



The Centre for the Study of  
European Politics and Society

*Academic Excellence  
&  
Innovative Research*

# Belgium at Crossroads

International Seminar

30 May 2012,

Naftali Building for Social Sciences, Zeev Segal Hall 003, Tel Aviv University

Belgium has long puzzled political scientists. The country in the hearth of Europe has made a most unusual journey from a unitary state to a full-blown federal system. Along the way, Belgium went through several crises but survived thanks to some creative constitutional engineering. This seminar will take you on this journey and uncover the institutional dynamics that accompanied the mutation to a federal state. Join us on an academic voyage through a system that encompasses multiple cultures, languages and economic backgrounds and learn how these can be effectively managed within the global and European frameworks.

15:30

Opening remarks

**H.E. Bénédicte Frankinet**, Ambassador of Belgium to Israel

**Prof. Raanan Rein**, Vice President, Tel Aviv University & Head, S. Daniel

Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies

**Dr. Sharon Pardo**, Director, Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society, Ben-Gurion University

15:45

First Panel: The Historical Origins of the State in Belgium

**Prof. Bruno De Wever**, Ghent University, Ghent

The Historical Background of State Reform in Belgium

**Prof. Astrid von Busekist**, SciencesPo, Paris,

Democracy in Belgium: from Unitarian to Federal

17:00

Coffee break

17:15

Second Panel: Contemporary Belgium and the Federal Puzzle

**Prof. Philippe Van Parijs**, UCL, Louvain-la-Neuve,

United We Stand? The Dilemmas of Contemporary Belgian Federalism

**Prof. Elie Barnavi**, Tel Aviv University and Director of the Museum of Europe in Brussels,

The Bigger Picture: Post-Nationalism and the EU

18:30

Closing Reception