

**IN ORDER NOT TO FORGET: THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY OF
MARCINELLE**

The commemorations for the 58th anniversary of the tragedy of Marcinelle on the 8th August 1956, which caused the death of 136 Italian minors, including 60 minors from the Abruzzo Region, took place on the 8th August 2014, during the « **Sacrificio del lavoro italiano nel mondo** » (literally: sacrifice of the Italian work in the world) day.

The commemorations continued throughout 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 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.

(Regional Directorate for Presidency-Liaison activities with E.U. – 27th August 2014)