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# **Investing in Belgium**

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### Why to invest in Belgium?





- Located in the heart of Western Europe, a key position in the European and International Trade and Economy.
- A founding states of the European Union and home to many international organisations, Belgium has always been a prosperous marketplace, in business with countries from all over the world.
- Crossroads of different cultures has shaped the cosmopolitan character.
- Brussels-Capital, Flanders and Wallonia with 3 official languages (Dutch,
   French and German)
- Home to a versatile population with high purchasing power. Belgium has plenty to offer businesses, no matter where they come from in the world.

#### Open economy





- Belgian exports amount to more than 80% of national GDP. According to the
   WTO data, Belgium is the 10th largest exporting country in the world
- A flourishing marketplace, making the most of its location in the centre of
   Western Europe. Hosting many international organisations.
- Belgium is strongly integrated with the globalised world. According to the KOF Index, which measures the openness of a country by assessing the economic, political and social dimensions of globalisation, Belgium is the most globalised country in the world.
- Ranks 5th in the Ernst & Young European Attractiveness Survey for new investment projects in Europe, demonstrating that many investors have already found their way to Belgium.

## Gateway to 500 million European consumers





- Well connected: Belgium's high quality transportation infrastructure offers fast connections across Europe by air, sea or land. All major commercial centers – including London, Paris and Frankfurt – are just a few hours away.
- Central location in one of the wealthiest and developed regions in the world: 80% of Europe's purchasing power lies within a radius of 500 miles (± 800 km) from Brussels.
- Competitive logistics: Belgium ranks Nr 3 in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index. There are 800 European Distribution Centres in Flanders alone and an average of six per 100 sq km – the highest in Europe
- Belgian exports amount to more than 80% of national GDP. According to the WTO data, Belgium is the 10th largest exporting country in the world
- Belgium is also renowned as a consumer test market. If a product is successfully launched in Belgium, similar success can be expected in other European markets.

#### **Logistics and Political Center**





- 80% of Europe's purchasing power lies within a radius of 500 miles (± 800 km)
   from Brussels.
- Very efficient transit connections. Shortest trucking times. Low prices
- Belgium is also renowned as a consumer test market. If a product is successfully launched in Belgium, similar success can be expected in other European markets.
- As a founding member of the European Union, Belgium has always played a
  decisive international role. Belgium hosts the EU and NATO, as well as
  numerous headquarters of multinationals and major global players.
- Multinational Companies, International organisations are located in Brussels many large global corporations, 120+ international government organisations, 181 embassies, over 5,000 diplomats and more than 1,000 lobby groups.
- This international presence combined with Brussels' first rate accessibility in the heart of Europe, makes it the number one European conference city.

#### **Antwerp Port**





- With more than 300 liner services and 800 destinations, Port of Antwerp-Bruges is the second largest port in Europe and a true world port.
- Its central location, presence of Europe's largest Chemical cluster, its extensive transport connections and great infrastructure make Port of Antwerp-Bruges your optimal choice for business.
- The port employs, directly and indirectly, a total of around 164,000 people and generates added value of more than €21 billion. As such, it is an important lifeline for the Belgian economy.
- International connections and sustainable growth play an important role in reinforcing its role as a world port

### **Competitive Taxes**





- Belgium has a unique tax regime. Numerous corporate tax deductions are available, such as notional interest and patent income, and there is a very favorable taxation system for expat employees.
- Thanks to these measures, the effective corporate tax rate can be significantly lower than the nominal rate and lower than many other countries.
- In addition, the advanced tax ruling system provides legal certainty for investors.
- Corporate Income Tax rate is 20-25%
- Clearly, Belgium is highly competitive when it comes to company taxes.

## Easy to Set up a Business





- Setting up a business in Belgium is quick and simple. It only takes 4 days and 3 start-up procedures to take off, making Belgium the fastest place in Europe to establish a business.
- The Federal Regional Liaison Unit for Foreign Investment ensures smooth cooperation between all the partners involved in supporting your investment project. Each of the three regions has its own agency to assist you with practical matters related to your investment.
- Axas Consulting will help support you from A to Z with its extensive experience

### Your Local Business Partner in Belgium





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- We help you achieving your growth aspirations and maximize your potential with our Consulting experience of 40+ years in Belgium.
- We offer a wide range of Accounting, Tax, Audit, Advisory and Consultancy services
- Helping you prepare your "business plan" for Banks and other financial institutions
- We will support you from registering to up and running your project/idea
- Advise on choosing the right Legal status: advise on the best suited legal establishment for your project/idea. Establishing and Registrations an all other formalities: VAT, Notaries, Crossroads Bank for Enterprises (BCE), Social Security etc.
- Local support for International Companies for their business, branch and investment in Belgium

## Thank you...







Founding Partner ITAA CPA

40 years ITAA CPA and Executive Ledaership experience in Nilfisk, HP as a Finance Director. Serves as board member in Brussels companies



**Serdar Bilgic** 

Managing Partner
International CFO

25 years Finance&Accounting and Executive Ledaership experience at global level at large multinational corporations such as Coca-Cola, DuPont, Cargill and Trane Technologies