



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO NEW ZEALAND  
PO Box 5106, WELLINGTON

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **Europe Day 2007**

#### **9 May is Europe Day.**

On the 9th of May 1950, Robert Schuman presented his proposal on the creation of an organised Europe, indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. Today, the 9th of May has come to symbolise European unity, peace and prosperity.

This Europe Day is particularly significant as it forms part of our celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. It was 50 years ago on 25 March 1957 that the Treaty was signed by six European countries, putting into practice the concept put forward by Robert Schuman seven years earlier.

To mark Europe Day in New Zealand, the flag of the European Union will fly from the Auckland Harbour Bridge on 9 May. The flag will be raised at dawn by the Chargé d'Affaires of the Delegation of the European Commission to New Zealand, Maurice Maxwell.

The European Union flag comprises 12 gold stars on a blue background. The circle of gold stars represents solidarity and harmony between the peoples of Europe. The number twelve is traditionally the symbol of perfection, completeness and unity.

A National Day cocktail reception for the diplomatic, government and business communities will be hosted by Mr Maxwell in Wellington on 10 May.

Mr Maxwell said, "The European Commission's presence in New Zealand underlines a commitment to work hand and hand with countries of like mind and to forge ever stronger ties of friendship.

"We in Europe acknowledge New Zealand as a dependable ally and close friend. Our friendship is anchored in a shared history, shared values and mutual esteem. We intend to ensure that these feelings of kinship continue and grow."

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