



Brussels, 8 January 2012.

Ref : 2nd World Congress on Controversies, Debates & Consensus in Bone, Muscle & Joint Diseases

Welcome to Brussels,

A city that endlessly surprises and captivates you.

This capital of 500 million Europeans has been waiting to share its treasures with you: its Gothic buildings, its Art Nouveau façades, its comic strip frescos, the talent of its stylists and designers, its delicacies and its surrealism which can be found on every street corner.

We hope that your visit will be fruitful and that you will have some time beyond your schedule to uncover Brussels... where culture meets business and cooking meets art.

Brussels hosts more than 60,000 registered meetings, conferences and exhibitions every year. Why so many? Because it offers world-class infrastructure, a fantastic choice of special venues, and support and ideas from a highly-professional frontline. No wonder Brussels is ranked Europe's top choice for conferences.

And of course, as home to the European Commission, the European Parliament and 1,700 other international institutions and associations, Brussels is an influential place where decisions are taken and history is made. This is one of the reasons why so many international companies and organisations have set up their headquarters here.

They say that the region's stormy history is the reason for its open-mindedness, warmth and friendliness : Brussels adapts to its visitors, so everyone feel at home here.

Enjoy your stay !

Freddy Thielemans
Mayor of Brussels

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Freddy Thielemans', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.