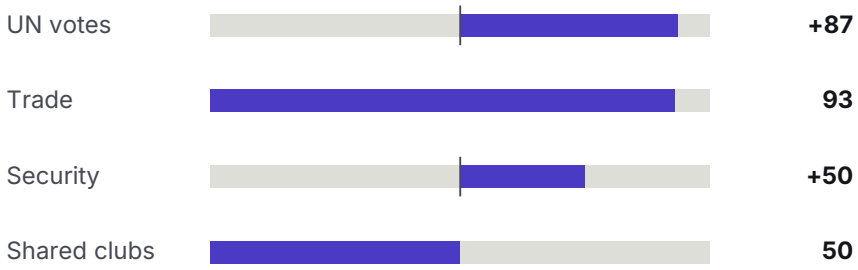
Belgium & Netherlands

+72

Very close

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

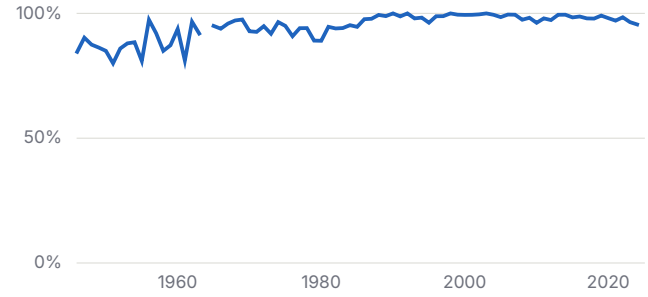


IN SHORT

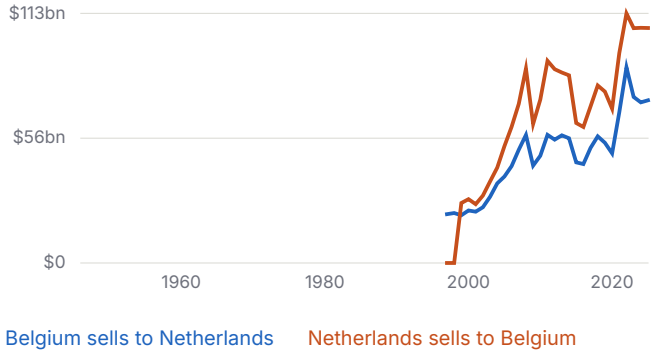
- They are military allies in NATO, and no armed conflict between them is recorded.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 97% (2022–2024), among the highest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($180 billion a year) is very important for Belgium, less so for the Netherlands.
- At the UN they name each other about equally often (13 and 17 sentences).
- 136,000 people born in the Netherlands live in Belgium (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

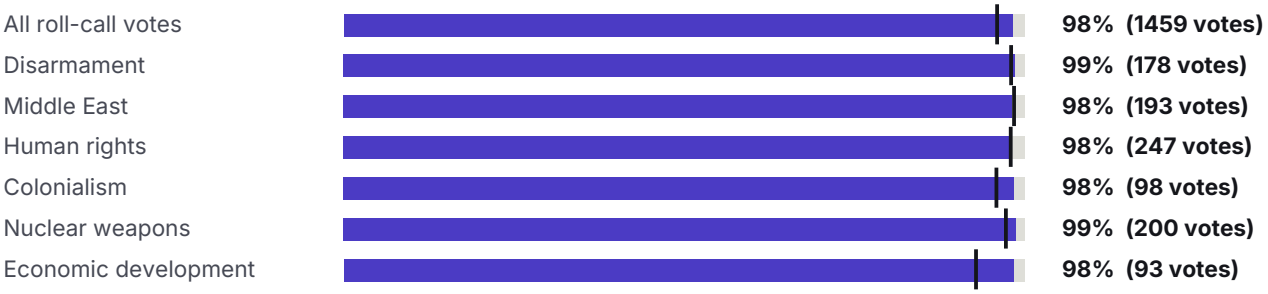
Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Belgium and the Netherlands was 97% in 2022–2024. For Belgium, the Netherlands is the 19th closest voting partner out of 191; for the Netherlands, Belgium is the 8th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $180 billion a year in 2023–2025: 16.8% of all Belgium's trade and 10.5% of the Netherlands'. The Netherlands is Belgium's largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Belgium has named the Netherlands in 13 sentences of its General Debate speeches; the Netherlands has named Belgium in 17.
Security	Both are NATO members, and no armed conflict between them is recorded.
People	68,000 people born in Belgium live in the Netherlands and 136,000 born in the Netherlands live in Belgium (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 129 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	270 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as
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