



In 1997, Etterbeek – a Brussels commune « *at the heart of Europe* » acted as a pioneer when it established a portfolio for European Affairs, at the initiative of Mayor Vincent De Wolf, and alderman Bernard de Marcken also by creating the first Consultative Commission on European Affairs (**CCAÉ**).

As its name says, the **CCAÉ** is a consultative organisation representing the European citizens of Etterbeek, whether they are Belgian nationals or come from other European Union member states.

Etterbeek currently counts more than 14.000 European citizens out of a total number of 44.900 inhabitants. Due to this considerable number of Europeans residing in Etterbeek as well as the immediate vicinity of the European institutions, the commune of Etterbeek maintains a privileged relation with Europe.

The Commune of Etterbeek boasts several consultative commissions, each of them encouraging civic participation. The **CCAÉ** is one of them. Its members all live or work in Etterbeek. All of them are appointed by the Communal Council.

Above all, the CCAÉ acts as a network where people can voice their opinions, where information is exchanged and coordination is provided. One of its main objectives is to establish a close-knit relation between European nationals, the commune and the European institutions.

Its other missions are the following: to advise on matters or projects with regard to European affairs and to answer questions put forward by the executive board of the commune, and to listen to, inform and aid European nationals in resolving the problems they encounter with administrative procedures having regard to Belgian institutions, embassies, international, cultural or educational organisations bodies, etc.

The **CCAÉ** also organises festivities, conferences or informative meetings as well as cultural and/or social activities and meetings. The commission also sets up numerous collaboration projects with institutions on a local and regional level (the Brussels-Capital Region or the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office), or on the European level (European Commission, European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions).



Our activities



Organisation of informative meetings and conferences on various subjects with regard to Europe. In doing so we have had the honour of welcoming the following personalities :

- Louis MICHEL, European Commissioner
- Jacques BARROT, European Commissioner
- Meglena KUNEVA, European Commissioner
- Jean-Pierre WELLENS, Honorary President of the City of London
- Marco INCERTI, Researcher at the CEPS
- André DEGROEVE, former Governor of the Province of Brabant
- Jean-François DREVET, sustainable development expert
- Pierre DEFRAIGNE, Executive Director of the College of Europe
- Proinsias DE ROSSAS and Sean O'NEACHTAIN, European MPs
- And others...



Each year, the CCAE, together with the Cocerome, awards the prize « give a soul to Europe ». In 2009, this prize was awarded to Mrs Tinou DUTRY-SOINNE and in 2007 to Gerrit RAUWS, Director of the Koning Boudewijnstichting - Fondation Roi Baudouin.

The CCAE is participating in the European Week of Local Democracy (2008 : citizens' meetings and intergenerational meetings in cooperation with the Koning Boudewijnstichting - Fondation Roi Baudouin / 2009 : citizens' meeting in collaboration with Willy HELIN, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Belgium.

The CCAE will also be joining Europe Day and the European Parliament Open days and organises activities in schools, such as the "9 May Day activities", organised at the initiative of the European Commission.

In 2010, the CCAE is to organise a series of conferences lead by European personalities in the backdrop of the Belgian presidency of the European Union.

