

# spots

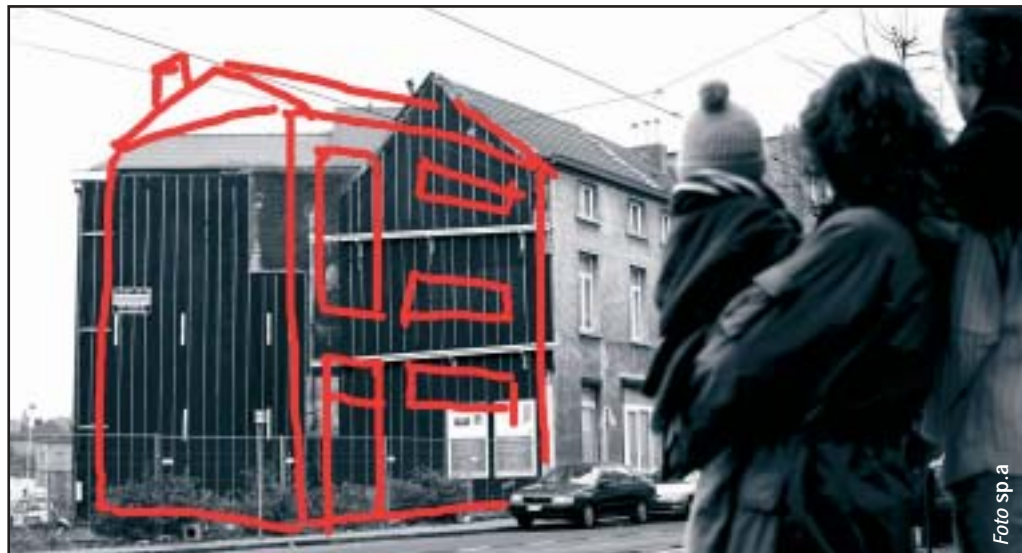
on Brussels

## Redesigning your town

*In redesigning the streets and neighbourhoods we live in, the Flemish socialists want to make them better, cleaner and truly liveable.*

### Brussels on the move

The quality of life in a town is influenced by the way public spaces are shaped and 'given back' to its inhabitants. The communes of Brussels are flooded with cars. Unfortunately they take a lot of space. This is one of the reasons why *sp.a*, the Flemish socialists, wants to organise the different means of transport into one transport system. Cyclists must be able to cycle via safe lanes around different places in Brussels. Free bus lanes should keep trams and busses out of traffic jams. And, where feasible, pedestrians should be able to stroll around pedestrian only zones. We do not want to ban the car from daily city life. We just want it to be less prominent in our streets and neighbourhoods.



*sp.a is redrawing the city and streets in each Brussels commune. Will you join us?*

### Tidy and clean Brussels

Brussels is a beautiful town with lots of interesting and lovely spots. But Brussels is also a dirty town: illegal dumping, dog dirt everywhere, public areas used as toilets, ... This results in unpleasant streets and unhappy people in the neighbourhood. As always, small changes can make a big difference. That's why we want bins every 150m, easy to find doggybags and many more 'official' public toilets. Cleanliness doesn't stop here. Inhabitants and visitors must also take their responsibility in keeping Brussels tidy.

*As always small changes can make a big difference*

### Inhabited Brussels

Posters and placards on blank walls, unoccupied premises and abandoned houses deface the streetscape. It makes the city look neglected. This in turn makes people feel insecure and just gives a negative perception of living in Brussels. We want to tackle the problem of uninhabited houses and slum dwellings. We believe the municipality must be able to expropriate a building that's been empty for more than three years. We propose a levy on unused building sites and unoc-

cupied houses, and use the revenue for better housing.

### Green Brussels

Brussels is one of the greenest cities of the world, but those green patches are divided unequally. There should be a park or green square in every neighbourhood of the city. It should be a gathering place where children can play safely. *sp.a* wants to connect these green patches to a network of 'green ribbons' for pedestrians and cyclists.

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Rudy Grijp  
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# A cultural and linguistic melting pot

*Brussels is 100% "Zinneke": multicultural and multilingual to the core. The city gathers almost 170 nationalities and on top of the official languages dozens of other languages are spoken on the street.*

**Gus, UK, 24:**

*"Brussels is an easy city to feel at home in. The city doesn't force newcomers to assimilate, as Brussels is dotted with hundreds of subcultures. Brussels does not have a rigid frame, no firmly-rooted profile; her identity is formed by people from all corners of the world, who are constantly coming and going."*

## **Multiculturality turns Brussels into a creative thoroughfare**

Brussels finds itself in a permanent state of creative cross-pollination. This leads to an enormous variety in its cultural offering: you can see performances of professionals, amateurs, on a big stage, in the back of a cafe, in the street. A Brussels characteristic that *sp.a* very much wants to protect.

Culture is often considered 'pure', as something one should protect against outside influences. The Brussels cultural scene rejects this idea. With projects such as Brussels Bravo, The KunstenfestivaldesArts and the Zinnekeparade Brussels has made it that it doesn't want to be limited by rigid linguistic frames. The most creative results arise from collaboration between the communities. Theatres as the KVS have chosen to bring Brussels in all its diversity on stage. At the same time, they open their doors to a large public, by translating the plays in other languages and using subtitles.

*sp.a* supports this approach. Too many socio-cultural projects are rejected by the government because they refuse to choose between 'Dutch' or 'French', in a quest to work in both languages and reach people from every community.

We want to see an end to such government interference.

European newcomers should be involved as much as possible in the city life. You don't betray your identity by opening up to what another city or culture has to offer. You will not lose your own language by making another language your own. *sp.a* encourages all newcomers (regardless if they are from Poland, Morocco, Wallonia or Flanders) to learn French or Dutch. Because learning another language adds more value to your life: it gives you the opportunity to get to know 'the Others' and their culture, to exchange thoughts with more people, to build more friendships.

## **Get to know 'the Others' and build more friendships**

### **Mixed neighbourhoods**

The multicultural impression you get when walking through the city streets is too often and unfortunately just an impression. We all live next to each other, but we're not living together.

For example, the majority of European newcomers settle down in the same residential neighbourhoods. We are in favour of spreading the European institutions, schools and nurseries over the



Foto Reporters

*The Zinnekeparade in Brussels is not limited by rigid linguistic, social or cultural frames. It's there for everyone.*

whole Region, leading to a dispersion of the European expats, since many of them prefer to live close to work and school. We encourage them to participate as much as possible in the local activities of their neighbourhood (local associations and schools). In short, we believe that our neighbourhoods should be composed of people with different nationalities and different socio-economical backgrounds. More than is the case now.

To reinforce the real feeling of living together, we want to stimulate initiatives that enhance contact between people and social cohesion. Initiatives as 'play streets' (streets that are locked off from traffic during a specific period so that the children can play safely in the street) and all kinds of 'neighbourhood parties'.



Pascal Smet  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*



Staf Nimmegeers  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*



Anke Van Lancker  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*



Joeri Hamvas  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*



Stéphane Cadron  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*



Els Witte  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*

# Brussels on the move

*Living in a big city has many advantages. But one of the downsides must be the excessive car use and heavy traffic. This leads to environmental and health problems, noise pollution, smells, and an increase in travelling time. So if we don't want to get stuck in traffic whilst breathing pollution into our lungs, we need to change our policies and habits in a significant way.*

We think that an effective and well-considered mobility policy is essential. Not only to reach the Kyoto norm but also to protect our health and make Brussels a better place to live in. We are showing our involvement at regional level. And we are willing to fulfil our plans at municipality level too.

With Pascal Smet, *sp.a* has given Brussels a dynamic Minister for Mobility for Brussels. In a short time, he has put traffic on the political agenda. Among other things, he intends to extend the night network of public transport so that people can not

only go out but also return home using bus, metro or tram. And as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, car owners handing over their registration plate will receive a free public transport season ticket and a Cambio subscription (car sharing) or a bike cheque.

## *Let's get out of the traffic jams and into the bus, metro or on the bike*

With his 'Bicycle Master Plan', Smet wants to transform Brussels to a 'bike-friendly' city. By 2009, all regional roads must be provided with a bicycle path.

The recently recruited cycling manager will ensure that space for cyclists is secured each time a road is redeveloped. Pascal Smet also introduced subsidies for municipalities that install bicycle rental systems.

*sp.a* wants to make a difference at municipality level. More than 60% of journeys in Brussels are within a 5 km range. We believe that for such a short distance,

taking the car should not be an option. So we want each municipality to take part in the development of good transport alternatives. We ask every municipality to set up and implement a mobility plan, with special attention to pedestrian precincts in municipality and shopping centres. We also need to increase the safety of vulnerable roads users and handicapped people, and install more bicycle parks and rental systems, as well as an automatic parking guidance system that leads cyclists to public parking places. We also want to encourage big department stores and companies to open their parking facilities to local residents in the evenings. Every school should also pay attention to traffic and bike education.

### *Jürgen Erdmenger, Germany, 72:*

*"People should see driving a car as the second best solution. This can only be achieved by offering excellent alternatives that match all needs. Bike routes, bus, tram and metro networks should fit neatly into each other to offer a variety of possibilities to go from A to B. If you also invest in transport capacity, speed and affordable night transport, car use can be reduced. That is the only way for our city to be attractive again."*



All journeys within a 5 km range should be done by bike.



Sofia sa noguire barros  
*sp.a-spirit-groen!*

Elsene



Ans Persoons  
LB

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Pascal Dufour  
LB

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Etterbeek



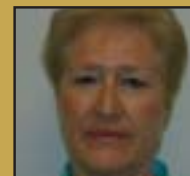
Rik Baeten  
LB

5

Evere



Jean-Luc Liens  
PS- *sp.a*



Doris Swolfs  
PS- *sp.a*

# A clean Brussels: easy and important

*Brussels is a beautiful city but not really a clean one. People dropping rubbish on the street, abandoned houses falling apart, people peeing on the streets are all too familiar in the 19 communes of our capital.*

sp.a is determined to solve these problems and wants all of us to be proud of our city.

## **Sofia Asteriadi, Greece, 32:**

"I love Brussels! It is such a diverse city and really alive. Brussels is really beautiful but so dirty! It seems like the Brussels politicians don't want to do anything about that, but they should. Brussels is worth some effort."

## **Shared responsibilities**

As with many issues in Brussels, having a clean city is a shared competence between the Brussels Capital Region and the communes. We believe in centralising some core tasks at the regional level to ensure a collective and effective approach. Waste management is a good example. This does not mean, however, that the communes do not have a role to play. They are closest to the citizen and know which areas need special attention. Take rubbish bins. In some neighbourhoods one can hardly find them. We are convinced that a city needs as many rubbish bins as possible. So we stress that all 19 communes must strive for a clean Brussels.

And both the region and the communes must publicise the regulations for collecting garbage. The worst offenders must be fined and, why not, help the waste collectors for a week.

## **Garbage is not the only problem**

Brussels is the city of 'Manneke Pis'. Unfortunately, one would think that every commune has quite a few little peeing people. In the Brussels regional

territory there are only two functioning public toilets. Totally insufficient for a city of over a million people. We all know the consequences; little alleys and subway stations smell. sp.a wants the communes to follow the example of

## **Two public toilets for a city of over 1 million people is insufficient**

cities like Vienna, Barcelona and Breda where 6 excellent modern public toilets were introduced. Why not reopen public toilets in subway stations in the daytime? Some time ago, we addressed this issue. As a result the city of Brus-

sels decided to provide public toilets at major events in centre. This is one step forward, but not enough.

## **Big media companies, share the burden**

Blank walls, empty buildings, electricity and phone booths are being used more and more as billboards. Even though those posters often brighten up the city, they also make it look dirty. Imposing a fine is not enough. Big media companies advertising movies or concerts with large budgets are happy to pay these small amounts. But for youngsters, it is a different story. In many communes city services will put posters up for you on communal billboards. But too often, these boards are placed in abandoned areas and are not seen by many people. We want all communes to provide billboards, using public private financing, in areas of the city where many people pass by. That way the big media concerns will finance community life, get their advertising place for a cheap price and young people don't have to risk a fine.

## **All proud of Brussels**

But it is not only the 19 communes that will have to develop measures and create a policy to ensure having clean neighbourhoods. We, inhabitants, also have a responsibility to bear. Starting by cleaning in front of our doorsteps and telling people who pollute the city that they shouldn't. A very simple measure but with a big result. Only then we will be able to have a clean Brussels, a Brussels of which Sofia and all of us can be proud of.



Foto sp.a

*We want all the 19 communes to develop measures and create a policy to ensure having clean neighbourhoods.*

Jette



Werner Daem  
sp.a-spirit



Hannes De Geest  
sp.a-spirit



Marina Dekeyzer  
sp.a-spirit

Koekelberg



Robert Delathouwer  
LB



Dirk Lagast  
LB

Schaarbeek



Bernadette Vriamont  
PS

# Participation, Transparency and Accountability: *sp.a*'s cornerstones for good governance

*At the local community level people still meet the 'governors' they voted in office. It's a place where needs, problems and challenges are concrete and tangible. We believe in an effective local public sector and we consider good governance to be very important.*

But for too long local authorities in Brussels have invested in bricks and mortar without thinking how to create efficient and sustainable communities where people are really involved and love to live. Most of the Brussels local authorities and administrations can perform much better. Services, regulations and procedures aren't always logical, clear or customer friendly. The organisation and effectiveness of local administrations and services must be improved. This is why *sp.a* is so committed to good local governance.

## Participation

*sp.a* considers people as well as civil society organisations as the human capital of our communities. Participation is a crucial part of the social, cultural and economic development of neighbourhoods. By making people stakeholders in their own neighbourhood, their concerns can be taken into consideration in decision making. But participation also requires information and organisation. It requires mediation of different interests to reach a consensus on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved. It requires decision makers with a vision and who are capable to cut the knot. *sp.a* is convinced that more involvement and participation match perfectly with intelligent and good decision making.

## Transparency

Transparency means that decisions are taken and the enforcement is done in a manner that follows the rules of local democracy. It also means that all kinds of information is freely available and accessible to everyone affected by decisions and their enforcement. In order to have that transparency local authorities must provide more information than they do today. Information about their policy in understandable and clear texts and via several channels. "Say what you do and do as you say", should be the motto of every decision maker.

## Accountability

To *sp.a* accountability is another key requirement for local governance. A well functioning community depends on ensuring that all its citizens – including the most vulnerable and newcomers - feel that they have a voice and do not feel excluded or neglected. To create efficient and reliable local governance, service improvements must be a high priority. Every local authority needs a schedule for service improve-

ment planning with measurable targets.

We believe that with citizen participation, transparency and openness for all authority decisions and efficient management the organisational capacity and accountability of our communities will be reinforced. And finally the benefits for all citizens will increase. And that's what it's all about.



Foto Reporters

*For the benefit of all citizens, an open and well managed community is essential.*

Koen Pelleriaux  
PSJo Van Hove  
PSSint-Jans-  
MolenbeekJ. Claude Mertens  
LB

6

Jef Van Damme  
LB

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Veerle De Gryse  
LB

18

St.J. ten Node

Beatrice Meulemans  
LB

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# Be part of it

Brussels needs its Europeans –just as she needs her other communities- more than ever: to contribute to the future of the city, and come up with new and innovative ideas. Inside this European population resides a huge potential; they can provide Brussels with their own experience from all the cities of Europe. They can and should play an important role in the development of the city, so that Brussels, one day, will become a true multicultural city.

European Union citizens were granted the right to vote at the municipal elections in Belgium in 2000. So we would like to ask you to get registered and make every vote count. You'll find the registration form in this magazine. Please fill in the form and take or send it to your municipality.



Voting on October 8: easy and important. So be part of it.

*In all municipalities of the Brussels Capital Region votes will be given electronically. To help you, a short overview of how the system works.*

Voting in Belgium is compulsory. So when you decide to register and vote, be aware that on voting day you're obliged to go out to the polling station and make that vote. If for any reason you can't comply to this obligation, you can confer full powers upon somebody. To do that, you just need to fill in the procuration papers, sign them and hand them over to the person who'll be voting in your name.

### *Looking and finding the sp.a candidates*

In the different communes we have found collaborators we can work with on our city project. One thing binds us: the progressive and social program we stand for.

This means that you will not find our *sp.a* candidates on a *sp.a* list. We've chosen to work together and be part of a bigger social, progressive and left picture. Throughout this magazine you will probably have noticed all our candidates, their names, faces, communes and electoral list they will be part of. If you want to support our candidates and the things they stand for, it's a good idea to check out now what list you'll be able to find them on.

## How to vote?

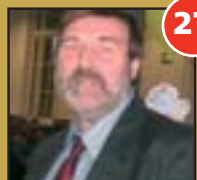
- 1 You go to the polling station bringing your voting paper and identity card. In exchange you'll receive a white magnetic card.
- 2 Putting the magnetic card in the computer, you'll be asked to choose the language with which the computer will further guide you, and confirm this choice. The languages you can choose are Dutch and French.
- 3 Next step is to pick the party or list of your choice and again confirm this choice.
- 4 Now you'll get to see the lists of candidates from the party or list you selected just earlier. With the computer pen you can mark the candidates you want to give your vote to. Multiple votes on the same list are possible. You can also vote for the list as such, without marking candidates. Always confirm your vote.
- 5 Take out the magnetic card and put it in the ballot box.
- 6 You'll then get your identity card and voting paper back.

Fear not. Our local candidates will take the time to tell you for themselves what they want to do and what their plans are for the coming 6 years. Please feel free to come to our activities and/or contact us. We would like to hear your questions, suggestions and ideas. Your voice and your vote counts!

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27

St.P. Woluwe



Jules Spooren  
LB

3



Bjorn Andries  
PS+

14



Lauren Somer  
PS+

Ukkel



Fleur Lagae  
PS

9

Vorst



Jutta Buyse  
PS

7

Watermaal -  
Bosvoorde

Jos Bertrand  
PS

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## Eindnoten

(1) Het college van burgemeester en schepenen gaat na of de aanvrager de kiesbevoegdheidsvoorwaarden vervult en wanneer dat het geval is, betekent het per bij de post aangetekende brief, zijn beslissing om hem in te schrijven op de kiezerslijst. Deze inschrijving wordt tevens vermeld in de bevolkingsregisters.

De kiesbevoegdheidsvoorwaarden zijn de volgende : de nationaliteit van een Lid-State van de Europese Unie bezitten, de volle leeftijd van achttien jaar bereikt hebben, ingeschreven zijn in de bevolkingsregisters van de gemeente waarbij de aanvraag ingediend is, en zich niet in één van de gevallen van uitsluiting of schorsing van de kiesrechten bevinden waarin voorzien wordt door de artikelen 6 tot 9bis van het Kieswetboek.

Aan de voorwaarden inzake leeftijd en niet-schorsing of niet-uitsluiting van de kiesrechten moet ten laatste op de dag van de verkiezing voldaan zijn.

(2) Wanneer de aanvrager één van de kiesbevoegdheidsvoorwaarden niet vervult, betekent het college van burgemeester en schepenen van de gemeente van verblijfplaats hem, per bij de post aangetekende brief, de gemotiveerde weigering hem in te schrijven op de kiezerslijst.

In dat geval kan de aanvrager binnen tien dagen na die betekening, zijn eventuele bezwaren per bij de post aangetekende brief gericht aan het college van burgemeester en schepenen, meedelen. Het college doet binnen acht dagen na de ontvangst van het bezwaarschrift uitspraak, en zijn beslissing wordt onmiddellijk per bij de post aangetekende brief meegedeeld aan de betrokkene.

Als het college van burgemeester en schepenen bij zijn beslissing tot weigering blijft, kan de aanvrager beroep aantekenen tegen deze beslissing voor het Hof van Beroep, binnen een termijn van acht dagen na de in het vorige lid bedoelde betekening.

Het beroep wordt ingediend door middel van een verzoekschrift dat bezorgd wordt aan de procureur-generaal van het Hof van Beroep. Hij brengt het college van burgemeester en schepenen van de betrokken gemeente daarvan zo snel mogelijk op de hoogte.

De partijen beschikken over een termijn van tien dagen vanaf de indiening van het verzoekschrift, om nieuwe conclusies in te dienen. Van zodra die termijn verstreken is, stuurt de procureur-generaal het dossier met de nieuwe stukken of conclusies, binnen twee dagen naar de hoofdgriffier van het Hof van Beroep, die daarvan ontvangst bericht.

Voor het overige wordt de procedure voor het Hof van Beroep geregeld door de artikelen 28 tot 39 van het Kieswetboek.

Het dispositief van het arrest dat gewezen wordt door het Hof van Beroep, wordt onverwijld en met alle middelen, door het openbaar ministerie betekend aan het college van burgemeester en schepenen dat de beslissing genomen heeft waartegen het beroep ingesteld is, en aan de andere partijen.

Het arrest wordt onmiddellijk uitgevoerd ingeval het leidt tot de erkenning van de hoedanigheid van kiezer voor de eiser.

Er wordt uitspraak gedaan over het beroep, zowel bij afwezigheid als bij aanwezigheid van de partijen. De arresten die door het Hof van Beroep gewezen worden in die aangelegenheid, zijn geacht op tegenspraak te zijn gewezen, en er kan geen enkel beroep tegen ingesteld worden.

(3) De aanvragen tot inschrijving op de kiezerslijst die opgesteld wordt voor de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen, kunnen op elk moment ingediend worden, behalve tijdens de periode tussen de opstelling van die lijst (1 augustus van het jaar waarin de gewone vernieuwing van de gemeenteraden plaatsvindt) en de dag van de verkiezing waarvoor de lijst opgesteld is. Vanaf de dag na de verkiezingen mogen er opnieuw aanvragen ingediend worden.

Op gelijkaardige manier kan iedere persoon die erkend is als kiezer, op elk moment behalve tijdens de in het vorige lid bedoelde periode, schriftelijk bij de gemeente waar hij zijn hoofdverblijfplaats gevestigd heeft, verklaren dat hij afziet van die hoedanigheid.

De erkenning als kiezer blijft geldig zolang de betrokkene blijft voldoen aan de kiesbevoegdheidsvoorwaarden en hij niet afgezien heeft van zijn hoedanigheid van kiezer, ongeacht de gemeente van zijn verblijfplaats in België.

Als de niet-Belgische burger van de Europese Unie, na erkend te zijn als kiezer, bij de gemeente van zijn hoofdverblijfplaats schriftelijk verklaard heeft dat hij afziet van die hoedanigheid, kan hij pas na de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen waarvoor hij in die hoedanigheid ingeschreven was, een nieuwe aanvraag tot erkenning als kiezer indienen.

(4) Het ontvangstbewijs van de aanvraag wordt losgemaakt door de beambte van het gemeentebestuur en bezorgd aan de aanvrager, nadat het naar behoren gedagtekend en ondertekend is, en afgestempeld is met het zegel van de gemeente.

Ik, ondergetekende,

- naam en voornamen: .....
- geboortedatum: .....
- adres: .....
- nationaliteit : .....

vraag hierbij, overeenkomstig artikel 1bis, § 2, van de gemeentekieswet, daarin ingevoegd bij de wet van 27 januari 1999, mijn inschrijving op de kiezerslijst die om de zes jaar opgesteld wordt, voor de gewone vernieuwing van de gemeenteraden, op 1 augustus van het jaar waarin deze vernieuwing plaatsvindt.

Ik verklaar te weten:

- dat ik, indien mijn aanvraag tot inschrijving op de kiezerslijst erkend wordt (1), mij voor de stemming moet aanmelden, op straffe van de sancties waarin de Belgische kieswet voorziet en die bedoeld worden in de artikelen 207 tot 210 van het Kieswetboek, en die van toepassing zijn op de gemeenteraadsverkiezingen krachtens artikel 62 van de gemeentekieswet, gecoördineerd op 4 augustus 1932;
- dat mijn aanvraag tot inschrijving op de kiezerslijst geweigerd kan worden als blijkt:
  - dat ik de volle leeftijd van achttien jaar niet bereikt heb op de datum van de eerste gemeenteraadsverkiezingen die volgen op de ondertekening van deze aanvraag;
  - dat ik, op die datum, onder de toepassing van de artikelen 6 tot 9bis van het Kieswetboek zou vallen omwille van een veroordeling of een beslissing die in België uitgesproken is;
- dat zelfs ingeval mijn aanvraag tot inschrijving op de kiezerslijst erkend wordt, die erkenning ingetrokken kan worden als na de toekenning ervan,
  - ik een veroordeling oloop of het voorwerp word van een beslissing die in België uitgesproken wordt, en die voor mij, krachtens de artikelen 6 tot 9bis van het Kieswetboek, leidt tot ofwel de definitieve uitsluiting van de kiesrechten, ofwel de schorsing, op de dag van de verkiezingen, van diezelfde rechten;
  - blijkt dat ik niet langer de nationaliteit van een Lid-Staat van de Europese Unie bezit, of ik definitief uit de bevolkingsregisters geschrapt ben in België, hetzij omdat ik nagelaten heb mijn verandering van verblijfplaats aan te geven zonder dat mijn nieuwe verblijfplaats ontdekt werd, hetzij omdat ik mijn verblijfplaats naar het buitenland overgebracht heb;
- dat ik, als mijn aanvraag tot inschrijving geweigerd wordt, gebruik kan maken van de bezwaarschrift- en beroepsprocedure waarin voorzien wordt in artikel 1bis, § 3, van de gemeentekieswet, daarin ingevoegd bij de wet van 27 januari 1999 (2).

Gedaan te ..... op ..... (3)

(Handtekening)

- visum van de dienst die verantwoordelijk is voor het gemeentelijk strafregister
- visum van de dienst bevolking (controle van de inschrijving)

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#### **Ontvangstbewijs (4)**

De aanvraag tot inschrijving van de heer (mevrouw) ..... (naam en voornamen) werd door de dienst bevolking in ontvangst genomen op ..... (datum).

Gemeentestempel

Handtekening van de beambte