


Country Historic Profile: BELGIUM

World Bank Group Archives

Profile completed: October 9, 2020

In its early years of operation, the World Bank had country members that controlled or occupied other territories as colonies or protectorates, etc. The World Bank worked with these members in the development of the controlled or occupied territories. Selected information and resources related to these activities have been included in this profile and identified with this icon: 

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: July 2, 1964
- IFC: December 27, 1956
- MIGA: September 18, 1992
- ICSID: September 26, 1970

First loan(s)

Information taken from [Projects & Operations website](#).

- February 8, 1949: [Steel and Power Equipment Project](#)

Resident Mission establishment

Information taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- Has not hosted a resident mission

Photo resources related to country

Link is to photos in the Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) that relate to the country. Digitization and description of archival photos is ongoing and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to Belgium](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline

for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- [Belgium project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- [Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency](#)

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

Belgian Delegates Attend Bretton Woods Conference

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Become Signed by Belgium

December 27, 1945

Government of Belgium Approves Use of Belgian Franc for IBRD Lending

September 22, 1947

First Training Course for Individuals from Member Countries Announced, Includes Participant from Belgium

January 16, 1949

First Funding for Belgium

March 1, 1949



End of Negotiations between Bank and UK Colonial Development Corporation; Belgium Participated in Similar Negotiations

January 1, 1950



Bank Announces Economic Survey Mission to Belgian Congo

June 20, 1951

First Combined Loan and Public Bond Issue Involves Belgium

December 15, 1954

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by Belgium

December 27, 1956

IDA Articles of Agreement Signed by Belgium

July 2, 1964

Belgium Joins ICSID

September 26, 1970

MIGA Articles of Agreement Signed by Belgium

September 18, 1992

World Bank President Visits London, Strasbourg, Brussels and Melbourne

November 13, 2006

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](#)

December 27, 1945

[World Bank Vice President Garner travels to Europe](#)

May 21, 1948

[Economic Report in Belgium released](#)


January 25, 1949

[First World Bank funding to Belgium approved](#)

February 8, 1949

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

Preliminary report on specific projects included in the Belgian loan application	April 28, 1948
Economic report on Belgium	January 25, 1949
Report on the Belgium economy: Appendix two to the President's report on the Belgian loan application	February 1, 1949
Report on the Belgium economy (Vol. 2): Appendix three to the President's report on the Belgian loan application	February 1, 1949
Belgium - Economic and financial Aspects of the Belgian Loan Application	June 28, 1949
 Belgian Congo - Economic report on Belgian Congo and Congo development plan	September 10, 1951
The creditworthiness of Belgium	September 10, 1951
The end of the postwar period	April 22, 1953
Belgium - The economy	December 1, 1954
Belgium - Current economic and financial position	June 12, 1957
Belgium - Economic position and prospects	February 29, 1960

Country Assistance Strategies

List is based on a similar list compiled by World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as stand alone documents.

None.

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication has changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 8	May 1, 1948	"A Trip to Belgium and Luxembourg"
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International Bank Notes – Vol. 3, Iss. 14	July 15, 1949	"In Western Europe for the Bank"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 16	August 15, 1949	"Mission to Alexandria"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 5	March 1, 1950	No title -- "Electric Generating Station on the Banks of the River Meuse"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 7	April 1, 1950	"An Observation of Europe's Increased Production"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 5, Iss. 3	March 1, 1951	"Bank Financed Steel Mills"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 5, Iss. 7	June 25, 1951	"Lending - The Bank's Contribution to Economic Development"
 International Bank Notes -- Vol. 5, Iss. 10	October 1, 1951	"Mission to the Belgian Congo"

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews were conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

Alexander Stevenson	August 10, 1961
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Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives' [external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group's history.

None.

Executive Directors

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

GUTT, Camille, (Belgium)	May 7, 1946	May 8, 1946
ANSIAUX, Hubert, (Belgium)	June 17, 1946	November 1, 1946
DE VOGHEL, Franz (Belgium)	November 1, 1946	October 31, 1948
BASYN, Thomas (Belgium)	November 1, 1948	October 31, 1950
BASYN, Thomas (Belgium)	November 1, 1950	October 31, 1952
BASYN, Thomas (Belgium)	November 1, 1952	October 31, 1954
BASYN, Thomas (Belgium)	November 1, 1954	October 31, 1956

BASYN, Thomas (Belgium)	November 1, 1956	January 29, 1960
VAN CAMPENHOUT, Andre, (Belgium)	March 1, 1960	October 31, 1966
VAN CAMPENHOUT, Andre, (Belgium)	November 1, 1966	October 31, 1973
de GROOTE, Jacques (Belgium)	November 1, 1973	October 31, 1982
de GROOTE, Jacques (Belgium)	November 1, 1982	September 19, 1990
de GROOTE, Jacques (Belgium)	September 20, 1990	August 31, 1991
SNOY, Bernard (Belgium)	September 1, 1991	October 31, 1992
SNOY, Bernard (Belgium)	November 1, 1992	December 31, 1992
SNOY, Bernard (Belgium)	January 1, 1993	February 28, 1994
RILL, Walter, (Austria)	March 1, 1994	October 31, 1994
RILL, Walter, (Austria)	November 1, 1994	October 31, 1996
HUBLOUE, Luc, (Belgium)	November 1, 1996	October 31, 1998
BACHMAYER, Ruth, (Austria)	November 1, 1998	October 31, 2000
PEETERS, Philippe, (Belgium)	November 1, 2000	October 31, 2002
BAYER, Kurt (Austria)	November 1, 2002	October 31, 2004
ALZETTA, Gino, (Belgium)	November 1, 2004	October 31, 2008
HUBER, Konstantin (Austria)	November 1, 2008	October 31, 2010
HUBER, Konstantin (Austria)	November 1, 2010	October 31, 2012
ALZETTA, Gino, (Belgium)	November 1, 2012	October 31, 2014
GODTS, Franciscus, (Belgium)	November 1, 2014	October 31, 2018
SCHOENLEITNER, Guenther, (Austria)	November 1, 2018	October 31, 2020
DEMIRCAN, Hayrettin (Turkey)	November 1, 2020	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.