Belgium & North Korea

−27

Distant

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

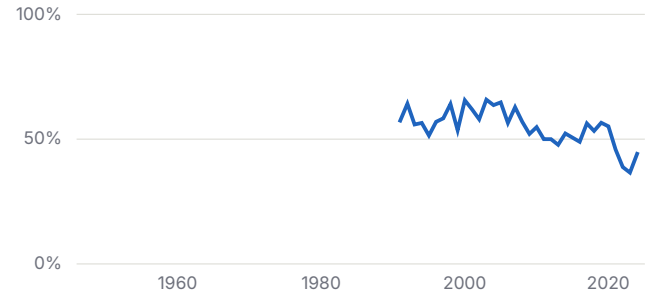
UN votes	−77
Trade	0
Security	0
Shared clubs	0

IN SHORT

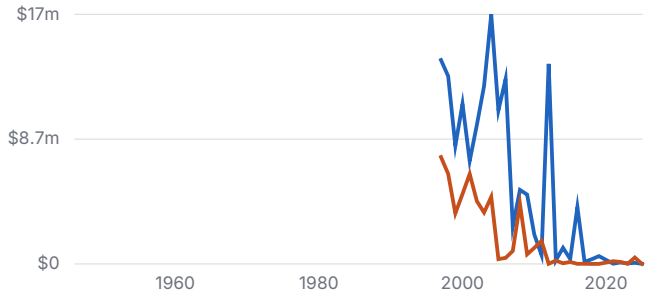
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in North Korea, South Korea, with Belgium supporting another party, most recently in 1953.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 40% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($193 thousand a year) is a very small part of either country's trade, under 0.5%.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Belgium names North Korea far more often than the reverse (9 sentences against 0).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Belgium sells to North Korea North Korea sells to Belgium

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (89% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (36%), against 58% on all votes since 2010.

All roll-call votes	58%	(1333 votes)
Disarmament	47%	(159 votes)
Middle East	89%	(192 votes)
Human rights	36%	(230 votes)
Colonialism	76%	(98 votes)
Nuclear weapons	40%	(187 votes)
Economic development	63%	(86 votes)

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 North Korea was 40% in 2022–2024. For Belgium, North Korea is the 2nd most distant voting partner out of 191; for North Korea, Belgium is the 44th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $193 thousand a year in 2023–2025: less than 0.1% of all Belgium's trade and less than 0.1% of North Korea's.
Words	Since 1946, Belgium has named North Korea in 9 sentences of its General Debate speeches; North Korea has named Belgium in 0.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (North Korea, South Korea, 1951–1953).

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	244 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.

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