



International Conference "The impact of the ombudsman"
April 14th - 15th 2008 Ghent – Belgium

Conference Information

On April 14th and 15th 2008 the 2nd International Conference for Ombudsmen, held in Ghent, will be organised. The conference will be entitled "The impact of the Ombudsman".

Following and other topical questions will be discussed during the conference.

How can we measure the impact of ombudsmen?

Which elements might influence the impact of this institution?

What makes the difference?

How can their relationship with stakeholders (media, citizens, politicians, administration) be enhanced?

How important is the relation with the press?

Which elements could possibly subvert the power of the ombudsman?

Guest speakers from various continents will share their views and expertise. Of course, we do expect to learn from your practical experiences and personal opinions, which can be expressed during the special workshops.

The conference is held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Ghent Ombudswoman. This festive event is organised in co-operation with the Centre for Local Politics of Ghent University, the IOI and the EOI. We also asked the collaboration of Belgian colleagues and the esteemed presence of the Ombudsman of Amsterdam.

A detailed programme will be forwarded in due time. We intend to publish a book linked to this conference. This publication can be ordered afterwards, if you should be unable to attend this festive occasion.

However, we expect the pleasure of your company in Ghent on April 14th and April 15th, 2008!!

Advance registration

If you wish to attend the international conference for ombudsmen, please complete the enclosed registration form and send it back to *Natalie.Guilbert@gent.be*. The advance registration deadline is **February 15th 2008**. After this date an additional 25euro will be added to the registration fee. The registration is only valid after payment.

Registration fee

Advance registration before February 15th: 250euro

Registration after February 15th: 275euro



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The registration fee includes:

Access to all conference activities
Lunches on Monday and Tuesday, dinner on Monday
Conference papers
Conference book (send afterwards)
Simultaneous translation

Payment

Bank transfer to the following account (in euro):

Dexia: BE73-0910-1773-4760
International Conference
Stad Gent – Dienst Ombudsvrouw
Botermarkt 17
9000 GENT

Please mention clearly your name and function.

Registration and information desk

The conference registration and information desk will be located in the entrance hall of the city hall, Botermarkt 1. It shall be open from Monday 9 A.M.

Day-time telephone during the conference:

Tel.: +32 (0) 9 266 55 00

Fax: +32 (0) 9 266 55 19

A message board will be situated at the information desk. Please check the message board periodically to ensure that you don't miss urgent calls.

The final conference program will be distributed when registering at the conference desk.

Practical information

The International Conference “The impact of the ombudsman” will be organised on Monday and Tuesday *April 14th and 15th 2008* in Ghent, Belgium.

The venue will be:

The city hall of Ghent
Botermarkt 1
9000 GENT

Simultaneous *translation* will be provided in English, French, German and Spanish.



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On Sunday afternoon or evening there will be a *cultural trip* along beautiful, historic places in Ghent. If you want to participate, please fill in the registration form.

Conference secretariat

Participants who need any further information or have questions related to registration, accommodation, et cetera, are invited to contact the conference secretariat:

Natalie Guilbert
Dienst Ombudsvrouw
Botermarkt 17
9000 GENT
tel.: +32 (0) 9 266 55 07
fax: +32 (0) 9 266 55 19
email: Natalie.Guilbert@gent.be

Travel information

If you arrive by plane: Brussels/Zaventem National Airport is located 55 km of Ghent. A direct train will take you in less than an hour to the Sint - Pietersstation in Ghent.

If you travel by train: Ghent Sint - Pietersstation is one of the main railway stations in Belgium. Perhaps it will be necessary to change in Brussels. Check www.nmbs.be for timetables.

At the Sint - Pietersstation in Ghent taxis are easy to find. The city hall can also be reached by **tram 1** (+/- 15 minutes). You can take a tram about every 10 minutes, under the bridge next to the station. Get out at the stop called Sint - Niklaasstraat or Korenmarkt.

If you travel by car: There are many parking garages in the neighbourhood of the conference. Check the attached map of Ghent.

Go to www.gent.be/stadsplan/, fill in “Botermarkt” en click at “zoek”. This is the location of the conference. If you touch on De Lijn (Layers), you see also the tram and bus lines. Do the same with “Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein” and you see the lines you can take from the station.

Accommodation

All hotels and bed and breakfasts mentioned below are located within walking distance from the conference sites. Participants are requested to indicate their choice of hotel or B&B category on the inscription form. We advise you to make hotel or B&B reservation as soon as possible. Rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis, according to availability. All room rates per night include breakfast, service and taxes. The prices below are not fixed, changes are possible. When we have the number of reservations, we will discuss the prices with the hotel managers. Later on you will receive more details about your booking and way of payment.

If you want to reserve a hotel or B&B, please fill in the attached registration form - hotel booking and return it to the conference secretariat as soon as possible.

Hotel and B&B

Hotel

Hotel Marriott Ghent, Korenlei 10, 9000 Gent, www.marriottghent.be
Single 185€, double 200€

Novotel Gent Centrum, Goudenleeuwplein 5, 9000 Gent, www.novotel.com
Single 146€, double 161€

Hotel Erasmus, Poel 25, 9000 Gent, www.proximedia.com/web/hotel-erasmus.html
Single 75€, double 95€

Ibis Gent Centrum Kathedraal, Limburgstraat 2, 9000 Gent, www.ibishotel.com
Single 108€, double 116€

B&B

BNO, Kwaadham 91, 9000 Gent, www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be
Single 90€, double 100€

Faja Lobi, Vlaanderenstraat 2, 9000 Gent, www.fajalobi.be
Single 55€, double 70€

Borluut Flathotel, Belfortstraat 12, 9000 Gent
Single 68€, double 78€

Aanaajaanaa B&B, Hoogpoort 25, 9000 Gent, www.aanaajaanaa.be
Single 80€, double 100€

La maison de Claudine, Pussemierstraat 20, 9000 Gent, www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be Single 75€, double 100€