



# Pan-European Memorial for the Victims of Totalitarianism in Brussels

Competition announcement

## WHO WE ARE

**The Platform of European Memory and Conscience** is a non-profit international non-governmental organisation – an interest association of legal persons founded according to the Civil Code of the Czech Republic. Established on 14 October 2011 in Prague by 20 founding Members from 12 EU Member States, the Platform currently brings together 55 public and private institutions and organisations from 19 countries – 13 EU Member States (Sweden, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria), Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, Albania, Canada and the United States of America, active in research, documentation, awareness raising and education about the totalitarian regimes which befell Europe in the 20th century.

**The establishment of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience was endorsed by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.**



example of Platform work 2016



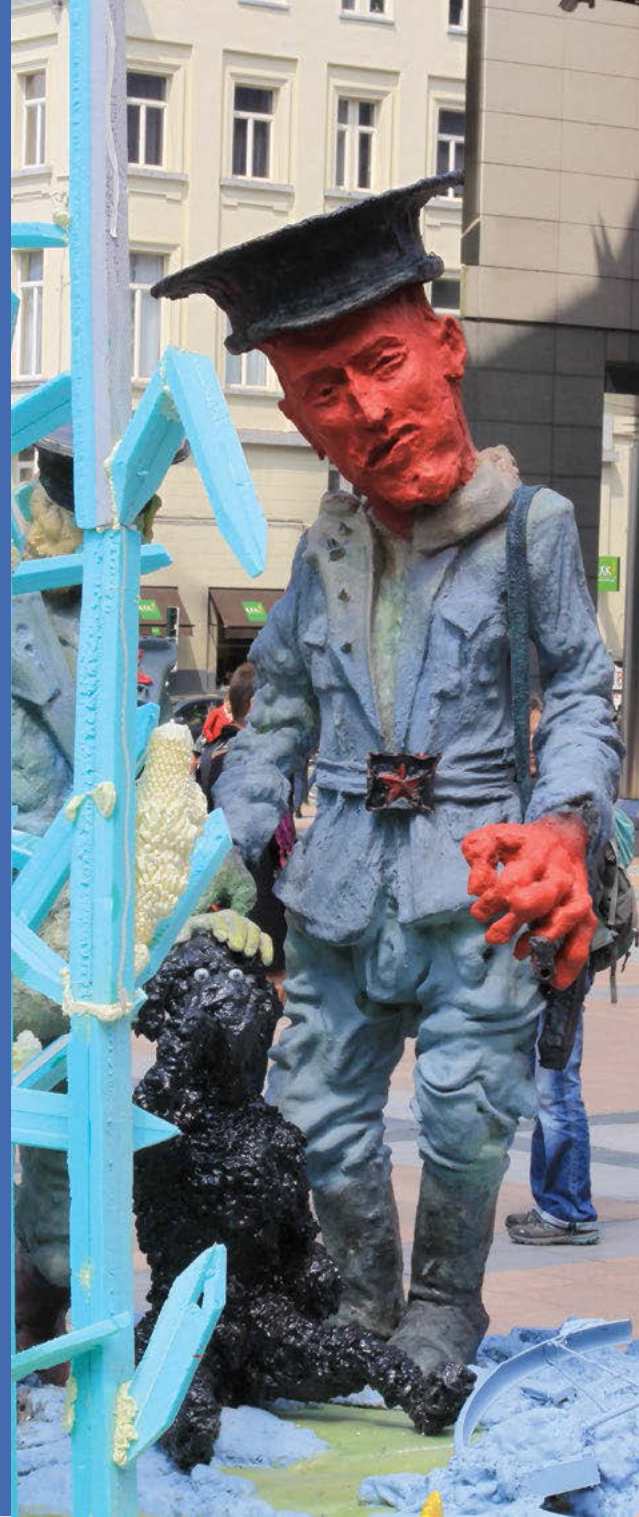
example of Platform work 2016

## WHY WE NEED THE MEMORIAL

In 2008-2009, the European Parliament established 23 August, the date of the signing of the Hitler-Stalin pact of 1939, as the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarianism. The European Union Member States commemorate the day with an EU-wide event. In 2009, the European Parliament also called for the creation of a pan-European memorial for the victims of all totalitarian regimes.

No memorial has yet been created to the countless millions of victims of Fascism, National Socialism and Communism in Europe. Especially today, in view of the rising extremism and nationalism in Europe, the tragic human toll of the struggle for freedom and democracy needs to be commemorated in a dignified way in the centre of the EU.

The new memorial should embody the main reason for the existence of today's peaceful democratic European Union - the lessons learned from the totalitarian past and the determination to never allow history to repeat itself. The new memorial should visualise this humanitarian message, bringing the true meaning of the European Union project tangibly close to the citizens of the world. At the same time, the opportunity offers itself to create a unique work of art with a high value for the city of Brussels.



example of Platform work 2015

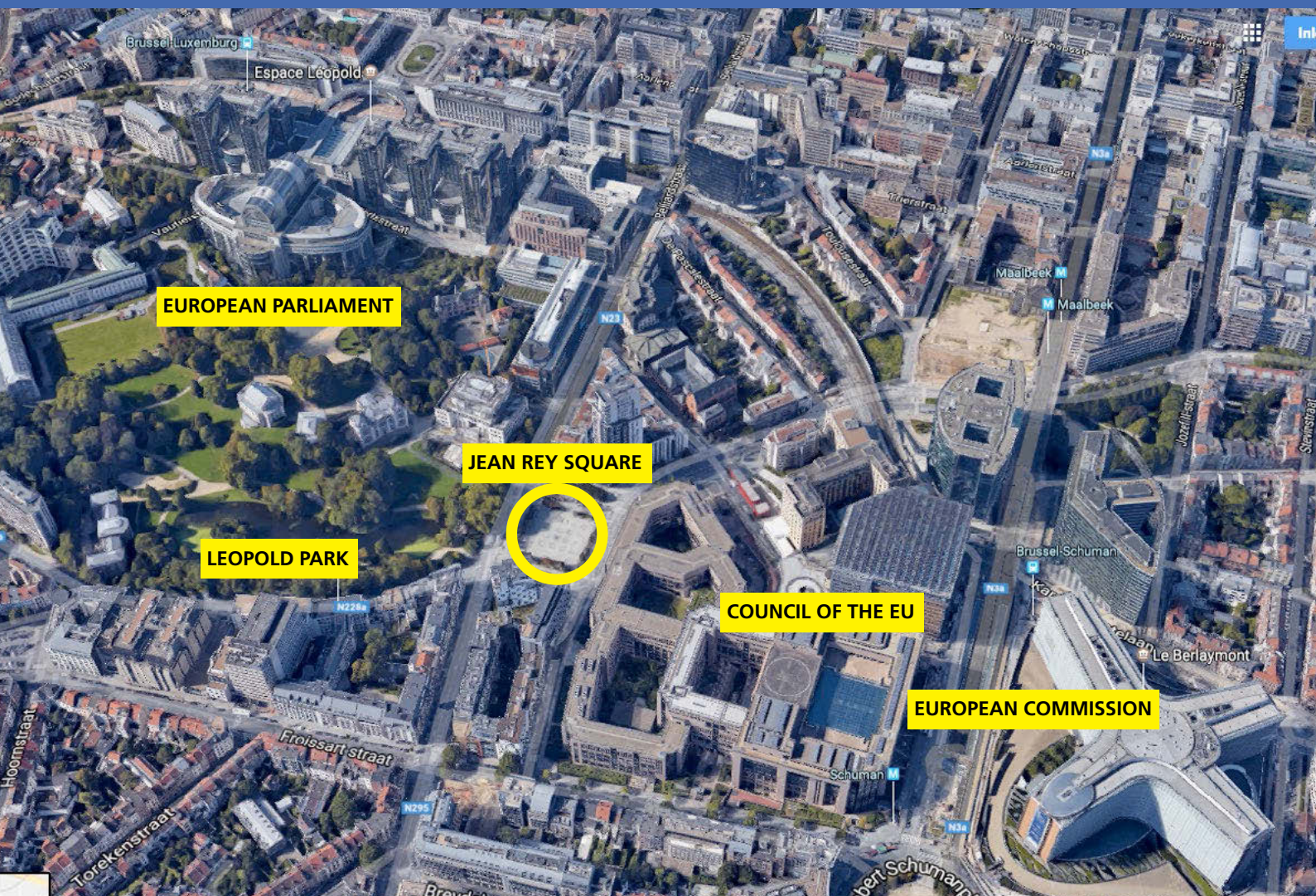


# THE SITE

Jean Rey Square is a square in the European District of Brussels, Belgium.

## CURRENT DESCRIPTION OF THE SQUARE

The square is paved with natural stone, bordered by plant boxes and benches facing 24 water jets in the centre which mirror the Maelbeek collector and storm basin below. Trees line the western side (not open to traffic) mirroring the axis starting at the entrance of Leopold Park across the street to the south. It is named after European Commission President Jean Rey and occupies a space between the Justus Lipsius building (headquarters of the Council of the European Union) and Leopold Park (next to the Espace Léopold of the European Parliament). It was inaugurated at the start of the Belgian EU Presidency on 26 June 2001.



# THE COMPETITION

## THE MEMORIAL DESIGN

- must be inclusive of the victims of National Socialism, Fascism and Communism
- must be inclusive of men, women and children
- must not interfere with the natural flow and movement of people across the square
- should draw people in physically, enable a physical experience for the visitors
- should build on a symbiosis of nature and art, townscape and landscape
- may make use of water

## TIMELINE

- **26 April 2017** - Announcement of the competition in the European Parliament, Brussels
- **15 June 2017** - Deadline for Expressions of Interest
- **30 June 2017** - Competition guidelines sent out to contestants
- **15 December 2017** - Deadline for submission of competition entries
- **15 February 2018** - Announcement of the winner
- **April 2018** - Exhibition of 10 top-ranking entries in the European Parliament, Brussels
- **23 August 2018** - tentative inauguration of memorial in Brussels on the occasion of the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarianism



# THE JURY

As of April 2017

- Göran Lindblad, SE, President, Platform of European Memory and Conscience
- Tibor Navracsics, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (tbc)
- Geoffroy Coomans de Brachène, Alderman for Town Planning and Heritage, City of Brussels
- André Francois Lovinfosse, Chairman, Urban Art Committee, City of Brussels
- László Tőkés, RO, Member of the European Parliament, leader of the 1989 Romanian revolution
- Neela Winkelmann, CZ, Managing Director, Platform of European Memory and Conscience
- Zsolt Szilágyi, RO, Member of the Executive Board, Platform of European Memory and Conscience
- Toomas Hiio, EE, Chairman of the Board, Estonian Institute of Historical Memory
- Paweł Ukielski, PL, Deputy Director, Warsaw Rising Museum
- Siegfried Reiprich, DE, Director, Saxon Memorial Foundation for the Remembrance of Victims of Political Tyranny

## INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Platform of European Memory and Conscience invites Expressions of Interest to participate in the competition from architects and artists from around the world. Please send your Expression of Interest containing a brief introduction of yourself and the philosophy of your work, your professional experience and examples of successful realisations by e-mail to **competition@memoryandconscience.eu** by the deadline 15 June 2017 (max. size of attachments is 10 MB).

### CONTACT

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