GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
King Philippe

Head of Government
Prime Minister Charles MICHEL

Government Type
federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy

Capital
Brussels

Ambassador to US
Ambassador Dirk Jozef M. WOUTERS

US Ambassador
Ambassador (vacant); Special Charge d'Affaires Matthew LUSSENHOP

Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate or Senaat (in Dutch), Senat (in French) (60 seats) and the Chamber of Representatives or Kamer van Volskvergenwoordigers (in Dutch), Chambre des Representants (in French) (150 seats)

Judiciary
Constitutional Court or Grondwettelijk Hof (in Dutch) and Cour constitutionelle (in French) (12 judges); Supreme Court of Justice or Hof van Cassatie (in Dutch) and Cour de Cassation (in French) (court organized into 3 chambers)

GEOGRAPHY

Area
Total: 30,528 sq km
Land: 30,278 sq km
Water: 250 sq km

Climate
temperate; mild winters, cool summers; rainy, humid, cloudy

Natural Resources
construction materials, silica sand, carbonates, arable land

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
11.5 million (July 2017 est.)

Population Growth
0.7% (2017 est.)

Ethnicity
Belgian 75%, Italian 4.1%, Moroccan 3.7%, French 2.4%, Turkish 2%, Dutch 2%, other 12.8% (2011 est.)

Language
Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%

Religion
Roman Catholic 50%, Protestant and other Christian 2.5%, Muslim 5%, Jewish 0.4%, Buddhist 0.3%, atheist 9.2%, none 32.6% (2009 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 98% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 0.62% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
a central geographic location and highly developed transport network have helped Belgium develop a well-diversified economy, with a broad mix of transport, services, manufacturing, and high tech industries; its reform program aims to improve competitiveness

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$526.4 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$46,300 (2017 est.)

Exports
$309.1 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Germany 16.6%, France 14.9%, Netherlands 12%, UK 8.4%, Italy 4.9%, US 4.8% (2017)

Imports
$306.1 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Netherlands 17.3%, Germany 13.8%, France 9.5%, US 7.1%, UK 4.9%, Ireland 4.2%, China 4.1% (2017)

as of July 2018