

Belgium



Name: ABTUS-BVOTS (Association Belge des Techniques et de l'Urbanisme Souterrains - Belgische Vereniging voor Ondergrondse Technieken en Stedebouw)

Type of Structure: Non profit, open association

Number of Members: 17 individual members, 53 corporate members

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2022 AND TO DATE

In 2022 the Belgian Tunnelling Association continued to promote underground solutions to resolve congestion problems, crossing of waterways and sensitive areas. Several site visits were organised, including a site visit on the Grand Paris Express Ligne 17, as well as our annual seminar with this year's topic 'Seminar on Underground and Environment' on the 29th of March. In cooperation with the Flemish engineering association ie-net, we organized on the 15th of June a seminar on the Fehmarnbelt Link (Denmark). On the occasion of the World Tunnel Day on the 2nd of December, a successful 1st Tunnel Asset Owners Day has been organized in Antwerp. We strengthened our close cooperation within the EUTF regarding the interests of the European Tunnel Community in general and with strong knowledge sharing objectives. We continued our close cooperation with the French Tunnelling Society AFTES, from who we share the same magazine T&ES.

Our activities are visible on <https://www.abtus-bvots.com/>

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

In 2022, the following activities were ongoing:
The renovation of the metro station Lemonnier and the start of the new Toots Thielemans Subway station (MIVB/STIB), as part of Metro Line 3. The construction works on the 233m-long Toots Thielemans subway station, formerly known as 'Constitution', started in 2020 and will be completed by 2025. The renovation and expansion of the Lemonnier tram station will follow between 2025 and 2028.



The future Toots Thielemans subway station:



Extension of the Metro Line 3 from Brussels North to Bordet



Several mechanized tunnels for stormwater drainage systems, energy and utilities

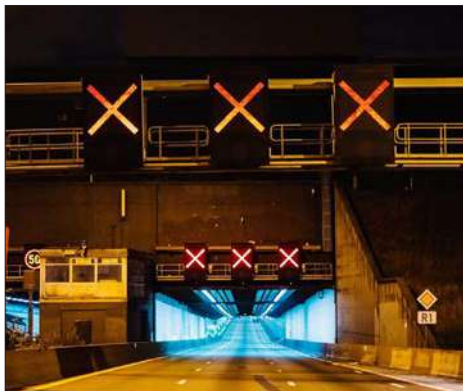


In Brussels, the rehabilitation of the road tunnels of the city's inner ring has continued. These quite old tunnels are completely refurbished and will get an up-to-date control system. In Liège, renovation of the Grosses Battes & Kinkempois tunnel has been finished



In Flanders, renovation of several tunnels with safety upgrades has continued, as f.e. the renovation of the Kennedy Road Tunnel with new control and safety systems. Start of the construction dock in Zeebrugge for the tunnel elements on the Scheldt tunnel of the Oosterweel connection (this 1.8km long immersed tunnel will have two tubes for motorway

traffic and a separate tube for cyclists and pedestrians). See for the project on <https://www.lantis.be/>



FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

On the 30th March 2023, our annual seminar will be held with the topic

‘Seminar on Underground Storage of Nuclear Waste in Belgium’.

In Brussels, the existing metro line will be adapted at the south station and extended at the north station, so that the whole line can be changed to a fully automated subway system. The works have started. The tender for the extension of the metro from the north station towards the new NATO-building has also started.

In Antwerp the works for the Oosterweel Connection (closing of the northern motorway ring) have been started with the adaptation of the interchanger at the left bank of the Scheldt River. The preparation works for the immersed tunnel under the Scheldt River have been started (works 2020-2027). The tendering for the cut-and-

cover tunnels has been done.

The road tunnels of Brussels inner ring will be further rehabilitated and will become safer.

In the future, the second railway track from Antwerp’s main shunting station towards the hinterland will become necessary. This will involve the construction of two single track 16km long tunnels to underpass the Albert canal and several motorways and to avoid interference with the quite dense urban area on the surface.

In Flanders, several tunnel projects are in the stage of a pre-design or in the stage of a building permit, as f.e. the Ring of Ronse, North-South Link in Limburg, R4WO Tunnelling Project Ghent (<https://r4wo.be/>)