

ANTWERP meeting 10/05/2012 ó 12/05/2012



1. Introduction

Ardent Advocaten is very pleased to invite all Cicero members to the May 2012 meeting in Antwerp.

In this leaflet you will find all information relating to the event. If you have any more questions after reading this leaflet, please feel free to contact us:

Address:

Prins Boudewijnlaan 177-179
2610 Wilrijk
Belgium
(T) 0032/ (0)3 458 26 33
(F) 0032/ (0)3 457 98 85

Info:

cicero@ardent.be

Filip Duwaerts:
Steven Bivacco:

f.duwaerts@ardent.be
s.bivacco@ardent.be

www.ardent.be

2. Transport

Antwerp is very easily accessible by all means of transport:



Railway :

All national and international trains stop at the Antwerp Central Railway Station opposite your hotel. (from Paris : 2 hours, from Amsterdam : 1 hour 15 min.)

www.b-europe.com/Station-Antwerpen



Airport :

Antwerp city airport (flights at this moment only coming in from London City and Manchester): about 20 minutes by taxi

www.antwerp-airport.be

Brussels Airport (Zaventem) : about 45 minutes to the hotel by taxi / coach; about 1 hour by train (changing at Brussels Central Station or North Station)

www.brusselsairport.be

Antwerp-Brussels Airport Express: Every hour a direct coach service leaves from the airport to the city centre of Antwerp / from the city centre of Antwerp to the airport (costing about 10,00 EUR). The shuttles stop at the Astridplein in front of the hotel. This is the easiest and cheapest way to travel between the airport and the hotel.

(www.brusselsairport.be/en/passngr/to_from_brussels_airport/bus/)

Taxi: costs +/- 50,00 EUR - 60,00 EUR (www.taxi2airport.be/en)

Brussels South (Charleroi) : about 80 minutes to the hotel by taxi ; about two hours by train (changing at Brussels Central Station)

www.charleroi-airport.com/

Taxi: costs +/- 110,00 EUR - 130,00 EUR (www.taxi2airport.be/en)

Schiphol, Amsterdam airport: about 160 km from Antwerp

(www.schiphol.nl/index_en.html)

Antwerp can easily be reached by NS Hispeed train (www.nshispeed.nl/en) (departure from Schiphol Airport and arrival at Antwerp Central Station opposite your hotel), about 1 hour and a ticket is (often) cheaper than the cost of a taxi from Brussels to Antwerp.



Car :

You don't drive to Antwerp by car just for fun : traffic to, from and in Antwerp is most of the time very congested.

For directions: www.radissonblu.com/astridhotel-antwerp/location

Het Astridplein (the Astridsquare) in front of the hotel has an underground car park (www.q-park.be/nl/parkeren-bij-q-park/parkings/per-stad/antwerpen/astridplein), as does the hotel (the hotel however does not accept car park reservations).



Boat :

For those travelling in with their yachts, Antwerp has a yacht harbour within walking distance of the city center.

www.jachthaven-antwerpen.be

3. Your hotel

We have pre-booked 60 rooms at the Radisson Blu Astrid hotel in the city center of Antwerp, opposite the Central Railway Station (www.radissonblu.com/astridhotel-antwerp).



These 60 rooms consist of 20 standard rooms and 40 business rooms at very reasonable rates.

All rooms have free (wireless) internet access.

Radisson Blu Astrid Hotel, Antwerp

Koningin Astridplein 7

2018 Antwerp Belgium

Reservations:

Tel: 0032/ (0)3 203 1273

Fax: 0032/ (0)3 203 1275

E-mail: reservations.astrid.antwerp@radissonblu.com

Rooms will be held available until **29/03/2012** at the latest : please do book in time !!

The reservation form is attached to this leaflet.

4. The city of Antwerp

Being the most important harbour worldwide for centuries, Antwerp (www.antwerpen.be) has always attracted industry and culture.

This has made Antwerp a trendy and lively city.

a. History

Mythological

The name Antwerp came from a mythical giant named Antigoon who resided near the banks of the River Scheldt.

He caused great distress to the residents of the city by extracting a toll for crossing the river and even more to those who revolted: he cut one of their hands and threw them in the River Scheldt.

A hero named Brabo (see photo on the right) finally laid the giant to rest by slaying him and threw one of his hands into the river.



The name Antwerpen originated from the words hand werpen which means to throw hands in Dutch.

Historical

Sailors from a north Germanic Frisian tribe are believed to have settled in Antwerp as far back as the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, during the Roman era. It later attracted the Franks, who were Roman mercenaries before gaining power following the Roman fall. During Charlemagne's time (768-814) a fort was built, which was visited by such noted Christian missionaries as St. Amand and St. Bavo: it was later on destroyed by the Vikings in 836, resulting city inhabitants to migrate to Antwerpen, an alluvial mound, where later the Steen castle (see photo on the left) was built.



Today Antwerp has developed around this original location.

In the Golden era of the 16th century, the city started maturing as the most economic and cultural hub in the world. After the decline of Bruges in the 15th and 16th centuries, Antwerp became a major trading port.

With a prime spot on the River Scheldt (de òScheldeö in Dutch), Antwerp rapidly came to the fore as Western Europe's greatest economic center. By the end of the reign of Charles V in 1555, the city was a trading, cultural and intellectual headquarter with a population of 100,000 and bustling docks and new mansions (Antwerp's golden era: ornate decorations, paintings, sculptures and silverware found in castles, churches and museums remind us of the glory of Antwerp's rich heritage).

But the times of prosperity were ruthlessly cut short. When Protestants smashed up the city's cathedral in 1566 as part of the Iconoclastic Fury, the fanatically Catholic Spanish ruler Philip II sent troops to take control. Ten years later the unpaid garrison mutinied, ransacking the city and massacring 8000 people in three nights in what has become known as the 'Spanish fury'. Although the Spanish were driven out after the massacre, they besieged the city again in 1585. Antwerp held out for a year, but was finally forced to surrender and was incorporated into the Spanish Netherlands. As part of the peace deal, Philip II demanded that Antwerp become a Catholic city. Thousands of Protestants, including many skilled workers, headed north to the relative safety of the United Provinces (i.e. today's Netherlands). By 1589 Antwerp's population was more than halved to 42,000.

A second flush of prosperity came in 1609 with the Twelve Years' Truce, signed by the rulers of the United Provinces and the Spanish Netherlands. No longer cut off from the rest of the world, trade and the arts flourished with new industries such as diamonds and master painters, including Rubens who had gained an international reputation. The city's printing houses also became known throughout Europe.

But the final blow came in 1648 when, under the Treaty of Westphalia which concluded the Thirty Years' War, the Scheldt was closed to all non-Dutch ships. Antwerp's vital link to the sea was lost and the city ruined. Amsterdam rose as the region's trade capital, and it wasn't until Napoleon arrived in 1797 and the French rebuilt the docks that Antwerp got back on its feet.

By the second half of the 19th century Antwerp had become the world's third-largest port after London and New York, due largely to new rail links connecting other parts of Europe. The city hosted the Olympic Games in 1920 and, in 1928, construction began on Europe's first skyscraper, the 27-storey Torengedouw (at present known as 'Boerentoren' ('Farmers tower' - see photo on the right).

Immigration in the 1960s saw many Moroccans settle in Antwerp.

These days the city is a tight package of cultural diversity.

b. Harbour

Antwerp's port is Europe's second (after Rotterdam), one of the 10 largest in the world, and principal source of the city's wealth. The



importance of Antwerp's maritime heritage was celebrated with the opening of the new MAS museum, a prestigious project, in late 2010.



(http://www.portofantwerp.com/portal/page/portal/POA_EN/Focus%20op%20de%20haven/Havengeschiedenis)

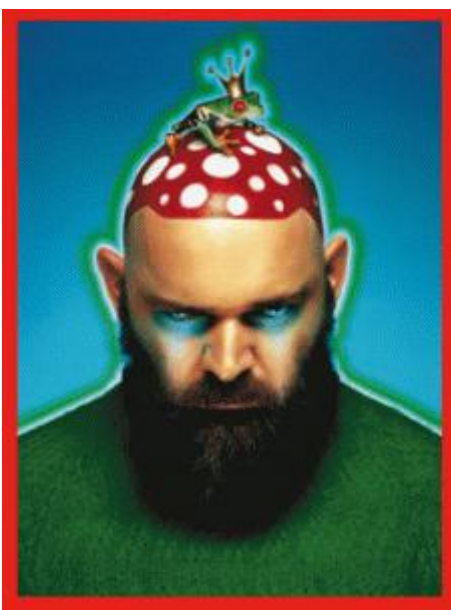
The turn over of the harbour is mainly covered by container traffic: car assembly has by now left the Antwerp harbor, chemical industry remains one of its major assets.

c. Diamond trade

Belgium's second city has been the diamond capital of the world for centuries. Armed guards and traders with handcuffed briefcases announce that you are in the Diamond Quarter, while dozens of shops sell discounted 'rocks'.

The Antwerp Diamond Center covers one square mile, housing 1500 diamond companies and 4 diamond bourses.

In this highly protected quarter, thousands of highly skilled diamond workers are active to keep up the international quality label 'Cut in Antwerp' based on a tradition of 5 centuries. Millions of diamonds are literally passing through their hands. The Antwerp diamond companies have the best polishers in the world.



d. Fashion

Antwerp gained fame during the 1980s through the efforts of the 'Antwerp Six' (Walter Van Beirendonck, Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Dirk Van Saene, Dirk Bikkembergs and Marina Yee).

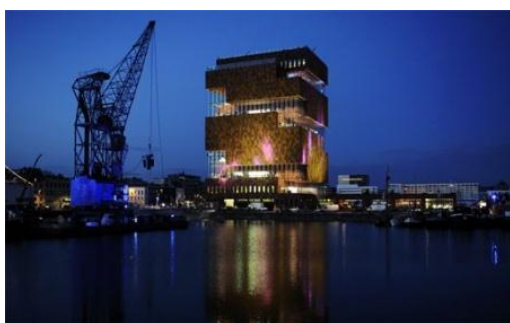
These six avant-garde designers' legacy is very much alive today, not just in the Fashion Museum, or in the Antwerp Fashion Academy school, but on many streets, where it seems

that every other shop window is a designer statement (the area around Kammenstraat and Nationalestraat).

e. Others

e.1. Culture

You should visit : the Zoo, the MAS (Museum at the River ó this museum has recently been voted by the readers of Travel+Leisure the 14th most favourite Museum building in the world) , the MHKA (Museum of Contemporary Art), the MOMU (Fashion Museum Antwerp), the Cathedral of Our Lady, Rubensø House, the Diamond Museum, the court house (also known as the butterfly palace)í .



e.2. Wining and dining

*Some of the nicest and / or most charming bars in Antwerp

Sips bar (<http://www.sips-cocktails.com>): the best cocktail and cigar bar in Antwerp (South). The owner learned the tricks of the trade as the chief-bartender on the worldø most luxurious cruise ship: the Queen Elisabeth II.

Coctails at Nine (<http://www.cocktailsatnine.be>): a trendy and nice cocktail bar in the shadow of the Cathedral of our Lady).

Vismijn (Riemstraat, Antwerp): the bartender in this old pub has been world champion drafting a couple of years ago.

Strantwerpen: (<http://www.perrier-strantwerpen.be/2011/#/language>): a beach bar next to the Scheldt



*A couple of the most prestigious restaurants in Antwerp:

Dôme and Dôme sur Mer: <http://www.domeweb.be/site/index.php> (lunch and diner)

Het Gebaar : <http://www.rogervandamme.com> (lunch)

Sir Anthony Van Dijck: <http://www.siranthonyvandijck.be> (lunch and diner)

T Fornuis: <http://www.tfornuis.be>

And a lot more í

*And a couple of the best brasseries / snack bars in Antwerp:

Brasseurs: <http://www.restaurantbrasseurs.be>

Bizie Lizie : <http://www.bizielizie.be>

N°1: (Hoogstraat, Antwerpen, near the City Hall): a fast food snack bar that serves the best French fries in Belgium (open till 5.00 a.m.)

5. Program

In order to ignite the Antwerp fire for the 2012 Cicero venue, we give you a preview of the program:

THURSDAY 6 10/05/2012



After your arrival in the hotel and a warm welcome (with the needed drinks), we will have supper in Little Buddha (www.littlebuddha.be), an Asian inspired restaurant in the trendy south district of Antwerp.

The little Buddha, referred to in the name of the restaurant, is the daughter of the owners.

We don't know yet where the evening will bring us next, but the dozens of bars in the neighborhood will be an inspiration.

FRIDAY 6 11/05/2012

All suited up, two busses will bring us for a more formal reception and supper to De Ark (www.deark-antwerpen.be), situated in the harbor of Antwerp on the River Scheldt. De Ark (The Ark) is a prestigious, floating theatre, built in 1993 at the occasion of Antwerp Cultural Capital of Europe, lies next to Het Pomphuis (The Pump House). This industrial building (erected between

1918 and 1920) housed three industrial and metal pumps, that were needed to unwater the graving dock n° 7 (now disappeared). This graving dock was on a regularly based used for the vessels of the famous Red Star Line, connecting Europe to New York. This pump house was taken out of operation in 1982.

After two decades of decay, the building (together with De Ark) was protected by the Department for conservation and was given a new destination (restaurant and congress center).



The evening still young and alive, will bring us to Magic (www.wearemagic.be), a trendy club in Antwerp, related to the Kitsch Club in Knokke (a mundane seaside village, frequented by the rich and famous).



SATURDAY 6 12/05/2012

Our last day together, time for some sightseeing and a last dinner in De Troubadour (The Troubadour) (www.detroubadour.be).

This restaurant is recommended by several national and international restaurant guides and has received several recognitions:

Gault Millau: Coup de Coeur

Guide Michelin: Bib Gourmand

Zone 03 (Antwerp): De Gouden Vork (The Golden Fork), an award for being voted the best restaurant 2010 in Antwerp.

Its chef, Mr. John Verbeeck, is, to say the least, a part of the dining experience in this restaurant.



6. Our office: Ardent Advocaten

a.

In 2009 Van Braekel, Moens & Vennoten has changed its name into a more internationally attractive and comprehensive name : Ardent Advocaten

Ardent stands for *intensely devoted, eager and enthusiastic*. The word Ardent is derived from the Latin verb *ardere* which means *to burn, to be on fire*.

b.

Our office is situated in Wilrijk, about ten minutes from Antwerp city center and only half a kilometer away from the junction to Brussels, Gent, Hasselt, í .



During your stay we will not be able to visit our office building, but you can find out who we are and what we stand for on our new website: www.ardent.be.

7. Incoming Agents

For those who wish to extend their stay in Antwerp (strongly recommended by our office) or Belgium, we are working together with :



9000 Ghent, Zonnestraat 8
Represented by its product manager: Mr. Michel Deswaene,

Phone: 0032/ (0)9 269 90 62

Fax: 0032/ (0)9 269 90 81

E-mail: michel.d@squatra.be

www.squatra.be

www.focusflanders.be

*** *We hope to welcome you in May 2012* ***

8. Attachments

8.1. Courthouses in Antwerp

8.2. Hotel reservation form

8.3. City map of Antwerp

8.4. Registration from

8.1. Courthouses in Antwerp



The Court of Justice
The Butterfly Palace



The Assise Court



The Court of Appeal

8.2 Hotel reservation form

(please send this form ó by e-mail ó to:
reservations.astrid.antwerp@radissonblu.com and cicero@ardent.be)



Reservation form for your individual reservation at the Radisson BLU Astrid Hotel Antwerp
Cicero League meeting 10.05.2012 ó 12.05.2012

Number of rooms

Single Standard rooms are available @ 154.00 þ per room per night, including breakfast.	í ..
Double Standard rooms are available @ 164.00 þ per room per night, including breakfast	í ..
Single Business Class rooms are available @ 184.00 þ per room per night, including breakfast.	í ..
Double Business Class rooms are available @ 194.00 þ per room per night, including breakfast	í ..

Last Name / First Name

Company

Direct phone number

Direct Fax number

Direct E-mail address

Date of arrival

Date of departure

- smoking room
- non smoking room



Reservation must be guaranteed by credit card

Name of credit card holder í

Type of credit card í

Card number í

Expiry date í

We will send you a confirmation of your reservation as soon as possible. Your reservation is only confirmed after receipt of a signed and stamped version of this reservation form. Your personal reservation number will be stated on the form as well.

Personal reservation number (to be completed by the hotel to confirm your booking):

Radisson BLU Astrid Hotel,
 Koningin Astridplein 7,
 2018 Antwerp,
 Belgium,
info.astrid.antwerp@radissonblu.com,
 +32 3 203 12 34

8.3 Antwerp City Map

The hotel Radisson Blu is situated at:



8.4 Registration form (part 2) (please send to cicero@ardent.be)

Individual data of the participants
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Last name	First name	Senior	Junior	Partner
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				