

Bruges, 25th March 2016

**Subject: letter for tour operators/tourists travelling to Flanders Fields**

Dear Madam, Sir,

We deeply regret what happened in Brussels last Tuesday. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families. Because of what happened, the level of terror threat has increased to level three in the whole country.

Because of this increased level of terror threat, international traffic is disturbed in Belgium. To support the tourism sector in the province of West-Flanders, we communicate to travelers and tourists. Therefore we inform ourselves through the official communication of the safety services.

Life in West-Flanders/Flanders Fields has, compared to Brussels, stayed normal. Professionals in restaurants, shops, museums, hotels, bed and breakfasts,... are warmly welcoming you. Public and cultural spaces and tourist attractions are open and the organisation of guided tours, fairs and exhibitions is concluded in entirely normal circumstances.

The measures taken by the authorities have helped to guarantee until now the safety of the population and the visitors of West-Flanders/Flanders Fields.

Means of transport to and from Flanders Fields are maintained, with the exception of Brussels national airport. Railroad traffic runs under normal operating conditions. Public transport is 100% operational in West-Flanders and no problems have been experienced. Also events and exhibitions are taking place as planned. All World War I museums are open. All tourism professionals in the region make every effort to make your visit of professional stay a success.

Passing the French-Belgian border is possible, but at the border safety inspection is necessary to guarantee the safety of travelers and tourists.

The tourism boards of Flanders Fields are available for all your enquiries concerning the organization of your visit in Flanders Fields.

Yours sincerely,

  
Carl Decaluwé  
Governor of the Province of West-Flanders, Belgium