

**MISSION PERMANENTE A BRUXELLES**

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**Date and venue of the reception for the celebration of
Africa Day 2012**

a) The following proposals were made by the cabinet of Deputy Mayor MAMPAKA:

1) The banquet room of the Brussels City Hall

- **Pros:** it is a hall with a prestigious gothic architecture fully decorated with antique wood work. It can accommodate **300 to 400** guests with the required equipment (high serving tables, etc...)
- **Cons:** Given the space needed for the warmers and other equipment (standing service tables, etc), the remaining space available may be insufficient. In addition the major difficulty is that the room is fully wooden which means that the use of any type of fire device is strictly forbidden. The other difficulty is linked to its accessibility as it is located at the Brussels Grand Place where there are no parking facilities. **Hiring cost +/- 6.000 Euros.**
- **Availability at the proposed dates** (Wednesday 31st May or Thursday 6 June): to be checked for confirmation.

2) The Ball Room at King Baudouin Stadium, Heysel

- **Pros:** it can accommodate some 500 guests and is fully equipped with the required equipment for serving (warmers) and for the cultural entertainment (podium, standing service tables, etc.). The venue is of easy access and it has a big parking area. **Hiring will cost 1.500 Euros + 150 Euros for the cloakroom + 250 Euros for the artists' changing room**, from 4.00 P.M to 11.00 P.M. .
- **Cons:** Less prestigious than the gothic room of the Brussels City Hall. Sober architecture with no creativity in the decoration.
- **Availability at the proposed dates** (Thursday 31st May or Wednesday 6 June): Thursday 31st May has already been reserved but the hall would be available on Wednesday 6 June.

b) At the request of the 146th session of the African Group, the Mission continued looking for an alternative to the Palais des Colonies and identified the following place:

3) Espace Flagey Events

- **Pros:** It is the former Belgian Radio and Television headquarters. It has many halls (concert and recording studio space). Some of the space can accommodate receptions/cocktails with a capacity of 80 to 300 guests maximum. The access to the place is easy as it is located at Place Flagey in Ixelles. The underground (paying) public parking at Place Flagey can be used. Public transport (bus and trams) is also available. **Hiring cost** ranges between **1.470 Euros** (Hall 1 for up to 300 guests maximum) and **1.155 Euros** (Hall 2 for up to 150 people maximum) and **945 Euros** (VIP Hall for a maximum of 1400 guests).
- **Cons:** the non availability of one big hall to accommodate the more or less 500 guests expected at the reception. The guests should indeed not be scattered in different halls. While not facilitating the convivial atmosphere expected of such a reception, the multiplicity of halls will not make it possible to have one single podium for the cultural shows to be organized at the reception.
- **Availability:** on 6 June or any other later date (to be confirmed at the latest on 13 April 2012)

c) At its meeting on 11 April 2012, the Bureau of the African Group of Ambassadors in Brussels decided that **the prior selection of the Palais des Colonies would be maintained**, given that it is the only venue which meets all the criteria required for the organization of the reception for the celebration of Africa Day, i.e:

- The possibility to bring the national/regional dishes prepared by Embassies.
- The availability of a big reception hall which can accommodate 500 guests in addition to a big garden for the cultural shows, a kitchen, etc.
- The easy access and parking facilities.

d) The Bureau also confirmed the date of **Wednesday 6 June 2012** for the organization of the reception. The Mission has been mandated to make all necessary provisions to that effect.

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