

INDIA NEWS FLASH

JANUARY 2024

WORD OF THE CHAIRMAN

Dear BICC&I Members,

As we step into another year, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2024!

Reflecting upon the year behind us, we witnessed again tremendous global uncertainties and turmoil. But amidst this shifting geopolitical landscape, where traditional economic powerhouses are being reconsidered, India emerges as a beacon of opportunity. With its strategic position, robust economic growth, and commitment to technology and innovation, India is not just an alternative but a primary choice for expanding global supply chains and investments. The country has shown remarkable resilience and a fierce commitment to innovation. Today, more than ever I urge you to explore the numerous opportunities that India presents to Belgian businesses.

Our bilateral trade, predominantly known for diamonds, has evolved with India's dynamic sectors, now offering vast opportunities in manufacturing, cleantech & renewable energy, healthcare & pharma, infrastructure, and telecommunications.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to Belgian businesses - conveyed to us through his dynamic Ambassador and Embassy staff in Brussels - to participate in India's growth narrative is a testament to the potential cost-effectiveness and efficiency improvements that can be obtained through Indian manufacturing and services.

As we navigate through these complex times, our Chamber remains committed to fostering deeper ties and business exchanges between Belgium and India. The success stories from our members who have ventured into the Indian market are not just tales of profitability but of partnerships and progress. This year again, we intend to host several events at members' headquarters in Belgium, so they can showcase how India has been a land of incredible opportunities for their businesses.

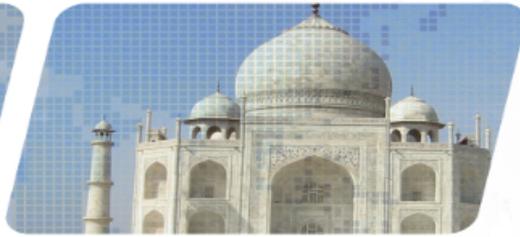
In conclusion, I reiterate our Chamber's commitment to be your partner in this ambitious venture. Let us use the collective experience and insights to build our businesses in this era of global collaboration.

Here's to a year of opportunities, achievements, and stronger ties between Belgium and India.

Sincerely,

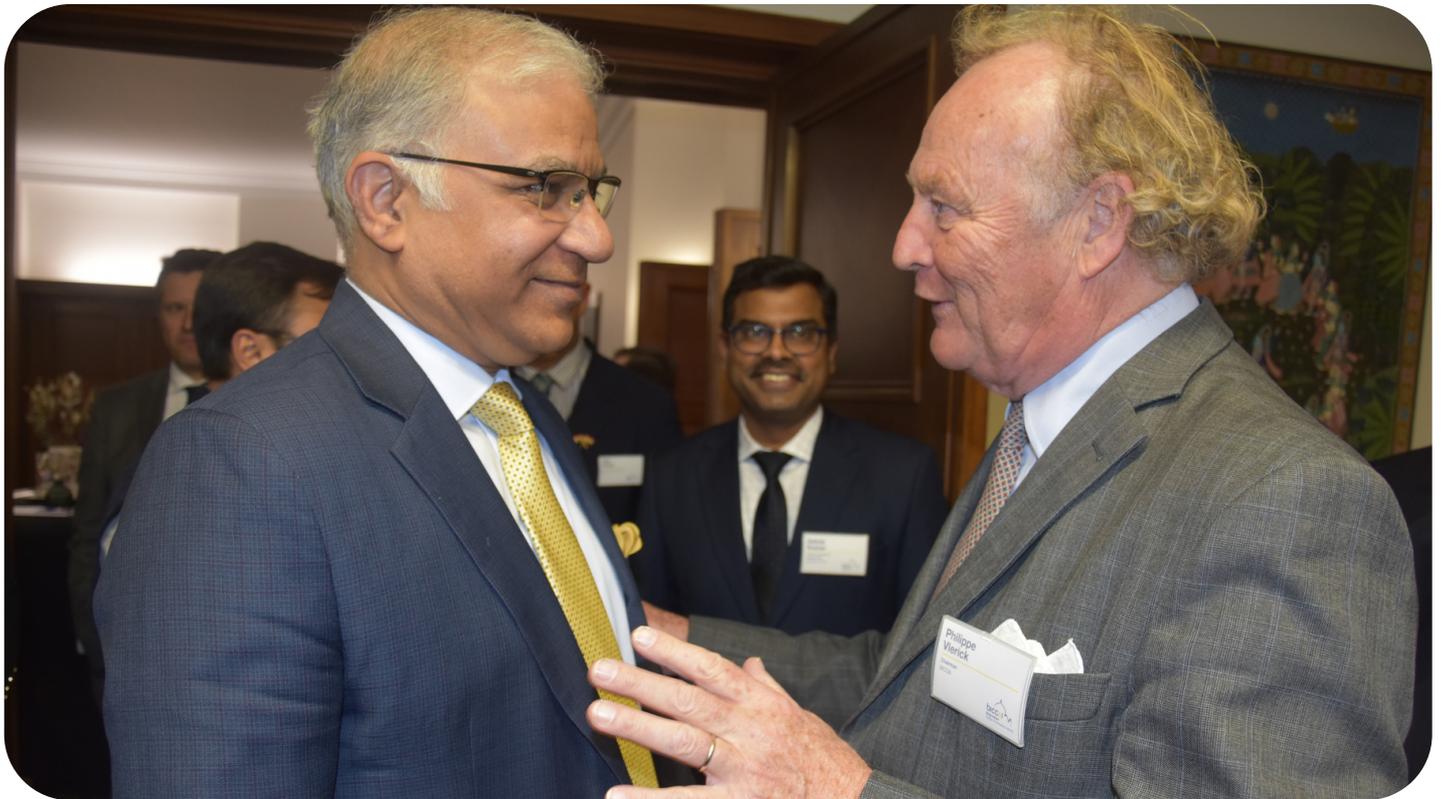


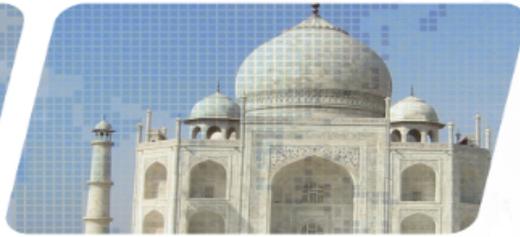
Baron Philippe Vlerick
Chairman BICC&I



BICC&I New Year Reception – Embassy of India Thursday, February 9, 2023

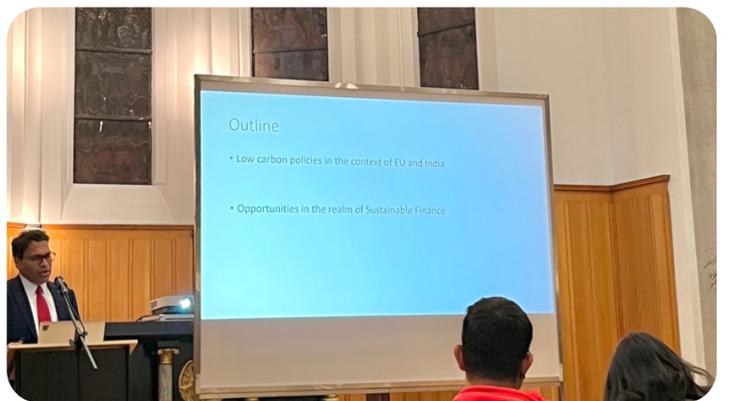
What better place than the beautiful Embassy of India in Brussels to celebrate the kick-off of a new year for BICC&I.

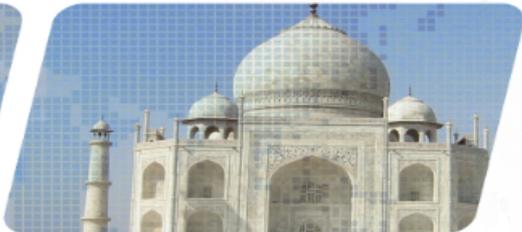




IMT Ghaziabad student visit to Vlerick Business School March 2, 2023

We had the opportunity to meet a group of MBA students from this highly reputed institute in India and present the role of BICC&I, alongside the Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Debasish Prusty and the Area Manager Southern Asia at Flanders Investment & Trade, Mr. Bart Van den Bossche.





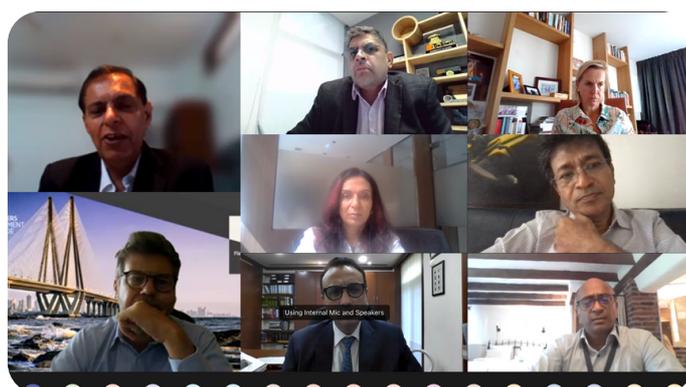
VBO/FEB Roundtable discussion with Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal May 15, 2023

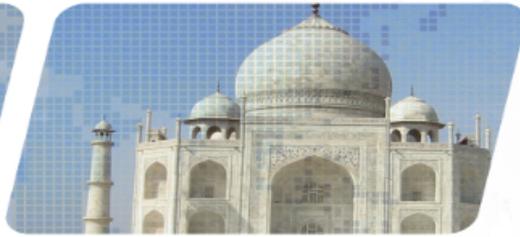
In the context of the Free Trade Agreements, BICC&I Chairman Philippe Vlerick was invited to participate in a roundtable discussion with the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal. The FTA negotiations are in the final stages and are key in making trade between Europe and India even easier.



Webinar 'Invest in Maharashtra' in collaboration with Indo-Benelux Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Mumbai June 15, 2023

A panel of top speakers highlighted the assets and opportunities for foreign investors in this highly dynamic region of India.

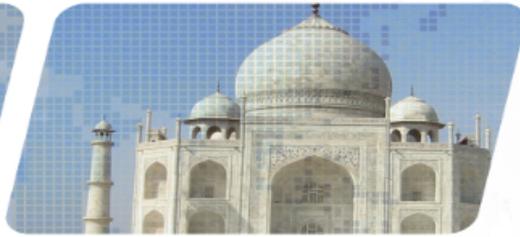




BLCCA – 2-day Academy for all Belgian Chambers of Commerce – Spa Francorchamps September 3-4, 2023

This yearly event provides a unique opportunity to meet other chambers and to learn best practices from one another.

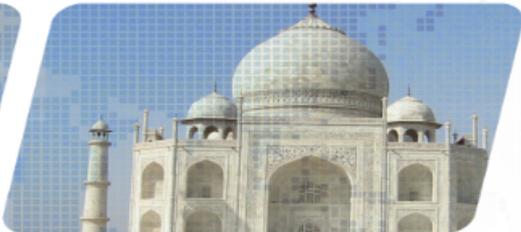


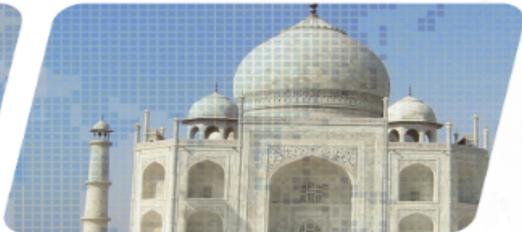


The BICC&I Lunch Causerie – Kasteel van Huizingen September 12, 2023

This edition of our annual Lunch Causerie was co-hosted by the Indian Embassy and featured an interesting presentation of Invest India by H.E. Ambassador Santosh Jha and a powerful testimonial by Mr. Ujwal Kawale, Project Director at Cockerill Industry about their successful operations in India.







Diplomatic Days 2023 – Palais d’Egmont November 8, 2023

During the Diplomatic Days we met with the Consul General of Belgium in India, Mr. Frank Geerkens and the chairman met with Ambassador Vanderhasselt to discuss the Belgian business presence in India and look at ways the Embassy and BICC&I can cooperate to reinforce and facilitate access for Belgian companies in India.



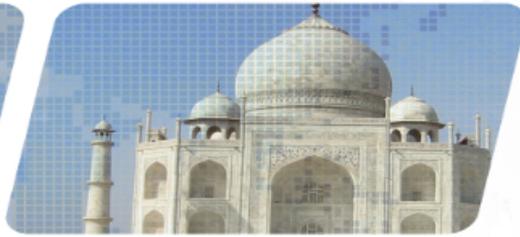
The BICC&I ‘Catching the Indian Tiger’ event – Minnepoort Theater, Leuven November 23, 2023

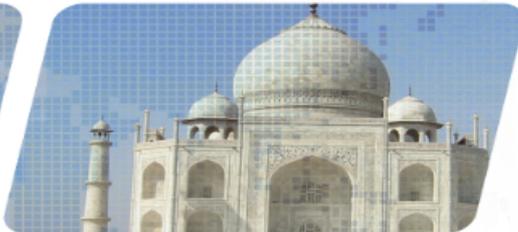
This year’s event was organized around the bi-annual Indian Arts Festival ‘Indialogue’, in collaboration with Maghenta, the City of Leuven and India House Leuven.

We invited the CEO of Cartamundi, Mr. Stefaan Merckx, who gave us an inspiring presentation on the group’s thriving activities in India.

We ended the evening listening to the mesmerizing performance of the 49 Strings Ensemble!







Events 2024

Tuesday, January 16, 2024: BICC&I New Year Reception at Agristo

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 & Thursday, May 16, 2024 :Provisional dates for Spring Events to be confirmed

Tuesday, September 3, 2024: Annual Lunch Causerie

Thursday, November 7, 2024: BICC&I Catching the Indian Tiger event

Bicci.be : Welcome to our new BICC&I website!

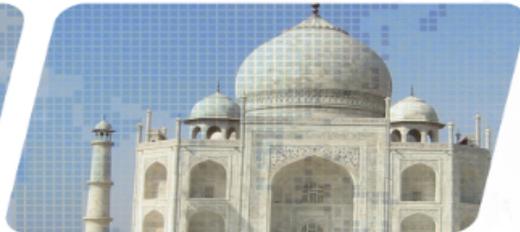
A big thanks to one of our members, a world leader in IT solutions and consulting, who have helped us build this dynamic and interactive website. Check out the first version at <https://bicci.be>

We will keep adding new features for our visitors. The BICC&I members will have their personal login that would provide them access to 'members only' content and full member list. Please feel free to drop your suggestions at <https://bicci.be/contactus/>

We've also created a BICC&I LinkedIn page, so please follow us on LinkedIn to stay up to date on events, news and to spread the news about BICC&I!



[Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



Useful information

President: Baron Philippe Vlerick
Vice President : Mrs . Virginie Michiels, Fedil
Luxembourg

Directors:
Mr. Wouter De Geest, VOKA Honorary Chairman
Mr. Hemakiran Gupta, Tata Consultancy Services
Mr. Frank Haak, BNP Paribas Fortis
Mr. Stefan Hollands, CSC India
Mr. Raj Kalra, Bekaert

Contact

Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
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Mrs. Barbara Bouckaert
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Tel. +32 479 75 88 92

Membership

The Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry is at the heart of a growing network with access to more than 2.000 contacts in Belgium directly involved in business with India.

The Chamber seeks to promote the commercial, industrial, scientific and financial co-operation between Belgium and the Republic of India.

BICC&I also supports educational, cultural and social exchange programmes.

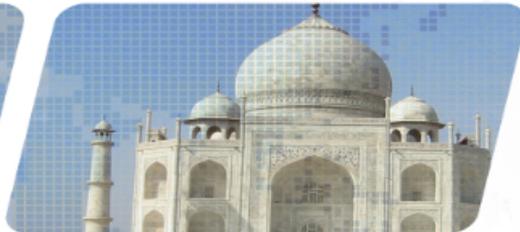
Through its channel and its co-operation with Indian, Belgian and European official institutions, BICC&I serves your businesses in both directions, from Belgium to India and from India to Belgium.

We invite you to become a member in 2024
A membership to the Belgo-Indian Chamber offers:

- a direct access to its network and priority for receiving information on the Indian market and special events
- access to restricted members only meetings
- rebate on participation fees in case of invoiced seminars
- possibilities for full members of publishing free of charge their company/organization name and contact details on the Chamber's website

The membership fees for the Belgo-Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry are:

- Large Companies: €600 + VAT
- SME (max 250 employees): €300 + VAT
- Start-up companies (< 2yrs): €100 + VAT
- Students: €50



We thank our structural sponsors for their sustained support !



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