



Celebrating Europe Day 2015!

13 May 2015, NICOSIA: Europe Day celebrations have begun in the northern part of Cyprus with a series of events being organised by the EU Infopoint in cooperation with the European Commission throughout May and June 2015. The first event took place on 13 May at the EU Infopoint during which the Children's Art and Photography competition on the theme of the environment was launched.

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

Approximately 70 people attended the event including officials, teachers, students and NGO representatives. At the event keynote speakers had the following messages to share with the participants:

"9th May is also a celebration of the notion of solidarity and solidarity very much inspires the work of the European Commission in the Turkish Cypriot community, " Ms Alessandra Viezzer.

"It is crucial for the EU infopoint to raise awareness amongst the society regarding the foundations and values of the European Union and this is also the responsibility of the officials. The European Union embraces tolerance and respect for each other. We need need to raise young people who understand European values and respect diversity", Mr Ozdemir Berova.

A special video message from MEP Maite Pagazaurtundua was also screened at the event. In her message Ms Pagazaurtundua said: "*Remembering the Day of Europe helps us put aside our selfishness -be it individual, collective or national- and realize that what binds us together is much more important than what brings us apart*"

Finally three students recited from the Schuman declaration and this was followed by a reception.

Throughout May, there will be several events related to EU themes and policies including speakers from EU Member States: a film screening about migration and freedom of movement; a gender equality and social media networking event in collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Cyprus and the European Parliament Office in Cyprus; and a children's storytelling session on the story of Europe.

Celebrations will culminate on the 13th of June with a large scale outdoor event at Selimiye Square involving EU Embassy representatives and NGOs who will provide information about EU member states and on projects funded for environmental projects with financial support of the European Commission.



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Interested individuals can receive more information on the EU Infopoint Facebook page [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by calling/visiting the EU Infopoint: 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Sokak, Köşklüçiftlik Lefkoşa.

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