When the counties of Eupen and Malmedy became part of Belgium in 1920 as a result of the Treaty of Versailles in 1920, there were already five German newspapers in the area. All these newspapers had a more or less adversarial approach to Belgium, and they all called for the realization of a referendum at the very least.

Against this background, *Grenz~Echo* was established in 1927 with the aim of creating a press organ to support and accompany the difficult integration process in Belgium.

After 1933 the paper took a clear position against Hitler and the Nazi Regime. Shortly after, it was banned in neighboring Aachen, and when the Germans marched into Belgium and annexed Eupen-Malmedy in 1940, they immediately shut the paper down.

After the war, *Grenz~Echo* was the first newspaper which could be published, and was even the only remaining newspaper in its area.

Under then-chief editor Henri Michel, who had been held in a concentration camp for five years, the paper pleaded for the return of captive soldiers, and in the fifties, for the right of the German language to exist in Belgium.

Grenz~Echo

Dolomiten -Infografik: J. Markart

Since the beginning of the development and expansion of the German-speaking Community in Eastern Belgium in the Seventies till now the paper is the organ of the German population, articulating and defending their interests, even though this not always suit the ambitions of politicians.

Because of the narrowness of the market, *Grenz~Echo's* circulation and options are very limited. It may survive because in the last twenty years, under the management of publisher Alfred Küchenberg, *Grenz~Echo* has evolved into a successful company including print-specialisation, book publishing and even online service provision (Netecho).

The most important mission and challenge for *Grenz~Echo* in the coming years will be to stand it's ground as an euroregional paper and company settled between traditional linguistic-, nautional- and cultural-borders in an increasingly fast-paced world.

Published in	**Eupen, Belgium**	Paper	**45 g**
Since	**1927**	Proportion of subscription/ kiosk sales	**89%/11%**
Language	**German**	Delivery	**Post 100%**
Editor-in-chief	**Gerhard Cremer**	Total staff	**105**
Printed circulation	**12.500**	Journalists	**13**
Distributed circulation	**11.000**	Freelancers	**30**
Sales circulation	**10.150**	Supplements, format	**A4, TV**
Frequency	**Daily from Monday to Saturday**	Address	**Marktplatz 8 4700 Eupen, Belgium**
Ø Total number of pages/pages in colour	**48/16**		
Proportion of ads/text	**30%/70%**	Phone	**+32 87 591300**
Format	**Berliner Format**	Fax	**+32 87 591304**
Page layout system	**Funkinform**	E-mail	**info@grenzecho.be**
Printing press	**MAN Colorman**	Internet	**www.grenzecho.be**

* Population over 14 who reads the product daily
** Population over 14 who reads the product at least once a week