

**TO NEVER FORGET :
57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY OF MARCINELLE**

The “**Italian National Day of the Sacrifice of Italian Workers in the World**” will be celebrated next Thursday. On that occasion, will take place the commemoration of the 57th anniversary of the tragedy of **Marcinelle** that caused, the 08 August 1956, the death of **136 Italian minors** including **60 from the Abruzzo region**.

The commemoration will run all morning. First, at 8.10 am, at the **Bois du Cazier** where the mine was buried, a **bell tower clock will ring out 262 times**, with the name of each victim read out. Then, a religious ceremony will take place and will be attended by some ministers of different religions.

Finally, delegations will lay flowers in front of the **International Monument to the Victims of Work**, the **Monument to Minors**, the **Monument to the Italian Victims** and close to the **mining site**, which is today turned into a museum recently listed as **UNESCO world heritage**.

As every year, the **Abruzzo region** of Brussels will take part in the ceremony together with the **C.R.A.M.**(the Regional Council of the emigrants from Abruzzo in the world), the **Associations of the emigrants from Abruzzo in Belgium** and some representatives of the local administrations that were the most severely affected by the disaster.

Fifty-seven years ago, the 08 August 1956, as a result of human error, an unprecedented tragedy turned Belgium and all Europe upside down. A fire broke out in one of the **coal mine shafts**: out of **274 minors** who were in the mine when the tragedy struck, **262** died. They came from 12 different countries.

That was a terrible disaster: there was no way out for the minors who died of suffocation caused by smoke inhalation.

Their living and working conditions were very poor and the rescue operations were unsuccessful.

At that time, some **140 000 workers**, including 18 000 women and 29 000 children, moved to Belgium. Many of them came from the Abruzzo region.

The **Marcinelle**, **Monongah** (West Virginia) and **Dawson** (New Mexico) mine disasters are among the most appalling and painful events of the History of immigration.

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