

INVENTORY OF THE ARCHIVE OF THE  
DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND  
LEGAL PREDECESSOR  
1940-1968 (1997)

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1940-1968 (1997)

by

**Filip STRUBBE**

Brussels  
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Inventorying an archive remains a challenge. Obstacles of all types and sizes that stand in the way of sorting and describing the archive documents often lead archivists to present their approach and results for approval by their peers. This inventory too is no exception to this unwritten rule and would not have been finalized without the help of a number of colleagues. First, I would like to sincerely thank PhD Pierre-Alain Tallier, PhD Michaël Amara and PhD Michel Van der Eycken for the proofreading of and the corrections to the present inventory. Colleague Geert Leloup also was of much assistance as I could discuss my findings with him and rely on his expertise. I also thank our collaborator Pascale Bataille for her help in packaging and numbering parts of the archive. Acknowledgements also go to Advanced Master student Merijn Peeters for the useful bibliographical references he handed me during his traineeship at the National Archives of Belgium. Finally, I would like to express particular thanks to Mr. Bart Eeman, public officer at the Mission Restitution Cultural Goods (Cel Recuperatie van Geroofde Goederen/Cellule de récupération des biens spoliés) under the authority of the FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy (FOD Economie, KMO, Middenstand en Energie/SPF Economie, PME, Classes moyennes et Energie) who assisted me in coordinating the transfer and valorisation of the archive about looted artworks.



# GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHIVE

## DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY (DER) AND LEGAL PREDECESSOR

### I. IDENTITY STATEMENT

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Naam:	Archief van de Dienst voor Economische Recuperatie en rechtsvoorganger, 1940-1968 (1997)
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Niveau de description:	Fonds d'archives
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### II. CONTEXT

#### A. ARCHIVE CREATOR

##### 1. NAME

Department for Economic Recovery – Dienst voor Economische Recuperatie – Office de Récupération économique (1944-1968)

*Acronym:* DER - ORE

*Legal predecessor:*

Department for Identification and Liquidation of Belgian Goods – Dienst voor Identificering en Vereffening van Belgische Goederen – Office d'Identification et de Liquidation des Marchandises belges (1940-1944)

*Acronym:* DIV - OIL

## 2. HISTORY

The German invasion of Belgium on 10 May 1940 disrupted the economic life and goods traffic. Numerous belongings, ranging from cargo to luggage containing private property, were abandoned or lost in the turmoil of war. The huge amount of requests for restitution addressed to the Belgian government in exile in Poitiers led to the enactment of the decree-law of 3 July 1940 stipulating the creation of a Department for Identification and Liquidation of abandoned Belgian Goods (*Dienst voor Identificering en Vereffening van onbeheerde Belgische goederen/Office d'Identification et de Liquidation des Marchandises belges spoliées*). The department returned home to Brussels in July 1940 together with a stream of fellow countrymen who had fled the war. On 31 March 1941, the secretaries-general set up a new Department for Identification and Liquidation of abandoned Belgian goods belonging to Belgian Natural or Legal Persons (*Dienst voor Identificering en Vereffening van Verdwenen en Onbeheerde Belgische Goederen Toebehorende aan Belgische Natuurlijke of Rechtspersonen (DIV)/Office d'Identification et de Liquidation des Marchandises belges spoliées appartenant à des personnes morales ou de droit belges (OIL)*) that tacitly took over the competences of its exiled predecessor. With the occupation progressing, the competences of the DIV/OIL were extended.

On 16 November 1944, shortly after the liberation of the Belgian national territory, the Department for Economic Recovery (DER) was set up, taking over the duties of the Department for Identification and Liquidation. The DER was the sole Belgian office responsible for tracing, recovering and liquidating lost movable goods of Belgian private or public possession in Belgium or abroad during the Second World War. In early 1945, the DER was also assigned with the tracing of enemy military equipment. By virtue of the final agreement of the Paris Peace Conference, the DER became responsible for war reparations by means of industrial compensations in kind. Beside these economic activities, the DER also had a culture office commissioned to identify and reconstitute stolen works of art. In the course of the 1950s, the restitution policy slowly but surely lost importance compared to the expanding economic tasks of the DER. The DER would not only work to support the Belgian coal and flax industries, it also played a role in foreign trade relations and was entrusted with certain tasks within the framework of the science policy, in particular the Belgian participation in the European space programme.

In the 1960s, the economic emphasis of the duties of the DER led to a review of the department's statutes. For this purpose, the DER was dissolved by the Royal Decree of 10 November 1967 and its services were merged with the Commercial Office for Provisioning (*Handelsdienst voor Ravitallering (HDR)/Office Commercial du Ravitaillement (OCRA)*) to form a new body, the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture (*Belgische Dienst voor Bedrijfsleven en Landbouw (BDBL)/Office belge de l'Economie et de l'Agriculture (OBEA)*).

## 3. COMPETENCES AND ACTIVITIES

### a. Department for Identification and Liquidation (DIV/OIL)

Upon its creation on 3 June 1940, the DIV/OIL's mission was defined as "the administration and liquidation of commodities or movable goods that belong to Belgian natural or legal persons and that have partly or entirely been destroyed, gotten lost, or diverted from their initial purpose in Belgium or abroad by a cause related to the state of war Europe endures

since 1 September 1939”.<sup>1</sup> When drafting this mission statement, the legislator clearly had the national interests in mind. The fact that the DIV/OIL was able to substitute itself for the former owner(s) for the recovery of the goods underlines the collective undertone of its action. The return to Brussels in July 1940 caused the Department to operate under significantly different circumstances. The position of the DIV/OIL was weak, not only in France, but also in Belgium as the body was not officially recognized by the secretaries-general and the German occupying power.<sup>2</sup>

Fresh impetus was given to the Department on 31 March 1941, when its competences were adapted to the situation: the DIV/OIL received the mission to “trace the goods that belong to or are intended for Belgian nationals or businesses and that got lost during transport in Belgium or abroad or were diverted from their initial purpose”. Compared to the version of June 1940, the emphasis lay on the recovery of private goods and belongings that were alienated during transport. By extension, the DIV/OIL had to “identify the recovered goods by tracking down their owners and entitled persons” and to take all necessary measures for the preservation of not yet identified goods. Finally, the DIV/OIL had to help owners and entitled persons in recovering their goods or provide assistance for obtaining compensation, if the DIV/OIL was rightfully mandated by the concerned owners or entitled persons to do so.<sup>3</sup>

The decree of 10 March 1942 further expanded the competences mentioned above. Indeed, from this moment on, the DIV/OIL was also able to negotiate with foreign powers on behalf of clients or owners of lost commodities in order to defend Belgian interests. The DIV/OIL had to collect all compensations resulting from negotiations before handing them over to the entitled persons. Finally, the legislator also underlined that the DIV/OIL was authorised to accept and fulfil all mandates related to its missions and entrusted to it by Belgian or foreign natural or legal persons.<sup>4</sup>

The decree of 1 May 1944 brought one last addition to the tasks of the DIV/OIL. Henceforth, the Department was also entitled – under certain circumstances – to establish and appraise damage to commodities and movable goods: 1. damages by plundering or destruction resulting from the violence of war, if an aggrieved party had filed a complaint before a criminal court; 2. damages resulting from loss, destruction or damage of cargo, commodities or rolling stock present on the Belgian railway network between 9 and 31 May 1940.<sup>5</sup>

## **b. Department for Economic Recovery**

The necessity to set up the DER was initially brought about by the continuation of the competences exercised by the DIV/OIL during the occupation. Immediately after the liberation of the Belgian territory, the legislator understood that “in order to protect the economic and financial interests of the country, it is absolutely essential and urgent to set up a department commissioned to trace, identify, preserve and possibly have at its disposal abandoned movable goods and commodities that are of most urgent necessity to the country’s

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<sup>1</sup> PIRLOT, V. *L'Office de recuperation économique*, p. 969.

<sup>2</sup> Ten-year work report 1940-1949, p. 16 and p. 19 (see inventory number 327).

<sup>3</sup> Decree of 31 March 1941 regarding the creation of a Department for Identification and Liquidation of abandoned Belgian goods belonging to Belgian Natural or Legal Persons, Art. 4 (Belgian Official Journal, 10/04/1941).

<sup>4</sup> Decree of 10 March 1942 amending and cancelling certain dispositions of the decree of 31 March 1941 about the creation of the D.I.V./O.I.L., Art. 4, § 5-7 (Belgian Official Journal, 24/04/1942). The name of the department was shortened by this decree to “Department for Identification and Liquidation of Belgian Goods”.

<sup>5</sup> Decree of 1 May 1944 complementing and amending the decree of 15 March 1941 (Belgian Official Journal, 02/06/1944).

economy”.<sup>6</sup> In the beginning, the “mission statement” of the Department for Economic Recovery thus largely looked like a synthesis of the competences exercised by the former DIV/OIL, when the Department was assigned in late 1944 with “1. tracing both in Belgium and abroad the commodities and goods that were abandoned, partially or entirely destroyed or lost; 2. investigating what had happened to these commodities or movable goods; 3. identifying the recovered commodities or movable goods by finding back their owners or entitled persons; 4. ensuring that all necessary preservation measures are taken by third parties; 5. helping the owners or entitled persons to recover their commodities or movable goods; to liquidate them; [...] and to receive compensation for the reclaim of these goods; to take the necessary steps in order to obtain payback for their value; 6. providing assistance to the competent Belgian authorities in the negotiations with foreign authorities [...] in order to conclude agreements about the commodities and movable goods mentioned above; 7. determining, if necessary, the form in which requests regarding the [aforementioned] goods must be addressed; 8. exercising the mandates conferred to it by natural or legal persons of Belgian or foreign nationality forasmuch as they are accepted by the Department, pertain to its field of activity and bear on commodities or movable goods; 9. reassigning owners with the property of their commodities or movable goods in the state in which they presently are [...]; 10. possibly administrating these goods according to the instructions of the Ministry for Economic Affairs”.<sup>7</sup> Within this context, the DER was obliged to indicate to the Sequestration Office all properties falling under the competence of the latter. The legislator was even of the opinion that the work of the DER would simplify the tasks of, among others, the Sequestration Office.<sup>8</sup>

In the years to follow, the competences of the DER would progressively be expanded. The decree-law of 16 January 1945 tasked the DER to trace enemy military equipment. For this purpose, the DER had to set up a general inventory of enemy war equipment present in Belgian storage locations, in Allied storage facilities or elsewhere in Belgium. Then, the DER had to find out the legal status of this equipment and to centralize the claims by individuals or associations regarding equipment that had wrongfully been considered as spoils of war. Finally, after consultation with the allied authorities or other competent bodies, the DER could handle requests for unblocking parts of the spoils of war for the benefit of the Belgian trade and industry.<sup>9</sup>

The role of the DER in the Belgian economy significantly changed due to the decree-law of 16 December 1946: in addition to its “traditional” competences regarding recovery, the Department also got charged for the first time with tasks related to the coordination of reparations and trade interests. After the Yalta and Potsdam Conferences in 1945, the final agreement of the Paris Peace Conference signed on 14 January 1946 fixed the distribution of the war reparations to be paid by Germany to the Western Allied powers. Under the auspices of the Minister for Economic Affairs, the DER was entrusted with receiving all objects, goods, commodities and sums of money that Belgium would receive as reparation for war damage. To that end, the DER had to take care of the collection of these goods in Germany and their subsequent transport to Belgium, where the Domains Administration (*Bestuur der*

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<sup>6</sup> Report to the Regent, annexed to the decree-law of 16 November 1944 about the creation of a Department for Economic Recovery (Belgian Official Journal, 22/11/1944). The report to the Regent also mentions that the existing decrees (from the war period) would be consolidated in a single pertinent legislative text in the course of the creation of a new administration for the recovery of lost goods.

<sup>7</sup> Decree-law of 16 November 1944, Art. 2 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/11/1944).

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, Art. 3.

<sup>9</sup> Decree-law of 16 January 1945 expanding the scope of work of the Department for Economic Recovery (Belgian Official Journal, 18/01/1945).

*Domeinen/Administration des domaines*) organised their liquidation. Secondly, the DER was instructed to “conclude all contracts regarding the purchase of goods or commodities in Germany with the Allies as well as with individuals with a view to importing them to Belgium, as well as the purchase of goods and commodities in Belgium for export to Germany”.<sup>10</sup> In anticipation of the resumption of normal business relations with West Germany, the DER was, in other words, in charge of concluding every import and export contract with this country.

In addition to this substantial expansion of the DER’s tasks, the decree-law of December 1946 held another clause that would more and more determine the work of the Department from the middle of the 1950s. According to this addendum, the DER was ordered to “carry out every other mission entrusted to it, being covered by and in execution of the instructions given to it by the Minister for Economic Affairs”.<sup>11</sup> Of course, this stipulation was adopted in the revision of the statutes of the DER in 1956, when it became ever clearer that the missions carried out within the framework of the immediate post-war recovery were as good as finished or at least “put on the back burner”.<sup>12</sup> In practice, the DER – now officially labelled a “parastatal” institution of category B – played a key role in re-equipping the coalmines and supporting the Belgian flax industry, the trade relations with East Germany and the science policy of the state.

The continuing importance of the DER would not prevent the Department from being shut down by the Royal Decree of 10 November 1967 and merging with the Commercial Office for Provisioning to form a new entity called “Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture” (BDBL/OBEA). The legislator praised the flexibility of both agencies that “act in times of peace with due hastiness and diligence in order to back the economic and scientific policy of the government”.<sup>13</sup> It was nevertheless deemed necessary to “be able to rationalize the different tasks of these agencies” by merging their missions and conferring the supervision thereof to both the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Minister for Agriculture. The tasks of the legal successor of both agencies reflects the role played by the DER and the Commercial Office for Provisioning within the Belgian economy: the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture was not only active in the sector of farming products (in particular with regard to the implementation of European directives and regulations on market organisation) and the different trading sectors (mainly with respect to the country’s provisioning and the stabilisation of the markets), it was also entrusted with missions pertaining to the science policy of the state, to the negotiations with foreign authorities about, among others, war reparations, restitution of goods, tokens and compensation payments, as well as trade actions for provisioning and agriculture.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Decree-law of 16 December 1946 amending and complementing the decree-law of 16 November 1944 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/12/1946).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, Art. 2, § 3 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/12/1946).

<sup>12</sup> Laws stipulating the statutes of the Department for Economic Recovery, D.E.R., co-ordinated on 12 March 1956, Art. 3 (Belgian Official Journal, 25/04/1956). The table of contents of the second ten-year work report (1950-1959) is very telling in this regard: the analysis of the missions initially entrusted to the DER now only takes up one third of this summary report. See inventory number 328.

<sup>13</sup> Report to the King annexed to the Royal Decree of 10 November 1967 about the creation of the “Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture” and the cancellation of the Commercial Office for Provisioning and the Department for Economic Recovery (Belgian Official Journal, 14/11/1967).

<sup>14</sup> Royal Decree of 10 November 1967, Art. 2 and 3 (Belgian Official Journal 14/11/1967).

#### 4. ORGANISATION

##### a. Department for Identification and Liquidation

Initially, a governing committee composed of a chairman and five to seven members took care of the DIV/OIL's daily management. The committee was appointed for a renewable one-year mandate by the head of the Ministry for Economic Affairs. Within the legal framework and the statutes of the Department, this governing committee had the most extensive management powers.<sup>15</sup> The decree of 10 March 1942 modified the composition of the committee: from now on, it was composed of 12 to 15 members including, by legal disposition, two delegates of the Ministry for Economic Affairs, one delegate of the Ministry of Finance, one delegate of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Health, one delegate of the Ministry for Work and Social Security and the Commissariat-General for the country's reconstruction, one delegate of the Ministry of Transport and finally, one delegate of the Office for the Works of the Demobilised Army. The other members held a renewable one-year mandate. Every three months, the committee had to file proceedings to the head of the Ministry for Economic Affairs. After the modification mentioned above, daily management of the Department and the execution of its decisions could be commissioned to a Director-General who represented the DIV/OIL in all private, judicial or public actions.<sup>16</sup>

The DIV/OIL had several branch offices in Belgium and abroad for tracing and identifying movable goods and commodities. In addition to the head office in Brussels, the DIV/OIL also had regional offices in Ghent, Antwerp, Liège and Charleroi, in France (Paris, Clermont-Ferrand, Bordeaux, La Pallice and Marseille) and in Tunis. As there is no official organisation chart, it is particularly difficult to draw the internal organisational structure with the regional offices and the head office, even more so as the preserved archive documents do not bear any trace of the organisation structure. However, the first ten-year report of the DER may help shedding some light on how the DIV/OIL functioned. The head office in Brussels was probably subdivided in a number of services in charge of tracing different types of goods or commodities: said work report mentions a department for wagon loads, one department for bicycles and one department for cargo on steamers and barges.<sup>17</sup> It is also certain that on 15 March 1943, a "service for establishing and appraising damage" was added to the DIV/OIL.<sup>18</sup>

Initially, the DIV/OIL had no fixed budget allocated by the competent authority. As a consequence, the Department had to earn revenues from charges raised on those who addressed it. These charges could amount to a maximum of 5% of the value of the recovered goods, but the DIV/OIL was entitled to withhold the goods until the amount due was fully paid.<sup>19</sup> It was not until the decree of 10 March 1942 that a credit was allocated from the budget of the Ministry for Economic Affairs as an advance on the working capital. The other financial means the DIV/OIL had at its disposal for its missions had to be deposited at the National Bank of Belgium and the postal cheque office. Henceforth, the DIV/OIL would annually issue a profit and loss statement in addition to its assets and liabilities.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Decree of 31 March 1941, Art. 6-7 (Belgian Official Journal, 10/04/1941).

<sup>16</sup> Decree of 10 March 1942, Art. 10-15 (Belgian Official Journal, 24/04/1942).

<sup>17</sup> See ten-year work report 1940-1949, p. 20-23 (inventory number 327).

<sup>18</sup> Decree of 15 March 1943 (Belgian Official Journal, 20/05/1943).

<sup>19</sup> Decree of 31 March 1944, Art. 14 (Belgian Official Journal, 10/04/1941).

<sup>20</sup> Decree of 10 April 1942, Art. 22-24 (Belgian Official Journal, 24/04/1942).



**b. Department for Economic Recovery**

The organisational structure of the DER was largely based on the DIV/OIL structure. The former governmental committee was replaced by a management board composed of 5 to 7 members among which one vice chairman and one chairman. Within the legal framework set up by the statutes in November 1944, this board had the most extensive competences regarding everyday management of the Department and current affairs. The management board could appoint agents and personnel of the DER and determine the statutes. The Director-General carried out day-to-day management of the DER, supervised the different offices and served as rapporteur of the management board meetings. A government commissioner appointed by the Ministry for Economic Affairs supervised the general management of the DER and also partook in the meetings of the management board with an advisory vote.<sup>21</sup> The decree-law of 16 December 1946 significantly extending the competences of the DER also changed the structure of the management board: henceforth, the board needed to have at least 9 members including respectively one delegate of the Prime Minister, of the Minister for Economic Affairs, of the Minister for Finance, of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of the Minister for the Re-equipment of the Country and of the Sequestration Office.<sup>22</sup> The laws of March 1956 regarding the statutes of the DER did not bring about significant changes.

The internal organisation of the services within the DER constantly underwent changes (see the three annexed organisation charts on p. 29-31). Three main periods can be distinguished: at first, the DER was split up in a series of “administrative services” among which a legal office, a secretariat and various services coordinating the missions abroad (in particular to Germany) on the one hand, and a number of directorates representative of the main missions of the DER in the immediate post-war period on the other hand: military equipment, restitutions, trade and reparations. From 1954 on, the organisation chart of the DER was progressively simplified and made clearer: the Department was reduced to a secretariat, a bookkeeping office, a Restitutions directorate and a Government operations directorate set up in 1953. However, the DER did not reach a point of saturation yet: the economic missions it was entrusted with led to a new branching out of its services from 1959 onwards. In 1960, the DER was composed of administrative services (secretariat, bookkeeping and supplies [Dutch: *economaat*/French: *économat*]) and two new directorates in which all other (technical) services were combined. The exact distinction between the two directorates is not very clear, but it is certain that the second directorate became the more predominant one over time: it comprised the offices for freightage, re-equipment of the coal mines, aids to the textile industry, foreign trade relations and participation in the space programme of the *European Launch Development Organisation* (ELDO) and the *European Space Research Organisation* (ESRO). It seems that the first directorate mainly centralised a number of “remaining competences” regarding goods recovery.

To cover its operational costs, the DER was granted a credit from the budget of the Ministry for Economic Affairs. If necessary, provisional twelfths could be allocated as advance money and deposited on the account of the DER. The expansion of the DER’s competences in late 1946 also led to an additional annual allowance by the Ministry in order to cover the commercial activities it was now charged with. Finally, an auditor under the authority of the Court of Audit was appointed at the Department to monitor the bookkeeping operations and to

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<sup>21</sup> Decree-law of 16 November 1944, Art. 6-14 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/11/1944).

<sup>22</sup> Decree-law of 16 December 1946, Art. 3-6 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/12/1946).

publish an annual report about the profit-and-loss account. From 1956, two auditors were entrusted with this task.<sup>23</sup>

## **B. ARCHIVES**

### **1. ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Throughout the operational period of the Department for Economic Recovery, its archives remained in the premises of the Department located Boulevard Anspach 3 in Brussels, where they were preserved integrally.<sup>24</sup> When a shutdown of the activities of the DER loomed, things became more complicated. The central file preserved at the National Archives of Belgium (NAB) clearly shows that the DER already had contacts with the NAB in 1966. In this year, former National Archivist Marie-Rose Desmed-Thielemans made an inspection visit to the DER after which Mr. Rossignol, then DER director, was allowed to destroy a number of archive series and to transfer others to the State Archives in Beveren-Waas (see below). The correspondence from the first half of the 1990s indicates that parts of the archives regarding the recovery of stolen pieces of art were brought to the Royal Institute for Art Heritage in 1979 by Mr. Rossignol, then still active former collaborator of the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture. Upon suggestion of Mr. Jacques Lust, former collaborator at the Office, these archives were brought back in the custody of the DER's legal successor in 1993-1994.<sup>25</sup>

### **2. ACQUISITION**

The archives of the DER currently preserved at the National Archives and subject of this inventory, were initially composed of six separate archive blocks transferred to the National Archives at different points in time.

The first transfer probably took place in 1966,<sup>26</sup> when a number of archive series were brought to the State Archives in Beveren-Waas after the visit of former National Archivist Marie-Rose Desmed-Thielemans to the DER. These were files pertaining to the recovery of ships and cargo, documentation files about the Schuman plan and the statutes of the coal mines, the file card boxes about the support measures for the Belgian flax industry and the files about the trade relations with Turkey and East Germany, altogether summing up to 8 linear metres. Later, probably in the early 1980s, this sub-series was brought to the National Archives.

The history behind the acquisition of two of the six archive blocks that came to the National Archives cannot be traced back in detail due to gaps in the central file. These two blocks are on the one hand a sub-series of roughly six linear metres, mainly minutes of the DER and its legal successor in folders and files, and on the other hand a smaller sub-series of about 2 linear metres from the Sequestration Office, composed of minutes filed in dossiers, and financial reports with annexes. Both archives were supposedly transferred in the 1990s.

The next archives transfer took place in early 2004, when an archives repository of the Federal Public Service (FPS) Economy located rue de Belgrade no. 15 in Forest (Brussels) had to be cleared out. Already in 2001, the authorities had decided to withdraw from the

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<sup>23</sup> Decree-law of 16 December 1946, Art. 7-8 (Belgian Official Journal, 22/12/1946).

<sup>24</sup> The legal predecessor of the DER, the Department for Identification and Liquidation, was established Hertogsstraat/Rue du Duc no. 33 in Brussels during the years of war.

<sup>25</sup> The correspondence in question was inspected by today's Mission Restitution Cultural Goods of the FPS Economy in February 2012.

<sup>26</sup> The exact transfer date could not be determined, but it is believed to have taken place in 1966 already, because the files had no more administrative value, neither for the DER nor for its legal successor.

rental agreement for the building in Forest for budgetary reasons. After inquiring at the FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy about the administrative value of the archive, a team of the National Archives carried out a selection in 2003. Exactly 110 workdays later, in February 2004, the emergency operation was rounded off. A total of 658 linear metres of files from 54 different institutions were retrieved from an initial 3500 metres of archives from the Forest repository and transferred to the National Archives.<sup>27</sup> Among these files was a small archive with minutes from the management board of the DER, addressed at the time to one of the council members from the Ministry for Economic Affairs.

In early 2006, a small archive of approximately 2 linear metres from the Ministry of Finance was acquired under the supervision of National Archivist Luc Vandeweyer. This archive was kept in a repository located at Quai de Willebroek in Brussels and primarily contained files with minutes and reports about German reparations and the re-equipment of the Belgian coal mines.

The last phase of archives transfer took place in 2011, when a sub-fonds of some 7 linear metres was handed over by Mr. Bart Eeman, employee at the Mission Restitution Cultural Goods under the authority of the DG Economic Potential of the FPS Economy on 4 October. It concerned dossiers and documents from the office in charge of the recovery of stolen pieces of art within the Directorate for Recovery of the DER. The sub-fonds was “re-discovered” in September 2010. During talks with Mr. Bart Eeman of the Mission Restitution Cultural Goods, it appeared that the office was inclined to transfer this sub-fonds if a digital working copy of the documents was made internally. When this copy was finished in summer 2011, the actual and physical transfer could be prepared. The transfer itself was subject to an agreement between the National Archives and the FPS Economy, according to which the transferred archives would be inventoried within six months. Furthermore, the National Archives committed itself to providing a digital copy of the sorted and inventoried archive to the DG Economic Potential.

The present inventory thus results from the consolidation of the six sub-fonds mentioned earlier. It can be argued that the three series of minutes from Finance and Economic Affairs (two of which were from Finance and one from Economic Affairs) do not, strictly speaking, belong to the reunited archive. According to the principle of provenance, it can be asserted that the series of minutes were intended for preservation by the council members of these different departments, as the documents were for their use. On the other hand, the persons involved received these documents in their capacity of council members of the DER. Further research into the archive documents has shown that they sometimes formed an addition to the series of minutes preserved by the secretariat of the DER and its legal successor: in some cases the minutes in the dossiers contain annexes that do not exist elsewhere. In order to avoid loss of information, and to bring the available documents together in one archive for convenience, it was decided to include relevant dossiers from Finance and Economic Affairs in this inventory. A reference of origin is indeed indicated on every one of the dossiers in question.<sup>28</sup> Under these circumstances, the integration of the documents seems justified to us.

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<sup>27</sup> BOTTERMAN X., *La gestion des archives du SPF Economie, P.M.E., Classes Moyennes et Energie*. This paper is also preserved at the National Archives, Centraal Dossier/Dossier central, no. 212.99. The remaining mountain of paperwork with a total weight of 74 tons was destroyed.

<sup>28</sup> See series of minutes in files under inventory numbers 218-326.

### III. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

#### A. CONTENT

The archives of the Department for Economic Recovery and its legal predecessor, the Department for Identification and Liquidation, forms a particularly rich archive for the study of social and economic history during the occupation and the post-war period. The DER was the sole competent authority for carrying out the post-war recovery policy and coordinating reparations. What makes the DER's archives even more interesting with regard to its content is the "Gestalt switch", the change of form that occurred in the 1950s: as the importance of recovering ships, commodities, industrial goods and pieces of art decreased, the DER got more and more involved in supporting the Belgian industry and foreign trade relations. The minutes of the management board of the DER often contain statistical data and reports as annexes and bear witness of this evolution.

As far as the manner of working of the DER is concerned, the files and documents from the Directorate Recovery are of particular interest. The archive documents about the recovery of stolen pieces of art form a distinct sub-fonds. The state and identification files for the stolen artworks are, together with the dossiers about the recovery policy of the Belgian authorities, a particularly precious source for historical research. As the whereabouts of most stolen pieces of art have not yet been elucidated until today, the archive documents related to these unrecovered artworks still have a potential administrative value. The Directorate Recovery was also tasked with the recovery of ship cargo (during the occupation, this task was executed by the Department for Identification and Liquidation) and ships (files opened by the DER). The overviews and files of this part of the archive give insight into the relations between the DER and foreign authorities, among which the Allied Powers, the French authorities and later also the German authorities.

The archival lot pertaining to the reparations provides a detailed view of the goods given to Belgium within the framework of the distribution of compensations among the Western Allies. This part contains annual reports and other records of the Belgian delegation to the *Inter-Allied Reparations Agency* (IARA) as well as inventories of German business companies and factories that were broken up to the advantage of Belgium.

Finally, the part about government operations holds files and documents concerning the coordination or mediation role that the DER played in both the Belgian industrial sector (in particular the protection of the flax and mining industries) and foreign trade relations. With regard to the latter, the archive files provide details about the settlement of the outstanding debts towards Turkey, and import and export to East Germany.

#### B. APPRAISAL AND DESTRUCTION

Upon inventorying no documents were selected for destruction, but in two document series containing numerous doubles, some documents were sorted out: the series of minutes of the management board often contained up to three or four copies of minutes of proceedings, each one as comprehensive as the others. As this content is also comprised for the most part in the series of minute files, multiple copies could be sorted out generously without loss of information.<sup>29</sup> The same was done with the series of identification forms for stolen pieces of art that the DER had recovered from the Service for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (*Service pour la Protection du Patrimoine culturel*) (see below) and that contained in average five to six copies of a form. As this series is also entirely preserved in handwriting and the

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<sup>29</sup> See chapter about the acquisition of archives, p. 19-20.

information from the forms is also present in other document series about stolen pieces of art, thorough sorting out took place here as well.<sup>30</sup>

In the process of inventorying it appeared that the DER had itself carried out little selections in file series originating from its legal predecessor: files on the recovery of particular ships, more precisely on matters that could be closed quickly and therefore no longer were of administrative use for the Department.<sup>31</sup> The summary of matters dealt with shows the files in question.

When the DER contacted the State Archives in 1966, it was also authorised to destroy some series, namely 1) files about advance payments to flax workers; 2) files on advance payments to coal mines within the framework of the re-equipment policy; 3) individual files regarding (coal) cargo and 4) a collection of official publications.<sup>32</sup> The precise volume of these series is not mentioned. Their destruction supposedly took place shortly after the authorisation was given.

Finally, a request for the destruction of archives was also filed in 1971 by the legal successor of the DER, i.e. the former Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture. This request bore on a small amount of official documentation and bookkeeping documents for the most part. Correspondence states the volume of this series as being of “15 office cupboards and storage furnitures”.<sup>33</sup>

### C. ACCRUALS

Given that the Department for Economic Recovery was closed down almost half a century ago (the most recent archive documents date from March 1968) and its legal successor, the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture, also does no longer exist, additions to this archive can be excluded in principle.

A number of shortcomings in the archive remain unsolved however. First of all, many personnel files of the former service and its legal predecessor are missing (family names starting with letters C-D and M-Z). Another important discovery is that there are no more traces of the recovery of lost or missing cargo from wagons in the archive: the second ten-year report of the DER states that the Department for Identification and Liquidation had set up a file card system with some 60,000 cards of goods on wagons.<sup>34</sup> However, neither the file cards nor the main files about the recovery of cargo and rolling stock (opened by the Department for Identification and Liquidation or the DER) were ever found. This deficiency raises questions, especially when considering that the file card boxes and files about the recovery of ships and cargo have been preserved. Finally, the archive does not bear trace of the DER's collaboration in the space programme of the *European Launch Development Organisation* (ELDO) and the *European Space Research Organisation* (ESRO) either.

### D. SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

After due consideration, the necessity of sorting the different sub-fonds and documents of the Department for Economic Recovery and its legal predecessor became self-evident. It was decided not to separate the archive into two entities, i.e. into a document collection belonging to the Department for Identification and Liquidation and a collection of the Department for

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<sup>30</sup> See inventory numbers 519-559.

<sup>31</sup> See for instance inventory numbers 702-703.

<sup>32</sup> Letter of 17 June 1966 to Mr. Rossignol, director of the DER.

<sup>33</sup> Additional data can be found in the correspondence under inventory number 1127.

<sup>34</sup> See ten-year work report for 1940-1949, p. 20 (inventory number 327).

Economic Recovery (DER), because the amount of documents originating from the first one is rather limited and a number of matters it dealt with after the war were taken over by the DER. The DER thus made additions to the files of the Department for Identification and Liquidation.

The indicated sorting is largely defined by the organisation chart of the DER. As the Department underwent several internal reshuffles in the course of the years, there was of course no question of subdividing the archival documents according to two or more time spans. However, a distinction could be made between the main “tasks” or bodies within the DER that carried out clearly defined missions. Consequently, a distinction was made between the administrative services (general documentation, human resources, bookkeeping and logistics), the management board (containing both the management board minutes (and annexes) of the Department for Identification and Liquidation and the Department for Economic Recovery) and the different directorates that were moulded into an organisational scheme based on responsibilities and duties. The Directorate Recovery seems to be the most important one. Within this directorate a distinction was made between the recovery of stolen artworks,<sup>35</sup> the recovery of ships (and cargo) and finally the recovery of foreign exchanges. The second biggest service was the Directorate Reparations with a document series about the Belgian representation to the IARA, and another series on the national policy with regard to the allocated reparations. The third and last directorate was in charge of government operations and was subdivided into operations at home (Belgian coal and flax industry) and abroad (trade relations with East Germany and Turkey).

Another section was provided for a limited number of files regarding the archive and documentation policy of the legal successor of the DER, namely the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture. Lastly, a very small number of documents remained with no specific or apparent connection to the archive: these were chiefly financial documents from the occupation period that were microfilmed during the immediate post-war period.

## **IV. ACCESS AND USE**

### **A. PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS AND REPRODUCTION**

Archival records older than 30 years are public. Access to and reproduction of these documents are subject to the general rules and regulations in force at the State Archives. Exceptions to the general rule of publicity apply to documents that contain privacy related information. The law of 8 December 1992, amended by the law of 11 December 1998, concerning the protection of privacy implies a number of restrictions in this regard. In practice, restrictions apply to the personnel files under inventory numbers 8-129, the files about legal disputes under number 392-393 and numbers 397-399. This means that the documents to which these particular inventory numbers refer become publicly accessible only after 100 years. For the time being, they can thus only be accessed under the condition that a

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<sup>35</sup> As appears from the table of contents, the archives about the recovery of looted artworks also comprise a series on the restitution activities that took place from the 1990s onwards under the supervision of the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture. Given that the inventorying of the documents was subject to an agreement and had to be accomplished within six months after the transfer of the records (see above, p. 20), these documents could not be filed elsewhere due to a lack of time. As a clear distinction was made in the inventory between these more recent documents and other records and because inventorying took place within the framework of the same assignment, this classification decision does neither form, in my judgement, a breach of the principle of provenance nor an impediment to the structure of the inventory.

research declaration is filled in at the reading room of the National Archives in Brussels. Inventory numbers 406 and 409 can only be accessed after 30 years.

## **B. LANGUAGE AND SCRIPTS**

The archive documents are for the most part authored in Dutch or French. In general, the minutes of the DER's management board and corresponding annexes are written in both languages, but this is not always the case when documents date from the early years. The archive of the Department for Identification and Liquidation is almost entirely in French. Also, some files contain documents in English (from the American or British Allied authorities) and in German (written by the German occupying power or the German post-war authorities).

## **C. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Nearly the entire archive of the Department for Economic Recovery and its legal predecessor consists of paper documents. But there are also a number of glass negatives and microfilms that had to be digitised due to their very fragile nature. More precisely, digital images were made of inventory numbers 366-369, 603-630 and 1131-1132 which can be accessed in the reading room of the National Archives.

## **V. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

As the Department for Economic Recovery carried out a vast variety of tasks during almost a quarter of a century, related archival sources are legion. The following part is limited to the most important and relevant documents preserved at the State Archives, in other Belgian public institutions and abroad.

### **1. STATE ARCHIVES**

The archives on which the present inventory bears can be described as the general policy files of the DER and its legal predecessor, the Department for Identification and Liquidation. In addition to them, both bodies also opened files about individual recovery claims they handled. These files form a distinct archival fonds of some 120 linear metres that was inventoried in 2007 by state archivist François Antoine (Inventory no. I 400) and is today preserved at the National Archives 2 (Repository "Joseph Cuvelier"). The fonds comprises two file series (one main series and one "blue series"), dating from the early 1940s to the early 1960s and accessible via an alphabetical file card system (sorted according to the family names of all persons involved) contained in a metallic chest of drawers for the time being. Both series have shortcomings, mainly because of the fact that all files about persons who also filed a claim at the Office for War Damage (*Dienst Oorlogsschade/Administration Dommages de Guerre*) were transferred to this administration.

This naturally leads us to the most important additional source, namely the archives from the Office for War Damage under the authority of the former Minister for Reconstruction (later Public Works). During the second half of the 1940s, the successive Belgian governments envisaged a vast legislation regarding the reparations for material damage incurred to private goods.<sup>36</sup> The losses as a consequence of acts of war on Belgian national territory after 27

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<sup>36</sup> The most relevant legal texts in this regard are the decree-law of 19 September 1945 about the declaration of damages to private goods suffered due to the war (Belgian Official Journal, 20/10/1945), the law of 1 October

August 1939 were estimated to 35 billion Belgian Francs. In late 1948, a total of 697.392 reparation claims had already been filed at the Ministry for Reconstruction. Handling of all these cases led to the creation of a very voluminous file series comprised in over more than 20 kilometres of archives. The record card system that provides access to this archive and the files about the processing of reparation claims from Wallonia are currently already preserved at the National Archives 2.

Another significant document series is the archive of the Brüsseler Treuhandgesellschaft (BTG), a company set up by the German Military Administration for the administration of “enemy” and “Jewish” goods. Upon its creation in October 1940, the BTG was initially tasked with detecting “enemy” and “Jewish” influences in the Belgian economy, later with the administration and liquidation of properties originating from such influences. The archive preserved at the National Archives in Brussels is composed of three parts: 1) the post-war management of the BTG, entrusted to a distinct Sequestration Office BTG directed by two delegates from December 1944; 2) the correspondence and file series created by the BTG itself during the occupation; 3) files and identification forms about “enemy” and “Jewish” business companies in Belgium authored by the Wirtschaftsabteilung of the German Military Administration, more precisely Gruppe XII, responsible for enemy and Jew assets. The three archive series comprise a total of 80 linear metres of documents. Completion of the definitive inventory for this archive is due for late 2013.

The National Archives also preserve a bundle of letters and documents from Gaston Demeter, bookkeeper at the former *Musée royal de peinture et de sculpture de Belgique* in Brussels. This bundle holds a catalogue of artists and their works as well as correspondence with Leo Van Puyvelde, who became head curator of the Royal Musea for Fine Arts in autumn 1944. The bundled letters are part of the archive series “Acquisitions of Department III” (inventoried under number 738) and shed some light on the policy and administration with regard to pieces of art at the end of the occupation and during the subsequent post-war period. Detailed information about the Belgian post-war policy concerning the restitution of stolen pieces of art to Belgian musea is available for research in an archive folder of the joint services of the former Ministry for National Education and Culture. Although this archival fonds has not been inventoried to date, the file in question can be requested in the reading room of the National Archives via one of the archivists of section 5 (“Contemporary Archives”).

The National Archives also preserves an approximately nine linear metres long un-inventoried archival fonds from the Belgian representation to the *Inter-Allied Reparations Agency* (IARA). The fonds was transferred in 2005 by the cadastre administration, i.e. the Registration and Domains Office of the FPS Finance. A detailed list of the contents of this archive exists, stating correspondence, reports and minutes of the general IARA council for the period 1945-1961.

As far as the trade and government operations of the DER are concerned, the National Archives also holds an important archival fonds of the Inter-ministerial Economic Commission (IEC) from the period 1944-1991. This fonds (inventory no. I 348) stretches over some 120 linear metres and contains minutes of various commissions and work groups active within IEC and about 3000 alphabetical and thematic files on different topics related to diverse economic sectors and foreign trade relations.

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1947 about reparations (Belgian Official Journal, 10/10/1947) and the Royal decree of 30 January 1954 for the consolidation of the laws on reparations for damages to private goods (Belgian Official Journal, 19/02/1954).



## 2. OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Beside the State Archives, other Belgian public institutions also preserve archival fonds or documents directly linked to the lootings that took place during the occupation and the restitution of public and private good in the post-war period. For instance: the archives of the Service for the Protection of Cultural Heritage under the authority of the former Ministry for Education that was initially charged with tracing and recovering stolen artworks. Leo van Puyvelde, former head curator of KMSK at Brussels, was also General Director of the service. The archive of less than half a metre is today still preserved by the Mission Restitution Cultural Goods under the authority of the FPS Economy, but shall be transferred to the National Archives in the course of 2013.

A number of more voluminous archival fonds are preserved by the Directorate General War Victims (FPS Social Security) responsible for the execution of the legislation about civil victims of war; they contain files and file card systems regarding the “Möbelaktion”, the operation aimed at plundering unoccupied houses and apartments of Jews that started in January 1942 in Belgium. The DG War Victims also preserves a series of six files [R 123/Tr 148.282] containing an alphabetical overview of Jewish citizens living in the Brussels agglomeration who were victim of this operation. For the city of Liège too, the DG preserves a list of Jewish properties looted by the German occupant [R 497/Tr 181.926]. There is also a file card system stored in 27 boxes that contains data on the “Möbelaktion” carried out in Antwerp, Charleroi, Arlon and Leuven (Louvain). Finally, the DG War Victims also preserves a number of work reports of the *Dienststelle Westen* (in Belgium) of the *Reichsministerium für die besetzten Ostgebiete* that coordinated the “Möbelaktion”.

Lastly, mention must be made of the archives of the Study Commission Jewish Assets (better known as Study Commission Buysse). This body was set up by the Chancellery of the Minister by the Royal Decree of 6 July 1997 and the law of 15 January 1999. Its aim was to investigate the fate of Jewish assets that were plundered or surrendered during the Second World. The Study Commission studied the ways in which looting took place during the occupation, as well as the measures taken after the war to restore the looted property to its owners or to pay compensation.<sup>37</sup> The findings of the study commission were used by its legal successor, the Jewish community Indemnification Commission.<sup>38</sup> The study commission has set up a database (called “Mala Zimetbaum”) containing information about every person who was victim of plundering during the occupation, regardless of their nationality. This database and the paper files and documents about the research carried out by the members of the study commission are still kept at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister today, but will probably be transferred to the National Archives in the course of 2014.

## 3. FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

In foreign countries too, relevant archival fonds and documents are preserved and international projects that could be of interest for researchers are launched, especially in the field of art theft during the Second World War.

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<sup>37</sup> The final report of the study commission can be viewed online via the following link:

<http://www.combuysse.fgov.be/index-olddsite.html>.

<sup>38</sup> The Belgian Jewish community Indemnification Commission finished its investigations and the processing of indemnification requests by 31 December 2007. The follow-up was carried out from 1 January 2008 by the services of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. The final report of the commission can be consulted online: <http://www.combuysse.fgov.be/>.

The *Stichting Nederlands Kunstbezit* (NK) in the Netherlands was commissioned to recover artworks from abroad (chiefly from Germany) after the war and to handle recovery requests. Works of art whose proprietors could not be identified were sold at auction or placed under public administration, forming today's NK-collection.<sup>39</sup> The archives of the *Stichting Nederlands Kunstbezit* are preserved by the *Nationaal Archief* in The Hague. In France, a similar approach was taken: artworks that were recovered but never claimed by their rightful owners were placed in the custody of the Directorate of French Museums.<sup>40</sup>

Also regarding France, one can mention the *Jeu de Paume Project*, an online database in which data (primarily from the Bundesarchiv) about stolen artworks is gathered. These archives were created by the "Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg" (ERR), one of the main taskforces of the Nazi regime dedicated to plundering cultural property and artworks in the occupied countries during the Second World War, that is to say among others, artworks of French and Belgian Jews that were brought to the Jeu de Paume building of the Tuileries Gardens in Paris between 1940 and 1944, where they were selected by the *ERR Sonderstab Bildende Kunst*. Today, there exists an illustrated database of the registration file cards and photographs taken by the ERR of some 20,000 pieces of art looted from France and, to a minor degree, Belgium. The database can be searched by the name of the piece of art or the former proprietor(s).<sup>41</sup>

Finally, the *Joint International Project on Records Relating to Nazi-Era Cultural Property* under the supervision of the National Archives of the United States is a research portal site with links to records, inventories and digital images of archival documents about the plundering of artworks and cultural property. In May 2011, the Belgian State Archives has officially joined the project as partner institution.<sup>42</sup>

## B. PUBLICATIONS

### 1. PRINTED SOURCES

*Belgisch Staatsblad/Moniteur Belge*, Brussels, 1940-1970.

*Annuaire administratif et judiciaire de Belgique*, Brussels, 1940-1970.

### 2. PUBLICATIONS

ANTOINE F., *Ministère des Affaires économiques Archives de l'Office de Récupération économique (ORE): Dossiers individuels 1940-1967*, Brussels (National Archives. Inventories, 400), 2007.

*Eindverslag de Studiecommissie betreffende het lot van de bezittingen van de leden van de joodse gemeenschap van België, geplunderd of achtergelaten tijdens de oorlog 1940-1945*, Brussels, 2001.

LUST J., "The Spoils of War removed from Belgium during World War II" in *Spoils of War*, New York, 1997, pp. 58-62.

LUST J., MARÉCHAL E., STEENHOUT W. & VERMOTE M., *Een zoektocht naar archieven. Van Nationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis naar het Archief en Museum van de Socialistische Arbeidersbeweging*, Ghent, 1997.

<sup>39</sup> For further information see the following website: <http://www.herkomstgezocht.nl/eng/nkcollectie/index.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Further data can be found on the website <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/documentation/mnr/pres.htm>.

<sup>41</sup> The databank can be searched at <http://www.errproject.org/jeudepaume>.

<sup>42</sup> See following link: <http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources>.

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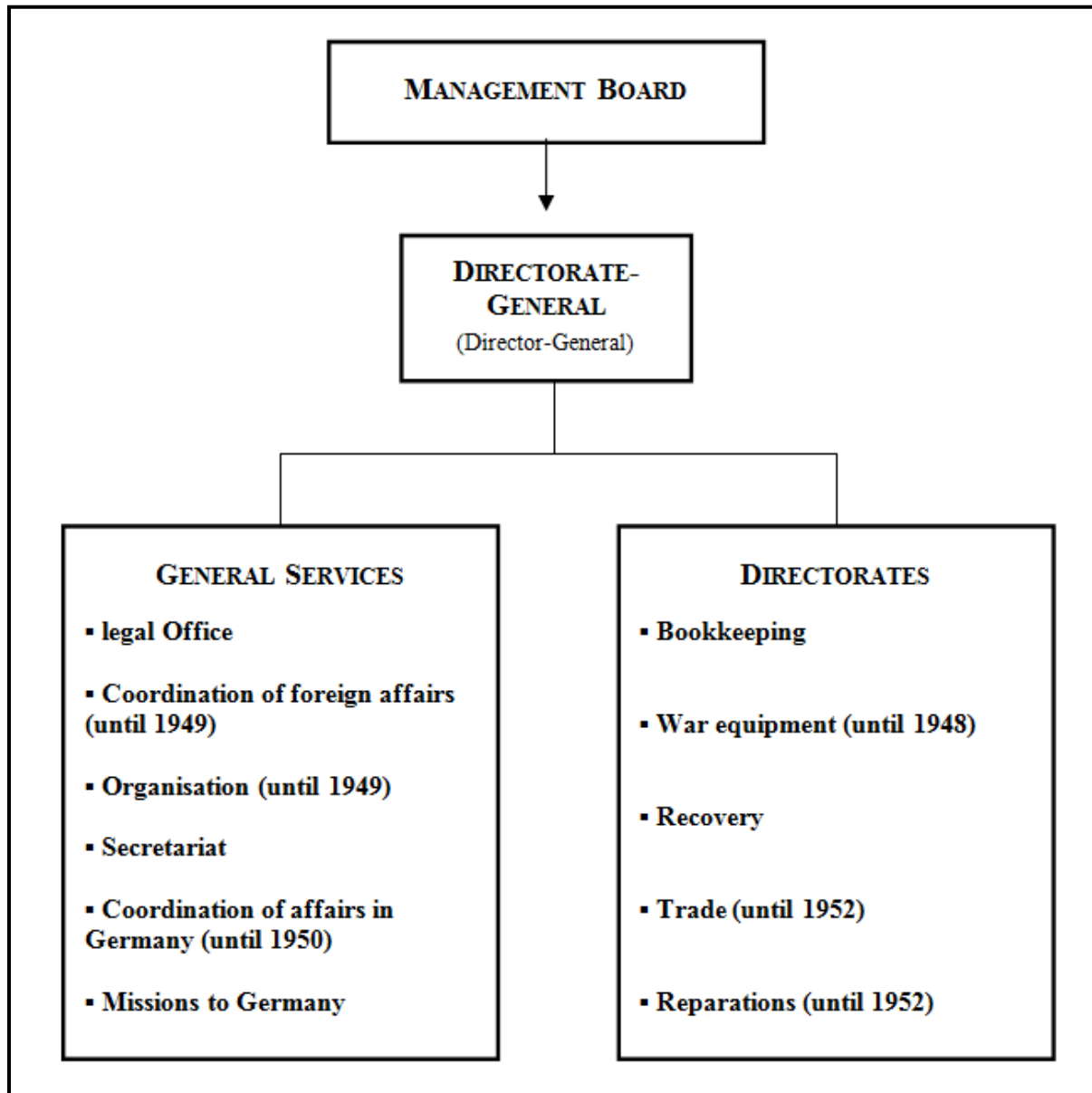
## VI. DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Inventorying the records of the DER and of its legal successor was a long work process. In august 2009 already, I started with the selection, description and packaging of the different series of minutes from the management board of the DER. The next step took place in September 2010, when I contacted Mr. Bart Eeman of the Mission Restitution Cultural Goods under the authority of the FPS Economy. After the transfer of the DER’s archival fonds regarding the recovery of looted artworks in early October 2011, the final phase of inventorying was begun. From mid-December 2011 until early May 2012, I described and packaged all remaining archival documents. According to the transfer agreement that the National Archives had concluded, the description, sorting and conditioning of the documents related to looted artworks were given priority. Pascale Bataille, a collaborator of Section 5 (“Contemporary Archives”) got involved in the packaging and numbering of some thousands of identification forms about looted artworks (inventory numbers 413-518). Once this work was finished, the documents were digitised in-house. On 15 May 2012, the draft version of the present inventory was submitted to the Head of Section and the Head of Department for approval. The English version of the inventory was published in May 2013.

Filip Strubbe

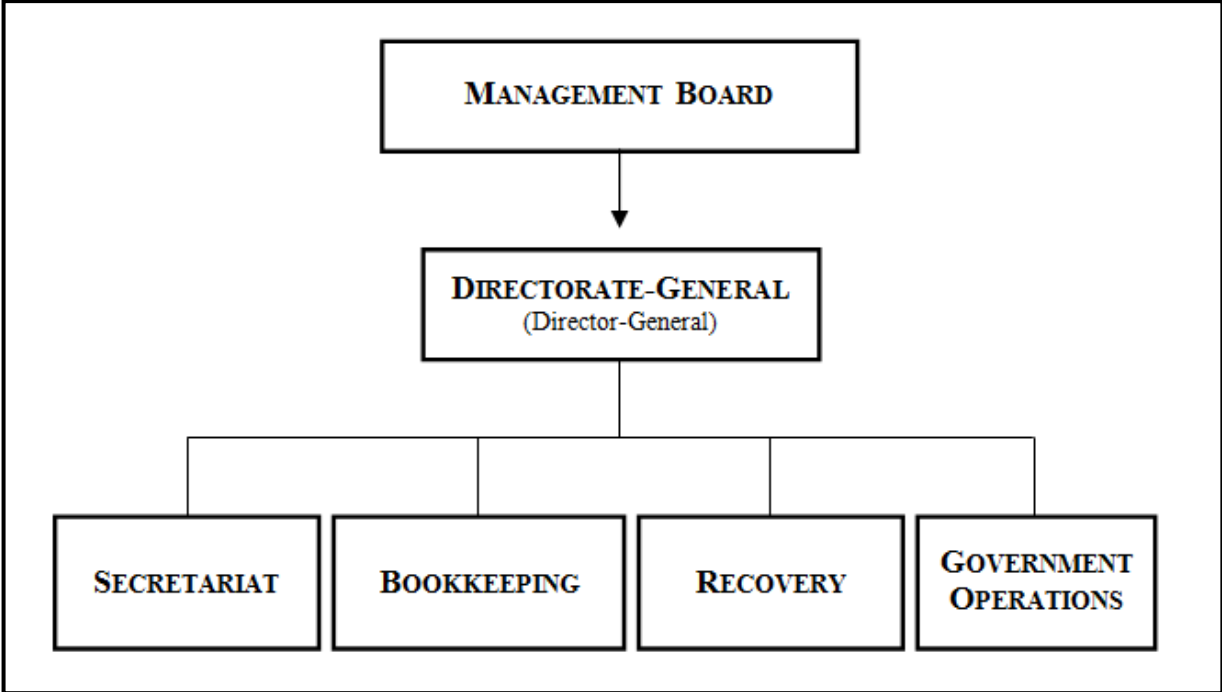
## VII. APPENDICES

### A. ORGANISATION CHART OF THE DER IN 1952<sup>43</sup>

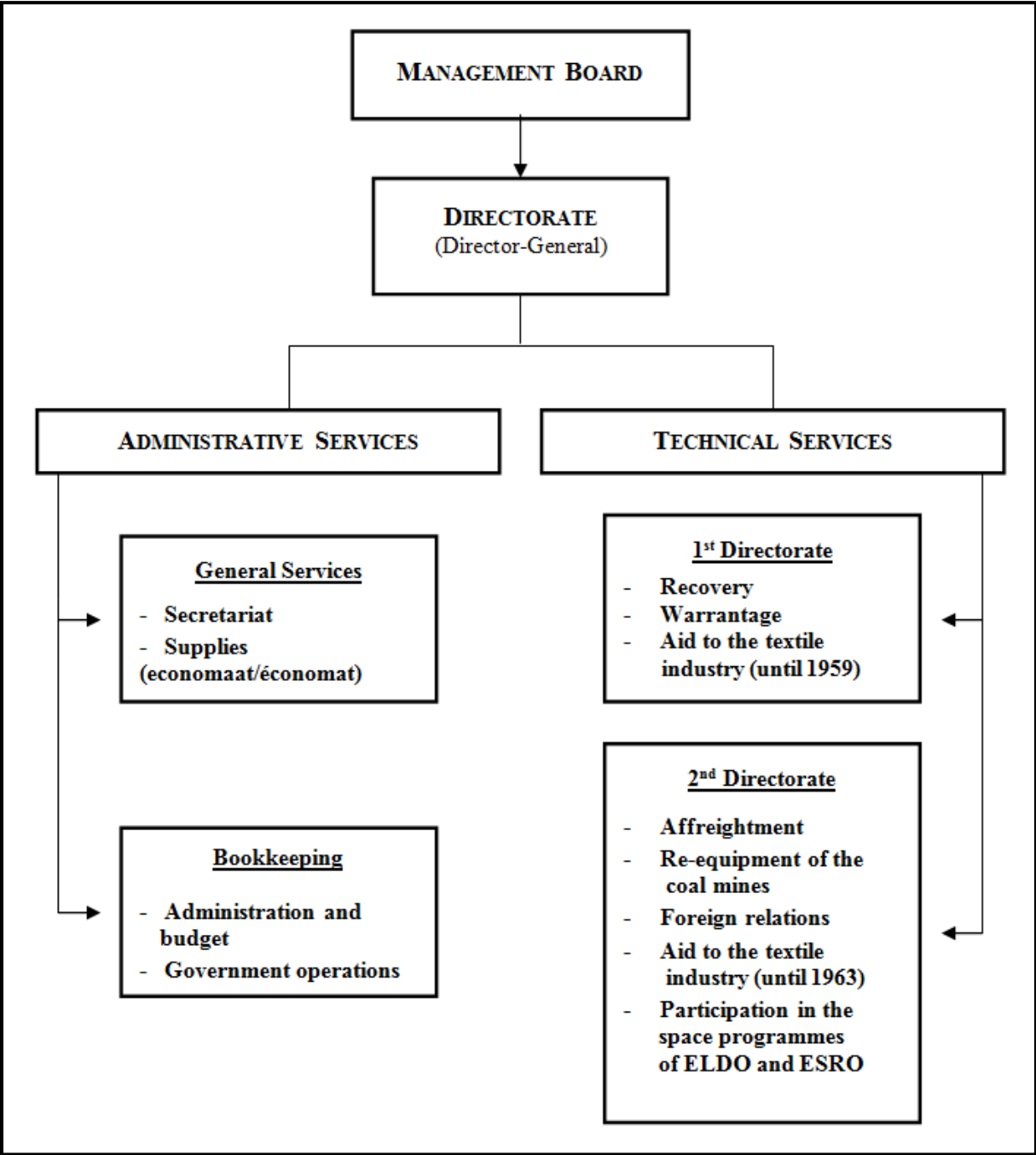


<sup>43</sup> The three organisation charts below are based on information taken from the central file preserved at the National Archives and from the *Annuaire administratif et judiciaire de Belgique*.

**B. ORGANISATION CHART OF THE DER IN 1956**



C. ORGANISATION CHART OF THE DER, 1960-1967



**VIII. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

BDBL	Belgische Dienst voor Bedrijfsleven en Landbouw
BLEU	Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union
DDR	Duitse Democratische Republiek
DER	Dienst voor Economische Recuperatie
DIV	Dienst voor Identificering en Vereffening van Belgische Goederen
ERR	Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg
HDR	Handelsdienst voor Ravitaillering
HICOG	High Commission for Occupied Germany
IARA	Inter-Allied Reparations Agency
OBEA	Office belge de l'Economie et de l'Agriculture
OIL	Office d'Identification et de Liquidation des Marchandises belges
ORE	Office de Récupération économique
SPPC	Service pour la Protection du Patrimoine culturel





# INVENTORY

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The structures and subdivisions of the DER's general services, just as those of the directorates, were often subject to internal adjustments – at least according to the organisation charts. Such changes had of course very little or no impact at all on the functioning of the general secretariat, human resources, bookkeeping and the supplies service (economaat/économat). The management board appointed the agents and the personnel of the DER and could determine their statutes. In 1947, the DER reached its highest personnel number, that is to say 420. The reduction of the tasks concerning recovery and reparations in the immediate post-war period brought about a significant decline in the number of personnel. In 1959, the DER counted only 43 personnel members.

### A. GENERAL

1. Received letters and minutes of sent letters, notes, excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal and minutes of the management board of DIV/OIL and BDBL/OBEA about the creation and the statutes of both services, the takeover of the DIV/OIL by the DER and the liquidation of the BDBL/OBEA.  
1940-1967. 1 bundle
2. Received letters and minutes of sent letters, notes, excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal and minutes of the management board of the DER about its creation and amendments to the statutes of the service.  
1945-1964. 1 bundle
3. Excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal and copies of law texts about the creation of the DER.  
[1945-1946]. 1 envelope
4. Notes, copies of minutes of the management board of the DER and excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal about amendments to the statutes and the liquidation of the service.  
1945-1968 (1970). 1 envelope  
*Content:* Also contains instructions, correspondence and various documents about Allied agreements about German reparations and restitutions for war damages suffered during the years 1946-1949.
5. “Bulletin d’information à l’usage des services et des chargés de mission de l’ORE”, internal publication for the employees and agents of the DER.  
[ca. 1948]. 1 document
6. “Essai juridique sur la vie d’un établissement public. ORE”, publication of the Belgisch Instituut voor Administratieve Wetenschappen/*Institut belge des*

*sciences administratives* about the functioning of the DER.  
1951.

1 volume

7. Publication by Van Reyn P., and Rongy P., *Essai juridique sur la vie d'un établissement public. L'Office de récupération économique.*  
1951.  
Printed: s.l., 1951.

2 parts

## **B. ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONING**

### **1. PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

- 8-129. Personnel files on public officers employed at the DER and its legal predecessor, the DIV.  
1940-1968 (1969-1981). 122 envelopes  
*Information:* the files are sorted alphabetically according to the family name. Only the files with names starting with letters A-B and E-L have been preserved.  
*Access:* The files under these inventory numbers will only become freely accessible 100 years after the file closure date. For the time being, they can only be accessed after having filled in a research declaration in the reading room.
8. Adrianssens, Camille.  
1947-1953.
9. Albert, Christiane.  
1945, 1961.
10. Alexandrien, Edgard Auguste.  
1941-1943.
11. Allart, Jean.  
1945-1948, 1953.
12. Amand, Marcel.  
1946-1948, 1981.
13. André, Marcel.  
1946-1949, 1967-1968.
14. Andris, Achille.  
1946-1950.
15. Antoine, Lucien.  
1946-1947.
16. Appeltans, René.  
1947-1949.
17. Arno, Charmes.  
1945-1947.
18. Artus, Georges.  
1941-1943.
19. Aspeslagh, Albert.  
1946-1948.
20. Auquier, Antoine-Henri.  
1944-1945.
21. Bajart, Raymond.  
1946-1949.
22. Ballinckx, Jacques.  
1944-1948.

23. Bardiau, Jean.  
1946-1950.
24. Bauche, Leon.  
1946, 1967.
25. Baumann, André.  
1948-1949.
26. Beauclercq, Jean François.  
1942-1944.
27. Beauraing, Jean.  
1946-1962.
28. Béghin, René.  
1947-1949.
29. Belery, Alfred.  
1946-1949.
30. Bernard, Jules.  
1946-1947.
31. Berton, André Désiré.  
1946-1947, 1968-1969.
32. Beruck, Henri Florent.  
1945.
33. Bethune, Jean.  
1946-1949 (1974-1975).
34. Bets, Louis.  
1948-1949.
35. Beyens, Clément.  
1948-1967.
36. Bierny, Marie-Alice.  
1945-1946.
37. Bisschop, Francis.  
1947.
38. Bivort, Henri.  
1948-1949.
39. Bodson, Suzanne.  
1946-1952.
40. Boitel, Georges.  
1945-1948.
41. Bommelé, Georges.  
1948-1949.
42. Borné, Ferdinand Victor.  
1946-1950.
43. Borremans, Henri.  
1947-1950, 1960.
44. Bouchat, Germaine.  
1947-1954.
45. Bouhiere, Max.  
1951.
46. Bouillon, Leon.  
1945-1947.

47. Boumans, François.  
1945-1950 (1976).
48. Briché, Henri.  
1940-1951.
49. Brisart, Camille.  
1947-1949.
50. Brouha, Joseph.  
1949.
51. Brügger, Edith.  
1950-1962.
52. Brutout, Célestin.  
1946-1949.
53. Buckenhoudt, Marcel.  
1945-1951.
54. Buffart, Albert.  
1946.
55. Buelens, Louis.  
1946-1966.
56. Bulté, Jean-Baptiste.  
1946-1949.
57. Buquenne, Salomon.  
1946-1951 (1972).
58. Burrick, Léonard.  
1945.
59. Buskens, Joseph.  
1946-1951.
60. Eloir, Marcel.  
1949-1950.
61. Fallon, Hubertine.  
1948-1949.
62. Fautré, Jean.  
1945-1947.
63. Félis, Adeline.  
1941-1945.
64. Fellemans, Charles.  
1948-1949.
65. Feron, Ghislaine.  
1947-1949.
66. Figge, Ursula.  
1963-1964.
67. Fix, Ursula.  
1962-1963.
68. Fochon, Georges.  
1946-1948.
69. Francou, Robert.  
1947-1965.
70. Freitag, Ingrid.  
1966.

71. Frère, Jeanne.  
1946-1949.
72. Garfinkels, Gregoire.  
1947-1950.
73. Gastuche, Guillaume.  
1946-1950.
74. Gelinne, Frans.  
1946-1949.
75. Gelise, Henri.  
1945-1949.
76. Gérard, René.  
1946-1951.
77. Gerson, Christiane.  
1946-1956.
78. Gevaert, Simone.  
1945-1951.
79. Gilmant, Marguerite.  
1948-1951.
80. Gobert, Rose.  
1948-1955.
81. Grégoire, Suzanne.  
1946-1948.
82. Grisar, Walter.  
1947-1950.
83. Guilmain, René-Ernest.  
1946-1947.
84. Hance, Edouard.  
1945-1947.
85. Hardies, Antoinés.  
1946-1953.
86. Hendrickx, Willy.  
1944-1953.
87. Herman, Henri-Octave.  
1948-1951.
88. Heyse, Germaine.  
1948-1968 (1971-1972).
89. Hinq, Albert.  
1946-1948 (1969).
90. Hontoy, Maurice.  
1946-1953.
91. Huyghe, Etienne.  
1949-1950.
92. Immegeers, Lizette.  
1960-1961.
93. Jacobs, Marcel.  
1948-1949.
94. Jacques, Jean.  
1947-1950.

95. Jados, Raymond.  
1946-1948.
96. Jadoul, Robert.  
1946-1949.
97. Janssens, Alois.  
1947-1950.
98. Janssens, Frans.  
(1941) 1946-1949, 1966.
99. Jeanmart, Albert.  
1948-1951.
100. Keuleers, Louis.  
1948-1950.
101. Knipping, Hubert.  
1947-1951.
102. Lacroix, Marcel.  
1946-1948.
103. Lagae, Andrée.  
1945-1949.
104. Lagae, Renée.  
1948-1949.
105. Lagasse de Locht, Jean-Baptiste.  
1945-1947.
106. Lambillon, Raymond.  
1948-1967 (1977).
107. Lapeau, Sylver.  
1948-1949, 1953.
108. Larose, Armand.  
1947-1960.
109. Latour, Robert.  
1946-1950.
110. Leglise, René.  
1946-1952.
111. Leloup, Georges.  
1948-1949.
112. Lemaire, Anne-Marie.  
1946-1947.
113. Lemaire, Ernest.  
1949-1951.
114. Lemaire, Raymond.  
1946-1951.
115. Lemineur, Jeanne.  
1947-1950.
116. Lerminiaux, Jules.  
1945-1948.
117. Leroy, Nicole.  
1971-1975.

*Information:* concerns a file on a personnel member of the legal successor of the DER, the Belgische Dienst voor Bedrijfsleven en Landbouw/Office belge de l'Economie et de l'Agriculture. The file probably got into the older classification by accident.

118. Lesap, Albert.  
1947-1949.
119. Lespes, Jules.  
1941-1949, 1954.
120. Levis, Jacqueline.  
1972-1973.  
*Information:* concerns a file on a personnel member of the legal successor of the DER, the Belgische Dienst voor Bedrijfsleven en Landbouw/Office belge de l'Economie et de l'Agriculture. The file probably got into the older classification by accident.
121. Liber, Armand.  
1947-1952.
122. Libouton, Maurice.  
1943-1945.
123. Lievens, Jean.  
1941-1945.
124. Lizon, Louis.  
1947-1949.
125. Lombar, Roger.  
1945-1957.
126. Lossignel, Jean.  
1945-1951.
127. Louis, Adolphe.  
1941-1943 (1979).
128. Loutte, René.  
1945-1951.
129. Lowie, Yvette.  
1946-1953.

## 2. BOOKKEEPING AND SUPPLIES SERVICE (ECONOMAAAT/ÉCONOMAT)

- 130-134. Financial records and cover letters about the recruitment of personnel for foreign missions to Germany within the framework of mine worker recruitment and about the expenses resulting from these missions.  
1947. 5 envelopes  
Content: the financial documents are mainly statements of costs, credit and debit notes, abstracts of accounts and statements about travel expenses, salaries and office furniture.
130. Second trimester of 1947.  
1947.
131. Third trimester of 1947.  
1947.
132. Fourth trimester of 1947.  
1947.
133. Second and third trimester of 1947.  
1947.
134. Second, third and fourth trimester of 1947.  
1947.
135. Records and minutes on bills regarding the payment of expenses by major Roussen during foreign missions to Germany within the framework of the

- recruitment of coal miners.  
1947. 2 documents
136. Bills and receipts for non-reimbursed travel expenses.  
1947. 1 envelope  
*Content:* taxi travel expenses.
137. File on the vehicles used in the American zone during the mission for recruiting  
coal miners.  
1948. 1 envelope  
*Content:* Bills, statements and technical files about the vehicles used.
138. Received letters, minutes of sent letters and notes about the logistic services and  
the personnel management of the DER.  
1949-1950. 1 bundle  
*Information:* The last document shows traces of damage by silverfish.
139. Received letters, minutes of sent letters, notes, reports and records about the sale  
of various scrapped good of the DER.  
1949-1951. 1 bundle

### 3. ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

140. Minutes of sent letters, cover letters and notes about the convocation letters, the  
minutes and attendance fees for the members of the management board of the  
DIV/OIL and the DER.  
1941-1968. 1 bundle

## II. MANAGEMENT BOARD

Day-to-day management of the DIV/OIL was initially taken care of by a governing committee composed of one chairman and five to seven members. From March 1942 on, the composition changed and henceforth 12 to 15 members were part of the committee. The organisational structure of the DER was largely based on the DIV/OIL's structure, yet the old government committee was immediately replaced by a management board composed of 5 to 7 members. The decree-law of 16 December 1946 brought a number of changes to the structure of the management board: henceforth, the board had to count at least 9 including one representative of respectively the Prime Minister, the Minister for Economic Affairs, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister for the Re-equipment of the Country and the Sequestration Office.

### A. GOVERNING COMMITTEE OF THE DIV/OIL

#### 1. SERIES OF HANDWRITTEN MINUTES

141. Minutes of the meetings.  
29 Oct. 1941 – 27 Mar. 1944. 1 volume  
*Content:* also contains a signed member list for each meeting.

#### 2. SERIES OF MINUTES IN FILES

- 142-143. Minutes (with convocations in attachment) of the meetings.  
8 Jan. 1942 – 20 Dec. 1945. 3 bundles



142. 8 Jan. 1942 – 26 Nov. 1943.  
 143. 28 Jan. 1944 – 8 Sept. 1944.  
*Content:* also contains correspondence about the succession of the DIV/OIL by the DER and minutes of the DER management board for the period February-March 1945.

## **B. MANAGEMENT BOARD OF THE DER**

### **1. SERIES OF HANDWRITTEN MINUTES**

- 144-152. Minutes of meetings. 9 parts  
 22 Feb. 1945 – 29 Mar. 1968.  
*Information:* The minutes of 18 November 1948 and 23 November 1950 are missing.
144. 22 Feb. 1945 – 25 Oct. 1945.  
 145. 8 Nov. 1945 – 5 Sept. 1946.  
 146. 26 Sept. 1946 – 18 Apr. 1947.  
 147. 8 Mei 1947 – 18 Nov. 1948.  
 148. 23 Nov. 1950 – 20 Dec. 1956.  
 149. 28 Mar. 1957 – 19 Dec. 1962.  
 150. 18 Mar. 1963 – 15 Mar. 1966.  
 151. 5 Apr. 1966 – 13 Jul. 1967.  
 152. 18 Oct. 1967 – 29 Mar. 1968.
- 153-154. Minutes of the DER chairmen meetings. 2 envelopes  
 1958.  
*Information:* concepts of two meetings not mentioned in the file series below.
153. 10 Sept. 1958.  
 154. 12 Nov. 1958.

### **2. SERIES OF MINUTES IN FILES**

- 155-217. Minutes and concepts of meeting proceedings (with convocations in attachment). 64 bundles  
 22 Feb. 1945 – 23 Mar. 1968.
155. 22 Feb. 1945 – 20 Dec. 1945.  
 156. 12 Apr. 1945 – 2 Aug. 1945.  
 157. 23 Aug. 1945 – 20 Dec. 1945.  
 158. 24 Jan. 1946 – 29 Dec. 1949.  
 159. 24 Jan. 1946 – 23 May 1946.  
 160. 13 June 1946 – 11 July 1946.  
 161. 1 Aug. 1946 – 5 Sept. 1946.  
 162. 26 Sept. 1946 – 17 Oct. 1946.  
 163. 24 Oct. 1946 – 12 Dec. 1946.  
 164. 9 Jan. 1947 – 20 Mar. 1947.  
 165. 3 Apr. 1947 – 17 July 1947.  
 166. 4 Sept. 1947 – 30 Dec. 1947.  
 167. 15 Jan. 1948 – 17 June 1948.  
 168. 8 July 1948 – 9 Dec. 1948.  
 169. 21 Jan. 1949 – 16 June 1949.  
 170. 21 June 1949 – 18 Aug. 1949.  
 171. 10 Nov. 1949 – 29 Dec. 1949.  
 172. 2 Feb. 1950 – 20 Dec. 1957.  
 173. 2 Feb. 1950 – 11 May 1950.

174. 1 June 1950 – 31 Dec. 1950.
175. 1 Feb. 1951 – 4 July 1951.
176. 23 Aug. 1951 – 20 Dec. 1951.
177. 24 Jan. 1952 – 8 May 1952.
178. 17 July 1952 – 12 Dec. 1952.  
*Content:* also contains notes of 6 June 1952.
179. 23 Jan. 1953 – 15 May 1953.
180. 23 July 1953 – 26 Nov. 1953.
181. 21 Jan. 1954 – 26 Dec. 1954.
182. 19 Apr. 1955 – 15 Dec. 1955.
183. 13 Oct. 1955 – 18 Dec. 1959.
184. 9 Feb. 1956 – 20 Dec. 1956.
185. 28 Mar. 1957 – 20 Dec. 1957.
186. 28 Mar. 1957 – 20 Dec. 1957.  
*Content:* only contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1957.
187. 26 Feb. 1958 – 21 Nov. 1958.
188. 26 Feb. 1958 – 15 Dec. 1964.
189. 6 Feb. 1959 – 18 Dec. 1959.
190. 8 Apr. 1959 – 8 Dec. 1959.  
*Content:* only contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1959.
191. 7 Apr. 1960 – 16 Dec. 1960.
192. 7 Apr. 1960 – 16 Dec. 1960.  
*Content:* only contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1960.
193. 14 Mar. 1961, 13 Apr. 1961.
194. 17 May 1961 – 20 Dec. 1961.
195. 17 May 1961 – 20 Dec. 1961.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1961.
196. 20 Mar. 1962, 17 Apr. 1962.
197. 4 May 1962 – 19 Dec. 1962.
198. 17 Apr. 1962 – 19 Dec. 1962.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1962.
199. 20 Mar. 1962 – 4 July 1966.  
*Content:* mainly contains concepts of minutes of the meetings, originating from M. Emery.
200. 18 Mar. 1963 – 7 May 1963.
201. 16 July 1963 – 20 Dec. 1963.
202. 18 Mar. 1963 – 20 Dec. 1963.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1963.
203. 18 Mar. 1964, 8 Apr. 1964.
204. 29 Apr. 1964 – 15 Dec. 1964.
205. 8 Apr. 1964 – 15 Dec. 1964.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1964.
206. 10 Mar. 1965 – 14 Dec. 1967.
207. 10 Mar. 1965 – 30 Apr. 1965.
208. 14 July 1965 – 15 Dec. 1965.
209. 6 Apr. 1965 – 15 Dec. 1965.  
*Content:* mainly contains annexes to the minutes of the meetings that took place in 1965.
210. 15 Mar. – 27 Apr. 1966.
211. 4 July 1966 – 21 Dec. 1966.  
*Content:* also contains the minutes pertaining to the proceedings of the meeting of 23 March 1967.

212. 15 Mar. 1966 – 21 Dec. 1966.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of meetings of 1966.  
 --- 23 March 1967.  
*Repository:* see inventory number 211.
213. 18 April 1967.
214. 13 July 1967 – 14 Dec. 1967.
215. 18 Apr. – 14 Dec. 1967.  
*Content:* mainly contains the annexes to the minutes of meetings of 1967.
216. 29 March 1968.
217. 29 March 1968.  
*Content:* contains the annexes to the minutes of the meeting of 29 March 1968.

### 3. SERIES OF MINUTES IN FILES

- 218-326. Minutes of meeting proceedings (with convocations annexed).  
 11 Aug. 1949 – 29 Mar. 1968. 3 bundles, 104 envelopes, 1 document  
*Information:* The files of this series originate from various former members of the DER management board. As many files overlap, this series underwent thorough sorting and only the most complete files were preserved. The files under inventory numbers 218-225 originate from Mr. Jorion, deputy government commissioner to the DER management board and councillor at the Ministry for Economic Affairs. The documents filed under inventory numbers 231-264, 266, 269-272 were addressed to Mr. Dierickx, Director at the Registration and Domains Office and Inspector-General as from July 1954. The files described under inventory numbers 226-230, 265, 267-268, 273 and 285 were destined for Mr. Elinck, Director at the Registration and Domains Office (these files belonged to the sub-fonds from Willebroekkaai). Inventory numbers 274-284, 287-289, 293-296, 298-299, 301-312, 315 and 317-319 originate from Mr. Bernier, Director-General of the Sequestration Office. Numbers 286, 290-291, 297, 313-314, 316 and 320-326 were intended for Mr. W. Van den Bosch, Director at the Registration and Domains Administration. Inventory numbers 292 and 300 originate from Mr. Dreppe, Inspector-General of the Registration and Domains Administration.
218. 11 Aug. 1949 – 25 Aug. 1949. 1 envelope  
*Content:* contains documents about the meetings of 11, 18 and 25 August. Of the meetings of 11 and 18 August only the minutes in French are preserved, and of the meeting of 25 August only a few annexes remain.
219. 15 Sept. 1949. 1 envelope
220. 20 Oct. 1949, 10 Nov. 1949. 1 envelope
221. 7 July 1951. 1 envelope
222. 23 Aug. 1951. 1 envelope
223. 11 Oct. 1951. 1 envelope
224. 29 Nov. 1951. 1 envelope
225. 20 Dec. 1951. 1 envelope
226. 24 Jan. 1952. 1 document  
*Content:* only contains a copy of a note addressed to the Minister for Economic Affairs.
227. 31 Jan. 1952. 1 envelope
228. 13 Mar. 1952. 1 envelope
229. 30 Apr. 1952. 1 envelope
230. 8 May 1952. 1 envelope
231. 17 July 1952. 1 envelope
232. 25 Sept. 1952. 1 envelope
233. 20 Nov. 1952. 1 envelope
234. 12 Dec. 1952. 1 envelope
235. 23 Jan. 1953. 1 envelope
236. 15 mar. 1953. 1 envelope

237.	2 Apr. 1953.	1 envelope
238.	30 Apr. 1953.	1 envelope
239.	23 July 1953.	1 envelope
240.	13 Aug. 1953.	1 envelope
241.	8 Oct. 1953.	1 envelope
242.	26 Nov. 1953.	1 envelope
243.	21 Jan. 1954.	1 envelope
244.	18 Mar. 1954.	1 envelope
245.	6 May 1954.	1 envelope
246.	1 July 1954.	1 envelope
247.	29 Sept. 1954.	1 envelope
248.	16 Dec. 1954.	1 envelope
249.	3 Mar. 1955.	1 envelope
250.	19 Apr. 1955.	1 envelope
251.	3 May 1955.	1 envelope
252.	16 June 1955.	1 envelope
253.	13 Oct. 1955.	1 envelope
254.	15 Dec. 1955.	1 envelope
255.	9 Feb. 1956.	1 envelope
256.	15 Mar. 1956.	1 envelope
257.	3 May 1956.	1 envelope
258.	28 June 1956.	1 envelope
259.	9 Nov. 1956.	1 envelope
260.	20 Dec. 1956.	1 envelope
261.	28 Mar. 1957.	1 bundle
262.	30 Apr. 1957.	1 envelope
263.	18 July 1957.	1 envelope
264.	17 Oct. 1957.	1 envelope
265.	20 Dec. 1957.	1 envelope
266.	26 Feb. 1958.	1 envelope
267.	27 Mar. 1958.	1 envelope
268.	21 Apr. 1958.	1 envelope
269.	8 May 1958.	1 envelope
270.	13 June 1958.	1 envelope
271.	11 July 1958.	1 envelope
272.	26 Sept. 1958.	1 envelope
273.	21 Nov. 1958.	1 envelope
274.	6 Feb. 1959.	1 envelope
275.	8 Apr. 1959.	1 envelope
276.	13 May 1959.	1 envelope
277.	6 July 1959.	1 envelope
278.	19 Oct. 1959.	1 envelope
279.	18 Dec. 1959.	1 envelope
280.	7 Apr. 1960.	1 bundle
281.	20 May 1960.	1 envelope
282.	14 July 1960.	1 envelope
283.	18 Oct. 1960.	1 envelope
284.	16 Dec. 1960.	1 envelope

285.	14 Mar. 1961.	1 envelope
286.	13 Apr. 1961.	1 envelope
287.	178 May 1961.	1 envelope
288.	13 July 1961.	1 envelope
289.	18 Oct. 1961.	1 envelope
290.	20 Dec. 1961.	1 envelope
291.	20 Mar. 1962.	1 envelope
292.	17 Apr. 1962.	1 envelope
293.	4 May 1962.	1 envelope
294.	17 July 1962.	1 envelope
295.	7 Nov. 1962.	1 bundle
	<i>Content:</i> also contains the second ten-year report for the period 1950-1959.	
296.	19 Dec. 1962.	1 envelope
297.	18 Mar. 1963.	1 envelope
298.	2 Apr. 1963.	1 envelope
299.	7 May 1963.	1 envelope
300.	16 July 1963.	1 envelope
301.	23 Oct. 1963.	1 envelope
302.	20 Dec. 1963.	1 envelope
303.	18 Mar. 1964.	1 envelope
304.	29 Apr. 1964.	1 envelope
305.	10 July 1964.	1 envelope
306.	28 Oct. 1964.	1 envelope
307.	15 Dec. 1964.	1 envelope
308.	10 Mar. 1965.	1 envelope
309.	6 Apr. 1965.	1 envelope
310.	30 Apr. 1965.	1 envelope
311.	14 July 1965.	1 envelope
312.	3 Nov. 1965.	1 envelope
313.	5 Dec. 1965.	1 envelope
314.	15 Mar. 1966.	1 envelope
315.	5 Apr. 1966.	1 envelope
316.	27 Apr. 1966.	1 envelope
	<i>Content:</i> also contains the budget estimations for 1967 in a separate file.	
317.	4 July 1966.	1 envelope
318.	9 Nov. 1966.	1 envelope
319.	21 Dec. 1966.	1 envelope
320.	23 Mar. 1967.	1 envelope
	<i>Content:</i> only contains the convocation letter and the agenda of the meeting. The file furthermore holds a report about the functioning, structure and competences of the DER in late 1967.	
321.	18 Apr. 1967.	1 envelope
322.	13 July 1967.	1 envelope
323.	18 Oct. 1967.	1 envelope
324.	7 Nov. 1967.	1 envelope
325.	14 Dec. 1967.	1 envelope
326.	29 Mar. 1968.	1 envelope
	<i>Information:</i> contains the report about the financial statement for the year of service 1967 in a separate file.	

**4. APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD****a. Work reports**

- 327-328. Ten-year work reports about the activities of all offices of the DER.  
1940-1959. 3 parts  
*Information:* two copies of each report are preserved.
327. 1940-1949. 2 parts  
*Information:* the annexes are adjoined to a second report.
328. 1950-1959. 1 volume
- 329-339. Reports about the activities of the DER concerning trade, restitutions and recovery of goods.  
1947-1953, 1963-1965, 1967. 11 envelopes  
*Information:* although these reports can for the most part be found back in the annexes of the minutes of the management board, this small fragmentary series is also preserved because it provides a useful overview of the activities of the DER over a long period of time.
329. 1947.  
*Missing parts:* only the data for the fourth trimester have been preserved.
330. 1948.  
*Missing parts:* the data of the first and second trimester are lacking.
331. 1949.
332. 1950.  
*Missing parts:* the data of the second trimester are lacking.
333. 1951.
334. 1952.
335. 1953.  
*Missing parts:* the data of the fourth trimester are lacking.
336. 1963.
337. 1964.
338. 1965.
339. 1967.
340. Report on the management until 30 June 1949 of the repositories for recovered goods located in Germany.  
1949. 1 volume  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
341. Report on the management until 30 September 1950 of the repositories for recovered goods located in Germany.  
1950. 1 volume
342. Report on the organisation of a transport service within the DER.  
1950. 1 volume  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
343. Report on the activities of the DIV/OIL and the DER in collaboration with war victims.  
1950. 1 volume
344. Report on the use of equipment obtained through reparations from Germany in the Belgian economy.  
1953. 1 volume  
*Information:* two copies preserved.

345. Report on the intervention of the DER in trade operations in the period of June 1946 until September 1953.  
1954. 1 volume

**b. Financial reports**

- 346-348. Annual accounts.  
1963-1965. 3 envelopes
346. 1963.  
*Information:* these documents are also filed in the minutes of the management board of 8 April 1964.
347. 1964.  
*Information:* these documents are also filed in the minutes of the management board of 6 April 1965.
348. 1965.  
*Information:* these documents are also filed in the minutes of the management board of 5 April 1966.
- 349-351. Annual reports of the auditors.  
1962-1965. 4 envelopes
349. 1962.
350. 1963.
351. 1964.  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
352. 1965.
- 353-355. Monthly reports of the auditors.  
1966. 3 documents
353. June 1966 (report no. 97).
354. September 1966 (report no. 100).
355. December 1966 (report no. 103).

**c. Topical files**

- 356-361. Notes and copies excerpt from the minutes of the management board (with cover letters) about economic issues, addressed to the members of the DER management board.  
1946-1954, 1958. 2 bundles, 3 envelopes, 2 documents  
*Information:* these are all notes and copies also contained in the proceedings. As these documents provide a synthesis of the issues dealt with, it was decided to preserve them too, under a separate inventory number.
356. Litigations and adjourned matters regarding import contracts concluded with the French, British and American zones in Germany.  
1946-1950. 1 envelope
357. Restitution of Belgian industrial goods abroad.  
1947-1953. 1 bundle  
*Information:* these documents were probably gathered by council member Elinck.
358. Pre-financing operations for the re-equipment of the coal mines and the Belgian defence within the framework of the AMP programme (*Additional Military Programme*).  
1951-1953. 1 bundle

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| 359. | Possible intervention of the DER in the use of Marshall credits for the coal industry.<br>1952. | 1 envelope  |
| 360. | Affreightment of German coal in 1954.<br>1955.  | 1 envelope  |
| 361. | Trade relations between the BLEU and the German Democratic Republic.<br>1958.                   | 2 documents |

### III. DIRECTORATE RECOVERY

The coordination of Belgium's post-war restitution policy forms the basis for the creation of the DER. It is thus no coincidence that this aspect induced the major part of the archive creation process. The enormous amounts of raw materials, products, machines, stocks, currencies and artworks that were lost or looted due to the war had to be traced and brought back to Belgium. The basic principles of the right to restitution were established at the Paris Peace Conference (December 1945) about reparations: Restitutions were limited to identifiable goods that were taken from an Allied country by force or without payment during the occupation. The Allied Control Council in Berlin defined the general rules according to which Germany had to carry out the restitution decisions, while the commanders of the different occupation zones decided on the procedure to follow. From September 1949, the Allied Control Council ceased almost all activities and Germany was re-empowered with parts of its national sovereignty. As a consequence, the recovery question progressively had to make place for economic issues. On 26 May 1952, the Settlement Convention was signed in Bonn to establish the cornerstones for further restitution regulations.

#### A. RECOVERY OF LOOTED ARTWORKS

The procedure for the recovery of cultural goods was for the most part identical to the one used for economic goods. Yet, the Belgian recovery actions turned out to be difficult due to insufficient insight into the full scope of artworks looting committed by the German occupant and the late resort to specialised investigators. Initially, the *Service pour la protection du patrimoine culturel* under the supervision of Leo van Puyvelde was the sole authority in charge of the recovery of looted artworks, but at the end of 1945, this mission was entrusted to the DER. As the archival documents show (see inventory number 363), the relationship between both administrations was, to say the least, troubled. The same was true regarding the contacts between the culture office of the DER and the other Belgian administrations: relevant archives from German public authorities concerning looting of artworks in Belgium ended up at various public authorities (administrations ranging from the Sequestration Office to the Military Prosecutor's Office) that did not communicate sufficiently among each other. Consequently, the restitution policy was deprived of its essence: Belgium only received 1,155 cultural goods from the Allied zones in Germany and Austria, compared to 30,207 goods for France and 6,891 goods for the Netherlands. Also, the DER had little interest in tracing looted archives or libraries (of which only 20% were recovered) and was more focussed on the recovery of plastic artworks as they appeared to have more prestige and could be identified more easily. Once



brought back to Belgium, the cultural goods could be restituted to their rightful owners, but the majority of them were ceded to Belgian cultural institutions or sold by auction for the benefit of the national treasury. All in all, some 90% of the recovered artworks were regained for the benefit of the Belgian state:

639 paintings and archaeological artefacts were handed over against payment to 15 Belgian musea and cultural institutions, while a few thousands of unidentified cultural goods were sold by public auction between 1946 and 1954 or traded by the DER and the Land Registration and Estates Department (Administratie van Registratie en Domeinen/Administration de l'enregistrement et des domaines) in Brussels. From 1956 to 1962, the DER also maintained contacts with the German *Bundesamt für Äußere Restititionen*, which produced no more tangible results however.

## 1. COORDINATION OF THE RESTITUTION POLICY

### a. Internal organisation

362. File on the principles, general organisation and the process of looted goods recovery by the DER.  
1945-1950. 1 envelope
363. Declaration and letter of Director-General Reul concerning the organisation of foreign missions within the framework of the recuperation of looted artworks.  
1947. 2 documents

### b. Study of art thefts

364. File with a study on the organisation and functioning of Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR).  
1945-1948. 1 envelope  
*Content:* also contains post-war copies of notes and documents authored in the period 1942-1944.
365. State of affairs regarding Belgian artworks looted during the occupation, authored on 15 March 1947.  
1947. 1 document  
*Sorting:* the information is first sorted according to the family name of the artist, followed by the artworks from the painting schools and finally the works of unknown masters.

### c. Follow-up of foreign missions and contacts

(1) *Germany*

(a) HICOG

- 366-369. Documents about the Belgian restitution claims, microfilmed by the HICOG in 1951.  
1946-1951. 1654 digital images  
*Information:* these documents initially existed on microfilms whose content was digitised by the National Archives.
366. Overview drawn up on 15 March 1947 of the Belgian artworks looted during the occupation and notes artworks and books looted from Belgian museums and private collections, authored by services of the American occupation army in

- Germany and the “SHAEF Mission Belgium”.  
1946-1947. 65 digital images
367. Identification forms for Belgian restitution claims, sorted according by family name of the former owners (1945-1948), containing also: an overview of books looted from the library of the *Institut International des Sciences administratives* (IISA), and an overview of the Belgian artworks looted during the occupation (set up on 15 March 1947), and an investigation report of the Dutch captain Vlug on the Renders collection (February 1947).  
1945-1948. 469 digital images
368. Identification forms for Belgian restitution claims, sorted according by family name of the former owners (1945-1948), containing also: reports of interrogations and notes about the investigations into the Renders collection (1945-1950) and overviews of works stolen from libraries of private individuals.  
1946-1950. 544 digital images
369. Overview of looted maps, plans and books from the Ministry of the Interior and overviews of works from various libraries of private individuals and libraries of associations and institutions, among which a Masonic Lodge from Liège, the *Société bouddhique belge*, the *Société théosophique belge* and the *Institut International des Sciences administratives* (IISA).  
1946. 576 digital images
- (b) American authorities
370. “Consolidated interrogation report no. 2”, copy of a report (with annexes) from the *Office of Strategic Services. Art looting Investigation Unit* about Goering’s art collection.  
1945. 1 bundle  
*Content*: the annexes to the report are letters of Andreas Hofer and Goering translated into English, and an overview of the artworks from Goering’s collection.
371. Reception declaration signed by the DER (represented by captain Lemaire) and the Allied Control Authorities (represented by captain Edwin C. Rae) about the recuperation of 31 artworks by Belgium.  
1948. 2 documents
- (c) British authorities
372. Report of Marcel Amand on the investigations into looted Belgian artworks in the British occupation zone of post-war Germany.  
1946. 1 document
- (d) French authorities
373. File on the sculpture “Head of Venus”, recovered in the French occupation zone in Germany.  
1948, 1962. 2 documents  
*Content*: contains three copies of an identification form. See also no. 451.

## (e) German authorities

374. Overview of artworks looted in Belgium and recovered in late 1955 from Germany.  
1955, 1960. 1 envelope  
*Content:* one record about a numbered overview of paintings and tapestries sent to the competent German Bundesamt on 28 October 1955 with the name of the artist, a description, the dimensions of the artwork and the owner's name. The envelope also contains two overviews from the *Bundesamt für Äußere Restititionen* and the minutes of two letters addressed to the Bundesamt in 1960.
375. Copies of received letters and minutes of letters sent by Mr. Rossignol and the *Bundesamt für Äußere Restititionen* about changes to the overview of looted Belgian artworks.  
1956, 1959. 4 documents

## (2) Austria

376. Overview of looted Belgian artworks in Austria.  
[1944]-1948. 1 envelope  
*Content:* contains overview of: 1. sold artworks and artworks whose owner cannot be traced back; 2. Artworks discovered in Alt-Aussee Saltmine and Schloss Kogl; 3. Artworks sold via the *Versteigerungsanstalt Dorotheum*.
377. Documents about the identification of Belgian artworks in Austria.  
[1945]-1948. 1 envelope  
*Content:* identification forms for Belgian artworks, two copies of overviews of Belgian artworks established by the *Dienststelle Muhlmann* during the occupation, and draft documents, notices and documentation about artworks.
378. Documents (received letters with annexes and minutes of sent letters) on the recuperation of Belgian looted artworks from Austria.  
1945-1951. 1 envelope

## (3) Czechoslovakia

379. File on artworks from Czechoslovakia, recovered via Paris.  
[1948]. 1 document  
*Missing parts:* only the file jacket has been preserved, with a reference inscription about an inventory set up by the *Royal Museums of Art and History* at the Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark.

**d. Recuperation of looted artworks**

## (1) Public sale of looted artworks

- 380-385. Files on the public sale of artworks of the *Centre for Fine Arts* in Brussels recovered from Germany.  
1948-1954. 6 envelopes
380. Sale of 30 December 1948.  
1948-1950.
381. Sale of 30-31 January 1950.  
1949-1952.
382. Sale of 21 May and 21-22 June 1951.  
1951-1952.  
*Content:* a catalogue of auctioned artworks.

383. Sale of 5 November 1952.  
1952.
384. Sale of 16 June 1953.  
1948-1953.
385. Sale of 22 December 1954.  
1954-1955.
- (2) *Museum collections*
386. File on recovered artworks ceded to Belgian museums.  
1948-1957. 1 envelope  
*Information:* this file was created by Rossignol.
387. Overviews of artworks ceded to Belgian museums.  
[ca. 1950]. 1 envelope
388. File on Congolese artworks at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren)  
recovered in Germany. 1 envelope  
1953-1962.  
*Content:* an overview of the artworks and a number of identification forms with photographs.
- (3) *Collections from private individuals*
- (a) *Renders collection*
389. Documents on the investigation into the theft of artworks from the “Renders  
collectie” in Bruges. 1 bundle  
1945-1948.  
*Information:* these documents probably originate from captain Lemaire, former head of the service  
*Recuperatie van kunstwerken.*
390. Copies of letters and notes (the originals of which mainly date from the German  
occupation period), translated or created within the framework of the investigation  
into the Renders collection. 1 bundle  
1946-1947.
391. Documents on the investigation into the Renders collection, originating from Mr.  
Rossignol, Director of the Directorate Recovery of the DER. 1 envelope  
1946-1953.
392. File on the court case filed against the Belgian state (and the DER) by Emile  
Renders on the background of the recovery of artworks from his collection. 1 envelope  
1947-1951.  
*Access:* this file, assembled by Mr. Rossignol, will become freely accessible 100 years after the  
file closure date. For the time being, it can only be accessed after having filled in a research  
declaration in the reading room.
393. Reports and legal notices about the Renders court case. 1 envelope  
1948-1949.  
*Access:* this file, assembled by captain Lemaire, will become freely accessible 100 years after the  
file closure date. For the time being, it can only be accessed after having filled in a research  
declaration in the reading room.

394. File on the compensation to the Netherlands for ten paintings from the Renders collection repatriated by Belgium.  
1950-1962. 1 envelope  
*Information:* this file, opened by Mr. Rossignol, was later taken over by Van De Moortel.
395. Documents on the investigation into the theft of sculptures and paintings from the Renders collection, originating from R. Van De Moortel, head of the Belgian recovery mission to Germany.  
1952-1953. 1 envelope
396. Documents on the Renders collection, created by Mouteau, directorate secretary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate under the sector *Industrie-Bedrijfsleven / Industrie-entreprises* of the BDBL/OBEA.  
1967-1972. 1 envelope  
*Content:* mainly notices and draft documents.
- (b) Von Moltke Collection
- 397-399. File on the recovery of paintings from the collection of the German count Joachim Wolfgang von Moltke.  
[1942-1944] 1946-1954. 3 envelopes  
*Access:* this general file will become freely accessible 100 years after the file closure date. For the time being, it can only be accessed after having filled in a research declaration in the reading room.
397. Received letters and minutes of sent letters and notes authored by von Moltke during the years of war, added as retrofiles to the DER file.  
1942-1944.
398. Investigation by the DER into the Belgian recovery of paintings from the Moltke collection.  
1946-1950.
399. Court case filed against the Belgian state (and the DER) by von Moltke regarding the reclaim of a Rubens painting from the former Moltke collection.  
1951-1954.
- (c) Collection from the villa “Chez Nous” in Sint-Idesbald
400. Copy of minutes of a letter from Kreiskommandant Frisius to Mr. Tony Mathijs concerning ten artworks removed in May 1943 from villa “Chez Nous” in Sint-Idesbald.  
[ca. 1946] 1 document  
*Information:* three copies.
- e. Investigation carried out by the legal successor of the DER**
401. Copies of documents on the *Dienststelle Mühlmann* and the investigation into looted artworks in the immediate post-war period.  
1993. 1 envelope  
*Information:* copies of the *Geschäftsbuch* of the *Dienststelle Mühlmann* and reports of the *Office of Strategic Services. Art Looting Investigation Unit*.
402. Overview of non-recovered portraits from Belgian art collections.  
1993. 1 document  
*Information:* subdivided into two columns containing the names of the persons portrayed in one column and the painter in the other one.

- 403-405. Overview of non-recovered artworks and cultural goods.  
1993-1994. 3 envelopes
403. Looted artworks, (mainly) sorted by family name of the artist.  
1993.  
*Information:* also contains a proof sheet.
404. Looted artworks sorted by type and medium.  
1994.
405. Collections looted from Belgian libraries.  
1993.
406. Overviews of contact persons at various Belgian public and private institutions for  
the purpose of investigations into looted and non-recovered artworks.  
1993-1994. 1 envelope  
*Access:* these documents will only become accessible in 2024.
- Overview of recovered artworks in possession of Belgian public museums.  
[ca. 1994]. 1 document  
*Repository:* see inventory number 447.  
*Content:* an overview with codes for artworks recovered in Munich (A), Wiesbaden (B), France  
(F), Paris (P) and Vienna (V).
- 407-408. “Missing art works of Belgium”, internal publication of the Ministry for  
Economic Affairs on non-recovered artworks.  
1994. 2 parts
407. Public domain artworks.
408. Artworks belonging to the Belgian state.
409. Files on the painting “Man of Sorrows” from the Renders collection at the  
Metropolitan Museum in New York.  
1996-1997. 1 envelope  
*Access:* this file will only become accessible in 2027.

## 2. CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

### a. Declaration forms

- 410-412. Internal declaration forms of the DER about looted artworks, sorted by serial  
number.  
1945-1948. 3 bundles  
*Information:* see also inventory numbers 519-559 and 560-598: the identification files in these two  
series are sorted according to the same code. The declaration forms contain the following  
information: the number and date of the declaration, the declaring person or entity, the artwork  
that is the subject of the declaration, the name of the artist and the title or description of the  
artwork, the artwork’s dimensions, the name of the former owner and the circumstances in which  
the artwork got lost.
410. Red series (nos. A500-A10.640).
411. Rose series (nos. A18-A10.625).
412. Green series (nos. A187-A10.641).

**b. Identification forms***(1) Recovered artworks*

413-434.	Identification forms and notes regarding recovered paintings, sorted by family name of the artist. 1946-1957. <i>Content:</i> for the most part, the declaration forms contain the same information as the declaration forms under inventory numbers 410-412.	4 bundles, 14 envelopes, 18 documents
413.	A.	8 documents
414.	B. <i>Content:</i> 36 numbered documents.	1 envelope
415.	C. <i>Content:</i> 33 numbered documents.	1 envelope
416.	D. <i>Content:</i> 66 numbered documents.	1 bundle
417.	E. <i>Content:</i> 22 numbered documents.	1 envelope
418.	F. <i>Content:</i> 15 numbered documents.	1 envelope
419.	G. <i>Content:</i> 26 numbered documents.	1 envelope
420.	H. <i>Content:</i> 22 numbered documents.	1 envelope
421.	I-J. <i>Content:</i> 27 numbered documents.	1 envelope
422.	K. <i>Content:</i> 10 numbered documents.	1 envelope
423.	L. <i>Content:</i> 25 numbered documents.	1 envelope
424.	M. <i>Content:</i> 44 numbered documents.	1 bundle
425.	N.	5 bundles
426.	O. <i>Content:</i> 10 numbered documents.	1 envelope
427.	P. <i>Content:</i> 27 numbered documents.	1 envelope
428.	Q.	2 bundles
429.	R. <i>Content:</i> 41 numbered documents.	1 bundle
430.	S. <i>Content:</i> 36 numbered documents.	1 envelope
431.	T. <i>Content:</i> 18 numbered documents.	1 envelope
432.	U.	3 bundles
433.	V. <i>Content:</i> 60 numbered documents.	1 bundle
434.	W. <i>Content:</i> 13 numbered documents.	1 envelope
435.	Identification forms of paintings sold at public sales. 1946-1954. <i>Content:</i> 55 numbered documents. Also see numbers 380-385.	1 bundle

- 436-444. Identification forms and notes regarding paintings from painting schools (so-called “anonymous artworks”).  
1946-1956. 5 envelopes, 14 documents  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted alphabetically per school (based on the original French name).
436. German school. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 11 numbered documents.
437. Austrian school. 4 documents
438. Belgian school. 7 documents
439. Spanish school. 2 documents
440. Flemish school. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 15 numbered documents.
441. Florentine school. 1 document
442. French school. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 19 numbered documents.
443. Dutch school. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 13 numbered documents.
444. Italian school. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 11 numbered documents.
445. Notes on recovered artworks (paintings, portraits, engravings, woodcuts and Japanese copper engravings) of unknown artists.  
1946-1956. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 251 numbered documents.
446. Identification forms and notes about recovered artworks (carpets, tapestries, embroideries, sculptures, books and seals) of unknown artists.  
1946-1956. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 67 numbered documents.
447. Identification form (with annexes) and notes about recovered artworks handed over to Belgian museums.  
1946-1957 [1994] 1 bundle  
*Content:* 112 numbered documents. The forms firstly bear on paintings of well-known painters (sorted by family name), secondly on paintings of unknown artists and finally on artworks of various types.  
Also contains an overview (probably set up around 1994) of recovered artworks belonging to Belgian public museums.
- 448-450. Identification forms on the restitution of artworks from collections of private individuals.  
1946-1950. 1 bundle, 2 envelopes  
*Sorting:* each collection first contains the documents pertaining to works of well-known artists (sorted alphabetically), followed by the artworks from painting schools.
448. David Reder collection. 1 bundle  
1946-1949.  
*Content:* 58 numbered documents.
449. M. Seyffers collection. 1 envelope  
1946-1950.  
*Content:* 15 numbered documents.
450. Hugo and Elisabeth Andriessse collection. 1 envelope  
1946-1947.  
*Content:* 26 numbered documents.



451. Identification forms about recovered artworks of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and of artworks found back in Wiesbaden.  
[1946-1955] [1994]. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 43 numbered documents, among which a number of technical identification forms probably set up around 1994.  
The artworks from Wiesbaden are all of Congolese art. See also inventory no. 388.
- (2) *Non-recovered artworks*
- 452-477. Identification forms of non-recovered paintings, sorted by family name of the painter.  
1946-1961 (1969). 16 bundles, 6 envelopes, 11 documents
452. A. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 28 numbered documents.
453. B. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 153 numbered documents.
454. C. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 110 numbered documents.
455. D-De Woe. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 141 numbered documents.
456. Dewet-Duyck. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 54 numbered documents.
457. E. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 17 numbered documents.
458. F. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 53 numbered documents.
459. G. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 85 numbered documents.
460. H. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 81 numbered documents.
461. I-J. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 46 numbered documents.
462. K. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 28 numbered documents.
463. L. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 96 numbered documents.
464. M. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 110 numbered documents.
465. N. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 16 numbered documents.
466. O. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 18 numbered documents.
467. P. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 71 numbered documents.
468. Q. 2 documents
469. R. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 94 numbered documents.
470. S. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 126 numbered documents.
471. T. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 37 numbered documents.
472. U. 1 document

473.	Vaes-Van Ruysdael. <i>Content:</i> 136 numbered documents.	1 bundle
474.	Van Sassenbroeck-Vu. <i>Content:</i> 90 numbered documents.	1 bundle
475.	W. <i>Content:</i> 49 numbered documents.	1 bundle
476.	Y.	1 document
477.	Z.	7 documents
478-503.	Identification forms of non-recovered paintings from painting schools (so-called anonymous artworks). 1946-1961. <i>Sorting:</i> the documents are sorted alphabetically per school (according to the original French name).	2 bundles, 5 envelopes, 42 documents
478.	German school. <i>Content:</i> 10 numbered documents.	1 envelope
479.	Alsace School.	1 document
480.	English school. <i>Content:</i> 13 numbered documents.	1 envelope
481.	Antwerp school.	6 documents
482.	Austrian school.	4 documents
483.	Avignon School.	1 document
484.	Belgian school.	4 documents
485.	Bruges school.	2 documents
486.	Brussels school.	1 document
487.	Byzantine school.	1 document
488.	Chinese school.	3 documents
489.	School of Constant.	1 document
490.	School of Dachau.	1 document
491.	Spanish school.	7 documents
492.	Flemish school. <i>Content:</i> 30 numbered documents.	1 envelope
493.	Florentine school.	1 document
494.	School of Fontainebleau.	1 document
495.	French school. <i>Content:</i> 37 numbered documents.	1 envelope
496.	Dutch school. <i>Content:</i> 59 numbered documents.	1 bundle
497.	Italian school. <i>Content:</i> 26 numbered documents.	1 envelope
498.	School of Menn.	1 document
499.	Modern school.	2 documents
500.	Polish school.	2 documents
501.	Swiss school. <i>Content:</i> 103 numbered documents.	1 bundle
502.	Tyrol school.	1 document
503.	Venetian school.	1 document

- 504-505. Identification forms of non-recovered artworks of unknown artists.  
1946-1961 (1969). 1 bundle, 1 envelope
504. Paintings, portraits, engravings and woodcuts. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 285 numbered documents.
505. Drawings and books. 1 envelope  
*Content:* 11 numbered documents.
506. Identification forms of non-recovered artworks from the Grand Duchy of  
Luxembourg.  
[1946-1955] [1994]. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 85 numbered documents, among which a number of technical identification forms,  
probably set up around 1994. These recent documents hold the same information already  
contained in older forms in the envelope.
507. Identification forms of non-recovered sculptures and statues of various types.  
1946-1961. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 173 numbered documents. The forms are sorted alphabetically by family name of the  
private owners, institutions or entities.
508. Identification forms of non-recovered artworks made from various metals and raw  
materials (mainly silver, bronze, tin, potteries and porcelain).  
1946-1961 (1969). 1 bundle  
*Content:* 92 numbered documents.  
*Sorting:* the forms are sorted alphabetically according to the raw material used, in the French  
names : *argent* (silver), *bronze* (bronze), *c ramique* (pottery), *cuivre* (copper), * tain* (tin), *fer*  
(iron), *fa ence*, *gr s* (sandstone), *ivoire* (ivory), *jade*, *laiton* (brass), *laque rouge* (red varnish),  
*orf vreterie* (gold and silverware), *papier* (paper)/*papyrus*,  *pierre* (stone), *terre cuite* (terracotta) and  
*verre* (glass).  
The last four forms contain no information about the raw materials used for the artworks.
509. Identification forms of non-recovered textile artworks (carpets, tapestries and  
embroidery).  
1946-1961. 1 bundle  
*Content:* 94 numbered documents. The forms are sorted alphabetically by family name of the  
private owner, institution or entity.
510. Identification forms of non-recovered art furniture.  
1946-1961 (1969). 1 bundle  
*Content:* 72 numbered documents.
511. Identification forms of non-recovered scientific equipment from the *Universit *  
*libre de Bruxelles* and the Royal Observatory of Belgium (*Koninklijke*  
*Sterrenwacht/Observatoire royal*).  
[1946-1948]. 1 bundle  
*Information:* only contains identification forms from the SPPC (see inventory numbers 519-559).
512. Identification forms of non-recovered archives from the University of Li ge.  
[1946-1948]. 1 bundle  
*Information:* almost exclusively “cahiers” from the “*Fonds Mahaim*”. All identification forms  
originate from the SPPC (see inventory numbers 519-559).
- 513-518. Identification forms of non-recovered archives from the Belgian ministries.  
[1946-1948]. 1 bundle, 2 envelopes, 12 documents  
*Information:* only contains identification forms from the SPPC (see inventory numbers 519-559).
513. Interior. 1 envelope
514. Economic Affairs (Mines Administration). 1 envelope

515.	Colonies.	1 bundle
516.	National Defence.	5 documents
517.	Finance.	1 document
518.	Public Works.	6 documents

(3) *Identification forms sorted by declaration number*

519-559.	Identification forms (some with photographs) from the <i>Service pour la Protection du Patrimoine culturel</i> (SPPC) taken over by the DER. [1945].	41 envelopes
	<i>Missing parts:</i> numbers A1-A40, A144-A146, A171, A187-A199, A988, A10.008-A10.012, A10.016, A10.018-10.029, A10.075-A10.076 and A10.079 are lacking.	
519.	A41-A79.	
520.	A80-A119.	
521.	A120-A160.	
522.	A161-A186.	
523.	A201-A240.	
524.	A241-A280.	
525.	A281-A320.	
526.	A321-A359.	
527.	A360-A401.	
528.	A402-A439.	
529.	A440-A480.	
530.	A481-A520.	
531.	A521-A560.	
532.	A561-A600.	
533.	A601-A641.	
534.	A642-A680.	
535.	A681-A720.	
536.	A721-A760.	
537.	A761-A800.	
538.	A801-A840.	
539.	A841-A880.	
540.	A881-A922.	
541.	A923-A960.	
542.	A961-A1001.	
543.	A10.001-A10.040.	
544.	A10.041-A10.080.	
545.	A10.081-A10.120.	
546.	A10.121-A10.160.	
547.	A10.161-A10.200.	
548.	A10.201-A10.240.	
549.	A10.241-A10.280.	
550.	A10.281-A10.320.	
551.	A10.321-A10.360.	
552.	A10.361-A10.400.	
553.	A10.401-A10.440.	
554.	A10.441-A10.480.	
555.	A10.481-A10.519.	

556. A10.520-A10.560.  
557. A10.561-A10.600.  
558. A10.601-A10.640.  
559. A10.641-A10.652.
- 560-598. Handwritten identification forms (some with photographs) from the *Service pour la Protection du Patrimoine culturel* (SPPC) taken over by the DER.  
[1945]. 39 envelopes  
*Information:* several parts missing.
560. A41-A79.  
561. A80-A119.  
562. A120-A160.  
563. A161-A200.  
564. A201-A240.  
565. A241-A280.  
566. A281-A320.  
567. A321-A359.  
568. A360-A396.  
569. A397-A439.  
570. A440-A480.  
571. A481-A520.  
572. A521-A560.  
573. A561-A636.  
574. A637-A680.  
575. A681-A720.  
576. A721-A760.  
577. A761-A800.  
578. A801-A820.  
579. A821-A860.  
580. A961-A900.  
581. A901-A940.  
582. A941-A980.  
583. A981-A10.017.  
584. A10.030-A10.060.  
585. A10.061-A10.100.  
586. A10.101-A10.140.  
587. A10.141-A10.180.  
588. A10.181-A10.220.  
589. A10.221-A10.260.  
590. A10.261-A10.300.  
591. A10.301-A10.340.  
592. A10.341-A10.380.  
593. A10.381-A10.420.  
594. A10.421-A10.460.  
595. A10.461-A10.500.  
596. A10.501-A10.540.  
597. A10.541-A10.575.  
598. A10.587-A10.614.

**c. Photographs***(1) Photographs of paintings*

599. Duplicate photographs originating from the SPPC, taken over by the DER.  
[1945]. 1 bundle
600. Photographs of three paintings and photograph of an old man (probably James  
Ensor).  
[1945?]. 4 documents

*(2) Various photographs*

601. Photographs of work in progress for recovering Belgian artworks from Germany.  
1945. 2 documents
602. Photographs of an exhibition of the “Lamb of God” of the van Eyck brothers at  
the Royal Museum for Fine Arts in Brussels.  
1945. 2 documents

**d. Glass negatives**

- 603-630. Glass negatives of looted artworks.  
[ca. 1946]. 423 documents  
*Information:* the glass negatives have been digitised. The digital images can be viewed in the  
reading room instead of the original glass negatives.
603. Box 1. 10 documents
604. Box 2. 11 documents
605. Box 3. 12 documents
606. Box 4. 11 documents
607. Box 5. 15 documents
608. Box 6. 15 documents
609. Box 7. 15 documents
610. Box 8. 13 documents
611. Box 9. 16 documents
612. Box 10. 9 documents
613. Box 11. 20 documents
614. Box 12. 16 documents
615. Box 13. 64 documents
616. Box 14. 12 documents
617. Box 15. 4 documents
618. Box 16. 15 documents
619. Box 17. 15 documents
620. Box 18. 15 documents
621. Box 19. 13 documents
622. Box 20. 11 documents
623. Box 21. 12 documents
624. Box 22. 18 documents
625. Box 23. 13 documents
626. Box 24. 14 documents
627. Box 25. 14 documents
628. Box 26. 24 documents

629. Box 27. 3 documents  
630. Box 28. 13 documents

### e. Objects

631. Mould of an (Egyptian?) frieze from the antiquity.  
[ca. 1948?]. 1 object
632. Bronze medallion depicting Jean Jadot, governor of the *Generale Maatschappij van België/Société générale de Belgique* in the period 1906-1932.  
[ca. 1948?]. 1 object

## B. RECOVERY OF SHIPS AND CARGO

As a consequence of the warfare, much cargo disappeared from (steam) ships after 1940, which the DIV/OIL tried to find back in order to reconstitute these goods to their rightful owners. After the occupation, the DER was charged with an additional task that comprised the identification and restitution not only of missing cargo, but also of ships claimed by the “Kriegsmarine” or constructed under constraint. In case a ship was found back in Germany, negotiations had to be started with the Allied authorities about a possible repair of the vessel, depending on its state, in order to restore its floating capacity and make it seaworthy again (at the cost of the German economy), or about selling the wreck or heavily damaged inland navigation vessel if its recovery was not necessary. In 1945, the DER recovered 131 inland navigation vessels, and an additional 126 in 1946. The value of restitutions carried out with the help of the Allied authorities amounted to 520 million Belgian Francs for the benefit of private individuals and to 80 million for the Belgian state.

### 1. ELABORATION OF THE JURISPRUDENCE REGARDING RECOVERY

#### a. Files opened by the DIV/OIL and taken over by the DER

- 633-637. General file with the legal study of French and German claims for Belgian goods abandoned in France.  
1939-1945. 3 envelopes, 3 documents
633. Topical folder on the legal regulations governing the liquidation of goods confiscated by the German authorities.  
1939-1942. 1 envelope
634. File on the French-German agreement on seized goods stored at French ports.  
1940-1941. 1 envelope
635. File on the legal base for the French claims, from the perspective of the Belgian law.  
1940-1945. 1 envelope
636. Copy of a guideline and copy of a Belgian law text dated 8 February 1941 regarding the settlement of debts in foreign currencies, and foreign exchanges in Belgium.  
1941-1942. 2 documents
637. Note (with annexes) about the relations with the German occupant at the port of Bordeaux.  
1943. 1 document

638. File on legal disputes around Belgian goods lost in France, and damages and losses suffered by Belgian shipping companies, presented by AMARIG (“Association d’assurances mutuelles maritimes contre les risques de guerre”). 1941-1947. 1 envelope
639. Thematic folder on the legal framework for the declaration of war damages and its application. 1941-1943, 1947-1948. 1 envelope  
*Content:* excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal (1942-1949), some press excerpts (1948), an instruction about the declaration procedure to be followed, blank declaration forms and minutes of letters sent by the DIV/OIL to private companies and public authorities filed as jurisprudence.

### b. Files opened by the DER

640. File on the evolution of the legal framework governing reparations for war damages to private goods (industrial goods and ships) and the role of the DER within this context. 1945-1962. 1 bundle  
*Content:* one sub-file with the minutes of the investigations for assessing war damages to private property, one notice of a meeting on 2 May 1950 about the relations between the DER and the War Damages Administration (*Bestuur voor Oorlogsschade/administration dommages de guerre*), one sub-file with a draft text for the coordination of the laws on reparations of war damages to private property, and excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal.
641. File on the reciprocity agreement between Belgium and France regarding the reparations for Belgian shiploads confiscated by the French authorities during the war. 1947, 1952-1959. 1 envelope

## 2. HANDLING RECOVERY REQUESTS

### a. Recovery of shiploads

#### (1) Overviews

642. File card system for ships whose cargo got lost, set up by the DIV/OIL. [1940-1944]. 1 box  
*Sorting:* the data are sorted alphabetically by ship name.
- 643-645. File card system for restitution claims investigated by the DIV/OIL, alphabetically sorted by owner name (persons or companies) of the lost cargo. [1940-1944]. 3 boxes
643. A-F.
644. G-R.
645. S-Z.
646. Overviews about the identification and liquidation of Belgian merchandises on steamers, sorted by roll number of matters brought before the DIV/OIL, later to the DER. [1940-1948]. 1 bundle  
*Information:* the overviews were initially created by the DIV/OIL, but later re-arranged and complemented by the DER. The data are sorted by roll number, which is consistent with the chronological order: the higher the number, the more recently the request was filed.



647. List (with annotations) of ships filed in the file card system of the DIV/OIL.  
[1944]. 3 documents  
*Information:* the list was probably created by the DER in the immediate post-war period on the basis of data from the DIV/OIL file card system (see no. 642).
- (2) *Files opened by the DIV/OIL, taken over by the DER*
648. File on reparation claims of Belgian owners of goods confiscated by the German army, cases held before “*la cour des prises à Hambourg*”.  
1939-1944. 1 bundle
- 649-650. Received letters and minutes of sent letters and notes (with annexes) about administrative procedures (authorisations and competences) and the exchange of information, originating from the DIV branch in Marseille.  
1940-1942. 2 bundles
649. 3 June 1940 - 26 November 1941.  
650. 27 November 1941 - 4 August 1942.
- 651-652. Received letters, legal notes, reports and overviews of Belgian shiploads on steamers in Belgian, Dutch and French ports, sent by the different branch offices of the DIV to the Department seat in Brussels.  
1940-1943 (1952). 2 bundles  
*Information:* contains 43 files of an initial 63 file numbers, alphabetically sorted by steamer name. A list at the beginning of inventory number 808 indicates how 20 files were selected either by the DIV/OIL or the DER.  
In addition to its head office in Brussels, the DIV/OIL ran branch offices in Antwerp, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, La Palle, Marseille, Montpellier, Paris and Rochefort.
651. Steamers, A-L.  
1940-1943 (1947).
652. Steamers, M-V.  
1940-1943 (1952).
653. Received letters and minutes of sent letters, notes and proceedings from the branch offices of the DIV/OIL about the liquidation of Belgian goods.  
1940-1943. 1 bundle
654. File on the recovery of cotton loads in Marseille.  
1940-1943. 1 envelope
- 655-657. Files about the cases treated by various DIV/OIL branch offices.  
1940-1944 (1955). 3 envelopes
655. Branch office in La Rochelle.  
1940-1943.
656. Branch office in Paris.  
1943 (1955).
657. Branch office in Antwerp.  
1944.
658. Received letters, minutes of sent letters (with annexes) and financial notices about the liquidation of cargo from Dutch steamers confiscated during the war for the benefit of Belgian parties concerned.  
1941-1956. 1 bundle

659. Quarterly work reports, notes and transmission reports about the restitution of cargo from former steamers and ships recovered in Germany.  
1941-1957. 1 bundle
660. Investigation minutes (including received letters) following requests for investigation into lost cargo from steamers.  
1943-1955. 1 envelope  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted alphabetically by the name of the person or company filing the request.
- (3) *Files opened by the DER*
661. Files on the settling of accounts and lawsuits (about cargo on steamers) not yet rounded off by the DIV.  
1946-1953. 1 envelope
- 662-663. Received letters, minutes of sent letters and notes on cases of damages abroad (“sinistres étrangers”) solved by the Belgian-French agreement of 26 April 1953.  
1946-1959. 2 bundles  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted alphabetically by the names of the aggrieved parties (private individuals or companies).
662. A-K.
663. L-Z.

## b. Recovery of ships

### (1) *Restitution of Belgian ships*

#### (a) Overviews

- 664-665. File card system of cases treated by the DER.  
1947-1960. 2 boxes  
*Sorting:* the data are first sorted by series and then alphabetically by ship name.
664. Series 45.000-47.000 [A-Massenet].
665. Series 45.000-47.000 [Matadi-Z], series 48.000 [A-Z] and series 49.000 [A-Z].
666. Overview of the restitution claims treated by the DER.  
1947-1960. 1 volume  
*Sorting:* the data are sorted by roll number.
667. Overview of ships sunk due to acts of war around the waterways administrated by the state [file no. 47.920].  
[ca. 1948]. 1 envelope  
*Sorting:* alphabetically sorted by ship name.
668. Main overview of investigation requests regarding ships filed to the DER.  
[ca. 1948]. 1 document  
*Sorting:* the data are sorted by request roll number (also see inventory number 666).
- (b) Thematic files
669. File on the restitution and recovery of Belgian ships abroad [file no. 47.920].  
1946-1954. 1 envelope

670. Excerpt from the peace treaty with Bulgaria pertaining to economic clauses applicable to Belgium [file no. 47.956].  
[ca. 1946]. 1 document
671. File on the recovery of ships in Romania [file no. 47.957].  
1947-1951, 1960. 1 envelope
672. File on the repatriation of five Belgian barges discovered in the Russian zone of Berlin [file no. 47.904].  
1953-1960. 1 envelope
- (c) Files on ships from the British zone [series 45.000-47.000]
- 673-701. File on the recovery of Belgian ships from the British occupation zone in Germany.  
1946-1959. 29 envelopes
673. Automotive engine “Asturienne III”, property of the Compagnie royale asturienne des Mines [file no. 45.098].  
1946-1956.
674. Ship “H. 464” [file no. 45.199].  
1946-1949.
675. Unidentified Belgian ship “V.H.” [file no. 45.694].  
1947-1955.
676. Belgian ship “Mars (Speer 94)” [file no. 45.731].  
1946-1950.
677. Belgian ship “Aide de la Vierge” [file no. 45.963].  
1947-1950.  
Content: photographs.
678. Belgian ship Josephine [file no. 45.984].  
1947-1957.
679. Ship Maria Anna II [file no. 46.105].  
1946-1955.
680. Barge René [file no. 46.166].  
1946-1955.
681. Ship Anna-Lucie [file no. 46.214].  
1947-1957.
682. Belgian wrecked ship “Speer 341” [file no. 46.262].  
1947-1951.
683. Unknown Belgian ship “A.E. [...] B” [file no. 46.291].  
1947-1951.  
Content: photographs.
684. Ship “Heinrich Hilde” [file no. 45.381].  
1948-1952.
685. Ship “St. Lambert (AE 365 B)” [file no. 46.326].  
1948-1951.  
Content: photographs.
686. Belgian wrecked ship “Pierre (formerly “Speer 174”)” [file no. 46.932].  
1948-1951.
687. “Speer 302” [file no. 46.505].  
1949-1950.

688. Ship in the dockyard "Usinger" in Hamburg [file no. 46.561].  
1948-1950.
689. "M.E. 144" [file no. 46.567].  
1948-1950.
690. "Seelöwe C 115 P." [file no. 46.716].  
1949-1951.  
Content: photographs.
691. "Seelöwe B51" [file no. 46.839].  
1950-1951.
692. Ship "O.T.35" [file no. 46.840].  
1949-1951.  
Content: photographs.
693. Ship "La Fayette (formerly "Suzanne")", property of Charles Adam [file no. 46.875].  
1948-1954.
694. Ship "Nayade" [file no. 46.917].  
1949-1950.  
Content: photographs.
695. Ship "Kempenaar" [file no. 46.953].  
1949-1951.
696. Ship "Volontaire", property of Oscar Montague-Wolff [file no. 47.026].  
1950-1955.
697. Ship "Suzan", property of the heirs of Mr. and Mrs Verbrugghe [file no. 47.056].  
1950-1953.
698. Ship "Grâce de Dieu", property of Mrs Pillois, widow of H. Edouard Willay [file no. 47.060].  
1950-1956.
699. Ship "Kanguroo", property of Armand Vanderplaetz [file no. 47.070].  
1950-1952.
700. Ship "Dalalfven", property of Etablissements Fréd. Walmacq [file no. 47.199].  
1947-1952.
701. Ship "Antoinette (formerly "Pierre")" [file no. 47.241].  
1946-1959.
- (d) Files on fishing and sea-going vessels [series 48.000]
702. "Planning Bâteaux - série 48.000", overview of treated files in series 48.000.  
1948-1964. 1 document
703. Received letters, minutes of sent letters and notes about ships from the file series "48.000".  
1946-1953. 1 bundle  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted by file number, from 48.008 to 48.195.
704. Files on the identification of Belgian and French fishing vessels in German and Belgian ports, and contacts between the DER, the Marin Administration (Bestuur der Zeewezen/Administration de la marine) and "Het Nieuw Visscherijblad" [file no. 48.000].  
1945-1948. 1 envelope

705. File on the expenses for the repatriation, insurance and repair of the fishing vessels in Germany [file no. 48.001].  
1945-1947. 1 envelope
706. File on the general advancement of investigations into fishing vessels and the recovery of Belgian fishing vessels from France [file no. 48.002].  
(1942-1943) 1945-1947. 1 envelope  
*Content:* contains three status reports: 1. Status of the ships confiscated due to acts of war; 2. status of missing ships that could cause repair expenses in case of identification and 3. status of the confiscated and damaged ships.
707. File on the fishing vessel “Hoop op Zegen”, property of Ch. Lycke [file no. 48.030].  
1946-1957. 1 envelope
708. File on the shipping traffic in the American enclave in the port of Bremen [file no. 48.035].  
1945-147. 1 envelope
709. File on the ship “Florida”, ceded to the Belgian state by the shipping company “Deppe” [file no. 48.076].  
1946-1964. 1 envelope
710. File on floating dry docks and the repair and legal status of formerly German ships confiscated at Belgian dockyards [file no. 48.105].  
1946. 1 envelope
711. File on the restitution request for three confiscated Belgian “vedettes” (“Bowler Hat”, “Arromanches” and “Motor Cutter”) [file no. 48.170].  
1947-1956. 1 envelope
- (e) Files on ships built under constraint
- 712-722. General file on the investigations in the British occupation about ships built under constraint by Belgian shipping companies [file no. 47.946].  
(1940-1944) 1944-1960. 2 bundles, 9 envelopes
712. General investigation file, volume I.  
1946-1949. 1 envelope
713. General investigation file, volume II.  
1949-1950. 1 bundle
714. General investigation file, volume III.  
1951-1960. 1 bundle
715. Fishing vessels built under constraint.  
1947-1948. 1 envelope
716. Investigations and identification of ships in the French occupation zone carried out by Mr. Hayet, representative of the DER in Neustadt.  
1948-1950. 1 envelope
717. Boel dockyard in Temse.  
(1940-1944) 1944-1952, 1956. 1 envelope
718. Dockyard in Ruppelmonde.  
1947-1951. 1 envelope
719. Dockyard “Smidts Frères” in Hemiksem.  
(1941-1944) 1947-1949. 1 envelope

720. Dockyard “De Wachter” in Boom.  
1948-1951. 1 envelope
721. Dockyard “Jabon Frères” in Ombret.  
(1940-1944) 1947-1951. 1 envelope
722. Dockyards “Jacobs en kinderen” in Schelle.  
(1941-1944) 1947-1949. 1 envelope
- 723-725. General file on the restitution of the ship “Royal Harold” [file no. 49.040].  
1947-1954. 1 bundle, 2 envelopes
723. Recovery of the ship.  
1947-1950. 1 envelope
724. Recovery of the ship.  
1951-1954. 1 envelope
725. Ship’s technical file with inventory of the engines and the equipment on board.  
1949-1950. 1 bundle
726. Received letters, minutes of sent letters and notes about the restitution of ships  
built under constraint and compensations (file series “49.000”).  
1949-1958. 1 bundle  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted by file number, from 49.001 to 49.114.
727. File on the compensations for the constrained construction of ships for German  
shipping companies during the occupation.  
1950-1958. 1 envelope  
*Content:* overviews of ships built in each dockyard.
- (2) *Sale of recovered ships*
- 728-730. General file on the sale of recovered ships for the benefit of the Belgian state [file  
no. 47.961].  
1947-1953. 1 bundle, 2 envelopes
728. 1947-1949. 1 bundle
729. January 1950-June 1950. 1 envelope
730. July 1950-1953. 1 envelope
- 731-733. General file on the sale of ships (built under constraint) in Germany [file no.  
47.965].  
1949-1954. 1 bundle, 2 envelopes
731. 1949-1950. 1 envelope
732. 1951. 1 bundle
733. 1952-1954. 1 envelope
734. Notes, contracts of sale and financial documents (bordereaus and debit notes)  
about the sale of ships ceded to the Belgian state.  
1950-1955. 1 bundle  
*Content:* also contains overviews of sold ships (referring to the files under inventory numbers 728-  
733).

(3) *Allocation of compensations*

## (a) Expenses arising from the recovery of ships

735. Received letters, minutes of sent letters and notes (with annexes) about the settlement of expenses for goods and services provided by the British authorities to Belgian barge skippers, claimed by the British branch of the “Control Commission for Germany” (CCG).  
1945-1954. 1 bundle  
*Content:* holds a reference file no. 47.943 (see inventory number 737-739).
736. Received letters and minutes of sent letters, notes (with annexes) and bordereaus about the settlement of expenses for goods and services provided by the British authorities to Belgian barge skippers, claimed by the British branch of the CCG and the British Ministry for Transport.  
1947-1953. 1 bundle  
*Content:* also contains accounting overview files, alphabetically sorted by ship name.
- 737-739. Files on the settlement of expenses for repairs and repatriation of Belgian ships from the British occupation zone in Germany, in particular from Hamburg [file no. 47.943].  
1945-1960. 2 bundles, 1 envelope
737. 1945-1950. 1 envelope
738. 1949-1950. 1 bundle
739. 1951-1960. 1 bundle
- 740-741. File on compensations for provisions and rationed supplies of Belgian skippers by British authorities [file no. 47.944].  
1946-1968. 1 bundle, 1 envelope
740. 1946-1950. 1 envelope
741. 1950-1955, 1959, 1968. 1 bundle  
*Content:* sub-file holding correspondence (and annexes) with the Inland Navigation Administration under the authority of the Ministry for Economic Affairs in the period 1947-1950.
742. File on the payback by the Registration and Domains Administration of provisions and rationed supplies given to Belgian skippers in Hamburg [file no. 47.968].  
1952-1958. 1 envelope
- (b) *Compensations within the framework of legal disputes and bilateral agreements*
743. Overviews of ships claimed by the occupation power, some of which were compensated for.  
1945. 2 documents  
*Information:* the information on one of the overviews are sorted alphabetically by owner name.
744. File on the legal principles governing ships claimed by the German occupant and recovered after the war, and for which the Belgian state had already paid compensations to the rightful owners during the occupation [file no. 47.923].  
1945-1955. 1 envelope
745. File on the exemption of customs duties and the state insurance against the dangers of war for (ravaged) Belgian ships registered in France [file no. 47.966].

- 1948-1959. 1 bundle  
*Content:* three overviews about ships: 1. overview sorted by DER file number; 2. overview sorted by owner name; 3. overview of owners who received an insurance compensation in France or not.
746. Received letters, minutes of sent letters, notes and reports on the meetings concerning restitutions between the Belgian state and the Federal Republic of Germany.  
 1951-1964. 1 bundle
- c. Communication of information to other public authorities**
- (1) *War Damages Office*
747. File on the assignment of cases regarding ships to the War Damages Office [file no. 47.952].  
 1947-1958. 1 bundle
748. Bordereaus (with cover letters) of files or information papers of the DER transferred to the provincial directorates of the War Damages Office.  
 1954-1964. 1 bundle
- (2) *Sequestration Office*
749. File with information – pertaining to compensations for barges confiscated during the war – requested from the Sequestration Office by the DER [file no. 47.919].  
 1954. 4 documents
- (3) *National Bank*
750. File on the administrative and financial follow-up of the activities of captain F-A. Ottone, responsible for coordinating the recovery of Belgian ships and their cargo in North Italy [file no. 47.921].  
 1948-1954. 1 envelope
- d. Gathering of documentation**
751. Copy of an address by L. Charbonnier, director of the Shipping Office (under the authority of the Ministry for Public Works), on the occasion of the international congress for inland navigation, containing: an excerpt from the *Belgian Official Journal* of 14 November 1948 on the Law pertaining to the international agreement on reparations, signed on 14 January 1946 in Paris.  
 1947-1948. 2 documents
- C. RESTITUTION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGES**
752. File on the restitution of looted diamonds to Mr. Maurice Alfons.  
 1947, 1956-1964. 5 documents
753. File on a restitution claim of DEWAG (*Deutsch-Wallonische Arbeitsgemeinschaft*) regarding Belgian foreign exchange, filed by Mr. Marcel Anciaux.  
 1952. 2 documents



## IV. DIRECTORATE REPARATIONS

Already during the Yalta Conference in early 1945, the Allied forces decided to claim reparations from Germany to be drawn from its economy in order to finance the reconstruction of the war-ravaged countries and to disable Germany's warfare potential. The final agreement of the Paris Peace Conference established the principles distributing reparations among the 18 Allied beneficiary countries according to the damage their respective economies have suffered and to their respective contributions to the Allied war effort. The Inter-Allied Reparations Agency (IARA) was charged with the actual distribution among these countries of the available goods that could serve as reparations. Belgium received 6,7% of the total value of goods suitable for reparations. The DER organised missions to Germany, carried out field investigations and then communicated its conclusions to the Belgian delegation to the IARA. Once the Allied authorities gave their approval, the DER took care of the dismantling and transport of the allocated goods. Belgium received 211 plants of the heavy metals, chemical, coal and textile industries, that yielded a total financial compensation of roughly 567 million Belgian Francs.

### A. CONTACTS WITH THE IARA

#### 1. GENERAL

754. Topical folder on the Paris Conference and the Potsdam Agreement on the occupation status of Germany and the regulation of reparations. 1945-1948. 1 envelope
- 755-757. Annual reports of the Secretary-General of the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency (IARA). 1947-1949. 3 parts
755. 1947.
756. 1948.
757. 1949.
758. Proceedings of the general assembly of the IARA to the governments of the member states. June 1951. 1 volume  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
- 759-760. Topical folder on the month-by-month evaluation of reparations accounts by the IARA. 1950-1952. 2 envelopes
759. Category A.  
*Information:* in this category, mainly German assets abroad and common industrial goods are listed.
760. Category B.  
*Information:* in this category, industrial equipment and other equipment goods, merchant ships and barges, and industrial property rights are listed.

**2. BELGIAN DELEGATION TO THE IARA****a. Annual reports**

- 761-764. Annual reports of the Belgian delegation to the IARA.  
1947-1950. 4 parts
761. 1947.
762. 1948.
763. 1949.
764. 1950.
- Information:* in three preserved copies, with cover letter to the Minister of Finance, dated 17 February 1951.

**b. Folders**

- 765-766. Files on the restrictions on restitutions of looted gold and gold coins.  
1945-1955. 1 bundle, 1 envelope
765. Gold confiscated by the German occupant.  
1945-1955. 1 bundle
766. Gold(coins) from the issuing house.  
1949-1955. 1 envelope
767. File on the Belgian mission to Berlin under the authority of general Goethals  
within the framework of German reparations.  
1946-1947. 1 envelope
768. File on the delivery of natural and consumable goods to Belgium by the U.R.S.S.,  
in return for industrial equipment of the Westzone of Germany.  
1946-1949. 1 envelope

**c. Inventories of industrial goods**

- 769-772. Inventories of German industry sites (and parts thereof) in the British, American  
and French occupation zones, published by the IARA.  
[1946]-1949. 4 parts
769. British and American zones.  
[ca. 1946].
770. British zone, revised edition dated January 1948.  
1948.
771. British zone, second revised edition dated April 1949.  
1949.
772. French zone.  
1947.
- 773-801. Investigation reports and inventories (with annotations and notes) of German  
industrial companies whose plants and places of business were recorded as  
reparations for Belgium.  
1946-1950. 29 parts
- Sorting:* sorted by serial number.
773. GmbH zur Verwertung chemischer Erzeugnisse at Escherstruth [ACA no. 36].  
1946-147.

774. Finanz und Verwaltungsgesellschaft Weser GmbH at Bremen [ACA no. 215].  
1947-1948.
775. Vorrichtungsbau Hüller at Ludwigsburg [ACA no. 282].  
1947-1948.
776. Maschinenfabrik Wiesbaden A.G. at Wiesbaden-Dotzheim [ACA no. 331].  
1947.
777. Schmid & Schaudt K.G. at Stuttgart-Edelfingen [ACA no. 384].  
1946-1948.
778. Ultra-Präzisionswerk GmbH [ACA no. 411] at Aschaffenburg.  
1947-1949.
779. Adolf Zaiser Maschinenfabrik GmbH [ACA no. 421] at Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen.  
1946-1949.
780. Theodor Klatte at Bremen-Huchting [ACA no. 505].  
1947-1948.
781. Friedrich Krupp at Essen [ACA no. 1009/7].  
1949-1950.
782. Kampnagel A.G. at Hamburg [ACA no. 1193/1].  
1948.
783. Farbenfabrik Bayer at Leverkusen [ACA no. 1233].  
1949.
784. Bochumer Verein A.G. Abteilung Niedersachsen & Bochumer Verein für  
Gusstahlfabrikation at Bunde [ACA no. 1301].  
1948-1949.  
Two parts.
785. Elektron Werke GmbH te Holzminden-Wieser [ACA nr. 1402].  
1946-1947.
786. Veltrup-Werke K.G. at Barkhausen [ACA no. 1477].  
1947.
787. Maschinenfabrik Niedersachsen GmbH at Hannover-Wülfel [ACA no. 1637].  
1950.  
*Information:* two parts. Also contains minutes of sent letters of the Reparations Department of the  
DER to "Etablissements Small & Co."
788. Aufzugbau Losenhauswerk GmbH at Düsseldorf [ACA no. 1685].  
1948.
789. F.W. Heider & co. GmbH at Netphen [ACA no. 1734].  
1948.
790. Kloeckner-Humboldt-Deutz at Isselburg [ACA no. 1749].  
1948.
791. Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz A.G. at Kölen-Deutz [ACA no. 1750].  
1948.  
Three parts.
792. Maschinenfabrik Mühlstein mbH at Wuppertal-Sonnborn [ACA no. 1771].  
1948.
793. Deicke Kopperschmidt at Hamburg [ACA no. 1832].  
1948-1949.
794. Blumberg & co. at Lintorf-Rhein [ACA no. 1843].  
1948.
795. Dornier-Werke GmbH at Lindau-Rickenbach [ACA no. 2033].  
1946-1948.

796. I.G. Farben at Ludwigshafen [ACA no. 2150].  
1947-1949.
797. Eugen Farhion (Präzisionswerkzeugfabrik) at Bitz-Berlingen [ACA no. 2234].  
1947-1948.
798. Fichter & Hackenjos K.G. at Villingen/Schwarzwald [ACA no. 2235].  
1947-1948.
799. Werkzeug- und Maschinenfabrik Gebr. Hegner K.G. at Schwenningen/Neckar  
[ACA no. 2256].  
1946-1949.
800. Erwin Hengstler at Hausach/Baden [ACA no. 2258].  
1946-1949.
801. Josef Mahrer O.H.G. at Balingen [ACA no. 2299].  
1947.

## B. ADMINISTRATION OF GOODS FROM REPARATIONS

### 1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

802. Trimestral activity reports of the Reparations Department of the DER.  
1947-1952. 1 envelope
803. Correspondence (received letters and minutes of sent letters) between the DER,  
the Ministry of National Defence (1949-1950) and the Ministry of Finance (1946-  
1952) about the adjudication and the transport of reparations goods to Belgium.  
1946-1952. 1 envelope
804. Received letters and minutes of sent letters (with annexes) on the administration  
and liquidation of DER goods repositories in Ghent, Antwerp, Amsin, La  
Louvière and Jupille.  
1948-1952. 1 bundle  
*Sorting:* the documents are first sorted by repository and secondly by subject (“généralités”,  
“location”, “personnel”, etc.).
805. Accounting settlement forms of the DER pertaining to the establishment of the  
value of industrial equipment from German factories, first sorted by occupation  
zone and secondly by sector of industry.  
1949-1950. 1 bundle

### 2. SALE AND ALLOCATION OF GOODS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR

- 806-808. Public sale catalogue with equipment recovered in Germany, sold by the  
Registration and Domains Office.  
1946-1951. 3 bundles
806. 2 Dec. 1946 – 16 Dec. 1948.
807. 27 Jan. 1949 – 24 Nov. 1949.
808. 26 Jan. 1950 – 13 Sept. 1952.
809. Reports on the public sale of equipment recovered in Germany.  
1947-1951. 1 envelope
810. Expert reports and contract specifications for the allocation of equipment from  
reparations, including DER circular letter no. 42 on the procedure for ceding

- industrial equipment from Germany to the private sector.  
1951-1952. 1 envelope
- 811-813. General file on the reparations goods from Germany allocated to N.V. Vernis Claessens at Antwerp.  
1946-1953. 3 envelopes
811. Correspondence (received letter and minutes of sent letters (with annexes)) between the DER and N.V. Vernis Claessens.  
1946-1953.
812. Financial documents on the settlement of expenses for transport, storage and maintenance of goods from Germany at factory no. 32.  
1947-1949.
813. Financial documents on the settlement of expenses for transport, storage and maintenance of goods from Germany at factories no. 15 and no. 1023.  
1947-1948.

## V. DIRECTORATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

From the mid-1950s, the Ministry for Economic Affairs also charged the DER with purely economic and commercial missions. With the DER, the former ministers hoped to have a versatile work instrument at their disposal that could handle the state's supervision of economic transactions in order to relieve the ministerial departments. Thanks to its expertise gathered throughout the years with regard to recuperation, coordination of reparations and trade with Germany, the DER was particularly qualified for commercial activities within an international environment in which economic activity was still coping with uncertainty.

### A. DOMESTIC MARKET

In the national economy, the DER was active in those sectors that provided serious economic boom perspectives in the late 1950s, such as the Belgian coal and textile industry. As the amount of extracted coal steadily increased, it was decided to aid the mining companies by simplifying the warranting of the coal. Financing by banks was ensured by establishing the coal mines as bailees of commodities that served as a sort of non-moving guarantee: the DER supervised the warrant, the value and volume of the pawned coal stock. Concerning the Belgian textile industry, in particular the flax industry, the DER was entitled to make conditional advance payments (allocated by the council of Ministers) in form of bonuses for flax firms that produced spinnable flax filaments.

#### 1. GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE BELGIAN COAL INDUSTRY

##### a. Schuman plan

814. "Législation sur l'assurance chômage", compendium of Belgian post-war legislation on unemployment insurance, compiled by Fédéchar.  
1953. 1 document

815. Thematic folder on accounting regulations for receipts and expenditures of the coal mines, set up within the framework of the Schuman plan.  
1952. 1 envelope
816. Thematic folder with reports on the accounting plan proposed by Fédéchar to the production department of the National Council for Coal Mines (*Nationale Raad voor de Steenkolenmijnen/Conseil national des Charbonnages*).  
1949-1950. 1 envelope
817. Thematic folder on the “operation taxes” charged on coal production in order to finance the administration of the European Coal and Steel Community.  
1952. 1 envelope
818. Thematic folder on the temporary payments for adaptations of prices to the receipts from the coal production in the transitional period of the Schuman plan.  
1952-1953. 1 envelope
819. Thematic folder on the Belgian post-war legislation on social security and wages of miners.  
1951-1952. 1 envelope
- b. Coal mines**
820. Excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal (for trading companies) on the balance sheets of various coal mines, sorted alphabetically.  
1954-1955. 1 envelope  
*Content:* alphabetical overview.
821. Received letters, minutes of sent letters, excerpts from the Belgian official Journal and publications on the statutes of the Belgian coal mines.  
(1939) 1950-1961. 1 bundle  
*Sorting:* the documents are sorted alphabetically from A to W.
- 822-823. Notes (with annexes) and press excerpts from Belgian newspapers (in French) on the coal industry.  
1950-1954. 2 bundles  
*Content:* contains an alphabetical overview with keywords.
822. A-N.
823. O-Z.
- c. Documents of various type**
824. Draft note by Mouteau about the monthly provision of statistics on warranties for coal stocks to the DER.  
[1958]. 1 document
825. Minutes of notes on payments in kind to refugees and *Displaced Persons* involved in the Belgian mission for the recruitment of coal miners.  
1948. 2 documents

**2. SUPPORT TO BELGIAN FLAX INDUSTRY**

- 826-827. File card system on allowances paid to flax workers, alphabetically sorted by family name of the beneficiary.  
1959-1960. 2 boxes
826. A-M.
827. N-W.
828. Excerpts from the Belgian Official Journal and draft of an unpublished Royal Decree on the allocation of allowances to Belgian flax fibre production industry.  
1960. 3 documents

**B. FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The DER came into action as a negotiation and coordination authority in international economic relations when bilateral trade failed to run smoothly. This was among others the case in the mid-1950s, when the trade balances and financial relations between the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union and Turkey deteriorated to the disadvantage of the latter. The DER was charged with the supervision of the trade transactions with Turkey in order to channel the outstanding debt claims on this country (due to high prices in Turkey) by stimulating barter trade between Belgium and Turkey. One means to do so was to allocate bonuses to importers of Turkish products and to grant back-payments in priority to Belgian debtees against a specific percentage on the debt claim. The DER played a similar mediation role in 1958, when the trade relations between Belgium and the German Democratic Republic (not officially recognised by our country) threatened to come to a standstill. The Department led negotiations and carried out supervision of the (observance of) trade regulations and agreements regarding the exchange of goods between the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) and the German Democratic Republic from 1959 to 1960.

**1. EAST-GERMANY**

829. File on the industry fair in Hannover, held 2-5 May 1961.  
1961. 1 envelope  
*Content:* three colour photographs.
- 830-834. Import and export licences overview for industrial and economic goods to East Germany.  
1961-1965. 5 envelopes
830. Import, 1961.
831. Import, 1962.
832. Export, 1962.
833. Import, 1963.
834. Export, 1963.  
*Content:* also contains overviews about the import and export for December 1964 and December 1965.

## 2. TURKEY

### a. Settlement of commercial debt claims on Turkey

#### (1) General

835. Received letters and minutes of sent letters (with annexes) exchanged between the DER, the National Bank and the Belgium-Luxembourg Institute for Exchange regarding commercial debt claims on Turkey. 1956-1959. 1 bundle
836. Received letters, minutes of sent letters (with annexes), reports and circular letters on the settlement of outstanding commercial debt claims on Turkey. 1957-1959. 1 bundle

#### (2) Individual files

- 837-868. Files on companies resorting to the DER in order to settle commercial debt claims on Turkey. 1957-1960. 32 envelopes  
*Sorting:* the files are sorted alphabetically by company name. Due to the waiting times that the mediation procedure via the DER caused, the inclusive dates of all files listed below are identical.
837. ACEC (S.A. des Ateliers de Construction électriques) at Charleroi.
838. Société industrielle Alfa S.A. at Brussels.
839. Arpic Engineering at Wilrijk.
840. Bamboli Cultuurmaatschappij at Antwerp.
841. Compagnie commerciale Belexium S.A. at Brussels.
842. Société carbochimique at Brussels.
843. S.A. Chrysler at Antwerp.
844. Comptoir belge de l'Azote – Belgisch Stikstofbureau at Brussels.
845. S.A. Columeta (Comptoir métallurgique luxembourgeois) at Brussels.
846. S.A. Comorient at Brussels.
847. S.A. Continental Pharma at Brussels.
848. S.A. des Tôleries Delloye-Matthieu at Marchin.
849. S.A. Fabrique belge de Couleurs d'Aniline Paul Entrop at Haren.
850. S.A. Fabelta, Union des Fabriques belges de Textiles artificielles at Brussels.
851. A.T. Germeau at Brussels.
852. Gevaert Photo-producten at Mortsel.
853. S.A. Glaces et Verres (Glaver) at Brussels.
854. S.A. Hadir, Hautes Fourreaux et Aciéries at Luxemburg.
855. BVBA Laboratoire Radio électrique at Herstal.
856. Etablissements Limborgh & co at Antwerp.
857. S.A. Louisiane-Texas (Loutex) at Ghent.
858. S.A. La Magneto belge at Brussels.
859. S.A. Manufacture belge de Lampes et de Matériel (MBLE) at Brussels.
860. S.A. Société commerciale de Sidérurgie at Brussels.
861. S.A. Phenix Works at Flémalle-Haute.
862. S.A. Ancienne Maison Louis Sanders at Brussels.
863. S.A. Tubes de Haren at Brussels.
864. S.A. Ucometal (Union commerciale belge de Métallurgie) at Brussels.
865. N.V. Etablissements Antoine Van Genechten at Turnhout.



866. S.A. Verenigde Fabriek Vermeulen & Verbeeck at Roesselare.
867. S.A. des Verreries de Fauquez at Fauquez-lez-Virginal.
868. S.A. Société des Mines et Fonderies de Zinc de la Vieille-Montagne at Liège.
- 869-996. Files on the companies that did not resort to the DER to settle outstanding commercial debt claims on Turkey.  
1957-1959. 128 envelopes
869. S.A. Usines et Aciéries Allard at Charleroi.  
1958.
870. Alphonse Als.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
871. Alfred Ancion. Laminoirs à Zinc de la Fonderie-Trooz at Trooz.  
1957-1959.
872. S.A. Usines Balteau at Liège.  
1957.
873. Belgian Cement Shipping Agency at Antwerp.
874. Bell Telephone.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
875. S.A. Maison B. Bernard (export) at Brussels.  
1957-1959.
876. Bosshardt.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
877. S.A. des Bougies de la Cour et de Roubaix Oedenkoven at Oelegem.  
1957.
878. Bousman.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
879. Carrette Gebroeders.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
880. S.A. Christiaens. Manufacture de Produits pharmaceutiques at Brussels.  
1957.
881. S.A. Cigrang Frères at Antwerp.  
1957-1958.
882. S.A. Ciments d'Obourg at Obourg.  
1957.
883. S.A. Ciments Portland.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
884. Citrique Belse.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
885. Société commerciale Clabecq.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
886. S.P.R.L. Maison J. Claes & co at Brussels.  
1957.

887. S.A. Vernis Claessens at Deurne.  
1957.
888. Werkhuisen Leon Claeys pbva at Zedelgem.  
1957.
889. S.A. Cockerill-Ougrée at Seraing.  
1957.
890. Comptoir commercial B.E.M.A. at Brussels.  
1957.
891. Compagnie générale des Conduites d'Eau at Liège.  
1957.
892. S.A. Constructions électriques du Nord de la Belgique at Vielsalm.  
1957-1958.
893. S.A. Compagnie continentale d'Appareils de Mesure at Brussels.  
1957-1959.
894. Cooreman.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
895. Corderies & Cableries belges.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
896. Cotonnerie d'Amougies.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
897. Couvreur.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
898. S.A. Crown Cork Company at Merksem.  
1957.
899. S.A. J.C. De Coninck & Fils at Merksem.  
1957.
900. De Craeker.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
901. Deerlijkse.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
902. S.A. Armement Deppe at Antwerp.  
1957.
903. De Spa & Fils at Verviers.  
1957.
904. S.A. Des Usines Destrée at Brussels.  
1957.
905. S.A. Dhellemmes & Masurel at Antwerp.  
1957-1959.
906. S.A. Dobertin & Compagnie at Brussels.  
1957.
907. Dorsan, Loncke.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.

908. Louis Dreyfus et Compagnie at Antwerp.  
1957.
909. Duesberg-Bosson.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
910. Duesberg de la Morinerie at Verviers.  
1957.
911. Dugard, Jean-marie at Verviers.  
1957.
912. Englebert & Compagnie at Liège.  
1957.
913. Eteco.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
914. N.V. Eternit at Kapelle-Op-Den-Bos.  
1957.
915. S.A. Société sucrière d'Etudes et de Construction at Tienen.  
1957.
916. S.A. Filature et Filteries rémis Alost at Aalst.  
1957.
917. S.A. Filatures gantoises réunis at Ghent.  
1957.
918. S.A. Filcotex at Ghent.  
1957.
919. S.A. La Floridienne. J. Buttgenbach et Compagnie at Brussels.  
1957.
920. S.A. Ford Motor Company at Antwerp.  
1957.
921. S.A. Forges de Clabecq at Clabecq.  
1957.
922. S.A. Louvière Jules Gaye et Compagnie at Verviers.  
1957.
923. S.A. General Motors Continental at Antwerp.  
1957.
924. S.P.R.L. Etablissements Germeau. Produits métallurgiques at Liège.  
1957-1959.
925. Grandjean-Hauzeur at Verviers.  
1957.
926. Hart.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
927. Hauzem-Gérard & Fils.  
1957.
928. S.A. Etablissements Emile Henin at Verviers.  
1957.
929. Fernand Houget. Fabrique de Garnitures de Cordes at Verviers.  
1957.
930. S.A. Ateliers Houget at Verviers.

931. Huysen.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
932. S.A. Interfico at Brussels.  
1957.
933. S.A. Société belge des Etablissements Jourde at Lokeren.  
1957-1958.
934. S.A. Compagnie commerciale Kreglinger at Antwerp.  
1957-1958.
935. S.A. RIT (Recherche & Industrie thérapeutiques) at Genval.  
1957-1959.
936. S.P.R.L. S.E.P.B.A. Société d'Expansion pharmaceutique belgo-américaine.  
1957-1958.
937. S.A. La Lainière at Verviers.  
1957.
938. S.A. Le Laminage à Froid at Carnières.  
1957.
939. Laminoirs & Tref. D'Anvers ("Lamitref").  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
940. Laurent Frères.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
941. Etablissements Lecluse Frères S.A. at Tiegem.  
1957-1958.
942. Leveaux, Guillaume.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
943. Lokeroise.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
944. S.A. "Le Lys" at Hamme-Durme.  
1957.
945. R. Maes Export & Import S.A. at Berchem.  
1957-1958.
946. Manufactures de Cables électriques et de Caoutchouc S.A. at Verviers.  
1957.
947. Maison Mathieu S.A. Export of Steel & Metalproducts at Antwerp.  
1957-1958.
948. Matières premières et Métaux S.A. "Mapremet" at Brussels.  
1957.
949. S.A. Compagnie métallurgique de la Campine at Brussels.  
1957.
950. Métallurgique Esperance-Lonoz.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.
951. Métallurgie liégeoise.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts*: only contains one empty file jacket.

952. S.A. Métallurgique de Prayon at Trooz.  
1957.
953. S.A. Compagnie des Métaux d'Overpelt-Lommel et de Corphalie at Brussels.  
1957-1958.
954. Motomachine.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
955. Usine à Métaux Alfred Molinet at Tubemont.  
1957-1958.
956. S.A. Novak. Radio & Télévision at Brussels.  
1957.
957. Textielfabriek Nuyttens Théo & Omer at Deerlijk.  
1957.
958. Parsons.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
959. S.A. Peignage d'Eecloo te Eekloo.  
1957.
960. S.A. Peignage de Laines de Hoboken at Hoboken.  
1957-1958.
961. Pelitzer & Fils.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
962. Pfizer Corporation at Brussels.  
1957.
963. Picanol.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
964. Pirnay.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
965. S.P.R.L. Probel. Produits chimiques & pharmaceutiques at Brussels.  
1957.
966. S.A. de Rothem at Liège.  
1957-1959.
967. S.A. Usine Louis Rubbens at Lokeren.  
1957.
968. S.A. Sabewool at Mouscron.  
1957.
969. Schmid Frères.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
970. S.P.R.L. Etablissements A.M. Seynaeve & Fils at Oostrozebeke.  
1957.
971. S.A. Sidem at Oudergem/Auderghem (Brussels).  
1957.
972. Société commerciale Siderurgie Aciéries & Minières de la Sambre.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.

973. Société commerciale Siderurgie Laminoirs d'Anvers.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
974. Société commerciale de Sidérurgie at Brussels.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
975. S.A. Iwan Simonis at Verviers.  
1957.
976. Sweets Frères at Anderlecht.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
977. Sogeminco.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
978. Sovatex.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
979. S.A. Stimex. Importation Exportation at Brussels.  
1957.
980. Sarl André Toulemonde Fils at Mouscron.  
1957.
981. S.A. Tubes de Nimy at Nimy-Lez-Mons.  
1957-1958.
982. S.A. Union chimique belge at Brussels.  
1957.
983. Union des Tisseurs de Jute.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
984. Urlich.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
985. Usines Boulonneries et Etirage de la Louvière.  
1957.
986. Felicien van de Moortel. Agent des Compagnies maritimes et aériennes at Brussels.  
1957.
987. Van Diest.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
988. Van Haute-Vercauteren.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
989. Verreries réunies du Val-Saint-Lambert & de Momignies at Momignies.  
1957.
990. S.A. Vidal Romano & Co at Brussels.  
1957.
991. Wanson.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.

992. Etablissements Wilford S.A. at Brussels.  
1957.
993. Wolfs.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
994. N.V. Etablissements Wijnands at Antwerp.  
1957.
995. Zurstrassen & Fils.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one empty file jacket.
996. Zurstrassen, Victor & Co at Verviers.  
1957.
- 997-1069. Files on companies with outstanding commercial debt claims on Turkey interested  
in obtaining an import/export bonus via the DER. 73 envelopes  
(1950, 1955) 1956-1960.
997. M. Allamanis, tobacco importer.  
1957.
998. Firma Arman at Antwerp.  
1957.
999. Société Arpic.  
1957.
1000. S.P.R.L. Edmond Barro & Compagnie at Verviers.  
1958.
1001. Belgian Grain & Produce co. Ltd. at Antwerp.  
1957.
1002. S.A. Léonard Biemans at Turnhout.  
1958.
1003. S.A. Produits Bios. Etablissements Coutelier Frères at Brussels.  
1957.
1004. Nationale Bank. Firma Dhellens en Masurel at Antwerp.  
1957.
1005. S.A. Benetab at Brussels.  
1957.
1006. Johan Boeckx N.V. at Antwerp.  
1958-1960.
1007. S.P.R.L. Brocarel at Brussels.  
1958.
1008. Distillerie Bruggeman at Ghent.  
1958.
1009. S.A. Bunge at Antwerp.  
1956.
1010. S.A. Etablissements Camerman at Antwerp.  
1958.
1011. S.A. Cobelex at Antwerp.  
1958.
1012. S.A. Société de Commission at Antwerp.  
1957.

1013. S.A. Comorient at Brussels.  
1957-1958.
1014. Comptoir de Vente. Jus de Réglisse et ses Dérivés d'Origine turcque at Brussels.  
1958.
1015. Consortium belge de Tissage at Brussels.  
1957.
1016. Coopval. Poudreries royales at Wetteren.  
1958.
1017. Usines cotonnières de Belgique at Ghent.  
1957.
1018. Coutinbo Caro et Compagnie at Antwerp.  
1957.
1019. S.A. Anciens Etablissements H. Dresse at Brussels.  
1957.
1020. S.A. Filature & Filteries réunies at Aalst.  
1957.
1021. S.A. Fonderies St.-Joseph & Samson réunies at Seilles.  
1957.
1022. S.A. Société des Produits chimiques Coignet. Division Gélatines Hasselt & Vilvoorde at Brussels.  
1957.
1023. S.A. Les Tanneries Gérard at Soignies.  
1957.
1024. Nevres Gökçe at Izmir (Turkey).  
1957-1958.
1025. Asbl Groupement national des Importateurs et de Négoce de Laine at Brussels.  
1957.
1026. S.A. Etablissements Hachu at Brussels.  
1957-1958.
1027. Hauzeur-Gérard Fils at Verviers.  
1957.
1028. S.A. Hottlet & Compagnie at Antwerp.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1029. Jacques Houben-Texticuir at Brussels.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1030. Amédée Huyghe at Brussels.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1031. S.A. Impéria at Nessonvaux-lez-Liège.  
(1955) 1957.
1032. Société commerciale d'Importation at Brussels.  
1956.
1033. Intercontinentale de Compensation at Brussels.  
1956-1957.
1034. Italcongo at Milan (Italy).  
1958.



1035. Isak M. Kori at Izmir (Turkey).  
1957.
1036. Constructions mécaniques “Loup” at Brussels.  
1957.
1037. A. Lesire, G. Bruyndonckx & Compagnie at Scheut-Anderlecht (Brussels).  
1957.
1038. Filature de Coton. Leurent Frères S.P.R.L. at Avelgem.  
1957.
1039. S.P.R.L. Etablissements Longeval at Deux-Acren.  
1957.
1040. S.A. Meses-Goris & Fils at Turnhout.  
1957.
1041. S.A. Etablissements Markelbach & Corne at Antwerp.  
1957-1958.
1042. S.A. Filature et Tissage de Moen (Liquidation company) at Moen.  
1957.
1043. Marcel Morissen at Antwerp.  
1957-1958.
1044. S.A. Wm. H. Müller & Co. at Liège-Antwerp.  
1957.
1045. Société coopérative Manufactures des Papeteries de Genval.  
1957.
1046. S.A. Usines Peters-Lacroix at Haren-Brussels.  
1957.
1047. Pfizercorporation at Brussels.  
1957-1958.
1048. S.A. Philipp Brothers at Brussels.  
1958.
1049. Etablissements Emile Pladet at Hoboken.  
1957.
1050. S.A. Sadaci (Société anonyme d’Application de Chimie industrielle) at Langerbrugge.  
1958.
1051. Société Secalt at Luxembourg.  
1958.
1052. S.P.R.L. Etablissements A.M. Seynaeve & Fils at Oostrozebeke.  
(1956) 1957.
1053. Yuda Leon Sformes at Izmir (Turkey).  
1958.
1054. S.A. Sicomet at Brussels.  
1957-1958.
1055. Sobreco. Société belge de representation et de commerce at Brussels.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1056. S.A. Soco-Filtra at Brussels.  
1957.
1057. S.A. Stimex at Brussels.  
1957.

1058. Wilfried Thienpondt at Vichte.  
1957.
1059. Transtürck Ltd. at Istanbul.  
1958.
1060. Société commerciale Turco-belge at Brussels.  
1957.
1061. Société d'Expansion Turco-bruxelloise at Brussels.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1062. Univerbel S.A. at Charleroi.  
1957-1958.
1063. S.A. Filatures et Tissages "Union cotonnière" at Ronse.  
1957.
1064. Vochram at Brussels.  
1957.
1065. S.P.R.L. Tissage mécanique Van Craeynest & Compagnie at Zwevegem.  
[1957].  
*Missing parts:* only contains one company name card.
1066. Van den Broeck, Henri at Zele.  
(1950, 1956) 1957.
1067. S.P.R.L. Jacques Van Rossom at Antwerp.  
1957.
1068. Oscar Verhaeghen at Antwerp.  
1957.
1069. Charles Wilco at Ghent.  
1957.
- 1070-1089. Files on the settlement of outstanding debt claims on Turkey via import [red series].  
1956-1959. 15 envelopes, 24 documents  
*Sorting:* the files are alphabetically sorted by subject.
1070. Import of citrus fruit and onions.  
1957-1958 5 documents
1071. Import of bird seed.  
1957-1958. 1 envelope
1072. Payment of outstanding debts to Belgian creditors by Asbelturc vzw/asbl.  
1956-1959. 1 envelope
1073. Import of boracite.  
1957-1958. 1 envelope
1074. Sale of Turkish grain via the United States.  
1958. 1 envelope
1075. Cotton.  
1956-1958. 1 envelope
1076. Dried figs.  
1956-1957. 7 documents
1077. Dried fruit.  
1957. 6 documents
1078. Wool.  
1958. 1 envelope

1079.	Minerals. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1080.	Hazelnuts. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1081.	Walnut. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1082.	Opium. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1083.	Pistachio. 1956-1957.	3 documents
1084.	Pyrites. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1085.	Raisins. 1957-1958.	1 envelope
1086.	Sulphur. 1957.	3 documents
1087.	Tobacco. 1957-1959.	1 envelope
1088.	Outstanding commercial debt claims on Turkey in other European countries (France, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia). 1956-1957.	1 envelope
1089.	Mission of the DER to Ankara within the framework of commercial relations with Turkey. 1956-1957.	1 envelope
1090-1112.	Files on import operations [green series]. 1957-1959.	23 envelopes
1090.	File on the mission of the DER to Ankara. 1957-1958.	
1091.	File on the mission of the DER to Turkey in July 1957. 1957.	
1092.	File on the import of 20 tons of “noisettes décortiquées” (peeled nuts) [file code CI 1]. 1957.	
1093.	File on the import of 40 tons of “noisettes décortiquées” [file code CI 2]. 1957.	
1094.	File on the import of 50 tons of “noisettes décortiquées” [file code CI 3]. 1957.	
1095.	File on the import of 20 tons of “noisettes décortiquées” [file code CI 4]. 1957-1958.	
1096.	File on the import of 40 tons of tobacco, picked in 1955 [file code CI 5]. 1957-1958.	
1097.	File on the import of 40-50 tons of tobacco, picked in 1956 [file code CI 6]. 1957-1958.	
1098.	File on the import of 10 tons of tobacco [file code CI 7]. 1957-1958.	
1099.	File on the import of 145 tons of tobacco, picked in 1954 [file code CI 8]. 1957-1958.	

1100. File on the import of 3000 wooden boxes and 3000 cardboard boxes of figs from Smyrna [file code CI 9].  
1958.
1101. File on the import of 10 tons of liquorice juice [file code CI 10].  
1958.
1102. File on the import of 1,447.5 kilograms glycyrrhizin and 52.5 kilograms of foaming [file code CI 11].  
1958.
1103. File on the import of 2000 boxes (of 14 kilograms each) of dried raisins [file code CI 13].  
1958.  
*Missing parts:* the file with code CI 12 lacks.
1104. File on the import of 10 tons of mohair [file code CI 14].  
1957-1958.
1105. File on the import of 5 tons of mohair [file code CI 15].  
1958.
1106. File on the import of 5 tons of mohair [file code CI 16].  
1958.
1107. File on the import of 10 tons of mohair [file code CI 17].  
1958.
1108. File on the import of 5 tons of mohair [file code CI 18].  
1958.
1109. File on the import of 18 tons of mohair [file code CI 19].  
1958.
1110. File on the import of 5 tons of mohair [file code CI 20].  
1958.
1111. File on the import of 15 tons of raw opium [file code CI 21].  
1958-1959.
1112. File on the import of 5,040 kilograms of hazelnuts and 10 tons of mohair [file code CI 22].  
1958-1959.

(3) *Financial reports*

1113. Statement of debt claims on Turkey for amounts higher than 250,000 Belgian Francs, established by the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union.  
1949-1955. 1 bundle  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
1114. Addenda to the statement of debt claims on Turkey for amounts higher than 250,000 Belgian Francs.  
1952-1955. 1 bundle  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
1115. Overview of the adaptations of the chronological order of debt claims.  
1955. 1 envelope  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
1116. Statement of outstanding debts of amounts higher than 250,000 Belgian Francs.  
1955. 1 envelope  
*Information:* two copies preserved.

1117. Addenda to the statement of debt claims on Turkey for amounts higher than 250,000 Belgian Francs.  
1955. 1 envelope
1118. Statement of remaining debt claims on Turkey after 1 April 1955.  
1957. 1 envelope  
*Information:* two copies preserved.
1119. Statement of debt claims (with cover letter and notes) on Turkey expiring between 1 April 1955 and 7 August 1958.  
1959. 1 envelope
1120. Statement of debt claims on Turkey following the 1954 fair at Izmir (with addendum).  
1954. 1 envelope

#### **b. Gathering of documentation**

- 1121-1124. Publications of various types on the Turkish productivity and the economic transactions with Turkey.  
1957-1959. 4 parts
1121. Annual report 1956 of the management board of the “Fédération belgo-luxembourgeoise des industries de Tabac”.  
1956.  
Printed: Brussels, 1956.
1122. “Belgian Export Industry. Officieel Belgisch Repertorium”.  
1958.  
Printed: Brussels, 1958.
1123. “Chamber of Commerce of Izmir”.  
1959.  
Printed: Izmir, 1959.
1124. “Monopoles d’Etat de Turquie”.  
[ca. 1957].  
Printed: s.l., ca. 1957.

### **VI. ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT AT THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE FOR PROVISIONING AND THE BELGIAN OFFICE FOR ECONOMY AND AGRICULTURE (BDBL/OBEA)**

- 1125-1128. Files on the archives and documentation management at the Commercial Office for Provisioning (*Handelsdienst voor Ravitaillering (HDR)/Office Commercial de Ravitaillement (OCRA)*) and the legal successor of the DER, namely the Belgian Office for Economy and Agriculture (*Belgische Dienst voor Bedrijfsleven en Landbouw (BDBL)/Office belge de l’Economie et de l’Agriculture(OBEA)*).  
1956-1972. 4 envelopes
1125. Management of archives and financial evidence by the HDR/OCRA.  
1956-1969.
1126. Archives management of the BDBL/OBEA and the HDR/OCRA.  
1958-1972.  
Contains documents pertaining to research for information on and contacts with the Belgian State Archives.

1127. Clearing out the BDBL/OBEA archives repositories, in collaboration with the National Archives.  
1970-1971.
1128. Inventory of archival documents originating from various institutions (among which the National Agriculture and Food Corporation (*Nationale Landbouw- en Voedingscorporatie (NLVC)/Corporation nationale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation (CNAA)*), transferred to the archives and documentation office of the BDBL/OBEA.  
1976.

## VII. ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS WITH NO SPECIFIC RELATION

1129. Copies (in mirror writing) of correspondence about shares owned by Mr. Erreira in the S.A. des Usines Remy.  
1941-1944. 8 documents
1130. Copies of certified copies of two declarations drafted by the *Ortskommandantur* at Brussels, addressed to Ms J. Lamort, about the removal of furniture from her home.  
1959. 2 documents
- 1131-1132. Documents on the supply of industrial goods from Belgian companies to German firms.  
1941-1944. 2,309 digital images  
*Information:* these images were initially stored on microfilms that were digitised by the National Archives.
1131. Invoices and payment orders.  
1941-1944. 1,908 digital images
1132. Declarations and warrants issued by the *Rüstungs-Inspekteur* of the *Rüstungs-Inspektion Belgien* for the use of Belgian industrial goods by the *Wehrmacht*.  
1943-1944. 401 digital images