



## **Speech « Belgian Evening » du 04/10/2015**

### **Risks and Opportunities in Venice**

Dames en Heren, hartelijk welkom !

Mesdames et messieurs, soyez les bienvenus !

Dear Guests, Dear Members, Let me welcome you all to this beautiful venue in the heart of Venice.

BELRIM is honoured and pleased to share this evening with you.

Het is ondertussen een vaste traditie geworden om een « Belgian evening » te organiseren ter gelegenheid van het Ferma Forum. De uitdaging ligt erin een locatie te vinden die tegelijkertijd prestigieus, origineel en gezellig is. Venetië is dan wel één van de mooiste plaatsen van Europa, het is zeker geen evidente locatie om iets te organiseren. We hopen echter dat we in ons opzet geslaagd zijn.

Uw talrijke opkomst vanavond uit een tiental landen bewijst eens te meer dat dit “the place to be” geworden is bij de opening van het Ferma Forum.

J'aimerais souligner deux éléments communs entre Venise et la Belgique. D'une part, la magnifique ville de Bruges est connue comme la Venise du Nord, au même titre que Stockholm où nous étions il ya quatre ans. Et oui, c'est déjà la troisième édition de la Belgian Evening que j'ai le privilège de présider. D'autre part, Napoléon qui avait conquis le Nord de l'Italie en 1797, a livré Venise et ses territoires aux Habsbourg d'Autriche en échange de la Belgique lors du traité de Campo-Formio. Cela ne l'a pas empêché de récupérer Venise en 1805 pour l'intégrer au royaume d'Italie, prémisses de l'Italie actuelle. Mais cela est une autre histoire...

There is hardly a place in Europe where risks and opportunities are more entwined than in this floating city.

It is from here that the rest of the world was opened up to us. Marco Polo travelled from Venice to the Far East and ran numerous risks but brought back a wealth of opportunities and set in an era of unprecedented riches for the city of the Doges. It is only due to the fact that he was captured and spent two years in prison in Genoa that later generations learned all about his adventures and discovered other cultures.

He was the first great explorer and many would follow. And as they followed, their discoveries would lead to the downfall of Venice. When the great sea routes were opened up, the Silk Road taken by Marco Polo was no longer attractive. Competition between the nations started and the centre of prosperity no longer resided in Venice.

But Venetians would continue to push their luck and would take big shares in the ships that travelled the seven seas. They would sell and buy these shares and make huge profits ... or lose all their belongings.

It shouldn't surprise us that it was in Venice, that in 1638 the first gambling house "Ridotto" was opened. Later on, private gambling houses opened that were called casinós. And here I run the risk of mispronouncing, for the tonic stress in the word changes its meaning from "gambling house" into "whore house"...

The Ca'Vendramin Calergi we are in tonight was designed in the late 15th century. Its building took 28 years, which at the time was not extremely long seen the techniques that were used. The Vendramin family lived in it until it was sold to the Duchess of Berry and then bought by the City Council of Venice who now uses it for the Winter Casinó.

Right on the Canal Grande, where millimeter by millimeter buildings sink into the water. This too is caused by people taking risks while looking for opportunities. The layer of fresh water was pumped away to help along the petrochemical industry further down in the bay. And nowadays, huge cruise ships haul over millions of tourists and the waves they cause bang into the wooden structures under the city... at a high risk of collapse...

Our sponsors even had to communicate the size and weight of their goodies to this venue, for everything is calculated in function of how much the structure can take... risks ... and opportunities...

No better place in the world for risk managers to meet and mingle.

It is a perfect link with the Ferma Forum title “***Living & working in a riskier world***”. The academic programme is designed with a theme per day:

- On Monday, the focus will be on the ***profession*** of Risk Manager: I strongly believe in the certification programme launched during this forum, the goal of which is clearly to support and to develop our profession. The same day we will have RM Only Round table and some interesting workshops on “RM in SME’s” moderated by Carl Leeman or “Evolution of Risk and Audit Committees” moderated by myself.
- On Tuesday, find the inspiration from the latest innovative solutions presented during the different workshops, as “Cyber risks”, “Emerging Risks” or “Climate changes and political risks” moderated by myself
- Finally, on Wednesday, we will have a focus on diversity, not only gender diversity but on diversity through the wide lens of the diverse world that we live and work in. Don’t miss the workshop “Global Perspectives” moderated by Jo Willaert.

Une soirée comme ce soir est aussi l’occasion de partager avec vous quelques considérations sur la vie de Belrim et plus généralement du marché de la gestion du risque et de l’assurance. J’aimerais tout particulièrement mettre en avant le remarquable travail effectué par notre Scientific Committee dans la promotion du RM auprès du monde académique dont les résultats très concrets sont d’une part que Belrim compte à ce jour 14 membres académiques et que d’autre part, nous avons reçu pas moins de 10 travaux en compétition pour le prix Belrim, tous de grande qualité.

We zetten onze laureaten reeds in de bloemetjes op 10 september, maar toch willen we graag Eveline en Karel-Jan op het podium roepen om hen nog een klein aandenken aan dit forum aan te bieden. Hun paper werd uitgekozen als allerbeste uit een reeks van 10 werken. Het werk presenteert de resultaten van een online enquête waaraan ongeveer honderd twintig bedrijven meewerkten. Deze praktische resultaten werden ondersteund door een belangrijk theoretisch onderzoek. De resultaten zijn heel interessant als benchmarking voor iedere risk manager in België. Proficiat, Eveline en Karel-Jan.

(remise des trophées)

In September, I had the opportunity to participate in the German DVS symposium and I totally agree with the fact developed by them that the risk management community is dominated by an old generation (look around you, including myself !) and the challenge is to convince young professionals that RM and insurance are career options. The Belrim prize is clearly on that way. Another point discussed that the “non-admitted” rules are a restriction on free trade and have as consequences huge additional costs for our companies.

An Airmic survey demonstrated that a service gap exists in efficacy on insurance programs that do not do what they were intended to do. Loss adjusters admitted that 90% of claim problems could be avoided or resolved if the policy had been placed and written correctly in the first place. Finally, I would like to highlight the next theme chosen by Amrae for Les Rencontres 2016 in Lille: “Our companies are working in high risk climates” (Climats à Hauts Risques). Clearly, we are back to the Ferma Forum title: “Living and working in a riskier world”

Deze avond kon niet zonder uw steun georganiseerd worden en onze oproep werd door velen beantwoord. In naam van Belrim wens ik in het bijzonder onze sponsors te danken :

**Platinum: (in alfabetische volgorde, dus geen jaloezie)**

ACE, AIG, ALLIANZ, AON, HDI GERLING, MARSH, VANBREDA, ZURICH

**Gold:**

AMLIN, GRAS SAVOYE, MCLARENS, RSA, XL CATLIN

**Silver:**

ADD, AXA CS, BALOISE, CUNNINGHAM LINDSEY, ETHIAS, GALTIER, HCC, LYDIAN, SWISS RE, TROOSTWIJK

Alvorens af te sluiten wil ik graag van deze gelegenheid gebruik maken om iedereen in het openbaar te bedanken die actief heeft meegewerkt aan de organisatie van deze avond waarvan ik hoop dat hij aan uw verwachtingen voldoet.

It is time now to conclude and I would like to highlight again the key words for the next three days:

- **Profession:** The launching of the certification programme is an opportunity to promote and to support the profession of Risk Manager. The Belrim prize is another good example.
- **Innovation:** is the only way to develop our companies and our influence inside them
- **Diversity:** it is not only a question of gender but also of generation or culture. So the Ferma Forum is an opportunity to create new contacts from different worlds.

While you were listening to my speech, you had the opportunity to admire this wonderful building. It really is the perfect setting for what we have in store for you.

The programmes in your hands already give away what is to follow.

You may be aware of the fact that this palace had plenty of music between its walls before. Wagner resided on this floor and composed and played his music here; (he also died here from a heart attack).

We have booked a special trio to entertain you with opera at the casino.

They have a strong link with BELRIM, for Laura is the daughter of one of our former presidents, Pierre Cambier.

It is with great pride that I leave the floor to Valeria, Laura and Davide for a Belgo-Italian musical intermezzo.