

## **SHORT HISTORY JCI BELGIUM**

The first steps towards the origin of JCI Belgium were set on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1936.

At that time a Junior Section was set up in the Brussels Chamber of Commerce & Industry, when young men and women decided to meet, and to establish a business network.

This original chapter was the first to be created on the European continent.

When young men and women from North –and Central America, decided to meet at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, an organization was founded, where an international country as Belgium would participate as soon as possible.

JCI Belgium was affiliated at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress held in Dallas TX (USA) in February 1947. Today JCI Belgium is the longest standing affiliated European member of JCI.

At the 3<sup>d</sup> World Congress held in Rio do Janeiro (Brazil) in 1948, Gilbert MABILLE was elected in the Board of Directors as “Executive Member”.

He was involved to prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress to be held in Brussels (Belgium) in April 1949, the first Congress outside of the Americas and the first one in Europe.

At this World Congress a contest was organized that resulted in the selection of the Jaycee Song. The constitution was rewritten because the earlier document could not be located. The International Affairs commission reached the conclusion that one of the greatest barriers to free trade among nations at this time was the lack of uniform passport and visa regulations. JCI should work through the United Nations to expedite a program to standardize such regulations.

After this Congress a delegate commented as follows:

*“I came away from Brussels with the feeling that JCI is worth the time and effort that will be necessary to make it a strong organization. It is an attempt to weld together the young men of many nations into an organization which, conceivably, could lead the way to the mutual understanding that is so essential if we are to have a peaceful world. It is my earnest hope that we will succeed. It is not much of a sacrifice if each club helps with a few dollars to defray expenses, especially when the return one day might be of far greater value to our future generations than the original investment ever could be to us.”*

At this same Congress in Brussels, Belgian Theo STAAR was elected as JCI President for 1949-1950.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress held in Manila (Philippines) in March 1950, the concern of expanding communism in several areas of the world, worried members that wanted to preserve world peace. This concern dominates the resolutions passed at this World Congress.

President Theo STAAR worded it as follows:

*“The economic ills of many countries, which are providing breeding grounds for communism, are world responsibilities. We must realize that between the nations of the world, there must be a freer interchange of goods. No nation, however self sufficient, can stand aloof either as a buyer or a seller of goods. It is a clear and urgent change laid on nations which have achieved high standards of industrialization, to assist those not so fortunately placed. ‘The brotherhood of men transcends the sovereignty of nations’ should be JCI’s guideline in its efforts toward the preservation of peace.”*

Most of the JCI’s development dealt with means of promoting trade and preserving peace. If trades were less restrictive and tariffs lifted peace would be less difficult to maintain.

A unanimous vote was recorded for a resolution outlawing the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs as instruments of destruction. This would be best achieved through connections at the United Nations.

Also emphasis was given to diversify activities from more strictly economic concerns to include a wide range of projects of more immediate and direct value to the community as a whole.

Anyway, at that time, Belgium was the stronghold for JCI in Europe. It was in Belgium, together with Germany, that lady members were admitted, a subject that created much discussion at the following 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Montreal (Canada). Female membership was admitted but they would not be eligible for international office.

During the following years Belgian JCI-VP’s Francis VAN DER VLIET (with Robert ZIEGLER), Paul MOUREAU, and Arthur ZIEGLER were in charge of the extension of JCI Europe.

JCI Belgium continued to be active and organized the JCI Conference in Brussels in 1958, the year of the successful World Exhibition in Belgium. A further JCI Conference was organized in Brussels in 1970.

In 1968 JCI Belgium sent a large delegation to the JCI Conference in Monaco. The delegation was joined by Belgian Paul-Henri SPAAK, one of the seven founding fathers of the European Union. The delegation pleaded successfully to start up “Project Europe” in JCI Europe to improve and implement knowledge about the European Union and built friendship and understanding in Europe. Belgian Michel DONCK was elected as the first “Mister Europe” within JCI Europe.

In 1972, returning from the successful JCI Conference in Edinburgh the plane, that carried a large part of the Belgian delegation, crashed near Heathrow Airport in London. It caused the death of almost the whole Executive Board of JCI Belgium. This committee had already started to extend JCI Belgium which resulted, in five years, to an increase in local organizations and an important increase in membership, from 900 members up to 2.000 members.

The successes obtained in JCI Belgium and the strong commitment to JCI during the 70’s have to be attributed to those who lead the way and may rightfully claim having been at the origins of this expansion.

After this cruel accident, the “Staines Foundation” was created, with the help of a number of National Organizations and Local organizations. Every year at the convention of JCI Belgium, the President of JCI London hands over the “Staines Memorial award” to a member that best achieved international recognition and esteem for JCI Belgium, promoting international cooperation and friendship.

The Staines Foundation today insures all members of JCI Belgium for accidents occurring when traveling for JCI Belgium.

During the 70’s Belgian members were successful bringing new ideas within JCI:

- Being part of the LRPC 1974 that introduced the “Declaration of Principles” and the “Main Emphasis Theme”
- Installing a reserve fund that later became the JCI Foundation
- Printing of JCI World in Belgium and air mail to the members
- Achieving the goal of 500.000 members
- Introducing professional training courses with JCI The Netherlands
- Introducing “Management by Objectives” for the membership services based on a “Mission”

JCI Belgium later has also invited their fellow members at JCI Area Conferences in Antwerp (1978) “Free enterprise for a better future through a better understanding”, Liege (1987) “Communication: instrument of the second Renaissance” and Ostend (2000) “Expand your boundaries”.

JCI Belgium members Gerrit LOVINK (ITF # 002) and Reginald SCHAUMANS were involved in the 80's to set up JCI training programs for the training of Trainers with the packages TROT, Prime and Excel.

A number of Belgium JCI trainers have achieved the highest recognition within the JCI Training Certification.

As most Belgians trainers master different languages, JCI Belgium has been very often asked to run programs in Africa, Asia, The Americas and Europe. They were often at the origin of creating and inspiring new National and Local Organizations.

At the 45<sup>th</sup> World Congress held in Puerto Rico in 1990 a second Belgian was elected in the office of JCI President.

President Reginald SCHAUMANS had as his motto for the year 1991 "You make the difference". Members who have trust in their capabilities can inspire the future of their communities.

This theme based on the philosophy of Junior Chamber to motivate members all over the world to continue to set up great programs for their local, regional or national communities in order to make that difference.

For the membership, to be able to play a more important role in the economic development of their communities, the "Junior Chamber International Business Network" was created.

President Reginald SCHAUMANS chaired "The international Model United Nations" in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York held by JCI. The declaration of Global Citizenship was signed by delegates of over 90 countries.

In his opening speech of the 1991 Helsinki World Congress (theme "Accept the challenges of a new world") Reginald stated:

*"In the face of changing interrelation among the nations of the world, we will have to meet many challenges in the decades ahead. No longer can we solely depend on our nation-states to decide for individuals the direction for the future, nor can we ignore the messages being sent to us by our global home, Planet Earth."*

*It is necessary for all citizens of the world to take responsibility as the stewards and trustees of our existence. It is up to us, as citizens of the world, to make a difference in the areas of the environment, economic development and the future of our children.*

*Junior Chamber, going back to its Declaration of Principles and its Creed, confirms its belief that the individual is the key of the future. The individual, with his very own uniqueness, skills and creativity, language, religion and traditions, who shares the same rights but who accepts the same responsibilities she or he has towards his neighbors, community, the world.*

*The individual will make the difference.”*

It has to be noted that because of the start of the first Iraq War, Reginald SCHAUMANS was one of the few international individuals that did not hesitate to travel by airline around the world to serve the membership.

During the following years many Belgians were involved with the JCI Foundation, and represented JCI in different NGO's and organizations to build up cooperation in favor of JCI activities.

In 1997 Albert II, the King of Belgium, awarded a status of High Protection to JCI Belgium.

Ever since 1993 different members served in the capacity of international Vice-President, contributing to the development of JCI especially in Africa and Europe. Most of them received the prestigious Award as “Best Vice-President of the year”.

In 2009 JCI Belgium, through its regional organization JCI Flanders, offered a new award to the international organization: the “JCI Creative Young Entrepreneur Award”, sponsored by Flanders District of Creativity.

In 2008 JCI Belgium decided to bid for hosting the JCI World Congress and to invite the international membership to a World Congress. JCI Belgium was elected during the 64th World Congress in Tunisia to host the 66th World Congress in Brussels in 2011.

The 66th World Congress held in Brussels, under the dynamic leadership of Kentaro HARADA, was perceived by the international membership as a place of learning, friendship, training and exchange of ideas on many worldwide main topics that were presented by international speakers. The tradeshow was the main meeting point for all delegates.



**BELGIUM 1936 – 2011**

**Some highlights**

**JCI INTERNATIONAL ELECTED OFFICERS**

1948-1949	Gilbert MABILLE	Executive Member JCI
1949-1950	Francis VAN DER VLIET	VP-JCI
1949-1950	Theo STAAR	President JCI
1950-1951	Theo STAAR	IPP-JCI
1950-1951	Paul MOUREAU	VP-JCI
1951-1952	Arthur ZIEGLER	VP-JCI
1952-1953	Arthur ZIEGLER	VP-JCI
1954	Robert GOLDBERG	Director JCI
1959	Jean-Claude TUNON	VP-JCI
1960	Jean-Claude TUNON	VP-JCI
1966	Roger VAN BOXEL	VP-JCI
1971	Roger GODIN	VP-JCI
1972	Jan CHRISTIAENS	VP-JCI / Deputy President 1974 LRPC-JCI
1974	Marc VANDERSMISSEN	VP-JCI
1975	Marc VANDERSMISSEN	EVP-JCI
1976	Gerrit LOVINK	VP-JCI
1977	Gerrit LOVINK	EVP-JCI
1980	Marc DE BOLLE	VP-JCI
1981	Marc DE BOLLE	EVP-JCI
1986	Patrick CLAEYS	VP-JCI
1987	Marc BEYERS	VP-JCI
1988	Marc BEYERS	EVP-JCI
1989	Reginald SCHAUMANS	VP-JCI
1990	Reginald SCHAUMANS	EVP-JCI
1991	Reginald SCHAUMANS	President JCI
1992	Reginald SCHAUMANS	IPP-JCI
1995	Jean-Paul MICHEL	VP-JCI
1999	Alain BORGUET	VP-JCI
2000	Michel CUYPERS	VP-JCI
2003	Laurence POLEUNIS	VP-JCI
2007	Steven VANDEPUT	VP-JCI
2008	Dominiek CALLEWIER	VP-JCI
2010	Serge GOUSSAERT	VP-JCI

**APPOINTED OFFICERS**

1954	Robert Goldberg	Director International Affairs
1960	Jean-Claude TUNON	Long Range Planning Committee
1961	Jean-Claude TUNON	Commission Director Community Service
1972	Michel CESAR	JCI Development Officer
1974	Jan CHRISTIAENS	Deputy Chairman Long Range Planning Committee
1975	Gerrit LOVINK	Presidency African European Presidents Meeting
1977	Gerrit LOVINK	Chairman Meeting JCEPF
1978	Gerrit LOVINK	Secretariat Review Committee
1981	Marc DE BOLLE	Representative European Union
1982	Marc DE BOLLE	Chairman Main Emphasis Theme
1982	Roland PATTEEUW	Representative European Union and Council of Europe
1983	Marc DE BOLLE	Chairman Main Emphasis Theme
1983	Ludy MICHIELS	Chairman European Presidents Meeting
1985	Jean-Luc DEWEZ	Representative European Union and Council of Europe
1985	Marc DE BOLLE	Assistant for Extension
1985	Marc MELEN	European Long Range Planning Committee
1986	Marc MELEN	Representative European Union
1986	Jean-Luc DEWEZ	Representative European Union and Council of Europe
1986	Piet MASSANT	Representative to the Council of Europe
1987	Marc MELEN	Representative European Union and Council of Europe
1987	Patrick CLAEYS	Executive Assistant for Marketing
1988	Jean-Pierre VERBRUGGEN	Twinning Coordinator Europe
1988	Reginald SCHAUMANS	Special Assistant for Development and Growth in Europe
1989	Jean-Pierre VERBRUGGEN	Twinning Coordinator Europe
1989	Pascal VALETTE	Program Coordinator Europe
1990	Rudy DUPONT	Presidency European Presidents Meeting
1990	Jean-Paul BISSEN	Representative for the International Chamber of Commerce
1991	Herman DUPREZ	Representative to the European Union
1991	Rudy DUPONT	President East-European Development Team
1992	Eddy VAN GOETHEM	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1993	Alain BORGUET	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1994	Freddy VAN HOOREBEECK	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1995	Patricia ADRIAENS	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1996	Jean-Paul MICHEL	Representative to the European Union
1996	Theo DE BEIR	Representative to Care and AIESEC



**BELGIUM 1936 – 2011**

## Some highlights

1997	Bernard BOONE	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1998	Karin EYKENS	Representative to the International Chamber of Commerce
1998	Michel CUYPERS	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1998	Philippe ROSVELDS	Sponsoring Assistance for Area D
1998	Theo DE BEIR	Presidency JCI Europe
1999	Axel KITTEL	Representative to Care and AIESEC
1999	Karin EYKENS	Representative to the International Chamber of Commerce
2000	Karin EYKENS	Representative to the International Chamber of Commerce
2000	Laurence POLEUNIS	Representative to Care and AIESEC
2000	Michel HEUVELMANS	Presidency JCI Europe
2002	Emmy HENDRICKX	Special Assistant for Sponsorship and Finance
2002	Laurence POLEUNIS	Executive Assistant to the President
2003	Dimitri VERHOYE	Representative to Eurochambers
2004	Steven VANDEPUT	Area D JCI University
2004	Dimitri VERHOYE	Representative to Eurochambers
2004	Karel DIERICK	Board member JCI Foundation
2006	Dimitri VERHOYE	Representative to Eurochambers
2006	Dominiek CALLEWIER	Chairman Business Commission
2006	Katia VAN BELLE	University Coordination Europe
2007	Dominiek CALLEWIER	Representative to Eurochambers
2007	Kris SIERENS	Member Business Commission
2008	Stefaan ROGGE	Appointee Business Commission
2008	Andries BUSSCHAERT	Appointee Eurochambers
2009	Dominiek CALLEWIER	Special Assistant for Sponsorship Europe
2010	An DEVENTER	Member European Development Council
2010	Christophe COOL	Corporate Social Responsibility Officer
2011	An DEVENTER	Growth and Development Commissioner for Europe
2011	Dave SYNAEVE	JCI Training Commissioner





**BELGIUM 1936 – 2011**

**Some highlights**

**AREA CONFERENCES**

1958 Area Conference in Brussels  
1970 Area Conference in Brussels  
1978 Area Conference in Antwerp  
1987 Area Conference in Liege  
2000 Area Conference in Oostende

**CONGRESSES**

4<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Brussels  
66<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Brussels

**SENATORS**

932 Senators (05 NOV 2011)

**JCI FOUNDATION**

146 Donors

**JCI AWARDS (World)**

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

1955	JCI Belgium	Award Membership Growth
1968	JCI Belgium	Award Best program Economic Affairs
1973	JCI Belgium	Award Best National Organization
1987	JCI Belgium	Award Best Cooperation between two National Organizations
1997	JCI Belgium	Award Training
2010	JCI Belgium/Vlaanderen	Award for Best Individual Development Program

**LOCAL ORGANIZATION**

1947	JCI Nivelles	Award Best Community Development Program
1975	JCI Antwerpen	Award International Affairs
1975	JCI Lier	Award Best Project Lifting of intolerance
1978	JCI Antwerpen ter Schelde	Award for Best Fundraising
1979	JCI Waregem	Award Best Cultural Project
1980	JCI Hasselt	Award Best new Chapter of the World
1981	JCI Knokke-Heist	Award for Best Cultural Project
1981	JCI Gent Artevelde	Award for Best Audio-Visual Presentation
1982	JCI Liège	Award for Best Cooperation between two Local Organizations
1983	JCI Mechelen	Award for Best Audio-Visual Presentation
1983	JCI Liège	Award for Best Cooperation between two local Organizations
1985	JCI Liège	Award for Best Audio-Visual Presentation
1985	JCI Hasselt	Award for Best Public Relations
1986	JCI Antwerpen	Award for Best Cooperation between two local Organizations
1987	JCI Oudenaarde	Award for Best program related to JCI Main Emphasis Theme
1989	JCI Brugge	Award for Best National Convention of the Year
1990	JCI Basse-Meuse	Award for Best program related to JCI Main Emphasis Theme
1990	JCI Antwerpen @ de Stroom	Award for Best Audio-Visual Presentation
1990	JCI Hasselt	Award for International Affairs
1994	JCI Verviers	Award for Best Business Development Program
1998	JCI Hasselt	Award Best Program Economic Affairs
2000	JCI Antwerpen	Award for Best Humanitarian Assistance Project
2001	JCI Brussel	Award for Best Public Relations
2001	JCI Pays de Herve	Award for Best Training Program
2002	JCI Gent Artevelde	Award for Best Public Relations Program
2002	JCI Verviers	Award for Best Environmental Program
2005	JCI Mons	Award for Best Community Development Program
2006	JCI Charleroi	Award Monopoly de Charleroi
2007	JCI The Heart of Europe	Award for the Best New Chapter of the World
2007	JCI Antwerpen	Award for the Best Membership Recruitment Program
2008	JCI Antwerpen	Award for the Beste Chapter of the Area
2009	JCI Gheel-en-Thals	Award for Best Public Relations Program



**BELGIUM 1936 – 2011**

## Some highlights

### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

1968	Jean-Paul Hirsch	Award for Exceptional Services
1978	Gerrit Lovink	Award Best Current Member of the Year
1980	Jos Steegmans	Award Best Local President
1982	Roland Patteeuw	Presidential Award Implementing JCI Main Emphasis Theme
1982	Marc De Bolle	Presidential Award as JCI Assistant
1983	Jo De Voldere	Presidential Award Implementing JCI Main Emphasis Theme
1986	Patrick Claeys	Presidential Award as one of the Best JCI Vice-Presidents
1986	Theo Piepers	Presidential Award Implementing JCI Main Emphasis Theme
1987	Reginald Schaumans	Award Best National President
1989	Reginald Schaumans	Presidential Award Best JCI Vice-President
1988	Marc Beyers	Presidential Award Best JCI Executive Vice-President
1995	Claude Schepens	Award Best National President
1997	Theo De Beir	Award Best National President
1999	Alain Borguet	Presidential Award Best JCI Vice-President
2003	Pepijn Raymaekers	Award for Best First Timer
2003	Poleunis Laurence	Presidential Award Best JCI Vice-President
2005	Vernaillen Hilde	Award Best NOM President