



17th FEPTO conference and 29th Annual Meeting

LIÈGE - passion and enthusiasm

Liège



is a major city in Wallonia, the southern, French-speaking part of Belgium. The municipality of Liège has a total population of about 200,000 and its metropolitan area includes 750,000 inhabitants. The city is situated in the valley of the **Meuse**, in the east of Belgium, not far from borders with the Netherlands and Germany.

Liège is the principal economic and cultural center of the region. The city is part of the *sillon industriel*, the former industrial backbone of

Wallonia where the iron and steel industry were extensively developed. Liège has also been an important center for gunsmithing since the Middle Ages. The economy of the region is now diversified and includes mechanical industries, space technology, information technology, biotechnology and the production of water, beer and chocolate. The city is a major educational hub in Belgium. The **University of Liège**, founded in 1817, has 20,000 students.

The city of Liège has without a doubt the most southerly temperament in Belgium. The Liègeois are welcoming, warm, and like to party through the night. Is it not said that Liège is a city of passion?



Liège, the passionate city, is naturally welcoming, and full of **joie de vivre**. The beer is cheap, and the eating scene is authentically local. It delights lovers of good food with its celebrated **Liège waffles** with flavors of cinnamon, caramel and vanilla, or its **meatballs with Liègeoise rabbit sauce** accompanied by homemade fries. **Pèkèt**, originally a white alcohol made of juniper, is available today in a variety of flavors.



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Georges Simenon, the celebrated and prolific author who published nearly 500 novels and is best known as the creator of the fictional detective [Jules Maigret](#) was born in Liège. In spring, the city hosts the start and finish of the annual [Liège–Bastogne–Liège cycling race](#), the oldest of the [five monuments of cycling](#).

Liège never ceases to modernize and evolve. [Guillemins railway station](#), designed by the Spanish architect [Calatrava](#), stands out with its dramatic, aerial structure, as Liège, more than ever, opens its doors to

visitors who come out of curiosity and return for the warm welcome and personality of the place.

Liège is like a living architectural “onion” with layer upon layer of history lying just beneath the surface. The tradition and charm of the past can be found in the Place du Marché, at the foot of the steps, a symbol of the freedom of the city. Dead ends, alleys and old buildings crisscross the main streets and neighborhoods. Wonderful religious buildings are part of the scene, such as the fabulous [Cathedral of Saint-Paul of Liège](#), the [Collegiate Church of Saint-Denis](#), the Saint Jacques church, the [baptismal fonts of the Collegiate Church of Saint-Bartholomew](#), the [Palace of the Princes-Bishops](#) which overlooks the place Saint-Lambert, the popular district of rue Pierreuse, the [Bueren staircases](#) and the [verdant hillsides](#).



In the fiery city, all is passion and enthusiasm.

