

Country: Belgium

Issue: What diplomatic convergences and what European action plans in the main conflicts threatening global stability

The Kingdom of Belgium is a state situated in Western Europe that shares a border with France. We can divide the country into 3 different important parts. Firstly, the Flanders; the Dutch-speaking part in the North. Secondly, Wallonia; the French-speaking part in the South. And thirdly the German-speaking community in the East which only consists of 1% of the whole population.

Those different communities (especially the Flanders and Wallonia) have a long history of disagreement specifically as a result of the differences in terms of linguistics and the unequal economical development in both regions. Politically, Belgium is a Federal Constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary regime. The complex governmental system of Belgium is a reflection of those internal political conflicts. It is important to note that the government is separated ; it includes the exact same number of French speaking ministers and Dutch speaking ministers. Both parties have completely antithetical ideologies. Dutch speaking ministers are right winged whilst the French speaking ministers are radical leftists. The three predominant political parties are : the Christian-democrats, the socialists, and the liberals. Alexander de Croo is the prime minister , the King is Philippe.

Belgium bears a significant importance in European matters : it is a country known for being home of the siege of the European Union (it is one of the six founder countries). Belgium also welcomes in its country the European Council, the European Commission, the Parliamentary Commissions and six additional plenary sessions of the European Parliament, and other international organisations such as the OTAN (an alliance between European countries and North America that strives to establish a unique link between the two continents in order to cooperate in terms of defence and security)

Historically speaking, Belgium, the kingdom of the Netherlands, and le grand duché du Luxembourg were known (from the XVth to the XVIIth century) as the Netherlands. This ends in the XIXth century, more specifically in 1830 when Belgium secedes from the Netherlands via the Belgian revolution (which was a consequence of different factors such as religion and monarchy). Since its independence, Belgium participated in the Industrial Revolution, and has notably been second worldwide in terms of economic strength during more than a century, and, possessed during the XXth century several African Colonies. The second half of the XXth century was marked by conflicts between the Flanders and Wallonia. Those conflicts led to multiple reforms and deep changes within the Belgian government including a transition from a Unitarian state to a Federal state or even the 463 days that it took to agree on a new government.

Geographically, Belgium covers about 30 688 km². Demographically, it counts about 11 507 163 inhabitants, its density is about 374 inhabitants per km².

Due to its political disposition , Belgium has always shown sympathy and been on the side of the oppressed;

In the actual conflicts that are raging worldwide, Belgium has shown support and solidarity towards the oppressed populations of the globe and is always advocating for peace and ceasefire.

Belgium recently sent a humanitarian aid of 111.9 million euros in order to help the Ukrainian population. This aid contributed to help Ukrainian citizens in order to have access to basic necessities such as food, drinkable (as in non polluted) water, medical care, and education even in their extremely difficult conditions. In order to help Ukraine with its lack of munitions and to answer Zelensky's cry for help, 200 million euros were sent to the Ukrainian army. Moreover, 334 million euros will be dedicated towards the delivery of reconnaissance equipment, anti-drone protection, ammunition, armoured ambulances and more. The equivalent of 80 million euros of munitions will derive from Belgian stocks which will be rapidly replaced.

The amounts released come from the Ukraine fund of 1.7 billion euros that the government created in 2023. It is funded by tax revenues derived from interest on Russian assets frozen in Belgium.

As for the very complex and antique conflict raging between Palestine and Israel, the Prime Minister Alexander de Croo first called for a ceasefire and recently launched an humanitarian initiative aiming to help Gaza's residents to access food. In fact, Belgium and the whole European Union on the financial plan find themselves amongst Palestinian's main supporters. Since the start of the conflict between Israel and the Hamas, Belgium has relaunched fundings for the International Criminal Court, supports the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East and multiplies their humanitarian initiatives in order to get Palestinian workers of the Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) out of the Gaza Strip.

As a pacifist nation that always aims towards the creation of a peaceful world, we know that it is not a task achievable alone. It would be such an unbelievably profitable endeavour to every country sharing our democratic values if we could create new alliances with European countries in order to develop new actions plans to be able to ensure peace and justice for every oppressed nation.