

## Happy Europe Day! Helsinki EU Office and its members prominently present at EU institutions Open Day

EU institutions opened their doors to the public on traditional EU Open Day, which was held on Saturday 5th of May in sunny Brussels. Open Day celebrates the annual 9th of May Europe Day, when Robert Schuman first introduced his vision of a united Europe, also known as the Schuman Declaration. The Declaration has since been widely regarded as the corner stone of the European union.

### European solidarity at the heart of Multiannual Financial Framework

Last week, a lot has happened in Brussels. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, European Commission presented their proposal for the union's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the years 2021-2027 to the European Parliament. According to Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the new long-term budget proposal offers an opportunity to shape the union's future towards a more ambitious community of 27 member states, aiming to create more European added value with fewer resources. The overall goal is to focus funding where the synergy possibilities and the added value could be increased in the next programming period.

The Commission's proposal is 1,135 billion euros, 1,11 % compared to EU27 GDP. This means 30 % rise to the overall budget. Commission proposes to increase funding for security, research and innovation, digitalization, youth, environment, border control and defence. Budget cuts are targeted to cohesion policy and common agricultural policy, having the largest financial expenditure in the EU budget.

### Open Day attracted thousands of visitors



Open Day offers a unique opportunity for citizens to discover the functions of the EU institutions, as well as how they affect the lives of Europeans. During Saturday all kinds of events were organized around Brussels, from political debates and guided tours to exhibitions. Open Day event gathered thousands of people of all ages and all around the world to participate to the festivities.



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9.5.2018

This year Helsinki EU Office participated in the event by providing brochures, videos and other materials highlighting the activities and know-how of its member organisations. Helsinki-Uusimaa Region was also strongly present at the Helsinki EU Office stand, which was centrally located at the main entrance of the Committee of the Regions among four other handpicked regional offices. Of special interest to the visitors were a pair of VR-glasses, provided by the city of Helsinki, which offered a peak to a virtual Helsinki. The virtual and augmented reality experiences were provided by two companies ZOAN and Arilyn.



Wishing a happy Europe Day from Brussels,

Helsinki EU Office team