



## **SPRING DAY FOR EUROPE 2007**

<http://www.springday2007.net>

**Together since 1957**

### **Information note**

#### **What is the origin of the project?**

In the context of the wide-ranging debate on the future of Europe and the work of the Convention, a number of Convention members considered it necessary to raise awareness among young Europeans about the challenges facing Europe. Beginning in 2003, they proposed the development of the "Spring Day for Europe", providing an opportunity for pupils and their teachers to find out about the European Union. This first initiative was a great success, involving over 5 000 schools and almost 750 000 pupils. The campaign, which was repeated in 2005 and 2006 as part of the process of ratification of the European Constitution, on the one hand, and of dialogue between the institutions and members of the public, on the other, involved 6 620 and 7 500 schools respectively.

In 2007, we are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. The cooperation established over the past 50 years has given Europeans many specific advantages, such as being able to travel more easily without a passport through most of the European Union and being able to conduct cross-border financial transactions more easily using a single currency, the euro. Millions of young Europeans have had the chance to study and live in another country thanks to the Union's student exchange programmes.

In order that young people in Europe play a full part in this flagship anniversary, the Commission has taken the initiative to organise, in tandem with the other European institutions, another "Spring Day in Europe", this time focusing on the theme of "Together since 1957" and having the aim of encouraging schools in all the Member States and candidate countries to develop educational initiatives relating to European affairs.

#### **What is the objective of the project?**

"Spring Day for Europe" seeks to promote knowledge about the European Union and the workings of its institutions with the aim of establishing a dialogue between pupils, teachers and players in the European Union about their vision of Europe and its future. It enables young

people to gain a vivid awareness of European questions and to integrate them into their study programme.

More specifically, schools are invited to organise, **from 26 March to 30 June 2007**, European days of exchanges, debates and meetings with local, regional, national or international personalities, giving pupils and teachers the opportunity to learn about European integration and improve their understanding of it. Schools are also encouraged to take part in discussion forums and teaching activities on the operation of the institutions and on the values of Europe. “Spring Day for Europe” gives young people, as citizens and players in the Europe of tomorrow, the opportunity to share their experiences.

In order to make this initiative another success, all European, national, regional and local decision-makers are called upon to encourage participation by as many schools as possible and to take part from 26 March to 30 June 2007 in the meetings organised in schools.

In order to facilitate the running of the campaign, the European Commission has established, with the assistance of the European School Net consortium formed by the Ministries of Education in over 25 countries, a system for registration, contact and information between participants. Teaching tools have been developed with a team of experienced teachers to enable those teachers who so wish to prepare their project in greater depth.

“Spring Day for Europe” is a decentralised operation in which educational establishments are invited to take part in their own way and as their resources allow. These initiatives may take different forms: an information session followed by a discussion, a meeting with a personality involved in European issues (elected representatives, professional or social representatives, etc.), or a debate within the establishment or between pupils from schools in different regions and countries, particularly through the Internet.

### **Who can take part and how can they register?**

“Spring Day for Europe” is aimed first and foremost at secondary education establishments (general, vocational and technical). Any primary schools that so wish may also take part in certain activities.

Registration takes place electronically. Schools interested in the campaign are invited to place their details on the “Spring Day for Europe” website, together with those of the teacher or principal in charge of the event, project, or activity which they intend to carry out to mark the occasion.

In order to provide Europe with a face, the presence at these activities of people with a knowledge of European issues, particularly elected representatives, is highly recommended. Similarly, plans to bring together establishments and pupils from several countries are encouraged.

At the end of “Spring Day for Europe”, registered establishments which have forwarded a summary of their event or a contribution will receive a certificate of participation from the European authorities.

### **How to obtain information or take part**

The European School Net (EUN) provides practical support for the campaign and is developing a range of activities, tools, services and networks in support of it.

Please consult the "Spring Day for Europe" website for information

### **Contact persons**

- **EUN Partnersership – European Schoolnet**

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- **Commission department in charge of support for this campaign**

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