



With the organisation of the AGA, 2016 was a challenging year for the Belgian Section of PIANC.

## 1. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The board gathered five times: in Brussels, Harelbeke and Namur.

The General Assembly took place on March 18, 2016 at the Congress Centre BEL in Brussels. About 50 members participated in the meeting. After the statutory part of the meeting, there was a presentation of the 'Brussels Canal Plan' and site visits of the Upsite Tower and the construction site of the new H. Teirlinck building in the afternoon. According to good Belgian tradition, a tasty lunch was offered as well.



*Presentation of the 'Brussels Canal Plan' at the General Assembly*

The traditional summer event was organised at the construction site of the new lock in Harelbeke, September 9, 2016.



*Participants in the Summer event 2016 on the new bridge on the river Lys in Harelbeke*

After some explanations about the project, we were able to visit the construction site. The summer event ended with a dinner.

Finally, on November 18, 2016 the 7<sup>th</sup> 'international' autumn seminar of the 'Service Public de Wallonie' was organised in Namur by the Walloon Directorate-General for Mobility and Waterways. The theme of this year's seminar was 'Inland Waterways, Future Roads, Paths to the Future of Wallonia'. The seminar gave us a view on the waterway from various perspectives.



*The speakers and organisers of the SPW seminar*

The programme and the presentations of all these activities can be found on the website of PIANC Belgium at [www.pianc-aipcn.be](http://www.pianc-aipcn.be).

## 2. AGA 2016

From May 17 to May 19 2016, the AGA 2016 took place in the cosy and historical city of Bruges, Belgium.

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the ExCom meeting took place all day long at 'De Caese', the former official residence of the treasurer of the 'Brugse Vrije', the countryside around Bruges at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, nowadays receiving house of port Authority of Zeebruges.



*Welcome at the historical City Hall*



The evening of May 17, all delegates and partners were invited at the reception offered by the city of Bruges in the historical City Hall, where Mieke Hoste, alderman of Bruges, and Yvon Loyaerts Chairman of the Belgian Section, welcomed all participants of the AGA 2016.

On Wednesday, May 18, 2016, the marvellous medieval Cloth Hall and Belfry of Bruges was the splendid meeting place for the 116 AGA Delegates, representing 24 PIANC Qualified Members worldwide. Apart from the traditional items, during the AGA, Ms Jo-Ellen Darcy signed the MoU of the Pittsburgh PIANC-SMART Rivers 2017 Conference, and the Italian, Spanish and French representatives signed the MoU of the Mediterranean Days for the coming years. Matthew McCarty received the De Paepe-Willems Award for his paper 'Large Diameter FRP Monopile Systems for Ferry Berths' and by the hands of Elio Ciralli (RecCom), Roxie Comstock from Bellingham Marine, received the Marina Excellence Design 'Jack Nichol' Award (MEDA) for the Singapore Marina at Keppel Bay project.



*The delegates inside the Belfry Hall*

In the evening, a banquet was offered at the Bruges Concert Hall, in a socialising atmosphere between the many delegates and their partners.



*The pre-banquet reception*

On the last day, Thursday, May 19, 2016, we got a seminar and speech by Serge De Gheldere. "The transition to a fossil-free economy and the opportunity of sustainable energy in the Belgian North

Sea", as well as an introduction to and visit of the Port of Zeebruges.



*The participants of the seminar*

Those who unfortunately skipped the lunch and the visit to the brand new Zwin, natural reserve and international bird airport, missed a great opportunity. Even before the opening of this interactive exhibition building on June 10, the AGA 2016 gave a unique pre-boarding card for an interesting visit over the Zwin plain on the Belgian-Dutch border.



*The natural reserve 'Het Zwin'*

A programme for the Accompanying Partners, 43 in total, was set up, including a visit to the city of Ghent on May 17 and Bruges on May 18 and May 19.



*Visit to the city of Ghent*



The venue, Bruges, offered the AGA 2016 a stay in a wonderful city, a worldwide renowned cultural and tourist centre, as well as the contact with a modern seaport at Zeebruges, connecting the region with the entire world.

More photos and results about this 2016 PIANC assembly can be found on our Facebook page.

It was a pleasure for the Belgian Section to host the AGA 2016 in Bruges!

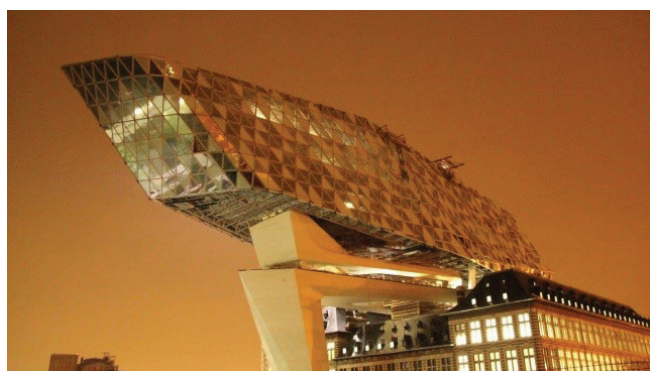
We thank all participants and collaborators, as well as our sponsors.

### 3. YOUNG PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

After the intense year 2015, with the organisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> BTV, a quieter year was to be expected. Nevertheless, 2016 offered a variety of interesting activities for the Belgian Young Professionals.

2016's kick-off was on January 18, 2016 with the classic New Year event. This year the Belgian Young Professionals met in Ghent for a culinary walk through the historical centre.

Shortly after the kick-off, a visit was organised to the new Antwerp Port House (by Zaha Hadid Architects) on February 18, 2016.



*The new Antwerp Port House by night*



*The new viaduct of the A11*

On April 20, 2016, The Belgian Young Professionals gathered in Bruges for a technical visit to the

A11 construction site. The A11 is a new highway south of the port of Zeebruges. The A11, with a total length of 12 km, allows an easy connection of the port of Zeebruges with the interior.

In collaboration with the Dutch Young Professionals we organised a visit to the Maasvlakte 2 on June 30, 2016.



*The YP's visiting the Maasvlakte 2*

### 4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The entire Belgian board participated in the AGA in Bruges on May 17-19, 2016.

### 5. FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Membership 2015

Platinum Partners:	2
Life Members:	21
Honorary Members:	3
Individual Members:	125
Student Members:	1
Small Corporate Members:	38
Large Corporate Members:	9

#### Board and General Assembly

The Board met on February 11, April 29, July 13, September 9 and November 17, 2016. The General Assembly took place on March 18, 2016 at Congress Centre BEL in Brussels.

**Frederik Buffel**  
Secretary of PIANC Belgium