

Belgium



| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Capital | Brussels |
| Language(s) | French / Flemish |
| Currency | €uro |
| Surface | 35 528 km ² |
| Population | 10 438 453 inhabitants |
| Population density | 341,9 inhabitants / km ² |
| GDP(2011) | 529 000 Millions \$ |
| Car fleet in 2016 | 7 175 062 |

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Length of the road network | 151 372 kms |
| Nber of vehicle for 1000 inhabitants | 483 |
| Time zone | GMT +1 |
| Number of persons killed on the road in 2009 | 1067 |

Belgium is a federal state divided into three regions: Dutch-speaking Flanders in the north, francophone Wallonia in the south and Brussels, the bilingual capital, where French and Dutch share official status. There is also a small German-speaking minority of some 70 000 in the eastern part of the country.

Belgium's landscape varies widely: 67 kilometers of seacoast and flat coastal plains along the North Sea, a central plateau and the rolling hills and forests of the Ardennes region in the southeast.

Brussels hosts several international organizations: most of the European institutions are located here as well as the NATO headquarters.

Independent since 1830, Belgium is a constitutional monarchy. The two houses of Parliament are the Chamber of Representatives, whose members are elected for a maximum period of four years, and the Senate or upper house, whose members are elected or co-opted. Given its political make-up, Belgium is generally run by coalition governments.

Among the best known Belgians are Georges Rémi (Hergé), creator of the Tintin comic-strip, writers Georges Simenon and Hugo Claus, composer and singer Jacques Brel and cyclist Eddy Merckx. Painters like James Ensor, Paul Delvaux and René Magritte are the modern-day successors of Rubens and the other Flemish masters of yesteryear.

Belgium is famous for its chocolates, which are appreciated the world over. A favourite dish is mussels and chips (French fries) which, according to legend, are a Belgian invention. The country also produces over 1 000 brands of beer.

Automotive expertise in Belgium

Belgium is the country which has the densest road network in the world with its 4.89km/km². Its personal vehicles fleet is slightly above more than one car every two inhabitants. As a real crossroads in Europe, it registers a high number of road accidents. The public liability insurance policy is compulsory since 1956 but the activity of automotive expert had existed well before as UPEX will soon celebrate its 90th anniversary. The profession has been regulated by a law since 2007. To be registered in the Institute of experts, the applicant **must** either hold a diploma / civil Engineer or Industrial Master OR a diploma equivalent to the first two years of studies at university / final secondary school diploma specialized in thermal engines and expertise, in automotive expertise, in mechanics or electro mechanics or a diploma delivered by any other recognized institution with a level comparable to those delivering the above-mentioned diploma or by a State Jury, some communities or some regions. The profession is explicitly defined by the law and lists the tasks which can only be achieved on behalf of a third party, by the automotive expert, namely:

- Appraise vehicles and check that they comply with laws, by-laws, and identification and description of those vehicles as well.
- Any research and technical analysis likely to determine the circumstances and causes of the claims in which one or many vehicles are involved and which help to determine the related liabilities.
- Determine the wear and tear, the damage, defect and faulty operations which affect vehicles.
- Determine the cause of events mentioned in the previous point.
- Assess the material injury consecutive to damage suffered by vehicles.
- Determine the works and the appropriate repair methods of the vehicle, assess their cost and ensure that they are correctly carried out.
- From a technical point of view, substantiate the immobilization of a vehicle and determine its duration.
- Draft a justifiable report on the entrusted mission.

One of the profession characteristics in Belgium is that all the protagonists use the same damage calculation tool and by-products designed by the firm which develops them.

Professional Associations



Latest update
29 July 2016