

Kring van zeewerende ingenieurs

# KRING 2007

23 - 25 September 2007  
Bruges, Belgium



**AFDELING KUST**  
Vlaamse overheid

Wout de Vries

Chairman of the Kring van Zeewerende Ingenieurs



Dear members,

For over half a century, the 'Kring van Zeewerende Ingenieurs' meets at the coast of one of the participating countries, to share ideas, insights and practical experiences on coastal engineering and coastal zone management. This year, this international coastal platform will be located in Belgium.

Over 50 years ago, the Kring started as a meeting of Dutch engineers, who were involved in sea defence improvements that were needed at a large scale after the 1953 storm surge disaster. The increasing international contacts with coastal professionals of neighbouring countries made it a next logical step to expand the Kring. Nowadays, over 100 participants from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom join this gathering. In this way, the professional skills and contacts regarding the coastlines of the European Union that border the North and the Baltic Seas are strengthened.

I am convinced that also this year's program, which has been prepared by our colleagues of the Flemish Ministry of Public Works will be very interesting. I therefore expect to meet the faithful Kring participants, and hope to welcome many new colleagues too.

Handwritten signature of Wout de Vries.

Wout de Vries

Chairman of the  
Kring van Zeewerende Ingenieurs



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Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Flemish Coastal Division, I have the pleasure to invite you to the KRING Meeting 2007. The meeting will take place in Brugge (Bruges) on 23, 24 and 25 September.

Although the Belgian coastline is only 65km long, a large number of activities take place in this zone. Next to coastal protection, environmental, economic, social, cultural and recreational aspects influence this area. An integrated approach at the level of coastal management is therefore needed.

During the KRING Meeting 2007 we will focus on the east coast, situated between Oostende and The Netherlands, which is affected by important coastal erosion. In the past, coastal protection was guaranteed by artificial reinforcements, such as dykes and groynes. Since many years 'soft' techniques are preferred. For example large scale beach nourishments took place at Oostende, De Haan and Knokke-Heist.

To guarantee an acceptable safety level of the coastal protection an important study is now being carried out.

The complexity of combining coastal protection measures with other activities in such a small area makes it interesting and worthwhile to visit this unique low lying coastal strip along the North Sea. But Belgium has of course more to offer... You will be staying in the lovely city of Brugge where you'll have the opportunity to explore and taste the Belgian culture and hospitality.

Hope to welcome you all in September.  
Kind regards,

  
Ir. Peter DeWolf  
Head Coastal Section



## Kring 2007 Programme

### Sunday 23 September 2007

Afternoon    Arrival of delegates

Evening      Dinner with speakers in hotel

### Monday 24 September 2007

Morning      Tour in harbour of Zeebrugge

Afternoon    Visit nature reserve Zwin

Evening      Tour in Brugge, the Venice of the North  
Welcoming by Mayor of Brugge + formal dinner

### Tuesday 25 September 2007

Morning      Visit harbour and coastal protection in Oostende

Lunch in Brugge

End of meeting around 14h00

