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## Upcoming Events

**May 20 - CEO Breakfast Roundtable (restricted to patron and board members) pre-releasing the results of the USDI and Business Confidence Questionnaire**

**May 21 - Public Seminar on results of USDI Survey and Business Confidence Questionnaire**

**June 2 - US Investor in the Spotlight – Luncheon sponsored by**



**June 4 - Business After Hours Reception Sponsored by**



**June 12 -Young Professionals Luncheon with Marc Lambotte Sponsored by**

## Group in the Spotlight

**The fledgling Young Professionals Group is proving to be a success** for business men and woman embarking on their careers. Established in fall 2007, the group aims to enhance the value of AmCham Belgium for all members by offering an opportunity for the younger members to be involved with the chamber to help promote fresh ideas. The group meets regularly and has already had a successful launch reception with over 100 attendees and has instigated a new Young Professionals-CEO luncheon with Marc Lambotte, CEO of Unysis on June 12! For more information, contact [Simon Andrew](#).

## Coming Soon!

**Launch of the new AmCham Belgium website only a few weeks away!** The innovations will include online registration and payment for events, advertising opportunities for AmCham Belgium Members and Partners and a personal login for all employees of Member companies. Keep an eye on [www.amcham.be](http://www.amcham.be) for more information.

## Lobbying

**On April 7, 2008, AmCham Belgium wrote to Prime Minister Leterme** suggesting that adjustments be made to the work permit legislation in the September 12, 2007 Royal Decree. The legislation requires top company managers of US multinationals with their headquarters in Belgium to apply for work permits, while lower management ranks are exempt. The Prime Minister has acknowledged the inconsistency of this new legislation and said he will follow up with the Minister of Employment.

## AmCham Activities

▶ **2008 US Direct Investment Report, a collaboration between the Vlerick Leuven Gent Management School and AmCham Belgium**, will announce the new trends in USDI and FDI. This 2008 Report reviews the development of US investment in Belgium and identifies key issues that affect US and other foreign investors who are, or are considering, doing business in Belgium. Included is the triennial Business Confidence survey, which gives a clear and in-depth picture of what strategies Belgium could employ to enhance its foreign investment prospects.

The official press release and seminar will take place on May 21. Registrations for the Press Conference or Public Seminar can be submitted to Dawn Smith ([dsmith@amcham.be](mailto:dsmith@amcham.be)) until May 20.

**UNISYS**

**September 26 -  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala  
Celebration with AmCham  
Belgium US-Belgium Award**

For all AmCham Belgium events, you may register [online](#) or by [email](#), or fax us on 02/ 513 35 90.

**Welcome to our new  
Members!**

**Sustaining members:  
O'Melveny Myers**

**Regular members:  
Siemens Enterprise  
Communications  
Grand Casinos Brussels**

**Quote of the Month**

"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice."

*(Abraham Lincoln,  
American President  
1809-1865)*

**Contact Us**

<http://www.amcham.be>

[Editor: Sven Vercalsteren](#)  
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‡**Special offer for all AmCham Belgium members**

Receive discounted admission to the June 5-6, 2008 U.S. Export Control Regulations seminar in Vienna. Organized by the U.S. Embassy and the International Chamber of Commerce in Austria, this seminar provides information on when and how US sanctions and export and re-export control regulations apply in transactions outside the United States, how they relate to E.U. law and how to transfer this knowledge to your daily business dealings. For more information, visit their [website](#).

‡**AmCham Belgium is pleased to support the American Club of Brussels Golf Tournament.** Taking place on Sunday, June 22, 2008, at the golf club "La Tournette" in Nivelles, it will be a Texas scramble! AmCham Belgium members can [register](#) with the American Club of Brussels at member price.

‡**The elegant main hall of the NYSE Euronext Stock Exchange in Brussels** is the chosen venue for celebrating **AmCham Belgium's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** with a Gala on Friday, September 26, 2008. Former Prime Minister, Guy Verhofstadt, will present the AmCham US-Belgium Award in what will be an excellent evening of fine dining and musical entertainment. More information will follow, but you can register now via our [website](#).

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## Member Happenings

**Catch up on our latest member news: corporate developments, appointments, etc.** To learn what is new with AmCham Belgium member companies [click here](#). Does your company want to inform fellow members of their latest happenings? Please send your information to [external@amcham.be](mailto:external@amcham.be).

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## Events Just Passed. . .

**"Why Innovate and Invest in Belgium" a US Investor in the Spotlight Luncheon – May 7, 2008**  
Sponsored by

***Baxter***

On May 7, after an informative visit to Baxter's large manufacture and distribution operations, Paul Van de Velde, General Manager of BenLux, and Renaud Mazy, MD of Baxter SA, gave a dynamic talk that focused on the investment attractiveness of Belgium and Wallonia for companies such as Baxter, which employs over 2000 people in Belgium.

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‡**"Employing the Next Generation - What Employers Need to Consider" - Joint Conference with Institute of Directors Belgium - April 29, 2008, Sponsored by**



Employers are vying to recruit the younger generation and integrate them into their work force. Richard Savage, Co-founder, Futurework Foundation, drew from his research to give business leaders suggestions for which approach they should take, given the employment crisis in Belgium. A panel of managers fielded questions regarding employing the next generation. This was the second event in a month that AmCham Belgium organized in response to the war for talent.

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▶ **Joint Gala with American Club of Brussels – April 22, 2008**



The US Elections and the economy were the topics of the night, as **US Ambassador to Belgium Sam Fox** gave his perspective on the 2008 presidential race. This talk, hosted at the Renaissance Hotel with 180 attendants, integrated political issues with an enlightening view of the Ambassador's economic outlook for the United States as it prepares for a change in leadership.

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