



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Tribute to Brel, 65 food trucks, street entertainment and hundreds of discoveries: the rich 29-year programme of the Capital Region!**

On 5 and 6 May, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Brussels Region, many free activities will be offered in various parts of the Region. This year, the European institutions will be joining the event and offering original activities. To round off the festivities of the week-end, some fifteen Belgian artists will gather for an exclusive concert in honour of Jacques Brel on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the death of the Schaerbeek native.

**Iris Day** celebrates the capital region every year. As a reminder, the iris was adopted on 16 May 1991 by the Brussels Parliament as a symbol of the Brussels region.

The programme for this edition of the Festival covers a series of entertainment events and activities stretching over the two days. The access and the spectacles of the Iris Day are free.

### **Saturday 5 May:**

- This year, the **Iris Day** will put the municipalities of Watermael-Boitsfort, Uccle, Ixelles and Auderghem in the spotlight. This is a great opportunity to discover unusual places that are usually closed to the public.
- **The European Institutions** will open their doors to the public and offer guided tours all day long, a unique opportunity to discover the inner workings of the European Union. The 2018 edition will have a special focus on the European Year of Cultural Heritage, celebrating diverse cultural heritage across Europe to encourage more people to discover and engage with it. Site visits and guided tours, information stands, interactive activities, debates, concerts and exhibitions in the European Quarter are all on the menu, making for a fun day of learning with family or friends.
- To end this day in style, the unmissable **Electro Night** will open the programme at the Place des Palais.

The artists confirmed so far are: Quintino, Luccas & Steve and Romeo Blanco.



**Sunday 6 May:**

#### **The Park in celebration**

- **Street arts**  
During the Iris Festival, street art is showcased through an artistic programme which brings together the best and brightest in Brussels and elsewhere in this field. Circus arts, street theatre, interactive games, all kinds of workshops, dance demonstrations, children's activities and much more. The Parc de Bruxelles will be transformed for a day into a theatre and circus arena.
- **Sporting entertainment**  
A host of sporting activities will also punctuate the day: Trampolining, skateboard ram/BMX/scooter, gymnastics, cheerleading, etc.
- **Thematic villages**  
From midday to 6 pm, a hundred associations from different municipalities of the Region will be present in the Parc de Bruxelles to display their services through dynamic and fun activities.

#### **At the BIP, the House of the Region**

For the Iris Festival, the exhibition "experience.brussels" will open for free and will be organising indoor and outdoor activities with lots of surprises and gifts to be won!

#### **In the Brussels Parliament**

The opportunity to have fun while you discover a historic building in the heart of the city and ... the life of its inhabitants! On the agenda: a visit to the hemicycle and committee rooms, the Swing Festival, organised by the Tissu Orange collective, as well as photo exhibitions, excerpts from the show "Be Belgian and Shut up", street art, concerts or slackline demonstrations.

#### **MIXITY.brussels sings Jacques Brel**

MIXITY.brussels, a grand collaborative project celebrating the abundant diversity of Brussels, is inviting itself onto the stage of the Iris Day to pay tribute to the Great Jacques, who has been gone for 40 years.

From 6.30 pm, some twenty artists from the Brussels "zinneke" DNA will revive the greatest successes of Jacques Brel. On the programme: Unprecedented duets, songs performed in many languages and loads of other surprises! The evening will be presented by Cécile Djunga and Els De Schepper.

The artists confirmed so far are: José Van Dam, Maurane, Marie Daulne, Typh Barrow, BJ Scott, Marka, Patrick Riguelle, Karla Verlie and even Filip Jordens!

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