

D.R. Congo-Belgium: Finally a year of jubilee!



**19 June 2010
Reconciliation
meeting**



**Theatre Saint-Michel,
1040 Brussels**

Reconciliation and restoration between the heart of Africa and the heart of Europe

Following the celebration of **50 years independence** of Congo (RDC) on 30 June 2010 it is high time to restore the relationship between Congo and Belgium fundamentally, in depth. The relationship between our both countries has always been one of tension, sometimes more, sometimes less. And still both countries remain connected through their **common history** and through many joint interests. A profound reconciliation can't take place without the truth being told: the painful issues of the past have to be spelled out. Belgium needs to face her own past and **take responsibility** for the injustice that was done. Both countries carry the burden of this unresolved history and need to bring this to the light to be able to look in each other's eye in the future.

In Ancient Israel there was the unique law of the **year of jubilee**: every 50 year all debts were cancelled and all slaves were freed. A new future was enabled by drawing a definite line under the past.

We believe in a new future in which Belgium and Congo can leave their difficult past behind them and can walk together as equal partners, because they still have a lot to offer to each other.

This initiative for reconciliation is a spinoff of the "**Europe-Africa Reconciliation Process**", that started in 1999. Twice a Belgian delegation went for a reconciliation conference to Kinshasa (in 2006 and 2008). It is supported by a platform of several Christian churches.

On June 19th we will also **launch a call** to the Belgian government and the Royal Family to offer their official and public apologies to the Congolese people for all the injustices committed during the colonial period (1885-1960) and afterwards.

And together with this reconciliation we want, as Belgian Christians, bless Congo with **the greatest possible love gift** (project "LOVE CONGO 2010") for the Foundation "El Shaddai" (free school for Congolese children): see www.elshaddai.be.

**Saturday June 19th 14.00u – 17.00u
in Theater Saint-Michel**

(Boulevard St-Michel, Rue Père Eudore Devroye, 2, 1040 Etterbeek - metro Montgomery, Thieffry, tram stop Boileau).

Varied program with several speakers, music choirs (Chris Christensen and Chorale La Louange), an act by Pie Tshibanda and the presence of politicians and dignitaries.



Organisation: Comité Réconciliation Congo-Belgique

Web site: www.pray4belgium.be (see « reconciliation »)

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