commercial and public media. It has been pointed out that, paradoxically, as globalisation has increased over the past decades, the news carried in the media has become ever more localized.

An in-depth debate on foreign news reporting is under way in the academic literature as well. Researchers, too, are worried about quantity, since several studies have noted a severe decrease of foreign news in newspapers and news bulletins. But quality also gives cause for concern: foreign news is arguably very much cast in terms of western values, and attention focuses on a limited part of the world. Finally, there is also a political debate about media and international news reporting. The Flemish Parliament has already

discussed several resolutions on the issue during the 2004-2009 legislature; and on 19 March 2009 a “States-General of the Media” was convened at the initiative of Flemish Minister-President Peeters, where concern about the decline of foreign news reporting was a crucial item on the agenda.

This societal, academic and political concern about the declining amount of foreign news, together with previous findings on the impact of foreign news reporting, prompted the Peace Institute to start extensive research into the quality and quantity of foreign news reporting in Flanders; into the impact of foreign news reporting on knowledge about international society and on attitudes to peace; and into possible avenues for action as regards the promotion of foreign news reporting. The research results were set out in the weighty report ‘A window on the world – the actual status of foreign news reporting: facts, impact and action scope’.

The state of Flemish foreign news coverage – facts and impact

The study offers insight into the development of the **quantity** of foreign news coverage. Between 2003 and 2008, the combined proportion of foreign news on the news bulletins *Het Journaal* of the public broadcaster VRT and *Het Nieuws* of the commercial station VTM has decreased by one fifth. The extraordinary situation caused by the war in Iraq at the start of the analysis period (2003) should, however, be noted in this context.

Another point of note is that the decline after 2003 occurred sooner and to a larger extent at the VTM than at VRT. Between 2003 and 2008 the average proportion of foreign items in the total of news bulletins aired by the public broadcaster was close to one third, contrasted with just one in five items at the commercial station.

As for **quality**, the study established that foreign news mainly focuses on neighbouring countries, and on the political and military powers. All forms of closeness – as measured from a geographical, cultural and historical perspective – seem to be a highly, if not totally, dominant factor in news coverage. Further, the media offer a somewhat shaky spotlight: the majority of “foreign” and “far-away” countries get only brief and incidental attention, without the necessary explanation. Foreign news also covers a far less varied palette of themes than domestic news: most of it is negative and focused on wars, disasters and criminality. Finally, editors seem largely dependent on the bigger news agencies, and gather little news themselves, as a result of the high costs involved in foreign news reporting.

The study also looked into the **impact** of foreign news reporting, particularly on knowledge of international society and attitudes towards peace issues. It appears that international news largely determines what society and the political establishment regard as the most important (international) problems and hence, which issues deserve priority attention. Attitudes towards other countries are also affected by international news. Further, the impact of foreign news reporting is mainly expressed in terms of knowledge

about international themes. That knowledge has a mediating effect: through increased knowledge, media consumption leads to reduced ethno-centrism and a feeling of being connected with what happens in the world. An assumption from previous research by the Peace Institute was thus confirmed, namely that knowing what goes on in international society is a key predictor of commitment to peace. For instance, people who give more attention to foreign news tend to find less justification for military intervention. The link to “micro-”, inter-personal peace is less obvious: but nevertheless, people who pay more attention to foreign news turn out to have a more positive attitude on peace. War is closer to home for them, peace less of a luxury theme, and they have stronger beliefs as regards their own possible contribution to a more peaceful world.

The scope for action in support of foreign news coverage

For many scientists and media critics, foreign news is a yardstick of quality journalism. Foreign news may not be important or of high quality *per se*, but a systematic decrease of the proportion of foreign news does - in their view – signal that the essential conditions of quality journalism are being eroded. Since research confirms that the quantity and quality of Flemish foreign news reporting are under pressure; the question of corrective measures is bound to arise. Given, in particular, the positive social impact that can be generated by foreign news reporting, there is a case to make efforts for adequate and good-quality international news.

Moreover, citizens are generally hungry for news: seven out of ten claim to watch the news on VRT or VTM, and in 2008 the evening market share of the VTM and VRT news broadcasts exceeded 80%, equivalent to almost 1.5 million viewers. The opportunities for media and more particularly, for their news editors to provide a stimulating social contribution thus deserve careful attention.

As regards the scope for action by various actors and policy makers, and by the Flemish Parliament in particular, freedom of press and editorial independence are of paramount importance. Traditionally, therefore, the government also has a duty to refrain from intervening in the work of editorial bodies. Yet recent social, political and academic debates and trends are clearly signalling that the government's traditional duty to abstain may evolve towards a so-called “duty of care”. Direct substantial intervention in editorial offices is obviously totally unacceptable, but it is possible to work to create appropriate pre-conditions for a high-quality press. The study of the Flemish Peace Institute suggests a number of concrete points for action such as the management agreement between the public broadcaster (VRT) and the Flemish government, the 2008 protocol between the Flemish Government and the Flemish written press sector, and the Pascal Decroos Fund.

For more information see

A window on the world – The status of foreign news coverage in the media: facts, impact and policy.

(Research report)

Authors: Ruud Wouters, Knut De Swert, Stefaan Walgraeve

Brussels, 27 October 2009 - ISBN 9789078864257 - 160 pp.

2.2

Remembrance education in Flemish education

On 22 April 2009 the Flemish Parliament adopted a Decree implementing new performance targets and development objectives in basic and secondary education. Two of the new cross-curricular attainment targets in secondary education are directed towards tolerance and insight into the role of conflicts, and hence contribute to what we call 'peace education'. The elucidation of the Decree, however, refer to these performance targets as part of 'remembrance education' rather than peace education. Moreover, the then Minister of Education explicitly linked remembrance education to a commitment to Holocaust commemoration. In 2009, the Peace Institute studied the connection between performance measures relating to peace education, remembrance education and Holocaust commemoration.

The results of the study show that operationalizing the concept of remembrance education, as contained in the 2009 revised cross-curricular performance measures for secondary education, is a difficult task. Cause, means and objective are at odds with each other and moreover, the cross-curricular character of the measure is not obvious *per se*.

The original spur for remembrance education was the Holocaust commemoration, and this is in line with several Flemish and international initiatives in the field. Meanwhile, remembrance education has also been linked to WW I and WW II as a whole; but the connection with the Holocaust remains paramount. This clear motivation turns commemoration into an objective in itself. Given the inconceivable scale of the atrocity, its time-span and relative nearness in terms of time, space and human involvement, a focus on the Holocaust and its commemoration are fully justified and useful.

The commemoration of the Holocaust, and other atrocities from the past, fully deserves the support it seems to be gaining now as the first pillar of remembrance education.

The formulation of cross-curricular performance measures in the 2009 Decree no longer contains reference to the Holocaust or commemoration. Here, commemoration is described as a means to learn from the past. One may question why and how this performance measure can be viewed as cross-curricular. According to the description provided, remembrance education is basically a vision of history teaching that assumes history can teach us how to shape the present and the future. Hence the importance of history is in fact underlined as a second pillar of remembrance education. Paradoxically enough, the cross-curricular character of remembrance education threatens to weaken history as a subject rather than to enhance it, since it creates the impression that everyone can build on lessons from the past. Besides, the link between memory and learning lessons from the past is not quite as evident as it seems. Both refer to the past, but memory is of a direct and personal nature, whereas history involves change and diversity, relativity and context.

The aims mentioned for remembrance education are democracy, freedom, tolerance and peace. In accordance with the UNESCO definition of *Culture of Peace*, these objectives can be captured under the denominator 'peace education'. The third pillar of remembrance education hence constitutes a call for peace education, though not expressed as such in so many words. It is somewhat odd that these objectives are exclusively linked to remembrance education, and hence to commemoration and history. That commemoration or memory actually contribute to the stated goals is not obvious. As history has endlessly shown, memory can equally result in hatred, revenge or prejudice. It is equally not obvious that peace education should have a privileged partnership with history. History teaching can obviously make a contribution, but a cross-curricular approach offers teachers a wide range of tools other than the past or memory. In the last analysis, remembrance education consists of three components that all deserve support and encouragement: commemoration, history, and peace education. Thus, while remembrance education would seem a good thing on superficial first impressions, on further reflection the connection of these three components poses fundamental problems.

Although the relevance of commemoration is in itself above all suspicion, it takes on an operational guise when certain specific lessons are set to be learned from the past. It is not self-evident that Holocaust commemoration can be used for putting things into perspective, for an open debate, or for a better understanding.

Stressing the importance of history is justified, but it risks being embroiled in controversy over what is 'relative' or 'absolute', in the limbo between 'subject-tied' and 'cross-curricular' approaches, and in a fixation with a limited range of themes and objectives. However much the pursuit of tolerance, democracy, freedom and peaceful coexistence may be stressed, the past and its 'examples not to be followed' risk imposing too much of a one-sided focus in peace education.

The study of the Flemish Peace Institute concludes that commemoration deserves attention for its intrinsic value, without needing to tie it to pre-conceived lessons. Learning lessons from the past is an essential component of history as a school subject, which - while benefiting from horizontal coherence with other subjects - threatens to be undermined by a claim of cross-curricular transferability. A common denominator defined to focus on the objective instead of the means will do greater justice to the cross-curricular objectives of tolerance, freedom, democracy and peace. A clear demand for commemoration, history, and peace education therefore seems to make more sense than opting for the confusion inextricably attaching to 'remembrance education'.

For more information see

Remembrance education in Flanders: an argument in favour of Holocaust remembrance, history teaching and peace education?

(Background note)

Author: Geert Castryck

Brussels, 3 September 2009 - ISBN 9789078864233 - 23 pp.

2.3 Peace Education

Already in 2008, the Peace Institute prepared a check-list of recent peace education initiatives in its research 'About macro and micro peace'. In this context, 300 primary and 300 secondary schools were asked how they conducted peace education projects. Continuing the peace education research project in 2009, the Institute went in search of insights into education for peace in general and how this is given shape in Flanders in particular. The study investigates what the concept of peace education means or can mean, and what kinds of implementing measures, characteristics and categorisations are used in connection with it. The analysis will result in a description of the boundaries of peace education that can be used to chart the available supply of peace educational initiatives in Flanders: What is on offer; what are the basic, formal or didactic characteristics of these initiatives; how can the suppliers and target groups be characterised, and what links exist between the various categories? This research will run from March 2009 until March 2010.

2.4

Young people and violence

Previous research carried out by the Peace Institute ('Peace in Flanders') showed that young people have an ambivalent attitude towards violence. On the one hand, young people often undertake targeted political action for the promotion of peace or non-violence, for instance in the form of protesting, signing petitions, or donating money. On the other hand, they have a higher tendency to use violence themselves. More generally speaking, violence by and against young people has a direct and drastic personal and social impact.

Against this background, the Peace Institute has launched a research project focusing on young people's experiences with violence. The study aims to provide a realistic picture of the role of violence in young people's social world by probing existing data and analyses, carrying out new analyses and letting young people speak their minds. The Flemish Peace Institute aims thereby to provide the Flemish Parliament and civil society with a scientific, empirical and nuanced foundation for the social debate around young people and violence.

The research project on young people runs from November 2009 until November 2010 and is carried out by the Louvain Institute for Criminology (LINC) of the Catholic University of Louvain under commission from the Peace Institute.



#3

*Supporting
parliamentary activities*

The Peace Institute supports the Flemish Parliament's activities through research (see chapters 1 and 2) and by publishing advisory notes (see 3.2), developing a documentation centre (see 3.3), contributing to meetings, and organising conferences (see 3.1). In the following sections, we will illuminate the context of this direct support to Flemish political institutions by means of an account of the Peace Institute's involvement in Parliamentary work, an overview of the advice issued, and information on the documentation centre in the Parliamentary Information Centre.

3.1 Involvement in parliamentary activities

Until June 2009, the Sub-committee on Arms Trade was the Peace Institute's 'mentor' within the Flemish parliamentary community. Members of the Sub-committee took the initiative to establish the Institute, and the Arms Trade and Production research programme fed the political debate within the frame of the Sub-committee. It was, in fact, this Sub-committee that took the initiative regarding parliamentary control over foreign arms trade.

At the start of the 2009-2014 legislature period, it was decided not to establish a Sub-committee on Arms Trade. The Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation thus became the competent body for legislation and control over the implementation of arms trade policy. *"In allocating the task of monitoring the foreign arms trade, Parliament had the choice between the Economic Committee and the Committee for Foreign Policy, as arms trade control always involves a balance between economic interests, safety interests and foreign policy"* - commented Tomas Baum, the Director of the Peace Institute. *"In the crucial discussion about the actual end use of arms it is important to look at the world through internationally tinted glasses. From that point of view it is a good thing that arms trade was assigned to the Committee for Foreign Policy"*.

The Committee for Foreign Policy, European Affairs and International Cooperation discussed the 2008 annual report of the Peace Institute on Tuesday 6 October 2009. Tomas Baum, the Institute's Director, informed the committee about the research conducted, the advisory notes and the Scientific Council's evaluation report. The elements 'peace education' and 'research and development' from the 2008 Annual Report were only marginally dealt with, as they fall respectively under the activities of the Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities and the Committee for Economy, Economic Government

Instruments, Innovation, Scientific Policy, Labour and Social Economy. During the discussion, Members of Parliament who intervened asked for an account of the Institute's communication policy, the synchronisation of its activities with Parliamentary work, and its role in the commemoration of the centenary of the Great War during 2014-2018.

On 22 October 2009 the Peace Institute's 2008 Annual Report and more specifically, the part on peace education in Flemish education was discussed by the Committee for Education and Equal Opportunities. The Director's explanation of the research work relating to peace education was followed by a discussion. Members of Parliament who intervened mainly addressed the relationship between peace education and remembrance education.

The Institute's work within its two research pillars generated several Parliamentary initiatives and activities. As regards arms trade, the annual report of the Peace Institute supported the deliberations of the Sub-committee on Arms Trade on the government's 6-monthly and annual reports, and also drew attention to the increased import of small arms and light weapons, which led to a debate at the plenary meeting. Reference to the Institute's work was also frequently made during various deliberations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As regards the pillar Peace and Society, the main focus was on peace education and on research into foreign news reporting in the Flemish media. Result of that research under the name of 'A window on the world', together with an advice note on the issue, were presented to the Committee for Culture, Youth, Sports and Media on 27 October 2009. Peace education was dealt with in the above-mentioned Parliamentary discussion on the annual report and in various written questions. Further, the Peace Institute's 2006 advice regarding UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was discussed afresh in the Committee for Living, Urban Policy, Integration and Equal Opportunities.

In the build-up to the Flemish elections of 7 June 2009, the Peace Institute published a Memorandum that was submitted to all party groups and Members of Parliament (see 3.2.3). At the start of the new legislature period on 29 September 2009, the Institute organised a political debate in Flemish Parliament during the Flemish Peace Week, where the individual political groups were offered a chance to air their ideas on concrete peace issues.

The Peace Institute also welcomed Members of Parliament and their associates at various other events, such as the presentation of the 2008 annual report on 'Flemish foreign trade of arms and dual-use items' on 17 March 2009, the seminar 'Government and Industry: partners in strategic export control' on 7 May 2009, and the workshop 'Nuclear safety and non-proliferation' on 12 March 2009.



3.2 Advice

Its advisory role constitutes the Institute's most direct service to Parliament and its political environment. In 2009, an amendment to the founding decree of the Peace Institute modified the advisory functions of the Institute (see 5.1). The Peace Institute can formulate opinions at any time on the basis of its expertise or the results of the research it has conducted. Advice generated on its own initiative can be issued both in consequence of scientific research and in response to a political or social stimulus. The other advice functions of the Institute are the giving of advice on request from the Flemish Parliament and – since 8 July 2009 – providing advice on the report of the Flemish Government to the Flemish Parliament on implementation of the Act of 5 August 1991 regarding the import, export and transit of arms, ammunition and materials specifically intended for military use or for law enforcement and associated technology.

All advice from the Peace Institute is issued by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors of the Peace Institute is composed of 19 voting members from different sectors of Flemish civil society. The members receive a 5-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. To guarantee an independent institute with broad support and the required expertise, the Act on establishment of the Institute prescribes a balanced composition of experts and representatives from all Flemish Parliamentary parties, universities, socio-economic groupings and the peace movement. Playing an advisory role within this broad social platform, the Peace Institute takes its role as a Flemish political-social organisation to heart.

Four advice notes were issued in 2009, three on request from the Flemish Parliament and one on the Institute's own initiative. All 2009 advice notes were unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors. They were sent to the Speaker of Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Representatives, and the competent ministers. The advice notes were also published on the Institute's website and disseminated by newsletter. Further, the Peace Institute issued a Memorandum for the Flemish and European elections.

3.2.1 Advice on draft decrees regarding the arms trade

Background

The Flemish Parliament requested the advice of the Peace Institute concerning draft decrees that were submitted to the Arms Trade Sub-committee of the Flemish Parliament on the import, export and transit of arms, ammunition, and equipment for military purposes or for law enforcement and all associated technologies. The following draft decrees were involved:

- draft decree by Messrs Eloi Glorieux, Jos Stassen and Rudi Daems on the import, export and transit of arms, ammunition and material especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technology (Flemish Parliament, Document 834 (2005-2006) – No 1 of 5 May 2006);
- draft decree by Messrs Jan Roegiers and Kurt De Loor amending the Act of 5 August 1991 on import, export and transit of, and against the illegal trade in, arms, ammunition and material especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technology, as last amended in 2003, as regards the report to Flemish Parliament (Flemish Parliament, Document 1591 (2007-2008) – No 1 of 6 March 2008);
- draft decree by Messrs Roland Van Goethem, Jan Penris and Karim Van Overmeire on the import, export and transit of, and against the illegal trade in arms, ammunition and material especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technology (Flemish Parliament, Document 1555 (2007-2008) – No 1 of 20 February 2008).

Content

Before formulating its actual advice, the Peace Institute reviews the draft decrees for internal consistency, existing national and international agreements and obligations, and some specific, basic points of attention.

Regarding the draft decree by Messrs Eloi Glorieux, Jos Stassen and Rudi Daems, and the draft decree by Messrs Roland Van Goethem, Jan Penris and Karim Van Overmeire, the Peace Institute advised reviewing the drafts in accordance with new European rules. With the approval of a Common Position and a Directive on the issue, the European context has changed drastically since the draft decrees were presented. The Institute also advised giving consideration, at the earliest stage in Parliamentary discussion, to existing commitments to apply common regulations within the BLEU and equal licensing systems within the Benelux area for import, export and transit.

As regards the draft decree from Messrs Jan Roegiers and Kurt De Loor, the Peace Institute's advice was positive in general, since this draft decree lays down a number of measures already applied in practice and adds a few useful elements to the annual and six-monthly report of the Flemish Government to the Flemish Parliament. The Institute did, however, recommend some technical amendments to the draft decree.

Status quo

The advice notes on the draft decrees on arms trade were sent to the Speaker of the Flemish Parliament and the chairman and members of the Sub-committee on Arms Trade on 14 January 2009. Neither the draft decrees nor the relevant advice from the Peace Institute were discussed during the 2004-2009 legislative term.

3.2.2 Advice on the improvement of foreign news coverage in the Flemish media

Background

Concern has been voiced for some time in various social fora about the amount and quality of foreign news reporting in commercial and public media. It has been pointed out that, paradoxically, as globalisation has increased over the past decades, the news carried in the media has become ever more localized. Simultaneously, there is a political debate about the media and international news reporting. The Flemish Parliament discussed several resolutions on the issue already during its 2004-2009 legislature period, and on 19 March 2009 a “States-General of the Media” was convened at the initiative of Flemish Minister-President Peeters where concern about the decline of foreign news reporting was a key item on the agenda.

Based on its research project ‘A window on the world – The status of foreign news coverage in the media: facts, impact and policy’, an advisory note from the Flemish Peace Institute explored the scope for action to support news reporting on international society. Given the proven social added value of high-quality foreign news, the Institute formulated a number of concrete recommendations for the structural improvement of foreign news reporting in the Flemish media.

Content

In its research report ‘A window on the world’, the Peace Institute described the actual state of foreign news reporting in Flanders. The research included an investigation of facts, impact, and the scope for action. It may serve as the starting point for further studies and debate on the quantity and quality of foreign news, as well as its social impact. Based on the study it conducted, the Flemish Peace Institute shares the concern about the diminishing quantity and quality of news on international society. Naturally, the Institute endorses the freedom of the press and the independence of news editors: but the government may supplement its traditional duty to refrain from intervention with a ‘duty of care’. Direct substantial intervention in editorial offices is obviously quite unacceptable, but creating appropriate preconditions for high-quality press is a possibility.

Especially in the field of foreign news reporting, well thought-out support can provide stimulus for offering citizens a wide and clear window on the world. In this context, the

Peace Institute formulated four concrete recommendations based on its research.

The Flemish Peace Institute has made the following recommendations to the Flemish Parliament:

- To continue the parliamentary debate during the 2009-2014 legislature period, in the spirit of earlier initiatives and based on the research report 'A window on the world - The status of foreign news coverage in the media: facts, impact and policy', with the aim of generating concrete support for foreign news reporting in the Flemish media in a dialogue with the actors involved;
- To take the initiative to ensure that the management agreement between the VRT and the Flemish government will include a provision obliging the public broadcaster to pay more attention in its news service to the quantity and quality of foreign news reporting;
- to ask the Flemish Government to incorporate, in an amended 'Protocol between the Flemish Government and the Flemish written press on the freedom of a multiform, independent and powerful Flemish press', more precise conditions for the support awarded therein (relating i.a. to destination, differentiation, management and control), so as to ensure that such support has a direct and tangible effect on news editors, in particular as regards foreign news reporting;
- to ask the Flemish Government to increase funding for the support of high-quality foreign news reporting in general, and for audiovisual media in particular, more specifically by (at least) structurally confirming the increase in financial support for the Pascal Decroos Fund that was planned for 2009.

Status quo

Together with the research report 'A window on the world', the advice note on the improvement of foreign news reporting in the Flemish media was presented at a hearing of the Committee for Culture, Youth, Sports and Media on 27 October 2009.

3.2.3 Memorandum for the Flemish and European elections

Background

Elections for members of the Flemish Parliament and the European Parliament were held on 7 June 2009. The package of regional competences on which elected Flemish MPs can express their opinion offers plenty of scope for the development of a policy aimed at peace and the prevention of violence: consider for instance the competence for arms trade, the leverage to develop a peace economy, or the opportunities to work on peace education in the educational sector. The European Union also makes efforts in several spheres for the sustainable enhancement of peace and safety and the European Parliament plays an important role in realising that ambition.

Content

In this memorandum the Peace Institute focussed on three work areas: ‘peace can be learned’, peace and the economy, and Flanders in the world. As a starting point, brief and relevant research results were set out for each of the domains and concrete recommendations formulated.

Under the title ‘peace can be learned’, the Peace Institute memorandum points to a few important elements that contribute to a non-violent society, underlining the importance of education and schooling, the drastic impact of the media, and the role of social networks. One of the most important tasks awaiting the next legislature is structural support for peace education in the schools system. The Peace Institute also advocates propagating an explicit peace message by taking action to promote ‘peace tourism’ in connection with the commemoration of the centenary of the Great War, as well as stimulating high-quality reporting on international society in the media.

As regards ‘peace and the economy’, the Institute points out how important a sustainable economy is for our wellbeing, and how clearly this is demonstrated above all in times of economic crisis. Economic development usually goes hand in hand with peace and safety. In the event that these two desiderata should nevertheless point in opposite directions, the Peace Institute recommends holding an open political debate and establishing clear rules that can also be enforced. Comprehensive and transparent control of arms trade is a key condition for the global prevention of conflicts. High standards for arms export policy are best secured at the European level, so that all EU member states apply the same set of values and the competitive position of our companies remains intact. Given that the Peace

Institute's data show that Flanders does not know the end user of 75% of its exported military material, further refinement of the legislation is needed. Further, communication between the government and the relevant industry must be optimised to ensure that all companies are aware of the laws and procedures, and to allow the government closely to monitor developments in the sector. As regards research and development (R&D), the IWT (Institute for the Promotion of Innovation by Scientific and Technological Research) directive – which excludes government support to military R&D – must be made more specific. Additionally, it is recommended that the same principle be extended to all support instruments of the Flemish government.

Finally in this memorandum, the Peace Institute pleads for a coherent Flemish foreign policy for the promotion of peace and prevention of conflicts, based on cooperation at the Belgian, European and UN levels. In the new legislature, Members of Parliament need to take on the democratic control of that foreign policy and help to define its strategic lines. Local and regional authorities must unhesitatingly commit to the country's international obligations. Concretely, the Peace Institute demands that, for instance, the 1325 UN resolution on women, peace and security should actually be implemented and that the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol should be signed as a powerful bottom-up signal for the achievement of a world free of nuclear arms.

Status quo

The memorandum was sent to all departing and newly elected Flemish members of Parliament, and disseminated among stakeholders from civil society.

3.3

Documentation centre

In cooperation with the Parliamentary Information Centre, the Peace Institute has in 2009 further expanded its documentation centre with a collection of books, journals, and other media publications. This collection is placed at the service of the employees of the Peace Institute but is also accessible to Parliamentary personnel, representatives, and the public at large.

In the catalogue system of the Parliamentary Information Centre, 'Peace Research' was assigned the number 800. This '800 heading' was further divided into a detailed classification that contains 9 separate sub-headings reflecting the Peace Institute's broad-ranging approach to peace research:

- 810. Theory and Methodology
- 820. International Relations
- 830. Peace and the Economy
- 840. Society and State
- 850. Peace and Conflict studies
- 860. Peace Culture
- 870. Defence and Weapons
- 880. Regions and Countries
- 890. Narrative literature

Purchased documentation is made available in the LIBIS network, in keeping with current standards. LIBIS-Net operates as a cooperative partnership among more than 20 institutions that are using the same ALEPH 500 installation for the computerisation of their libraries. Aside from the college members of the K.U. Leuven Association, a number of government libraries, small scientific libraries, and libraries operated by civil society groups and institutions also chose to join the network. With some 3,000,000 bibliographic entries, the LIBIS-Net represents the largest library network in Belgium. Via the Peace Institute's website, a search engine is available to search for the desired book or journal in the Institute's collection or the entire LIBIS catalogue.

A hand is shown holding a small globe. The globe features a map of the Indian Ocean, with labels in French such as "Océan Indien", "Inde", "Australie", and "Afrique du Sud". The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

#4

Evaluation report

In accordance with the founding Decree of the Peace Institute, the Scientific Council evaluates the performance of the Institute's research assignments. Its assessment is included in this annual report.

The following evaluation report, based on consensus amongst the members, was produced by the Chair of the Scientific Council on 12 May 2010.

4.1 Preface

This is the fourth annual report of the Scientific Council and it is the final report of this particular Council, since, with the change of the Board, the Scientific Council will also be changed or renewed as the Board thinks fit. Over these four years we have watched the Flemish Peace Institute grow. A pattern of work has been established in which there is a balance between responding to questions from the Board and from Parliament, which is essentially reactive, and research generated by the members of the scientific staff on their own initiative – often in consultation with the Scientific Council – which is essentially proactive. We have also watched with great pleasure how individual members have begun to spread their wings by contributing to important international conferences and by publishing articles in international scientific journals, so that now the Peace Institute has an international academic presence. While, with such a small staff, it would not be possible for the Flemish Peace Institute to match, for example, SIPRI or PRIO in the scale of its research, we are very pleased to note that the research has been received favourably at the international level. The advisory notes or background notes written in response to questions from Parliament and the Board have also been well received, even though they often touch upon sensitive political topics. Certainly looking back over this year and previous years from the scientific point of view we can assert with confidence that this work is fit for purpose. Moreover, the scientific staff have not neglected 'blue skies' research. Thus the Peace Institute has established a strong foundation for further achievements in the future.

4.2 Methodology

The Scientific Council has now a settled methodology which we will commend to our successors, since it appears to have served us, the Board and Parliament well. Each report or advisory note of the scientific staff is assigned to an individual member of the Scientific Council, who circulates a draft evaluation of this piece of work to the Chairperson and other members of the Scientific Council. In cases where an assessor or another member of the Scientific Council feels that, for whatever reason, a second opinion is necessary then the Chairperson or another person on the Council also evaluates the particular item. The same situation pertains in evaluating scientific projects which are pro-actively engaged upon by the scientific staff, that is, those that are not simply a response to requests from Parliament and the Board. After each individual member has produced his or her report, the Chairperson then writes a composite report which is discussed and amended as necessary by the Scientific Council. It is then finally approved to go forward to the Board of Directors and Parliament. All reports have been accepted by the Scientific Council on a consensus basis. The evaluations that follow were discussed by the Scientific Council at its meeting on March 29th 2010, and following further consultation agreed upon unanimously.

In preparing the criteria for evaluation we decided that it was not our purpose to write extensive scientific reviews. However there has been much informal contact between members of the Council collectively and individually with particular researchers about specific projects. We have formed, in other words, a scientific community. However, our evaluative role is to give an assurance of fitness for scientific purpose of the work of the scientific staff to the Board of Directors. It is not our function to debate the conclusions, but rather to concern ourselves with the manner in which the research has been conducted. In short, we are to evaluate that the research has been conducted according to proper and appropriate scientific standards.

The criteria that we agreed should normally be taken into consideration for the purposes of evaluation are as follows:

- Relevance of the topic
- Scientific significance of the research
- Understanding of the pertinent literature
- Clarity and conciseness in the overall argument
- Quality of writing.

Of course, it is for an individual evaluator to add other criteria where appropriate and for the Council as a whole to do likewise.

In addition, the members of the Scientific Council have met with the scientific staff for informal seminars on important topics, particularly in their formative stage. It has also been our practice to invite each member of the scientific staff to make a presentation of his or her work over the previous six months, and the projected work over the six months to come, at every meeting of the Scientific Council. Thus, we have a sense of where each member of the staff is coming from scientifically, and how their project will develop. We do this in a supportive manner, and regard it as an important aspect of our contribution to the work of the Institute, since it offers the members of the scientific staff the benefit of whatever wisdom we can bring to bear, and equally importantly, to help them to benefit from our own academic and scientific networks.

4.3 General Comments

The first point to make and to underline, because it is important, is that the responses of the scientific staff, and especially of the Director, to our comments have always been appropriate, frank and full. We have been able to benefit mutually not only from the formal contact in our six monthly Council meetings, but also informally through seminars, individual contact and through adopting an open scientific spirit.

The scientific staff face a number of difficulties that come from their contacts with different audiences, in the sense that they are undertaking scientific research in the spirit of intellectual independence but it has to be presented in such a way that is easy to comprehend, reliable and timely for members of the Board and for Parliament. These requirements are not always evident in the very nature of scientific work and we feel that the scientific staff on the whole have managed to balance well the immediate requirements of the Board, and especially Parliament, with the longer term scientific view required for ambitious research projects. One comment that has been made consistently over the years, however, is that the standard of English in the publications has sometimes left something to be desired. This is a point that has been made not only by the English native speakers on the Scientific Council, but more particularly by non-English native speakers. We are pleased to note that this problem is now being addressed through a greater use of independent professional editing.

It is natural when setting up an institute that the principal concern initially should be with the internal organisation and programme of the institute enabling it to respond to its primary functions – in this case in responding to the Board and Parliament mainly out of its

own resources. This period has now passed and we would urge the scientific staff to continue with their policy of outsourcing, and also building networks in Flemish universities and elsewhere. In part this has been done by their contribution to international conferences and publication of papers in leading peer-reviewed journals but we feel that there is the possibility to make greater use of Brussels as a major asset. We are aware that there are a number of plans to take advantage of the Belgium Presidency of the European Union, but these contacts should be extended further through networking, because, in that manner, a wider range of relevant projects, which are either sponsored by the Peace Institute, or indeed, undertaken by the Institute, in collaboration with others, will be facilitated. In short, there are opportunities for the Flemish Peace Institute to play a positive and proactive role. We encourage them to develop further their activities in this direction.

Some of the other tensions that involve the work of the Institute emanate from the need to balance between in-house research for Parliament, and indeed, the Board, with what we might call interest-generated research. Clearly the scientific staff cannot bite the hand that feeds them, and there is no sense that they have done so, but to restrict them only, or mainly, to the work that comes to them from Parliament and the Board would be to deny part of their scientific vocation. On the other hand, the pursuit of interest-generated research needs to be undertaken in a framework of ultimate utility to the sponsors of the Institute, as well as the wider scientific world of peace research. There is also a tension in this regard with the Institute's available resources, which may be adequate for some purposes, but not, perhaps, for large scale projects, such as that begun on political violence. This was dropped, with the Scientific Council's full approval, in part because it was over-ambitious in terms of the resources available. It did nevertheless initiate some useful conceptual work. More generally, the major areas of research which link fruitfully with the needs of the Board and Parliament, are the regular monitoring of the arms trade and arms production, as well as the Peace and Society Programme, which has a strong educational aspect. This includes analysis of the role of the media, the education of youth and the commemoration of memory of war especially where it concerns Flanders. In addition, there are some new developments in a hitherto somewhat neglected area – the peace economy. A case in point is work on the European defence market. We would, however, recommend that consideration be given to a further element which would reflect the intellectual interests of the scientific staff and pull them together in a joint programme framework. In short, we want to make sure that the scientific staff have an opportunity to promote cutting-edge research derived from their own intellectual interests, perhaps with a network of Flemish universities and other Brussels-based partners, or through their participation in major international academic meetings and research networks.

4.4

Comments on research reports, background notes and advisory notes

4.4.1 Research reports

Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items in 2008

It has become a custom for the Peace Institute to issue a Report on the previous year's Flemish foreign arms trade. This document looks into data from the Flemish government's periodic reporting on approved and refused licence applications throughout that year. As was the case in the 2007 Report, the Scientific Secretariat included a section on trade in dual-use items. The Report is so organised to meet its target audience's needs. Very few readers are likely to read the entire report as such. It is conceived as a reference work, from which one can read separate sections, with explanatory notes that provide the necessary background information that is actually also given (at length) in the body of the text. Were readers to go through the entire report, they would be likely to be irritated by an element of redundancy.

As in the 2007 Report, a most interesting section was included that indicates how Flemish trade figures compare to figures for Belgium as a whole, and what position the value of the combined Belgian export licences represent, when put into a European context. Despite the difficulties of different bases for the statistics further comparable analysis would be very useful and is to be encouraged. There is a case for the Institute's scientific staff to think through the mismatches in the use of ML categories between Flanders, Belgium and the EU for licensing and reporting since – on the basis of a catch-all clause – additional categories are added in the Flemish context.

A second suggestion would be to try and obtain data on the value of actually traded goods that are not made publicly available, as well as the data published on the value of licences issued by the Flemish authorities. A similar move could be made gradually to probe deeper into the matter of dual use exports under global licences. The suggestion is to try and approach a few such dual use items exporters and seek to obtain figures on actual trade, that the Flemish authorities do not make publicly available. Even if that information

would not allow for an exhaustive and fully comprehensive overview of what dual use materials are actually being traded, a beginning would be made to ‘get a grip’ on these figures. Nevertheless, as it stands, the work of the scientific team in this area, is already extremely useful, and it can serve as a useful purpose for decision-makers.

A Window on the World: the status of foreign news coverage in the media – facts, impact and policy

This extensive and exhaustive study is driven by two main concerns. First is the finding that people who are better informed regarding foreign news and events are more pre-disposed to peace. The second finding is of a wide body of evidence suggesting that the amount and quality of foreign news is declining which undermines the first trend.

The report presents a thorough analysis of the relevant literature, including research from the USA, to examine Flemish TV and print media in the light of these concerns. In order to make foreign news coverage quantifiable and comparable over time, this empirical research – like the literature upon which it draws – has to disregard qualitative issues relating to meaning and representation in favour of measurable proxies for ‘quantity’, ‘quality’ and ‘impact’. Quantity, for example, involves measuring frequency and air time. Quality is represented by such things as attention span and topic variety. Regarding the latter, the tendency to focus on such things as foreign wars, disasters and criminality has long been noted. Impact within this schema relates to gauging news consumption in relation to political knowledge and civil engagement. The report represents an exhaustive, informed and nuanced piece of research both in terms of the literature surveyed and the empirical datasets examined, including supplementary interviews with Flemish journalists.

Based on the understanding that news consumption has a direct relationship to the quality of civic engagement, while upholding the values of a free and independent press, a key feature of the report’s recommendations is the argument that the Flemish parliament does have a legitimate ‘duty of care’ with regard to the promotion of quality journalism. When measured against the methodology employed, including the difficulties relating to meaning and comparability that arise, the report represents a robust piece of work. At the same time, the recommendations are consistent with its findings and appropriate to the remit of the Flemish Peace Institute. It should be noted that this work also usefully builds upon an earlier Institute report, suggesting that positive internal synergies are beginning to emerge.

Regarding the methodology, the authors are well aware of the comparability problems arising from different definitions of what constitutes ‘foreign’ news, sampling techniques and time frames. While allowing for such difficulties, in relation to the Flemish news media, the overall findings tend to substantiate the concern that, following the end of the Cold War, there has been a decline in the overall quantity and quality of foreign news. Qualifications, however, are necessary. The decline is slightly more pronounced in the commercial VTM network as opposed to the public VRT. At the same time, within this context, foreign news spikes do occur.

In looking to possible future research on the media, given the exhaustive nature of the present study, one suggestion would be to bring qualitative issues relating to meaning and representation into the equation. Answering such questions would not only require attention to the meaning and content, it would also require widening beyond the TV and print media to include, for example, the cinema, the internet and other aspects of popular culture. In relation to the Flemish TV and print media, for example, the report highlights the news spikes associated with the collapse of the Soviet Union and '9/11'. In relation to political risk, these spikes arguably embody a shift from Cold War means-end certainties to an 'all-hazard' world of multiple risks. How is this shift reflected and reproduced in the media? What is the relationship to public opinion and social mobilisation?

4.4.2 Background note

Remembrance education in the Flemish education system: a plea for the commemoration of the Holocaust, history and peace education? Background paper of 3 September 2009.

In this background paper students draw lessons from historical and current examples of intolerance, racism and xenophobia, and give examples of the potential constructive role of conflicts. This activity relates to a decree influenced by a demand to commemorate the holocaust, to use remembrance education as a tool to draw lessons from the past, and to develop tolerance, freedom, democracy and a constructive handling of conflicts. The paper supports the holocaust commemoration, but it considers history and peace education as the most meaningful vehicles to develop tolerance, freedom, and a peaceful world.

This is a very good background paper. The analysis and evaluation is clear, systematic, balanced and convincing. The paper is written for specialists and does not address a broader audience. It would be helpful for its wider dissemination if a more accessible executive summary, without too much jargon, could be added.

4.4.3 Advisory notes

Advisory note concerning the draft decree of Mr Jan Roegiers and Mr Kurt De Loor amending the Law of 5 August 1991 on the import, export and transit of, and against the illegal trade in, arms, ammunition and materials especially intended for military

use of law enforcement and associated technologies, as regards reporting to the Flemish Parliament

Advisory note concerning the draft decree of Mr Eloi Glorieux, Mr Jos Stassen and Mr Rudi Daems amending the Law of 5 August 1991 on the import, export and transit of, and against the illegal trade in, arms, ammunition and materials especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technology

Advisory note concerning the draft decree of Mr Roland Van Goethem, Mr Jan Penris and Mr Karim Van Overmeire on the import, export and transit and against the illegal trade in, arms, ammunition and materials especially intended for military use or law enforcement and associated technology

These three texts have the character of advice provided during a legislative process and are necessarily geared to the nature and limits of the draft decrees upon which they comment. Nevertheless, they may properly be assessed for their scholarly quality, clarity and style of writing and presentation. In addition, the context makes it important that they should be accessible to non-experts and should preserve strict neutrality as between political parties and persons.

The three texts meet all these criteria very well. They reflect an exact and up-to-date knowledge of the relevant technical and legal considerations and of the relevant international obligations, notably in the EU context. They separate and analyse the issues involved in a clear and logical way and provide explicit advice. They offer enough explanation to make the issues intelligible for a non-expert, and the quality of the writing (in the English translation) is generally good.

The three texts also appear to be consistent and avoid any obvious bias in their treatment of the three decrees. The second and third decrees come in for more criticism but this is carefully grounded in considerations of legislative background, international obligations and technical needs. Where similar issues arise in the three draft decrees they are treated exactly the same way. The areas for improvement are therefore minor and presentational.

Recommendation for the promotion of foreign news coverage in the Flemish media.
Advisory note.

This note gives a brief overview of the quality and quantity of media coverage devoted to foreign news stories in the media in Flanders. It highlights concerns about the effects of poor media coverage on public understanding of international political issues, in particular those pertaining to the questions of war and peace. It then reviews a number of previous initiatives that have sought to tackle these issues before ending with four policy recommendations for the Flemish Parliament.

Concerns have been raised about the quality and quantity of international coverage in the Flemish media. This has prompted the Flemish Peace Institute to conduct its own study

of media coverage and its effects on public opinion. The study was published in 2009 and the results of this study demonstrate the declining quality and quantity of media coverage of international issues. This is therefore a relevant topic for both the Institute's mission and the Flemish Parliament.

The note has a solid grounding in empirical research which adds weight to the analysis and the suggested need for a response. Nevertheless, there is no consideration given to cases outside Flanders. Such cases could be useful in suggesting other, innovative ways of improving media coverage.

Given the nature of this document as an advisory policy opinion, it is appropriate that no mention is made of pertinent literature. Nevertheless it might have been useful to refer to relevant theoretical developments in media and political studies as well as similar experiences in other developed democracies.

The structure of the brief is clear and logical, moving from an explanation of context and relevant policy challenges, to an overview of actions taken so far and future recommendations. A more extensive explanation of why policies have failed to prevent a decline in the quality and quantity of international coverage in the past would have helped the reader gauge the extent to which the modified policies could be expected to succeed in the future.

The quality of the English does not reflect the quality of the argument, nevertheless, this advisory opinion is readable and concise, with a logically structured presentation. The report clearly articulates that a change in approach is necessary.

4.4.4 Acknowledgement

The Chairperson and members of the Scientific Council have all greatly enjoyed and profited from their task over the last four years. The scientific staff and the support staff of the Peace Institute have been unfailing in helping us carry out our task, and they have done this in a very friendly and open spirit, which we have much appreciated. It has been a privilege to see the Institute take off, as well as to watch the intellectual developments of the scientific team. While our present Scientific Council has come to the end of its term, nevertheless, some individual members have indicated their willingness to serve in the future, if asked, and other members, who are not able to do so, will certainly wish to stay in touch with the work of the Flemish Peace Institute, and make themselves available for informal comment to individual members of the staff.

We would like to congratulate the Director, the scientific staff and the support staff for their considerable achievements over the last four years and wish them well for the future.



#E5

The Institute

5.1 Context

The Decree: handbook for the Flemish Peace Institute

In the founding Decree of the Flemish Peace Institute (7 May 2004), the Flemish Parliament entrusted the new para-parliamentary institution with four tasks: conducting basic and topical peace research; gathering information sources and making them available to others; providing information, and advising Parliament and the Government. Peace research, covering both basic scientific research and research geared towards current events, is the primary assignment of the Peace Institute. The research conducted is designed to contribute to the promotion of peaceful and just solutions to conflicts and to the establishment of conditions that can assure sustainable peace.

Another of the Peace Institute's tasks is to keep the Flemish Parliament, civil society, and also the public at large informed about issues of peace and the prevention of violence, and about the results of research carried out.

Finally, the Peace Institute has been empowered to formulate general or specific advice, either on its own initiative, on an initiative from the Flemish Parliament, or at the request of the Flemish Government. The decree explicitly identifies the Institute's advisory function vis-à-vis the Flemish Parliament with respect to international conventions and to the policy letter from the minister in charge of arms trade issues, but both Parliament and the Government can also call upon the expertise of the Institute in other matters. The Peace Institute itself can at any time formulate advice on the basis of its research.

In its fourfold mission, the Peace Institute targets a broad audience. As a para-parliamentary institution, the Institute primarily serves the Flemish Parliament and provides support in the execution of its core duties. Among other tasks, the Peace Institute assists the Flemish Parliament both with drawing up decrees, and with the effective follow-up and monitoring of the executive power consequent upon the transfer in 2003 of competences for the import, export, and transit of arms.

At the same time, the Peace Institute also targets civil society and the general public. Through its Board of Directors inter alia, the Peace Institute keeps a finger on the pulse of the broader social environment in Flanders – employers, workers, academia, peace movements, and political parties.

The Decree on the establishment of the Peace Institute was amended in 2009. On 30 April 2009, the Flemish Parliament in plenary session adopted the draft decree submitted by Mrs Marleen Vanderpoorten for amendment of the Decree of 7 May 2004 on the

establishment of a Flemish Institute for Peace and Prevention of Violence, in regard to the Institute's advisory mission and to balanced representation on the Board of Directors.

The amendment to the decree aims at providing a clear description of the assigned duties of the Peace Institute as well as the nature of advisory procedures. The original six options for giving advice have been reduced to three. The option to provide advice on the Institute's own initiative or at the request of the Flemish Parliament is retained. The advice accompanying the annual policy letter of the minister with competence for arms trade has been replaced by an advice on the annual report that the Flemish Government is obliged to submit to the Flemish Parliament regarding the application of the Act on foreign arms trade. The obligation to provide an advice on this annual report gives the Institute an assurance that at least once a year, its view of government policy on arms trade will receive attention in both the Parliamentary and societal debates. Further, the amendment to the decree also applies the principle of a balanced representation between men and women in advisory and administrative organs to the Board of Directors of the Peace Institute.

Mission Statement

The Board of Directors has translated the mission of the Peace Institute into a Mission Statement that takes its starting-point unmistakably in a Flemish context, yet aims to reach across regional boundaries. The Institute employs established methods of peace research but is not reluctant to experiment with new approaches. The text emphasizes involvement of civil society and the general public in the Institute's activities. The Mission Statement is a concise but rich and balanced text that can serve as a guide for the continued future development of the Peace Institute.

"The Flemish Institute for Peace and the Prevention of Violence is an independent institute founded by the Flemish Parliament to advocate and promote a peace culture in Flanders, and which aims to contribute to building peace in Europe and the world."

The Flemish Peace Institute joins a long tradition of promoting peace in the areas of peace economy, social defence, arms control, control of the international arms trade, respect for human rights, and peaceful forms of conflict management.

The Flemish Peace Institute conducts and promotes peace research and puts publications, advisory notes and information at the disposal of the public and public authorities.

The Flemish Peace Institute is prepared to participate actively and effectively in peace initiatives, in consultation with civil society and the public authorities.

In the development of a Flemish peace culture, the Flemish Peace Institute pays due attention to a peace economy and peace education, as well as to new approaches for building peace, among others an ethical, gender-sensitive, or ecological approach.

The Flemish Peace Institute seeks to be an open house where all are welcome.”

5.2 The Board of Directors

Composition

The Board of Directors of the Peace Institute is composed of 19 voting members from various sectors of Flemish civil society. The members hold a 5-year mandate and are appointed by the Flemish Parliament. In order to ensure an independent Institute of broad operating scope and with the required expertise, the founding decree has provided for a balanced representation: six members seated in their own name nominated by the parties in Flemish Parliament, three members nominated by the Flemish Inter-University Council, three members nominated by a voluntary cooperative partnership of Dutch-language peace organisations, and four members nominated by the Social-Economic Council of Flanders. The Board of Directors thus constituted further co-opts three more members.

On 13 January, the date of the first meeting in 2009, the Board of Directors was composed of the following members:

Nelly Maes, Chair

Prof. Dr. Katlijn Malfliet

Prof. Dr. Jan Clement

Axel Delvoie

Freddy Sarens

Prof. Dr. Em. Erik Suy

nominated by the political parties

Els Dirix
Wim Beazar
Jan Boulogne
Jan Renders

nominated by SERV (Flanders Social and Economic Council)

Prof. Dr. Gustaaf Geeraerts
Prof. Dr. Koen Vlassenroot
Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters

nominated by VLIR (Flemish Inter-University Council)

William Debruyn
Inez Louwagie
Gio De Weerd

nominated by the Flemish peace movements

Walter Baeten
Prof. Dr. Philip Nauwelaerts, ondervoorzitter
Christophe Scheire

co-opted members

In 2009, Mr Christophe Scheire resigned from the Board of Directors.
Mrs Olivia Rutazibwa was welcomed as a new co-opted member.

Meetings

In 2009, the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Flemish Peace Institute took place on 13 January, 3 March, 20 April, 26 May, 22 June, 25 September, 20 October, 17 November, and 14 December.

Daily Management

The decisions by the Board of Directors find their practical follow-up in the actions of the Institute's Daily Management, which consists of the chairman, vice-chairman, and the Director. The members of the Daily Management are closely involved in the Institute's preparations for the meetings of the Board, its workings and its personnel policy.

5.3 The Scientific Council

As scientific work constitutes one of the basic pillars sustaining the activities of the Peace Institute, the founding decree provided for a Scientific Council to give the Board of Directors and the Scientific Secretariat substantive support in their research activities. As an advisory body of international composition, the Scientific Council evaluates the quality of the Peace Institute's research activities and advises the Board of Directors as well as the Scientific Secretariat on important trends in research about peace and security. Given its expertise, it may also be consulted in the course of ongoing research.

The Scientific Council is composed of the chair of the Board of Directors, eight national and international specialists selected from academic circles and NGOs, and the Director of the Peace Institute. The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Scientific Council for a term of 5 years. The Scientific Council meets twice a year. In 2009, the Council met on 20 March and 23 October.

On 20 March 2009, the Scientific Council was composed of the following experts: Alyson JK Bailes and Dr. An Vranckx; and Prof. Dr. Heiner Hänggi, Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop, Prof. Dr. Mark Duffield, Prof. Dr. John Groom, Prof. Dr. Luc Reyhler and Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders.

Prof. Dr. John Groom is Professor Emeritus of International Relations at the University of Kent. He chairs the Scientific Council.

Alyson J.K. Bailes is guest professor of International Relations at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik and a former Director of SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop is Director of the Security & Global Governance Programme for Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations - and coordinator of Higher Studies in Security and Defence.

Prof. Dr. Mark Duffield is professor of Development Politics at the University of Bristol.

Prof. Dr. Heiner Hänggi is Assistant Director and Head of Research at the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in Switzerland.

Prof. Dr. Luc Reyhler teaches international relations, prevention of violence and peace research at the University of Leuven. He is the Director of the Centre for Peace Research and Strategic Studies (CPRS) at the Institute for International and European Policy.

Dr. An Vranckx is guest professor in the Department of Third World Studies at the University of Ghent.

Dr. Jean Pascal Zanders is Research Fellow at the EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Paris.

5.4

The Scientific Secretariat

The Scientific Secretariat is the Peace Institute's operational centre. Researchers conduct their assignments in the offices of the House of Flemish Representatives, work on the development of the documentation centre, and prepare advisory notes.

On recommendation from the Board of Directors, the Flemish Parliament established the Institute's human resources: a director, three researchers, a communication officer, and a secretary.

In 2009, the Secretariat was composed of the following members:

Director

Tomas Baum

Researchers

Sara Depauw

Geert Castryck

Nils Duquet

Communications Officer

Wies De Graeve

Office Manager

Margarida Ferro

The Peace Institute offers traineeships to give students from at home and abroad the opportunity to get acquainted with a professional work environment, the Flemish Parliament, and the academic tasks of the Institute. In 2009 Fabian Dominguez (Belgium), Isabella la O' (Philippines) and Francine Migneault (Canada) worked as trainees at the Peace Institute, supervised by the Director.

5.5 External relations

5.5.1 Network

Academic networking

In the exercise of the Peace Institute's research functions, national and international contacts in academia are needed inter alia for the exchange of information, for developing networks, and for carrying out complementary research. In 2009, existing contacts were further developed and valuable new contacts were established with other institutes involved in peace research and international relations at a domestic and international level. The Institute achieved this by contributing to conferences, by setting up collaborative activities or publications, and through personal contacts.

Employees of the Flemish Peace Institute made a contribution to the following international academic events:

- ‘Exploring the Past, Anticipating the Future – ISA Annual Convention 2009’, from 15 to 18 February 2009 in New York, organised by the International Studies Association (ISA) – Nils Duquet
- ‘ECPR Joint Sessions’, from 14 to 19 April 2009 in Lisbon, organised by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) – Sara Depauw
- 8th Dutch-Belgian “Politicologenetmaal” (24 hours’ Conference for political scientists) on 28 and 29 May 2009 in Nijmegen – Tomas Baum
- ‘Toward Perpetual Peace’, on 25 June 2009 in Istanbul, Bogazici University – Tomas Baum
- ‘21st World Congress of Political Science’, from 12 to 16 July 2009 in Santiago, organised by the *International Political Science Association* (IPSA) – Nils Duquet, Tomas Baum
- ‘ISA – ABRI Joint International Meeting’, from 22 to 24 July 2009 in Rio De Janeiro, organised by the International Studies Association (ISA) – Tomas Baum

At a national level, contacts with all Flemish universities were strengthened especially in the context of research to be outsourced. The Peace Institute decided back in 2008 that from 2010 onwards, it would start awarding an annual “Prize of the Flemish Peace Institute” for the best Master’s thesis on peace research. The award consists of a cash prize of 1,000 euros plus the opportunity for the laureate to receive an allowance of max. 6,000 euros for a scientific continuation of his/her peace research. In issuing and promoting this prize the Peace Institute seeks to enhance the visibility of peace-oriented research in several academic fields. It emphasizes a broad approach to peace research, which is open to all disciplines. During the 2009-2010 academic year, promotion of the prize was stepped up at Flemish institutions of higher education.

On 5 May 2009, Director Tomas Baum delivered a guest lecture at Antwerp University on ‘Democratic Peace’ in the framework of the topic ‘International political problems’.

On 14 May 2009, researcher Nils Duquet spoke as guest lecturer at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel on ‘Oil and armed conflicts: the conflict in the Niger Delta’.

Political network

As a para-parliamentary research institution, it is also crucial for the Peace Institute to develop a broad network within its political environment. It goes without saying that the Flemish Parliament and Flemish MPs are given priority. The Peace Institute provides support to Parliament, among others through the publication of advice and background notes, the development of a documentation centre and the organisation of conferences and seminars (see chapter 3). In addition, the Peace Institute cooperated in the welcome day for newly elected Flemish members of Parliament on 23 September 2009. The Peace Institute kept the Parliamentary community informed of its activities via various articles in *Parlando*, the Flemish Parliament’s in-house magazine.

Next to its role vis-à-vis the Flemish Parliament, the Peace Institute has also forged contacts with Flemish policy-makers in general, including the Arms Trade Monitoring Unit (Flanders International) for arms trade and production, and the Education Administration as regards peace education. At Belgian level the Peace Institute maintained contacts with experts of the Study Centre for Nuclear Energy in Mol, inter alia in the framework of a seminar on non-proliferation. At European level the Peace Institute was recognised for its research into European arms trade policy and the European defence market, which resulted, among other things, in two contributions at the COARM-NGO meeting that took place at Brussels on 19 November 2009 under the auspices of the Swedish EU Presidency.

Finally, since 2008 the Peace Institute has also taken part in the preparatory meetings for setting up a ‘Peace Network of European Cities and Regions’. Northern Ireland took the initiative to develop such a network, and after the Good Friday Agreements the European Union decided to earmark funds (PEACE I, II and III) to further support the peace process

at a local level. The PEACE III programme includes an initiative to reach out to other regions and cities to exchange experiences and share learnings. The Peace Institute was invited to contribute to the preliminary sessions on setting up such a network, together with representatives from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Cyprus, the Basque Country and the European Commission. Within that context, the Director of the Peace Institute addressed a conference about the network in Derry/Londonderry on 18 June 2009, and on 6 October 2009 the Peace Institute was present at the Open Days of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union. Last but not least, the Peace Institute hosted a steering group of the 'Peace Network' at the Flemish Parliament on 6 October 2009.



Contacts with civil society and stakeholders

Alongside the Parliamentary and academic communities, civil society is also an important partner and stakeholder of the Peace Institute. After all, the Institute is more than a centre of expertise; it is also a Flemish political-social institution. Structurally, this partnership is solidified by the strong representation of civil society organisations on the Institute's Board of Directors.

The Peace Institute is also developing additional informal contacts with Flemish civil society. Contacts with this network are used mainly for the dissemination of research results. Events organised by the Peace Institute in 2009 systematically included broad representation from organisations engaged in issues of peace and other matters of social import. However, this flow of information is not just one-way: the Peace Institute looks for a two-way flow and interaction of information and experience. The event titled 'Do our politicians opt for a climate of peace?' was a good example in this context, as civil society representatives were involved in its preparation and a broad range of organisations attended this political debate. In 2009, publications by civil society organisations also gave extensive coverage to the research results published by the Peace Institute, i.a. on peace education, foreign news reporting and the arms trade. Further, the Peace Institute keeps closely abreast of peace activities in Flanders, and Institute staff have been regularly present "in the field".

The Peace Institute's peace education working group is an informal sounding board for the work of the Institute concerning peace education, and provides a platform for the parties concerned to meet with one another and exchange information. In 2009 the group closely monitored research into peace education in the educational sector and examined the intermediate research results.

The business world is another important actor in the Peace Institute's operations. Open contacts are crucial, especially on such themes as the arms trade, military R&D and corporate social responsibility. The Institute thus welcomed the presence of representatives of the relevant industries at its events. In 2009 a special emphasis was laid on '*outreach*', i.a. during the seminar 'Government and industry: partners in strategic export control'.

5.5.2 Events

On 12 March, the Flemish Peace Institute and the Study Centre for Nuclear Energy in Mol (SCK) organised a two-day seminar on '**Nuclear Safety and non-proliferation**' in the Flemish Parliament. Seminar topics included nuclear technology and its possible applications in weapons; the key national and international actors; the why and how of safeguards, and the national and international political context. Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff, academia and experts from civil society attended the seminar.

On 17 March 2009 the Peace Institute presented its **annual report on the Flemish foreign trade in arms and dual-use items** to the Flemish Parliament. Each year, the Institute publishes an annual report on the Flemish foreign arms trade. The 2009 edition of this annual report contains data on the import, export and transit of military material and dual-use items in 2008, as well as an in-depth analysis of those figures. The report was presented to an audience of Members of Parliament and the press.



For the seminar '**Outreach to industry: partnership in strategic export control**' on 7 May 2009, the Peace Institute brought together members of Parliament, stakeholders, and experts at the Flemish Parliament. Attendees reflected on the importance of, best practice in, and future prospects for cooperation between government and industry in the field of export control for dual-use items and military material. Alyson J.K. Bailes (professor of International Relations at the University of Reykjavik) chaired the

seminar; contributions were made by Spencer Chilvers (Head of the UK Export Control Organisation's International Policy Unit), Werner Knapp (Deputy head of division 225 BAFA: Outreach-Projects), Sibylle Bauer (Senior researcher at SIPRI) and Freek Couttenier (Agoria).



On 20 May 2009, the Peace Institute organised a panel discussion on **'Afghanistan analysed: the context of the conflict, the role of the international community and the deployment of Belgian troops'** in order to inform social debate on international and Belgian roles in the Afghanistan conflict. Four speakers each introduced a separate viewpoint: Tim Bogaert (Pax Christi) discussed the local context with a brief historic overview and explanation of the actual situation in Afghanistan; Thomas von der Dunk (Dutch publicist) focused on the regional context, with attention to geopolitical aspects and the 'nation building' concept; Sven Biscop (Egmont) talked about the role of the international community and the international strate-

gic context; and Marc Ectors (Policy section of the Defence cabinet) addressed the role of Belgium and Belgian troops.



During Peace Week, the Flemish Peace Institute and MO* Magazine organised a political debate on **'Do our politicians opt for a climate of peace?'** at the Flemish Parliament on 29 September 2009. Here, at the start of the new legislature for 2009-2014, different political parties were given the opportunity to show their true colours on concrete peace issues. At the core were a number

of sharp-edged propositions on issues such as nuclear weapons, diversity, raw materials and conflict. All Parliamentary parties were represented on the discussion panel by the following members of Parliament: **Sabine Poleyn** for CD&V; **Erik Tack** for Vlaams Belang; **Patricia Ceysens** for OpenVLD; **Jan Roegiers** for sp.a; **Matthias Diependaele** for NVA; **Ivan Sabbe** for Lijst Dedecker, and **Bart Caron** for Groen!.



On 10 November 2009, the eve of Armistice Day, the Flemish Peace Institute with the In Flanders Fields Museum and the Peace city of Ypres organised the second iteration of the **11 November Lecture** to commemorate the Great War. In 2009 Robert Fisk kindly accepted the invitation to set out his vision of peace and reconciliation in memory of the end of the Great War. **Robert Fisk** is a journalist,

writer and Middle-East correspondent for the British newspaper *The Independent*. During his career he has reported on conflicts in many countries, including Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Lebanon. With great personal engagement he drew on his broad range of experience, historical insight and literary acumen to reflect on the consequences of war and the opportunities for peace. The 11 November Lecture concluded with a recital of songs by the English composer, poet and soldier Ivor Gurney, performed by April Frederick (soprano) and Amy de Sybel (piano). More than 360 invitees attended the event at the Ypres City Theatre, including members of Parliament, representatives of civil society and engaged citizens. Diplomatic representatives of countries involved in the conflict were also present.

5.5.3 Communication

House style

For the design of its house style, the Peace Institute works with Gramma nv. Gramma is a network partner of the Total Identity Group and specializes in strategic searches in the areas of identity, image, positioning, and their visual and communicative implications. The simple logo consisting purely of words and the complementary imagery are to be printed on all of the publications and materials issued by the Peace Institute.

Website

The website of the Peace Institute is the central vehicle for information and communication: thus all the Institute's communication vectors clearly state the website address. The updating and further development of the site are a constant focus of attention.

Here too, transparency and a restrained simplicity are primary elements in both structure and design. In 2009, an average of 1643 unique visitors accessed the website of the Institute each month.

www.vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu - www.flemishpeaceinstitute.eu

Digital Newsletter

In 2009, electronic newsletters were regularly sent to subscribers. By subscribing to the newsletter, people are given the opportunity to keep abreast of the Institute's activities and new publications.

Communication plan

Effective external communication is the completing phase of the Institute's research, advisory and documentation work. To this end, a communication plan was developed in 2009 that examined how the Institute's mission, vision and strategy could best be linked with external (strategic) communications. The communication plan is a guiding instrument for the Peace Institute's external communication in support of its established strategic plan, and as an externalisation of the Institute's identity that is steadily taking shape.

5.5.4 The Peace Institute in the press

Press releases

- 27/10/09 'Vlaming krijgt minder buitenlands nieuws voorgeschoteld'
[Flemish citizens presented with a decreasing amount of foreign news]
- 29/04/09 Vlaams Vredesinstituut presenteert Memorandum voor de Vlaamse en Europese verkiezingen *[Flemish Peace Institute presents Memorandum for the Flemish and European elections]*
- 17/03/09 Jaarrapport Vredesinstituut brengt opmerkelijke vaststellingen over Vlaamse wapenhandel aan het licht *[Annual Report of the Flemish Peace Institute reveals remarkable findings about the Flemish arms trade]*

Audiovisual media coverage

- 09/01/2009 'Belgische wapens voor Israël' [*Belgian arms for Israel*]
CANVAS: Ter zake
(interview with Director Tomas Baum)
- 17/03/2009 'Jaarrapport Vlaamse wapenhandel' [*Annual report on Flemish arms trade*]
VTM: Het Nieuws
- 17/03/2009 'Jaarrapport Vlaamse wapenhandel' [*Annual report on Flemish arms trade*]
Radio 1: Nieuws
- 17/03/2009 'Jaarrapport Vlaamse wapenhandel' [*Annual report on Flemish arms trade*]
Q-Music: Nieuws
- 19/08/2009 'Vlaamse wapenexport zit in de lift' [*Flemish arms exports on the rise*]
Radio 1: De Ochtend
(interview with Director Tomas Baum)
- 09/10/2009 'Nobelprijs voor de Vrede voor Obama' [*Nobel Peace Prize for Obama*]
Studio Brussel: De wereld van Sofie
(interview with Director Tomas Baum)
- 22/10/2009 'Vrede en muziek' [*Peace and Music*]
Klara: De Ambassadeurs
(interview with Director Tomas Baum)
- 27/10/2009 'Aandeel buitenlands nieuws daalt' [*Proportion of foreign news decreasing*]
Radio 1: Nieuws

Written Press

- 08/01/2009 ' Hamas, gegoten lood und kein Ende'
[*Hamas, cast lead and No End*] – De Morgen
- 01/02/2009 'Vrede kun je leren' [*Peace can be learned*] – Klasse voor Leraren
- 18/03/2009 'Ceysens te laks volgens sp.a'
[*Ceysens too slack say social democrats*] – De Standaard
- 18/03/2009 'Vervijfvoudiging invoer lichte handwapens'
[*Fivefold increase in imports of light arms*] – Gazet van Antwerpen
- 18/03/2009 'Fors meer wapens ingevoerd in Vlaanderen'
[*Considerably more arms imported into Flanders*] – Het Laatste Nieuws
- 18/03/2009 'Vlaanderen voert fors meer kleine wapens in'
[*Flanders imports considerably more small arms*] – Metro
- 18/03/2009 'Invoer van lichte wapens schiet fors de hoogte in'
[*Import of light arms increases considerably*] – De Morgen
- 19/03/2009 'Wapenregister is onvolledig en onbetrouwbaar'
[*Arms register is incomplete and unreliable*] – De Morgen
- 19/03/2009 'Ceysens doet niets aan groei invoer wapens'
[*Ceysens does nothing about increased arms import*] – Metro

- 24/03/2009 'Meerderheid scholen bezig met Vredesopvoeding'
[Majority of schools act on peace education] – De Morgen
- 26/03/2009 'Flandre Surarmée' [Flanders over-armed] – Tendances
- 09/06/2009 'Wereldwijd duizend miljard euro voor legers'
[Worldwide 1,000 billion euros for armed forces] – De Standaard
- 09/06/2009 'Wereldwijd duizend miljard euro voor legers'
[Worldwide 1,000 billion euros for armed forces] – Het Nieuwsblad
- 24/06/2009 'Het leger, uw vriend' [The army, your friend] – MO* Magazine
- 30/09/2009 'Eindtermen herinneringseducatie in slop' [Performance measures for remembrance education down the drain] – Kerk + Leven
- 01/10/2009 'Vlaamse Wapenexport' [Flemish arms export] – MO* Magazine
- 13/10/2009 'Aantal vergunningen wapenexport voor leger en politie gestegen'
[Increase in number of arms export licences for army and police] – De Morgen
- 20/10/2009 'Europa geeft wapenfabrikanten meer ruimte'
[Europe extends opportunities for arms manufacturers] – De Werktitel
- 28/10/2009 'Vlaming krijgt veel te weinig nieuws uit het buitenland'
[Flemish citizens receive way too little foreign news] – Metro
- 28/10/2009 'Steeds minder buitenlands nieuws in Vlaamse journaals'
[Foreign news on Flemish journals on the decrease] – De Morgen
- 28/10/2009 'Vlaming ziet minder buitenlands nieuws'
[Less foreign news for Flemish citizens] – De Standaard
- 28/10/2009 'Kranten filteren zichzelf uit kritisch persbericht'
[Newspapers filter themselves out of critical press report] – De Werktitel
- 28/10/2009 'Vlaming krijgt minder buitenlands nieuws voorgeschoteld'
[Flemish citizens presented with decreasing amount of foreign news] -
Indymedia
- 29/10/2009 'Scoop' [Scoop] – De Standaard
- 30/10/2009 'Ver van mijn bed' [None of my business] – De Standaard
- 02/11/2009 'Vlaanderen giet wapenhandel in decreet' [Flanders includes arms trade in
decree] – De Standaard
- 04/11/2009 'Klein land, veel buitenland' [Small country in a big foreign world] – Knack
- 11/11/2009 'En nu nog meer vrouwen' [Now all we need is more women] - Knack
- 11/11/2009 'De illusie dat oorlog beëindigd kan worden door oorlog' [The illusion that
war can be ended by war] – MO* Magazine
- 12/11/2009 'Hun stem nog steeds met ons' [Their voice still with us] – De Morgen
- 14/11/2009 'Onze leiders weten niet meer wat oorlog betekent'
[Our leaders no longer know what war is] – De Morgen
- 14/11/2009 'Ik ben een misdaadverslaggever' [I am a criminal reporter] – De Standaard
- 02/12/2009 'Rondje navelstaren' [A round of navel-gazing] – Kerk + Leven
- 04/12/2009 'Selectiecomité vredesprijs bijna compleet' [Selection committee for Peace
Prize almost complete] – Het Laatste Nieuws

5.5.5 Publications in external journals

De Graeve W. and Baum T. (2009), 'Short films and moving debates: an account of the IPRA Short Film Festival', in: Reychler L, et al. (eds.), *Building Sustainable Futures*, HumanitarianNet, University of Deutso, pp. 369-379.

Duquet, N. (2009), 'Arms Acquisition Patterns and the Dynamics of Conflict: Lessons from the Niger Delta', *International Studies Perspectives*, 10, pp. 169-185.

Depauw, S. (2009), 'European policy on arms trade: the EU as champion for peace and security or a catalyst to economic growth', *International Spectator*, 63, no. 11, pp. 578-583.

A blue-tinted photograph of a person's face and hands. The person's face is in the upper right, looking down. Their hands are visible in the lower left and center, resting on a surface. A globe is visible in the background on the right side. The overall image has a monochromatic blue color scheme.

#6

Financial report

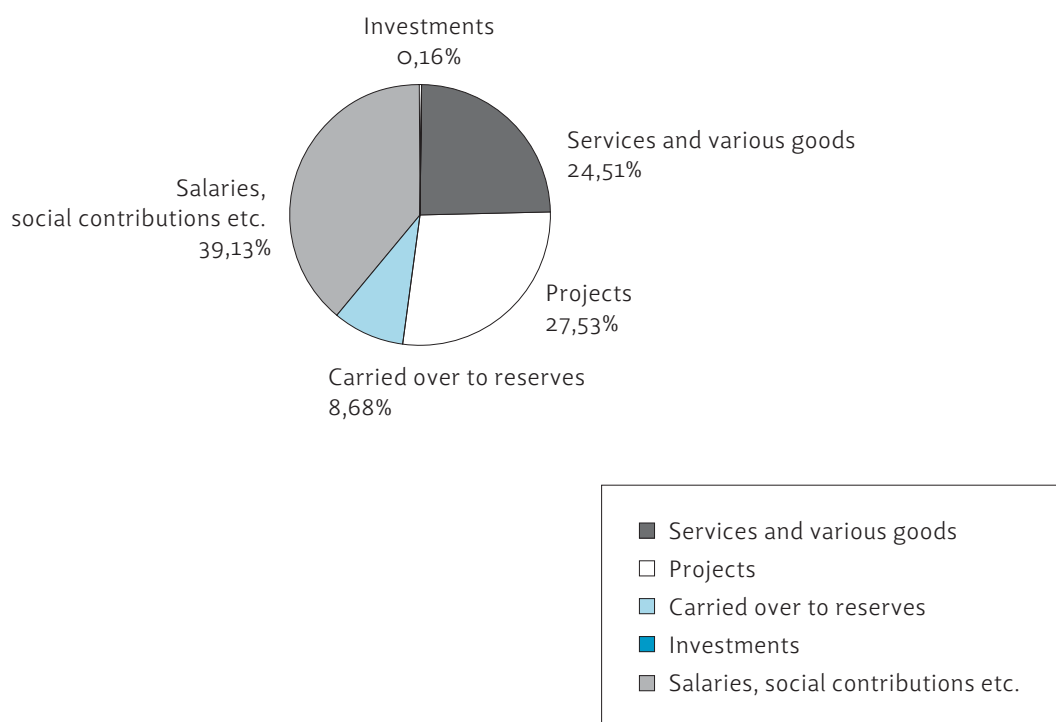


The 2009 financial statements of the Flemish Peace Institute record spending on the activities described in this annual report.

In cooperation with the services of the General Secretariat of the Flemish Parliament, the Flemish Peace Institute operates an autonomous budgetary and financial accounting system using SAP. This means that, besides the separate budget, a separate annual account is also prepared. The Flemish Parliament assigns an annual operating allocation to the Institute and, on the recommendation of the Board of Directors, adopts its budget and accounts. The Peace Institute adheres to the rules of accountancy imposed on it by the Budgetary and Accountancy Regulations for institutions associated with the Flemish Parliament. The Institute's accounts are audited by the Audit Office.

In the budget out-turn for 2009, expenditure amounted to € 1,127,056, of which € 1,024,260 corresponded to costs and € 102,796 was carried over to the reserves.

Distribution of expenditure in the budget out-turn 2009





#7

List of Publications 2009

7.1

Publications in Dutch

Research Reports

- *Vlaamse Buitenlandse handel in wapens en goederen voor tweëërlei gebruik 2008*
Author: Nils Duquet
Published: Brussels, 17 March 2009
ISBN 9789078864196 -178 pp.
- *Een venster op de wereld*
Authors: Ruud Wouters, Knut De Swert, Stefaan Walgraeve
Published: Brussels, 27 October 2009
ISBN 9789078864240 - 160 pp.

Background note

- *Herinneringseducatie in het Vlaamse onderwijs: een pleidooi voor Holocaustherdenking, geschiedenisonderwijs en Vredesopvoeding?*
Author: Geert Castryck
Published: Brussels, 3 September 2009
ISBN 9789078864226 – 23 pp.

Advice notes

- *Advies bij het voorstel van decreet van de heren Roland Van Goethem, Jan Penris, Karim Van Overmeire*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009
- *Advies bij het voorstel van decreet van de heren Eloi Glorieux, Jos Stassen en Rudi Daems*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009
- *Advies bij het voorstel van decreet van de heren Jan Roegiers en Kurt De Loor*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009

- *Memorandum voor de Vlaamse en Europese verkiezingen 2009*
Published: Brussels, 29 April 2009
- *Advies ter bevordering van buitenlandberichtgeving in de Vlaamse media*
Published: Brussels, 27 October 2009

Annual report

- *Jaarverslag 2008*
Published: Brussels, 10 July 2009
ISBN 9789078864202 – 88 p.

Brochures

- *Elfnovemberlezing door Tadatashi Akiba*
Published: Brussels, 16 January 2009
- *SIPRI Yearbook 2009 - Samenvatting in het Nederlands*
Published: Brussels, 8 July 2009
- *Elfnovemberlezing Robert Fisk*
Published: Ypres, 10 November 2009

7.2

Publications translated into English

Research Reports

- *Flemish foreign arms trade and trade in dual-use items 2008*
Author: Nils Duquet
Published: Brussels, 17 March 2009
ISBN 9789078864196 – 180 pp.
- *A window on the world*
Authors: Ruud Wouters, Knut De Swert, Stefaan Walgraeve
Published: Brussels, 27 October 2009
ISBN 9789078864257 – 152 pp.

Background notes

- *Remembrance education in Flanders: an argument in favour of Holocaust remembrance, history teaching and peace education?*
Author: Geert Castryck
Published: Brussels, 3 September 2009
ISBN 9789078864233 – 23 pp.

Advice notes

- *Advice on the draft decree of members Roland Van Goethem, Jan Penris, Karim Van Overmeire*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009
- *Advice concerning the draft decree of members Eloi Glorieux, Jos Stassen and Rudi Daems*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009
- *Advice concerning the draft decree of members Jan Roegiers and Kurt De Loor*
Published: Brussels, 14 January 2009

- *Memorandum for the Flemish and European elections 2009*
Published: Brussels, 29 April 2009
- *Recommendations for the promotion of foreign news coverage in the Flemish media*
Published: Brussels, 27 October 2009

Annual report

- *Annual Report 2008*
Published: Brussels, 10 July 2009
ISBN 9789078864219 – 86 pp.

Brochures

- *11 November Lecture by Tadatoshi Akiba*
Published: Brussels, 16 January 2009
- *11 November Lecture by Robert Fisk*
Published: Ypres, 10 November 2009

Colophon

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