



European Commission – Press statement

Europe Day: closer to citizens, remembering our achievements and moving forward together

The European Commission Representation in Malta celebrated Europe Day with a number of different activities for citizens. 28 countries celebrate the 9th of May to commemorate the political and economic unity brought about by the European Union. In Malta, the EU reached out to citizens in Freedom Square, where the general public visited stands manned by national European Union contact points that provided information on citizens' and consumers' rights, EU funds, job opportunities within the Institutions, as well as hosting entertaining activities for children. This event was organised by the Valletta Europe Direct Information Centre, with the support of the European Commission Representation in Malta, as well as the Minister for European Affairs and Equality, the Hon. Helena Dalli, who also visited the stands.

Another activity on the day was a discussion on our identity as European citizens, organised by JEF (Young European Federalists) at the University of Malta, in conjunction with the University Europe Direct Centre, the European Commission Representation in Malta and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Malta. Students had the opportunity to participate and ask questions during a hot-seat Q&A with several European ambassadors and other EU officials and politicians.

Europe Day celebrations however started earlier in Gozo on the 6th of May. The Gozo Europe Direct Information Centre held a fun family activity in Villa Rundle, Victoria, which including activities ranging from games for children, to food from different countries served by the Institute of Tourism Studies, and EU info stands distributing promotional material.

On the 8th of May, in collaboration with University Europe Direct Information Centre, an EU quiz was held at Is-Suq l-Antik, for teams composed of University students. The quiz covered all aspects of the EU, from football to music and many other subjects. Earlier in the day, EASO (European Asylum Support Office) organised a discussion in collaboration with MEUSAC, with the participation of the European Commission Representation in Malta and JEF. The discussions centred round outreach initiatives in the context of the EU's policies on asylum.

Europe Day is celebrated yearly on the 9th of May across the European Union. It commemorates the 1950 Schuman Declaration when the first member states of what would eventually become the European Union pooled their resources in order to achieve a democratic and political union based on peace and unity.