

BELGIUM



Name of Association: 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: 14 individual members, 55 corporate members

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2023 AND TO DATE

Several site visits were organised, including one of the A16 in Amsterdam and a visit to the underground laboratory 'Hades in Mol', as well as the annual seminar with the 2023 topic 'Seminar on Underground Storage of Nuclear Waste in Belgium' on the 30th March. On World Tunnel Day on the 1st December, a successful 2nd Tunnel Asset Owners Day – Suppliers Day - was organized in Antwerp. We strengthened our close cooperation within the EUTF regarding the European Tunnel Community and knowledge sharing objectives. We also continued our close cooperation with the French Tunnelling Society AFTES, with whom we share the magazine T&ES.

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

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

■ The renovation of the Lemonnier metro station 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.

- In Brussels, the rehabilitation of the road tunnels on the city's inner ring continues. The old tunnels are being completely refurbished and will be equipped with an up-to-date control system (f.e. The Annie Cordie Tunnel)
- In Liège, the renovation of the Grosses Battes & Kinkempois tunnel has finished.
- In Flanders, renovating several tunnels with safety upgrades continues, such as the renovation of the Kennedy Road & Railway Tunnel with new control and safety systems.

FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

- On the 27th March 2024, our annual seminar will be held with the topic of "Young Engineers@Work".
- In Brussels, the metro south station will be adapted, and the line extended from the north station, so that the whole line can be converted into a fully automated subway system. The works have started. The tender for the extension from the north station towards the new NATO-building has started.
- In Antwerp the works for the Oosterweel Connection (closing of the northern motorway ring) is in full development.
- The oldest parts of the Antwerp pre-metro for trams and light rail will be renovated.

- The road tunnels on Brussels' inner ring will be further rehabilitated to become safer.
- In the future, a second rail track from Antwerp's main shunting station towards the hinterland will be required. This will be delivered by constructing two single track, 16km long tunnels that will underpass the Albert canal and several motorways to avoid interference with the dense urban surface area.
- In Flanders, several tunnel projects are in the pre-design or building permit stages, such as the Ring of Ronse, North-South Link in Limburg, R4WO Tunnelling Project Ghent (<https://r4wo.be/>)



Extension Metro Line 3 from Brussels North till Bordet, preparation works in Brussels North



Future Toots Thielemans subway station

