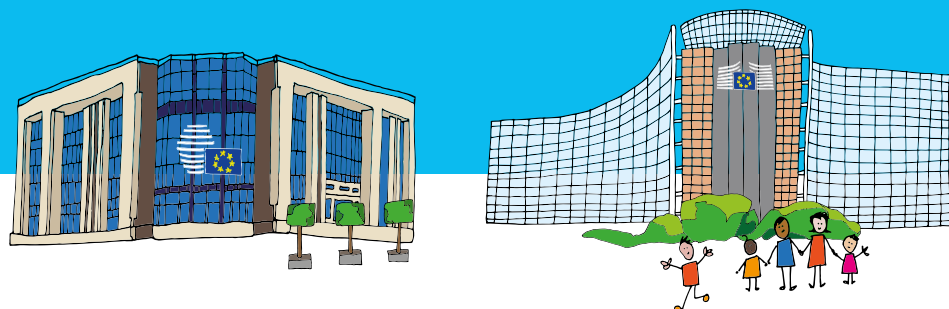
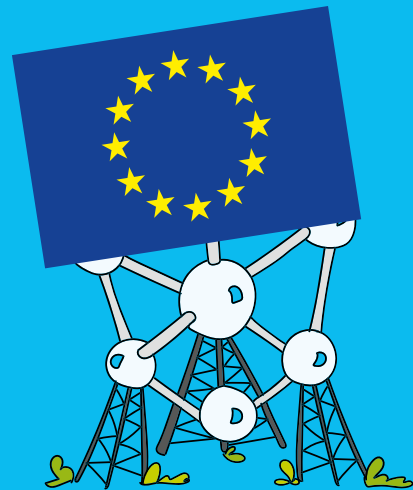


ON SATURDAY 28TH MAY, COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE! 'UNITED IN DIVERSITY'

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation"

Mahatma Gandhi

On Saturday 28 May 2016, the European institutions will be opening their doors to the public. This will be a fun occasion for the whole family to celebrate the diversity of Europe!

The European Union motto 'United in diversity' will be the theme for the 2016 version of this event. Europe is a multi-faceted melting-pot of different languages, cultures, religions and political opinions, and this 'plural' identity is reflected in its fundamental values and governing institutions.

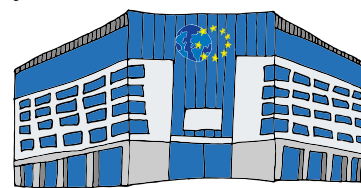
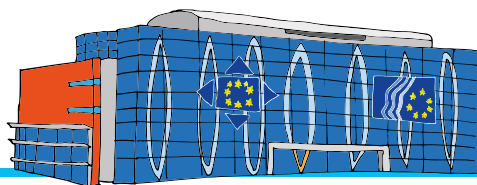
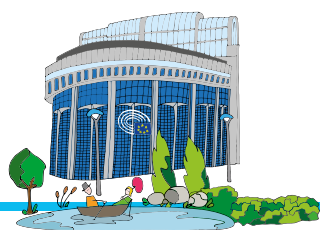
FOCUS ON THE KEY UNDERLYING FEATURES OF THE EVENT:

THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION: THE DAWN OF AN ERA OF PEACE AND EUROPEAN UNITY

The creation of the European Union was driven by a number of visionary leaders. Resistance activists, lawyers, businessmen and political figures: these 'founding fathers', as they are commonly called, laid the foundations for a stable, economically promising Europe. One of these iconic figures was Robert Schuman.

On 9th May 1950, Robert Schuman made a declaration which would change the face of Europe. French Foreign Affairs Minister at the time, he called for France and West Germany to pool ownership of their coal and steel industries together with other European countries.

Although this may seem a rather modest initiative by today's standards, it was nonetheless the first step towards a united and peaceful Europe. The six Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community were making a historic move which was to prevent further devastating wars, after the two which had left Europe with painful scars in the first half of the 20th century.



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More than 60 years have passed since then. That small Community has developed into the European Union, a family of 28 independent and democratic states, with some 508 million citizens living in peace and stability of a kind unprecedented in the history of the continent.

9 May 1950 marked the beginning of our shared adventure: an adventure which has been both exciting and rewarding. This year, on the same date, we will celebrate Europe Day, remembering the journey we have been on together.

OPEN DAY OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS: PUTTING THE CITIZEN AT THE HEART OF THE EVENT

Looking beyond the historical basis, the Open Day of the European Institutions is part of a move to promote transparency and bridge the gap with citizens. The European Institutions open their doors wide and explain the work being done there on a day-to-day basis. By letting people explore behind the scenes, visit the Hemicycle where the EU's elected representatives hold their debates and see the rooms used for negotiations and meetings of the Heads of State and Government, the Open Day serves to demystify these 'decision-making hubs' so that people can see them in a different light.

More than ever, these structures which enable Europe to expand, to maintain and defend its values, to keep the peace on its territory and to preserve its reputation in the international arena want to forge close ties with the Union's citizens. That is the objective of the Open Day: to inform them about and increase their understanding of the importance of this joint project called the European Union.

Saturday 28 May will see the European district buzzing with life, but the programme of activities is not confined to Brussels. All over Europe and around the world, numerous events will be held to celebrate Europe. Consult the complete list at europeday.europa.eu

AT THE HEART OF OPEN DAY 2016 WILL BE THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MOTTO: UNITED IN DIVERSITY!

Europe is multi-faceted. This brew of different languages, cultures, religions, traditions and political opinions is the very essence of its identity.

- There are some 508 million people living in Europe (which puts it in third place globally, after China and India). Germany, with 81 million people, is the most populous country, while Malta has a little above 400,000, making it the least populous.
- There are 24 official languages used in its territory.
- Although united by common policy, each EU country remains unique, and retains control over its strategies in key areas such as education and health.
- The economy of the European Union, measured in terms of production of goods and services (GDP), has now outstripped that of the United States: the EU GDP in 2014 stood at €13,920.541 billion. Here, too, there are major gaps between the Member States; Luxembourg has the highest GDP per capita in the European Union (€91,600), whereas Romania and Bulgaria are at the bottom of the list, at €8,100 and €6,100 per capita respectively.

Shared economic drive and quality of life while respecting people's identities - those are Europe's key features. There is a motto underlying this reality: *'United in diversity'*. So it is no surprise to find it at the heart of the Open Day 2016.

The inspiration for the words *'United in diversity'* is a Latin phrase uttered by Ernesto Teodoro Moneta (winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1907): *In Varietate Concordia/In Varietate Unitas*.



COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



This motto is a true symbol of Europe, as powerful as its starred flag, and speaks of the process of rallying all Europeans together: 28 Member States, united in their respect for each other's differences and assets, but with a common set of values conducive to the maintenance of peace and prosperity.

Open Day in its 2016 version will do all it can to emphasise that motto and put it in the spotlight in all its activities: the information stands, interpreting process and debates will all showcase that sense of European plurality.

A few of the day's highlights

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Programme for the day: 10 am - 6 pm:

- > **10:30 am: Opening ceremony - Hemicycle - Altiero Spinelli Building.** Official inauguration of the Open Day attended by Dominique Dufourny (Mayor of Ixelles) and Alain Hutchinson (Brussels Government Commissioner to the European institutions). The more audacious visitors can take part in the interactive public concert, where 250 bells of different colours and notes will be distributed to the audience. Led by a conductor, the one-off concert performers will learn how to play a couple of tunes, including the Hymn to Joy.
- > **11 am - 1 pm: Debate - Hemicycle - Altiero Spinelli Building.** There will be a public debate on the theme of Mahatma Gandhi's words: 'Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilisation.' The following speakers will take part: Ali Ferzat, winner of the Sakharov Prize 2011, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso (ES, EPP), Vice-President of the European Parliament, Belgian Members of the European Parliament Marie Arena (S&D), Philippe Lamberts (Greens) and Gerolf Annemans (ENF), and other Members of the European Parliament.
- > **1 pm: Screening of 'Welcome', the feature film by Philippe Lioret of France, winner of the Prix LUX 2009.** 'Welcome' tells the story of a lifeguard from Calais, played by Vincent Lindon, who helps a young Kurdish refugee who wants to swim across the Channel to be with his girlfriend.
- > **2.30 pm - 4 pm: Book signing with Ali Ferzat,** on the 3rd floor of the Altiero Spinelli building. Ali Ferzat will be signing the book on the Sakharov Prize winners which he illustrated.
- > **Presentations in the Chamber:** At 2 pm (FR), 3 pm (EN), 4 pm (NL) and 5 pm (DE). The Chamber will host 30-minute public presentations of the Parliament's role and tasks.
- > **Stands run by the various political groups and themed stands on the workings of the European Parliament.** As they move through the European Parliament, visitors will learn about its many facets: the Parliament's role in relation to the other European institutions, the various stages in its legislative work, the composition of the political groups, the complexity of managing the 24 working languages and, lastly, all of the departments needed to carry out its day-to-day work.
- > **11.30 am - 6 pm: mini-lectures on multilingualism in the European Parliament.** In a series of mini-lectures, the European Parliament's translation and interpreting services will reveal all about the demands multilingualism makes of Parliament and the resources devoted to meeting them. They will talk about the democratic issues raised by this linguistic reality.
- > **Artistic events:** An artistic programme bringing together different styles and hosted by presenter Eric Baranyanka will reflect the theme of diversity. Singers, dancers, beatboxers, an urban street show and DJs will live up the Hemicycle Bar while you are taking a break.
- > **Thematic Village:** Around 20 NGOs active in promoting and defending diversity will present their work to the public.
- > **The temporary exhibition entitled "Europe by People"** in honour of the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the European Union will be on display.

COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



- > **And don't miss this in the Parliamentarium:** Photo exhibition: "Dépaysé" (Displaced) with portraits of female refugees and asylum-seekers - by photographer Marie Dorigny.

Access to Parliament for journalists/accreditation:

No specific accreditation is needed for journalists with a press card / with EP or EU accreditation. Journalists can enter Parliament via the Rue Wiertz entrance (coming from Chaussée de Wavre) from 10am to 5.30pm. A security perimeter will be established around the European Parliament. Security checks will take place at the entrance of the security perimeter and again at the entrance of the European Parliament's buildings. Journalists can enter the security perimeter from 10 a.m. (till 5.30 p.m.) (coming from chaussée de Wavre, on production of their press card / EP or EU accreditation. Parking will be possible on Rue Wiertz, Rue Vautier and Rue Godecharle on the reserved parking spots.

Contact us:

Lieven COSIJN

Press Officer - European Parliament
+32-2-284 31 26 / +32-473 86 41 41
lieven.cosijn@europarl.europa.eu

Sophie DUPAVÉ

Press consultant to the European Parliament
+32-2-644 02 50 / +32-475 44 17 21
s.dupave@eoscommunication.be

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION - EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The European Council and the Council of the European Union, the two institutions which bring together the Member States of the EU, are opening the doors of their headquarters, the Justus Lipsius building (at rue de la Loi 175, Brussels), for a programme of guided tours, activities and information stands.

- > **Guided tours of the building:** Guided by members of staff, visitors will be able to walk in the footsteps of the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the 28 Member States and follow their journey through the Council building from their arrival at the VIP entrance to the meeting rooms. Tours will take place at intervals from 10 am to 5 pm in French, Dutch, German and English.
- > **The Member States' Stand:** The 28 Member States will be sharing a joint stand where visitors will be able to gain a greater understanding of how each country takes part in the work of the Union, learn about their cultures and landscapes and even taste some traditional dishes.
- > **Central Archives / 'Bureau des accords':** visitors will be invited to take a journey back through time with the Council's archivists, to see how and where the Treaties and other major European agreements were signed. They will also have an opportunity to see the originals of some of those historic documents.
- > **There will also be a children's and young people's corner,** where younger visitors can learn more about Europe and the European Union in a fun way. There will also be activities for younger visitors during the guided tours.
- > **Council on-line:** visitors will be encouraged to take part in interactive games, learn surprising facts about Europe, take photos and share their impressions of the Council with their friends via social media.
- > **Lastly, the Council will be hosting information stands from the EU's other institutions and bodies** such as the European Central Bank (ECB), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and FRONTEX. The EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia mission, which combats networks of smugglers and traffickers in the Mediterranean, will also be there.

Contact us:

Romain SADET

Press Officer - Council of the European Union/European Council
+32-2-281 89 14 / +32-473 86 54 37
romain.sadet@consilium.europa.eu



COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 28 May 2015, visitors will be able to find out more about the practical actions of the European Commission, its main priorities, the wide range of work that it does and the many skills and professions it calls upon. As well as taking part in the many activities and events on offer, they will have an opportunity to talk to Members of the European Commission and other prominent Commission figures.

At the Berlaymont – from 10 am-6 pm

- > **10 am – Opening ceremony with Maroš Šefčovič**, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Energy Union.
- > **10 am-5.30 pm – Guided tours of the 13th floor of the European Commission building** (including the room where the College of Commissioners meets).
- > **Throughout the day, visitors can take a walking tour through five ‘villages’** illustrating the Commission’s main priorities – Employment, Growth and Investment; the Single Digital Market; the Energy Union and Climate; Migration; Citizenship and Multilingualism – and get the facts about the Commission’s work in an entertaining and interactive way.

Here are some of the activities on the agenda: visitors will be able to try out a host of entertaining technological activities, put themselves in the shoes of an investigator from the Anti-Fraud Office, experience the life of a Commission interpreter, learn about the journey made by migrants or indeed add to their knowledge of the European Union with the help of a large number of displays and games for all to play, and a giant map of Europe.

- > **10.30 am-5.50 pm – A series of mini-dialogues and meetings** attended by prominent figures from the European Commission, including Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, who is responsible for the Energy Union (11.30 am-12.00 pm), and Vice President Jyrki Katainen, responsible for Employment, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness (2.30 pm-3.00 pm). Visitors will also be able to talk to members of the Commission staff about the Single Digital Market (focusing on practical examples such as on-line shopping, the abolition of roaming charges, etc.), climate change and many other subjects – Schuman Room.

On stage: Appearances by performers and musicians, with shows and games, throughout the day. Visitors will get to see different groups representing the great variety of music in Europe (including Rock, Electronic Ambiance, Piano and voice, Jazz, Flamenco and World Music).

On the Rond-point Schuman and the Petite rue de la Loi from 10 am-8 pm

- > **For the 4th time, the Fête du Pain or Festival of Bread**, a neighbourhood party given by the non-profit association Schuman Square will be taking place.

Many people from the bakery profession will be gathering on the Rond-Point Schuman to share their passion, their art and their skill, the rich variety and demanding nature of their occupations, through a range of activities (such as culinary workshops with celebrity chefs and tastings of bread from different parts of Europe).

Along the Brussels Canal from 10 am onwards

- > **A three-hour guided bike ride!** Visitors will have a chance to see how Europe supports practical, local projects in Brussels’ neighbourhoods. For more information, contact Provelo on 02.502 73 55 or via www.provelo.org

Contact us:

Anne COMPERE

Press Officer – Representation of the European Commission in Belgium
+32-484 50 80 16 / Anne.compere@ec.europa.eu



COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

All of the external relations policy sections will be present, with experts available to answer questions from the public.

All Common Security and Defence Policy Missions (military and civilian) will participate with interactive stands run by staff from a variety of different fields.

There will be an interactive live video chat connecting the public with several EU delegations around the world.

Finally, there will be a dedicated space for children with games and face painting.

Contact us:

Laura DI ROSA

Press Officer – CSDP coordinator

+32-2-584 7367 / +32 460 84 7367

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC)

The Economic and Social Committee (EESC), representing the various economic and social actors in organised civil society, will be welcoming the general public at 99, rue Belliard, Brussels on Saturday, 28 May from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This year, the EESC will be highlighting the role of civil society organisations in relation to the migration crisis in Europe. Under the shared interinstitutional theme 'United in diversity', the Committee will also be presenting its work on economic and social policy for the European Union and on sustainable development, as well as its efforts to support participatory democracy in Europe and around the world.

As well as its information stands on the Presidency of the EESC and the three groups (employers, workers, miscellaneous activities), the EESC will be explaining its role and the work it does on several themed stands:

- the migration crisis in Europe, where visitors will be encouraged to give their opinions by taking part in a poll;
- growth, employment and solidarity;
- the environment, sustainable development and energy;
- participatory democracy;
- international relations.

There will be educational games which visitors can play to boost their knowledge of the EESC, the migration crisis in Europe and other topics such as the economy, employment, the environment, participatory democracy and decision-making processes at the European level.

There will be a space reserved for children and regular musical entertainment during this day out at the EESC.

Contact us:

Caroline ALIBERT-DEPREZ

Press Officer - European Economic and Social Committee

+32-2-546 94 06 / +32-475 75 32 02

caroline.alibertdeprez@eesc.europa.eu

COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Focusing on the cultural and territorial diversity of Europe's regions and cities, the European Committee of the Regions will welcome visitors to the European Union's assembly of local and regional representatives, where the interactive stands of 37 partner regions and cities from 15 EU Member States will await them, and there will be some fun surprises in store.

- > **Interactive stands of partner regions and cities** with tasting of local products,
- > **Stands of the 5 political groups** of the European Committee of the Regions,
- > **Presentation of role and activities** of the European Committee of the Regions,
- > **Entertainment.**

Contact us:

Carmen SCHMIDLE
Press Officer - European Committee of the Regions
+32-2-282 23 66 / +32-494 73 57 87
Carmen.schmidle@cor.europa.eu

SECURITY AND ACCESS INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

SECURITY

In preparing your visit to the Open Day event in Brussels, please take into consideration that additional security measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of visitors. Security checks will occur upon entering a perimeter established around the buildings and again upon entering each institution. To facilitate security checks, we recommend you avoid bringing any unnecessary bags to the event, or any prohibited or dangerous objects.

ACCESS

For easy access, we recommend using public transport or Villo.
Quietest times to visit are usually between 12 and 3 p.m.

European Parliament:

- Metro lines 2 & 6, alight at Trône
- Metro lines 1 & 5, alight at Maelbeek
- Bus lines 21, 27, 34, 38, 64, 80, 95, alight at Luxembourg
- Train to Gare de Bruxelles-Luxembourg

European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions:

- Metro lines 2 & 6, alight at Trône
- Metro lines 1 & 5, alight at Maelbeek
- Bus lines 21, 27, 59, 60, 80, alight at Parc Léopold
- Train to Gare de Bruxelles-Luxembourg



COME AND DISCOVER EUROPE!

OPEN DAY 2016 OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS



European Council, Council of the European Union, European Commission, European External Action Service and "Fête du Pain":

- Metro lines 2 & 6, change at Arts-Loi for metro lines 1 & 5
- Metro lines 1 & 5, alight at Schuman
- Bus lines 21, 36, 60, 79, alight at Schuman
- Train to Gare de Bruxelles-Schuman

Use the **STIB-MIVB Trip planner** to plan your journey: <http://www.stib-mivb.be/tripplanner/?l=en>

A small train will circulate between the institutions in the European quarter. It will run all day, operating a one way circuit, with stops at:

- Rue de Trèves (in front of the Parliamentarium) - for the European Parliament
- Rue Belliard (in front of the Parc Léopold, opposite place Jean Rey) - for the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions
- Schuman square (between rue Froissart and chaussée d'Auderghem) - for the European Council, Council of the European Union, European Commission, European External Action Service and "Fête du Pain"
- Chaussée d'Etterbeek (at the bottom of rue Jacques de Lalaing)
- Back to rue de Trèves