



**Belgian  
American**  
Chamber of the South

May 2021

# Table of contents

About the Chamber	3
Some numbers	4
Our Board and Staff	5
Our offer of events	6
10 reasons why you should become a member	7
Membership levels	8
Our partners	9
Contact information	10

## ABOUT THE CHAMBER

As a private, non-profit organization, the Belgian American Chamber of the South (BACoS), is an energetic bi-lateral Chamber that actively supports, promotes, and enhances business between Belgium and the Southeast of the United States.

The Chamber serves the States of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Mississippi.



At BACoS, you can promote your company, meet other leaders, have access to opportunities to network, further your career, help young entrepreneurs, hear success stories, give back to the community, stay up to date on industry news and socialize.

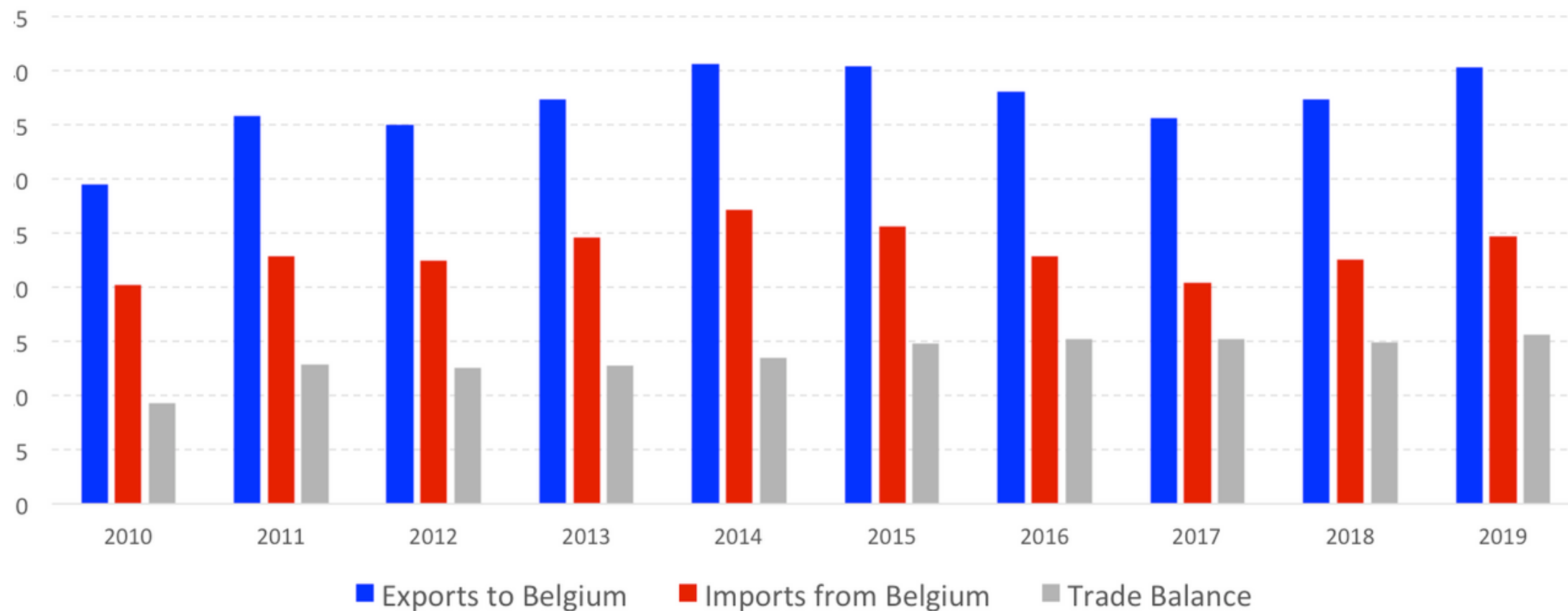
Our goal is to help you start or grow your business through our network and the right business partners.



## International Trade in Goods and Services

In 2019, U.S. exports of goods and services to Belgium were \$40.3 billion, up 7.9% from 2018, and imports from Belgium were \$24.7 billion, up 9.7% from 2018. As a result, the trade surplus with Belgium increased to \$15.6 billion.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE USA - BELGIUM  
(in Billion USD)



source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2020



Belgium ranks as  
8th foreign investor  
in the U.S.

## Activities of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs)

In 2017, Belgium-based majority-owned affiliates of U.S. MNEs employed 122,100 people; sales were \$161 billion, up 16.8%.

U.S.-based majority-owned affiliates of Belgian MNEs employed 59,400 people in 2017, an increase of 17.4% from 2016; sales were \$36 billion, up 6.5%.

# Our Board and Staff



BRIGITTE PELEMAN-VANTIEGHEM

Chair of the Board, Entrepreneur



NICOLAS GEVAERT

Treasurer of the Board, Trader



PHILIP VERVLOESEM

Senior Vice President at OMP



SILVIA SAEY

Blogger and designer, Founder of Good Tidings



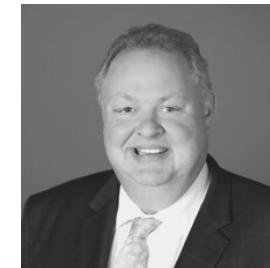
JAMES BLAIR

Managing Director at Navigator Consulting



KARL THYBERGIN

Sales Director at DECOSPAN



CHRISTOPHE VAN GOOL

Director of Global Solutions at EPIC Brokers



BRAM VANDENBROUCKE

Executive Director at BACoS







## Examples of events organized by the Chamber

### NETWORKING EVENTS

Such as our Annual New Year Reception



### SPEED BUSINESS MEETINGS

### BEHIND THE SCENES

See how things are run from the inside - visit a manufacturing plant or a large public organization.

### "BITES OF BELGIUM"

Such as our chocolate and beer pairing event

### GIVING BACK / VOLUNTEER WORK

2019 edition organized at ATL Food Bank Community as part of the Women's Series



Do I have to self-quarantine when travelling?  
PASSPORT

**Immigration and travel restrictions webinar**  
**Wednesday May 27 at 2pm**  
With **Teri Simmons** and **Michael Cerulus**, moderated by Karl Thybergin

		
Director, Immigration Practice Group Arnall Golden Gregory LLP	Deputy head of mission at the Consulate General of Belgium in Atlanta	Sales Director flooring at Decospan and BACoS Board member

women's series

we are glad to invite you to virtually join for a discussion on

*Practical and tactical strategies to reevaluate and reimagine your future*

	
With <b>Darrah Brustein</b> , author, serial entrepreneur and	Moderated by <b>Claire Angelle</b> , Founder of Angelle Consulting

On  
Wednesday,  
June 10  
at 12pm  
on Zoom

The European Consulates General and Chambers of Commerce in Atlanta cordially invite you to a webinar discussion

Lessons learned on doing business in the Southeast from the departing Consul Generals of Ireland and Belgium

**Thursday June 18, 2020 | 12:00pm**

		
<b>Shane Stephens</b> Consul General of Ireland	<b>William De Baets</b> Consul General of the Kingdom of Belgium	<b>Vanessa Ibarra</b> Director Mayor's Office of International Affairs

## Examples of online events organized by the Chamber specifically during COVID-19

### NEWSLETTERS AND PRACTICAL WEBINARS ADDRESSING HOT TOPICS ISSUES

- Getting Access to the SBA Loans and Understanding Insurance Coverage during the pandemic
- Immigration and travel restrictions webinars

### SELF-DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

- Practical and tactical strategies to reevaluate and reimagine your future

### VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONS

- Strengthening EU and US trade relations & investments amidst COVID-19 pandemic
- Lessons learned on doing business in the Southeast

### ONLINE NETWORKING EVENTS

- Such as The Ripple, the largest transatlantic online networking event for the business community

# 10 reasons why you should become a member

- Give yourself and all the members within your company a **complimentary access** to our events.

- Increase the **visibility** of your company **within the international business community**, and especially the Belgian American community.

- Create **new networking opportunities** through our quality business and networking events.

- Get help and guidance for the **sponsorship of the J-1 Visa Exchange Visitor Program** **\*NEW!\***

- **Get your name out** through our website, and depending on the Membership level, by hosting an event at your facility.

- Get access to **resources** (call on other members for advice, free access to our webinars).

- Create opportunities for **growth** (professionally and individually).

- **Advise** the Chamber of the needs of your particular industry, recommend particular events or trainings

- Create a **community involvement** as you will help to give back to your area/community.

- Get **complimentary visibility** on CityBox Daily and special prices for their Business Directory Listing



Membership levels	V.I.P. \$7.500	DIAMOND \$5.000	PLATINUM \$2.500	GOLD \$1.000	SILVER* \$250
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS FROM YOUR COMPANY	10	8	4	2	1
COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS FOR ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AT OUR EVENTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
YOUR COMPANY LOGO & WEBSITE LINK ON OUR HOMEPAGE AND IN OUR COMMUNICATION	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HOST BUSINESS SEMINAR OR TOUR OF YOUR FACILITIES	✓	✓	✓		
ACCESS TO OUR J-1 VISA PROGRAM	INCLUDES UP TO A 6-12 MONTHS INTERNSHIP	INCLUDES UP TO A 6-12 MONTHS INTERNSHIP	INCLUDES A 1-6 MONTHS INTERNSHIP, WITH CONDITIONS	ACCESS WITH CONDITIONS	
1 COMPLIMENTARY TICKET FOR 1 GUEST AT EACH EVENT	✓	✓			

\*For companies with less than 5 FTEs



# Our partners

BELGIAN CONSULATE  
IN ATLANTA



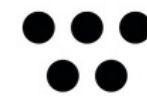
Consulate General of the  
Kingdom of Belgium  
in Atlanta

FIT



FLANDERS  
INVESTMENT &  
TRADE

AWEX



Wallonia.be

EXPORT  
INVESTMENT

METRO  
ATLANTA  
CHAMBER

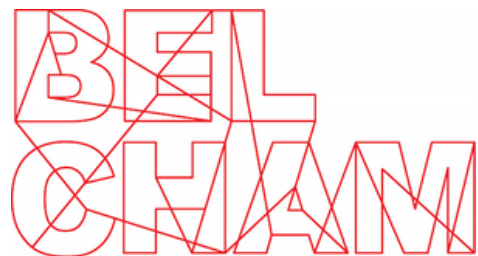


FORSYTH  
COUNTY  
CHAMBER



BELCHAM

(New York)



WOMEN'S SERIES

(Collaboration between different  
Chambers of Commerce of Georgia to host  
educational & networking events)



EUROPEAN  
CHAMBERS OF  
COMMERCE IN  
ATLANTA



BELGA

Association organizing social  
activities to meet with fellow-  
Belgians in Georgia





[www.bacos.us](http://www.bacos.us)



2405 Satellite Boulevard, suite 200,  
Duluth, GA 30096



[info@bacos.us](mailto:info@bacos.us)



<https://www.facebook.com/belgian-americanchamber/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/belgian-american-chamber-of-the-south/>



<https://twitter.com/BACofSouth>



