



WELCOME SPEECH

By Jan Torreele, Director of Belnet

9th edition of the BNIX Networking Event

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the ninth edition of our BNIX Networking Event! This event has become a solid tradition, and the fact that so many customers, partners, stakeholders and prospects have joined us again today, proves what a strong relationship we have with them. It's great to see you all here.

As usual, our networking event is centered on a theme. We've gathered here today at a fantastic location, **The Belgian Comic Strip Museum**. This building was designed by **Victor Horta** and is a very special, and above all, a very 'Belgian' place. Even more so in a year in which another Belgian icon celebrates its birthday. **The Smurfs** are turning 60, and you will notice a lot of references to our blue friends tonight.

During last year's meeting, we had big news: **the launch of our 100G ports!** Now, a year later we can safely say that this upgrade was a success, because several among you have already made the move towards our new 100G ports. By the way, if you haven't made the move yet, and if you might need some more convincing, I'd be happy to put you in contact with our 100G customers after the presentations.

This year has also been **a year of growth for BNIX**. We welcomed 7 new participants, bringing the total number of BNIX-participants to 65. One of those new participants is **Eurofiber**. Eurofiber is a fast growing international provider of industry leading digital infrastructure. Their Sales Director, Monder Gacem, is also present today. He will introduce his company as a new BNIX-participant in his presentation later.

But at BNIX, we value our trusted participants as much as our new ones, so we've also invited **DNS Belgium** to speak today. DNS Belgium, much like BNIX, is at the core of



the Belgian internet and has been with us for 15 years now. So this is a very special organization to me for a number of reasons, and I'm very glad to welcome their DevOps Engineer, Geert Verheyen, tonight. In his presentation, he will explain the added value that BNIX has brought to DNS.

What else is new at BNIX, besides our 100G story? Well, we witnessed a **traffic increase** by 20 to 25 percent. This proves that our platform is becoming increasingly valuable, also thanks to the several upgrades.

We have also added a new service to our offer: a **portal site** which allows participants to view and modify the information regarding their participation. There's also a lot of other information available, like invoices and monitoring.

By the way, the Smurfs are not the only ones to celebrate. Also **Belnet** is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. And it's partly thanks to our strong ties with Belnet that BNIX is still very much at the forefront of technological developments. Another reason is our local presence and our independence. This allows us to work OUR way, without any commercial interest. We don't have to waste time and money on commercial mumbo-jumbo, so we can invest all our resources in our core business. You could say that BNIX is a bit like the village of that other famous comic character, Asterix: we may be small, but we hold up to the big armies surrounding us!

As you all know, we also organize this annual event so you can network with other people in the industry. There will be plenty of time for that later tonight during our walking dinner. Before handing over the microphone to Frédéric Libotte, who will be your master of ceremony for tonight, I want to thank you again for being here, and I'll see you all later tonight!