Europe Day is fast approaching, which this year will also mark the 70th anniversary of the Schuman declaration. In the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Europe Day - 9 May will represent an important opportunity to recognise European unity and solidarity and the benefits these bring us. Despite the circumstances, plenty of online initiatives have emerged out of this context, giving citizens the opportunity to mark this day from home, which I wanted to share with you. Please don’t hesitate to relay this information to your networks.

The Parliament is working with the other Institutions to organise a full day of online activities on 9 May together. In the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we will communicate about #EuropeDay hand in hand with our stories of solidarity of #EuropeansAgainstCovid19. While remembering the 70th Anniversary of the Schuman declaration, we will honour Europe’s heroes and pay tribute to those on the frontlines, and start to think about our common future post-Covid. You can find the full programme and join our stay-at-home Europe Day on our Facebook event.

We’re also proposing an online exhibition, "70th anniversary of the Schuman declaration. 9 May 1950", that retraces the history of the declaration and is available in all EU-24 languages.

Many civil society organisations have also launched online activities around this year’s Europe Day. Here are just a few of the many initiatives that you may find interesting to share:

Citizens Take Over Europe is a 2-year self-organised European Citizens’ Conference launched by a group of organisations. In parallel to the Conference on the Future of Europe, this initiative wants to enable people to have their say about our present and future “and ensure that citizen and civil society participation is at the heart of all new initiatives for the future of Europe”. The citizen participation action will kick off this 9 May, to send out a message of hope and togetherness, and to stand up for democracy, with a programme of online events.
Over the weekend, the European Movement International launched the pan-European “Together for Europe” campaign in the run-up to Europe Day 9 May. The campaign focuses on solidarity, unity, equality, youth and climate, and is being promoted in **18 countries** and in **19 languages**. You can see the campaign on Facebook [here](#) and on Instagram [here](#). Like, share and join the celebration! Original video files are available for sharing on demand: contact Christian Skriverik.

‘Do Something for Europe’, a German member of the European Cultural Foundation, has launched a [sing along to the big European anthem](#), asking everyone to join the reinterpretation of Ode to Joy. The deadline for singing is 6 May so you still have a little time left to join in!

And if you prefer the classical version of the European Union’s anthem, join Europa Nostra’s [#Ode2Joy challenge](#): it’s open to everyone and any creative initiatives are welcome. Find out more on their [website](#).

Shortly after Europe Day, from the 11 - 20 May, COFACE Families Europe is organising a series of webinars aiming to increase understanding of the digital world. Enjoy a cup of tea/coffee accompanied by a [Breakfast Byte of digital citizenship](#). You can find the programme of “bytes” [here](#).

Finally, here is a quick update on [news](#) from the Parliament, where the EU’s long-term budget and the impact of Covid-19 are on this week’s agenda. To ensure that EU programmes, including support for regions and Erasmus, will continue in the event that an agreement on the long-term budget (2021-2027) is not reached in time, the budget committee will vote Monday on a request for a contingency plan to extend all EU programmes beyond 2020. The Commission’s new proposal for the budget will be discussed by whole Parliament at the **next plenary session on 13 May**. Throughout the week, Committees will question Commissioners on a range of issues linked to the Covid-19 crisis, including the use of personal data in the fight against the pandemic and how the digital transformation can boost recovery; the impact on security and migration; and how the crisis is affecting the [media](#) and [creative](#) sectors. You can follow the Committees’ work and broadcasts [here](#).

We hope that you’ll join in on some of this year’s Europe Day activities online. Let me know if you need further information. And if we don’t speak before, happy Europe Day!

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