



HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

A unique permanent exhibition, with free admission

Annual temporary exhibitions

Learning programmes for schools, families and groups

Dedicated website

Diverse calendar of cultural events

Cafeteria and shop

A vital stop in any tour of the European Parliament

OPENING HOURS

Monday 13.00 – 18.00

Tuesday - Friday 9.00 – 18.00

Saturday - Sunday 10.00 – 18.00

IF YOU ARE PLANNING A VISIT *

House of European History
Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 135
1000 Brussels
Belgium

More information: www.historia-europa.ep.eu

General enquiries: historia@ep.europa.eu

Learning team: historia-learning@ep.europa.eu

* Group bookings are required for groups of 10+

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2017

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Printed in Belgium



Print: ISBN 978-92-823-8984-3, doi:10.2861/73955

PDF: ISBN 978-92-823-8988-1, doi:10.2861/18932

QA-02-16-258-EN-C (print); QA-02-16-258-EN-N (PDF)



HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

A new museum of European history
in the heart of Brussels

free entrance



A project of the European Parliament



Discover the House of European History — a new museum in the heart of Brussels, housed in a striking building that combines Art Deco and contemporary architecture.

Situated in the Brussels European quarter in beautiful Parc Léopold, right next to Parliament's central campus, the House of European History is an essential part of any tour of the city and of the European Parliament visitor offer.

Inside, visitors will discover the origins and evolution of Europe, learning about both the continent's diversity and history's many interpretations of its story.

The permanent exhibition galleries offer a unique experience, immersing visitors in the history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and an exploration of the development of European integration. By learning about Europe's place in the world, visitors will be encouraged to think critically about its past in order to become more engaged in its future and present day issues.

Available in 24 languages, entrance to the museum is free. The content is suitable for audiences from school-age and beyond, and the museum is supported by a strong online presence. Also keep an eye out for our inspiring programme of events and learning.

HOUSE WITH A HISTORY

The House of European History is located in the Eastman Building in Parc Léopold.

This location was chosen by the European Parliament for the project after former President Hans-Gert Pöttering launched the initiative in his inaugural speech in 2007.

The building was constructed in 1934-35 to host a dental clinic for disadvantaged children, financed by a donation from the US businessman and philanthropist George Eastman, inventor of the Kodak camera.

The original waiting area of the clinic was designed with its young audience in mind, displaying colourful images of the animals from the fables of French author Jean de La Fontaine.

These images, created on cloth by Belgian artist Camille Barthélémy, have been carefully restored and are on display for visitors to enjoy.

The building has been renovated in keeping with its original Art Deco features, and expanded to include a modern atrium and new floors for the permanent exhibition.



PERMANENT EXHIBITION

It shows how revolutionary ideas of human and civil rights flourished alongside exciting new developments such as films, photography and railways.

At the heart of the House of European History is a permanent exhibition that offers an engaging and thought-provoking journey through European history.

Beginning with the myth of Europa, the exhibition delves into Europe's ancient roots. By asking questions about the continent's heritage of shared traditions and achievements — as well as of adversity — different ways of thinking about Europe are explored.

The exhibition then tells the story of Europe's dramatic progress towards modernity in the nineteenth century, during a time of great political, economic, social and cultural upheaval.

However, there was a dark side to this success and expansion, as social tensions, inequalities and international rivalries threatened to overshadow Europe's achievements. These tensions built up an enormous potential for conflict, which exploded in the following century. Visitors learn how everything fell apart in the first half of the twentieth century, with Europe descending into the catastrophe of the First World War and, 20 years later, the abyss of World War II.

The visitor next encounters a significantly changed political landscape, in which Europe was compressed by two post-war superpowers and divided by the Iron Curtain. In parallel, however, ideas of a peaceful supranational future for the continent started to thrive. Visitors see how European integration became a reality in Western Europe.

The exhibition goes on to explore the period in which thriving post-war Western economies faltered and communist regimes began to unravel. The culmination of these changes was the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, which brought the 40-year division of the continent to an end.

Towards the end, the exhibition reveals how much Europe's history has shaped us all.

Finally, visitors are encouraged to reflect on the challenges of the present time in the light of what they have learnt from the exhibition.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION 'INTERACTIONS — CENTURIES OF COMMERCE, COMBAT AND CREATION'

Interactions illuminates key moments and revealing stories of encounters and exchanges in European history. This exhibition is packed with participatory games and hands-on displays that turn complex historical processes into fun and memorable experiences.

The exhibition starts with an interactive installation called 'Tracking my Europe', which explores those things in our day-to-day lives that defy physical borders and cultural boundaries. Visitors' answers are compiled in real time to create a map of Europe with a difference.

Visitors also discover how Europeans have constantly been moving and meeting to exchange goods, fight wars, negotiate agreements, and share knowledge.

The reality of these exchanges is brought to life as they wander through the rooms of a home to explore the culturally mixed nature of our everyday lives, and to play games, watch films, smell perfumes — even rest on a bed!

LEARNING AND EDUCATION

The House of European History is a place for all. It informs, it challenges, it reflects, but most of all it allows the visitor to ask questions. The learning offer of the museum takes a trans-European viewpoint that explores the historical memories, diverse experiences, and common ground of the peoples of Europe, and how these relate to the present day.

We provide an extensive range of resources and events for school, adult and family audiences. Ranging from talks and workshops, student activity packs to family discovery trails, there is something for everyone both on site and online.