

2019 ACTIVITIES BY SECTOR.

1. Land use.

1.1. URBAN FORUM 2019 HOSTED BY BOZAR.

Collaboration with BOZAR, the main Belgian cultural institution, which started in 2015, has been pursued over developing synergies in the fields of urban planning and society.

A third joint Urban Forum was held in June 2019, under the umbrella of the Association “For Urban Passion”, with international speakers and a yearly publication in English and French¹. It will be held again on late 2020.

1.2. BOOK *LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE AT THE THRESHOLD*.

At the invitation of the Louvain University P. Laconte has been writing, together with J. Remy, a book about the achievements of Groupe urbanisme Architecture founded in 1968 (R. Lemaire, J.P. Blondel, P. Laconte), which was entrusted with the master plan of the new university town and its architectural coordination.

The book, planned for 2019, came out in January 2020 under the title *Louvain-la-Neuve à la croisée des chemins* (Editions Academia-L’Harmattan)².

It has been the theme of an international colloquium hosted by the LOCI Faculty³ hosted on 11th February 2020 (minutes to be published by the Faculty).

1.3. COLLABORATION WITH EUROPA NOSTRA, THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE.

The Europa Nostra Industrial & Engineering Heritage Committee – IEHC – holds two yearly sessions and study tours. The Committee is preparing a book about 50 exemplary industrial heritage conservation achievements that received an EU/Europa Nostra award.

The book is to be published in 2020 in English, German and French by the Donau University Krems, which keeps the Europa Nostra awards archive. The funding of the book is ensured by the Austrian chapter of Europa Nostra.

¹ Its proceedings and recommendations are available on <https://www.ffue.org/2017/03/new-use-new-move-new-move-new-use-land-use-mobility-11052017-bozar-bruxelles/>

² <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/livre-croisee-des-chemins-prospectus-26012020.pdf>

³ https://www.ffue.org/newsletters/newsletterFFUE_UCLouvain-22012020.html

2. Mobility

Earlier than 2019 the books *Accéder à Bruxelles* and *Bereikbaar Brussel* (2015)⁴ and *Le rail, clé de la mobilité urbaine à Bruxelles* (2016), edited by P. Laconte and C. van den Hove, with a preface by FFUE scientific committee member E. De Keuleneer⁵ were initiated by the Foundation and its board member C. van den Hove. These three books and the 2018 University Foundation lecture on transportation policy and urban development in Belgium by P. Laconte⁶ were aimed as a contribution to the on-going debate about land-use and transport policies for Belgium.

The main interest of the FFUE is the governance of mobility, and the respective roles of elected officials, public transport operators and the representatives of civil society concerned. Its position is that transport investments in each region should be entrusted to a specific institution supervising the individual transport operators, as was the case for the Brussels Metro lines 1 and 2, prior to the Brussels regionalisation. Line 3 North-South line on the contrary was decided and designed directly at the regional political level. The appointed design group opted for a deep one-tube underground tunnel, notwithstanding the weak passenger demand forecast towards the north, as estimated by expert reports. The FFUE argued instead in favour of an extension of Line 1 towards the West to capture the commuter demand from Flanders.

FFUE's 2019 update of *Le rail, clé de la mobilité urbaine à Bruxelles* was publicised through the FFUE Newsletter⁷, focusing on the Brussels Metro 3 cost escalation. A further cost escalation is to be expected when geologic studies will have been completed, confirming the high construction risks involved in deep tunnelling through the water table, as was shown by the Grand Paris flooding accidents.

The Brussels government's decision to enter building commitments to the central trunk just before the 2019 elections has led to a State Council challenge by several associations, including the FFUE, aiming at its cancellation. The cancellation has been recommended by the State Council prosecutor in March 2020.

The FFUE has updated its own proposals for metro and light rail priorities for Brussels, in line with the Programme of the Brussels Government for 2020 and the following years. They were presented at the new State Secretary in charge of mobility and may lead to further meetings. These proposals and their follow up will be published (in French) in 2020 through the FFUE Newsletter.

⁴ <http://www.ffue.org/2014/04/acceder-a-bruxelles/>

⁵ <http://www.ffue.org/2014/11/le-rail-cle-de-la-mobilite-a-bruxelles/>

⁶ <https://www.ffue.org/2018/12/mobility-transportation-policy-and-urban-development- institutional-aspects-keynote-paper-13-12-2018>

⁷ https://www.ffue.org/newsletters/newsletterFFUE_16122018.html

3. Environment (energy/resources/urban quality of life).

3.1. ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO 2019.

FFUE sponsored three publications and one briefing specifically covering global/local environmental issues:

- *Climate Change, Energy Shortage, Biodiversity Loss* by P. Laconte (published by the Club of Rome-EU, 2011)⁸.
- *Sustainable Cities: Assessing the performance of urban environments*, co-edited by P. Laconte (I.B. Tauris. London and New York, 2016)⁹.
- *Demographic growth and energy resources - Briefing FFUE 12/2017*¹⁰.
- *Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions*, co-edited by P. Laconte (Springer Publishers 2018)¹¹.

Other contributions of the FFUE on energy, resources, and urban quality of life issues in Europe, within the worldwide context, included:

- FFUE's contribution to the 2015 EU "MILESECURE" project (focusing on energy's future availability), which recommended focusing research on demand for energy and ways to reduce the use of fossil energy and diversify its sources. As to the adaptation to climate change, the monitoring of fossil energy use was found a more useful indicator for urban area decision makers than greenhouse gas emissions, because of lacking internationally agreed definitions and because of border issues between emissions originating inside or outside the area¹².
- FFUE's debate of 7/11/2017, held at the University Foundation, which focused on energy transition. J. de Gerlache, member of FFUE's Scientific committee, made the opening contribution¹³. An expanded version of it was published in 2019 by Editions Dunod (Paris), with a preface by FFUE's President¹⁴.

⁸ <https://www.ffue.org/2013/06/climate-change-energy-shortage-biodiversity-loss-overview-of-global-european-and-local-policies-and-practices/>

⁹ <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/sustainable-urban-environments-in-europe-evaluation-criteria-and-practices/>

¹⁰ <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/FFUE-Briefing-Energy-Positions-2030-dec2017-ENG.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.ffue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/smart-sustainable-for-cities-regions-springer-FLYER.pdf>

¹² <http://www.ffue.org/2015/03/the-human-factor-in-energy-transition-security-towards-2050-brussels-15122015/>

¹³ <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vjvwby15rtr1eek/ENERGY-TRANSITION-171108-GERLACHE-ppt-version-FR.pdf?dl=0>

¹⁴ <https://www.dunod.com/sciences-techniques/mettre-en-oeuvre-transitions-energetiques-strategie-integrative-et-gestion>

3.2. ACTIVITIES INITIATED IN 2019.

From 2019 FFUE has started to focus on an overview report updating the book *Sustainable Cities: Assessing the performance of urban environments*. It is to be entitled *Population, Resources and Quality of Life: From Global Concerns to Local Initiatives*.

In line with the 2016 book it aims at investigating the systemic interactions between population growth, energy production and consumption, industrial production, food production, resource depletion, loss of biodiversity and pollutions affecting human health.

A special accent will be put on the interaction between global issues and local initiatives, and on the interaction between public governance and private initiatives (Corporate social responsibility) in selected sectors of activity.

Its primary geographical focus will be on EU and member states' policies, taking Belgium as a case history in urban and regional diversity.

This project was initiated by Board member Alois Michielsen (formerly Solvay SA CEO) and is to be coordinated by Pierre Coërs (Solvay SA, retiring in July 2020) and Michel Bande (Corporate Social Responsibility-Europe) and will include voluntary case contributions from different countries and from both the public and the private sector, as did the previous publications and briefings by FFUE.

The publisher considered is Springer Publishers, which published in 2008 *Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions*, co-edited by P. Laconte and has expressed interest in further collaboration.