



The BeNeLux University Center (B.U.C) held a conference in the Council Chamber of the City Hall in Lommel, Belgium on the theme of Art, Culture and a sustainable society. (December 1, 2023)

Upon arrival in the foyer, the guest speakers and audience were welcomed by the B.U.C board members.

The opening of the conference was performed by B.U.C. chairman Prof. Anton van der Geld. Mayor Bob Nijs of the municipality of Lommel delivered his welcome speech and invited all guests to a reception in the famous Glass House after the conference, on walking distance from the Town Hall.

Minister of State Professor Jan Peter Balkenende, head holder of B.U.C., gave a formidable talk about a sustainable society with prospects for art and culture.

Minister of State Professor Mark Eyskens also gave a great lecture about artificial intelligence during this conference, with the common thread being "AI is taking the role of artists away." Professor Eyskens is a great speaker, A very respectable personality with an enormous amount of knowledge.

Between the speeches there were two musical intermezzos on a glass organ and a short poetic journey by performance artist Erzsébet Mak.

The artists Koen Vanmechellen, Ulrike Bolenz and Peter Riezebos gave a presentation of their works of art and about how they were created.

The roundtable discussion was led by Professor Guus van Heck, head lecturer at B.U.C. with the assistance of art expert Guy Pieters (Guy Pieters Gallery) and Jan Goverde, committee member of the B.U.C. Practice Chair.

After the closing speech of the conference delivered by chairman Professor Anton van der Geld, the group headed to the Glass House for the reception hosted by the city of Lommel.

Glass House is known as the Flemish center for contemporary glass art and has an appearance far beyond the borders. As a dynamic art institution, it promotes glass in all its facets and demonstrates that glass can be whatever it wants to be.

It was another very well organized event with many dignitaries.

The non-profit Foundation BeNeLux University Center (B.U.C.) promotes cooperation between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg and is active in the areas of education, science,

culture and humanity.

[prof. Anton van der Geld, psychologist](#)
[Diplomatic World Institute](#)
[Barbara Dietrich](#)

 [Gerard Huiting](#)

