

Nicosia, 11 May 2016

## Europe Day 2016 Celebrations: United in Diversity

The European Commission will mark the importance of unity during the Europe Day 2016 celebration at Selimiye Square, Nicosia from 10:00 to 14:00 on Saturday, 14 May 2016 and invites all members of the public to take part. The event will host EU Embassy representatives and EU supported projects, who will provide information about their cultures and countries and activities. The opening speeches will take place at 11:30. The event will include live music, dance performances, and various activities. This year's Europe Day event will be under the theme of "United in Diversity" celebrating the idea of many lands, cultures, and languages united as Europe.

United Kingdom, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and Ireland are among the participating EU Member States. In addition to this, several local NGOs and technical assistance projects will showcase their own EU funded projects and share information. EU Member State representatives will provide information about their own countries and answer questions from participants.

### Background:

Europe Day held on 9 May every year celebrates peace and unity in Europe. The date marks the anniversary of the historical '[Schuman declaration](#)'. At a speech in Paris in 1950, Robert Schuman, the then French foreign minister, set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable.

The Schuman Declaration states that "Europe will not be made in one go, nor through a comprehensive construction, it will be built by concrete realisations that will first create real solidarity." What began on 9th May 1950, the pooling of steel and coal between France and Germany has evolved into what we today know as the European Union. The European Union is built on the fundamental values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Interested individuals can get more information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](#) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: [info@abbilgi.eu](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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