



**EUROPEAN UNION**

DELEGATION TO VIETNAM

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **“EUROPE DAYS” 2013 WILL CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES WITH A RANGE OF SPECTACULAR EVENTS**

“A series of cultural and intellectual events, proposing a fascinating journey through the European cultural scene, will be showcased in the Europe Days 2013 throughout May to enrich Vietnam’s cultural calendar”, the statement was made by Ambassador – Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam Dr Franz Jessen at a press conference today in Hanoi.

Set to provide a bridge for cross-cultural exchanges, the “Europe Days 2013” program will open a window into the richness of the European Union’s different cultural traditions with inspiring performances and information activities.

For the last nine years, the “Europe Days” program has gained resounding success and growing public attention, thus establishing itself as a prominent feature in the Vietnamese cultural calendar.

The “Europe Days” program celebrates Europe Day - 9 May- which is known as the day of the Schuman Declaration. This day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the EU’s achievements in promoting democracy, human rights, peace and prosperity on the European continent. For these efforts, the EU was awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize. This great honour is a call to not only commemorate the EU’s past achievements but also look forward to how it can take this work further in the future.

“Europe Day” is also the occasion for activities that bring Europe closer to its citizens and strengthen the many bonds that Europe has established with nations around the world, including Vietnam.

The “Europe Days 2013” will start with two different programs in the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of May: in Hanoi, a **concert** by the **Munich Chamber Choir** together with the orchestra of the Vietnam National Opera and Ballet and singers of the Vietnam National Academy of Music and in Ho Chi Minh City, a concert by **Eric Legnini** – one of the most talented pianists from Belgium.

The Munich Chamber Choir, under the direction of Philipp Amelung, is recognized as one of the best choirs in Germany. All members are professional singers who perform regularly as soloists in Germany and abroad, while Eric Legnini is regarded as “the magician of the piano” and was elected by audiences in Belgium as the best piano and keyboard player in 1998.

The music agenda of the “Europe Days 2013” will be enriched by a **British concert by Guillemots** whose debut album "Through The Windowpane" in 2006 was awarded a Mercury Music Prize nomination and received vocal praise from many music luminaries, including Sir Paul McCartney, and also a **Brit Nomination** in 2007 for Best Live Act.

The variety of European cultural traditions will manifest itself in **the European Literature Days** organised by the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), presenting literature from Europe for the third time in Hanoi. Books **from Italy, Spain, Wallonia (Belgium), Germany, Great Britain, Denmark, France and Poland** that have recently been published in their Vietnamese translation will be presented at the event.

**The annual European Film Festival**, entitled “**Europe on Screen**” promises to delight Vietnamese spectators with 16 inspiring films - the largest selection ever- and it is enriched by the presence of the producer of the Swedish film “Eat Sleep Die” at its screening which will mark the opening of the festival in Hanoi.

In the conviction that there is no better way to improve understanding between Europeans and Vietnamese than through people to people exchanges, in particular involving the young generations, the “Europe Days 2013” program will see two prominent events: “**Reaching out to the Youth**” in which EU Ambassadors will talk about Europe with Vietnamese students, and a photo contest on **climate change “Sea level rises”** which invites students from universities nationwide to express their knowledge on this issue which sees Vietnam among the list of the most vulnerable countries.

The “Europe Days 2013” also includes other programs including a **German comics exhibition**, entitled “Comics, Manga & Co. - The New German Comics Culture“, a **talkshow** on Green Development Options for Vietnam, **two EU-Vietnam friendly children’s football matches** and an EU-Vietnam Information **Trade Seminar**.

Ambassador Jessen said, “*We are happy to see that, after nine editions so far, the “Europe Days” program has established for itself a premier place in Vietnam’s social and cultural calendar. The increasing number of participants each year has proven the program’s attractiveness to many people in Vietnam. We hope that this Europe Days 2013 program will continue this tradition and that the tradition will go on for many years to come.*”

Full information about the Europe Days 2013 can be found at: [www.europeday2013.com](http://www.europeday2013.com) or [www.facebook.com/EUandVietnam](https://www.facebook.com/EUandVietnam)

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