



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**
General Secretariat
DG F / Press Office

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INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

Subject: OPEN DAY - Saturday 9 May 2009

The Council of the European Union, together with the other EU institutions, will hold its annual Open Day on 9 May 2009.

The doors of the Justus Lipsius building, Rue de la Loi 175, Brussels, will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This year's Open Day coincides with Europe Day, which is celebrated each year to mark the anniversary of the 1950 Schuman declaration.

Guided tour of the building

Tours are organised throughout the day in French, Dutch, German and English (last tour starts at 5.30 p.m.). They start in the Council's press centre, where visitors can watch a short introductory film about the Council. They continue along corridors and through meeting rooms, tracing the footsteps of the ministers and heads of state and government of the 27 member states who meet here at Council meetings and European summits.

Interactive information sessions

For the first time, interactive information sessions will take place. Four question and answer sessions about how the EU is promoting innovation and what it is doing in the area of energy and climate change are scheduled between midday and 5 p.m.

Information stands

The information stands will include the following topics:

- The Czech Presidency of the EU Council;
- Europe in the World: the common foreign policy and security and defence policy, including civil and military crisis management operations - several of which will be represented in the Atrium of the Justus Lipsius - , the EU Satellite Centre, the EU Institute for Security Studies and the European Defence Agency, as well as the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- The area of freedom, security and justice: the European Police office (EUROPOL), the European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST) and the Public Register of Authentic Identity and Travel Documents Online (PRADO);

- The European Central Bank (ECB);
- European cooperation in research and innovation (COST and EUREKA);
- The Council archives: an exhibition of facsimile versions of agreements and treaties to browse through;
- The work of translators in the Council.

Brochures and publications will be available on these stands and personnel will be ready to answer your questions. Visitors can also participate in quizzes to test their knowledge about the EU.

A free shuttle service between European institutions will be available, enabling visitors to participate in all the Open Day events in the European quarter of Brussels.

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