

**IN ORDER NOT TO FORGET: THE 59<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY OF  
MARCINELLE**

The commemorations for the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy of Marcinelle on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1956, which caused the death of 136 Italian minors, including 60 minors from the Abruzzo Region, took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015, during the «**Sacrificio del lavoro italiano nel mondo**» (literally: sacrifice of the Italian work in the world) day.

The commemorations continued over the morning. First, at 08:10 a.m., on the *Bois du Cazier* site, headquarters of the mine, 262 rings of bells remembered each of the victims. Then, a religious celebration took place in the presence of the ministers of the different religions.

By the end, the delegations paid tribute to the victims, laying wreaths in different sites: the *Monumento internazionale ai caduti sul lavoro* (literally: the Fallen Workers International Monument), the *common Monument*, the *Monumento alle vittime italiane* (literally: Italian Victims Monument), and finally near the **mine's site**, where there is now a Museum which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The President of the Regional Council of Abruzzo, **Giuseppe di Pangrazio**, and the mayor of Manoppello, **Gennaro Matarazzo**, confirmed their presences.

As it is the case each year, the **Abruzzo Region** was present, just like the **Regional Council of the Emigrants from Abruzzo in the World (CRAM)**, the **Associations of *Abruzzesi* in Belgium**, and **other representatives of Italian and Belgian Institutions**.

The mining disaster of **Marcinelle**, just as the mining disasters of **Monongah** in West Virginia and Dawson in New Mexico, is sadly one of the most shattering and painful events in the history of emigration.

*(Directorate General - Liaison Activities with the E.U. - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015)*