



Press Release  
Paris, 10/02/2009

**MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY...**

**NEIGHBOURS' DAY  
IS BACK AGAIN ON 26 MAY 2009!**

**THIS YEAR, NEIGHBOURS' DAY WILL CELEBRATE EUROPE  
AND UNITED NEIGHBOURS WILL MAKE IT LAST ALL YEAR!**

First held in 2000, Neighbours' Day has since become an unmissable community gathering, comparable to the Fête de la Musique, bringing together more than 8 million neighbours around Europe. In 2009, Europe will be at the heart of the party! From Italy to Sweden via Poland, everyone in Europe is invited to celebrate their neighbourliness in a spirit of enjoyment and happiness on Tuesday 26 May. To make sure that this party continues for the rest of the year and that the good relations established on 26 May continue, Atanase Périfan, the creator of Neighbours' Day and President of the F.E.S.P is launching "Neighbours together" this year in France. It is an ambitious project to encourage neighbourliness to last all year round!



**EUROPE IS PART OF NEIGHBOURS' DAY!**

This year, Neighbours' Day has been chosen by the European Commission and the European Parliament to represent the values of friendship and solidarity. **The aim is to increase interaction between participants and create a feeling of belonging to the same community.** The growing number of European countries taking part and the success of Neighbours' Day in Europe are evidence that the values promoted by the event are shared among all Europeans, whatever their race, religious beliefs or political convictions.



This year in particular, **with the European parliamentary elections just around the corner**, Neighbours' Day provides European citizens with a place to discuss and reflect upon the decisions taken by their representatives at the European Parliament, who work to improve living conditions for the people of Europe on a daily basis.

In each of the participating countries, Members of the European Parliament will have the opportunity to go and meet the residents, share a friendly moment with them and encourage debate on the questions that directly affect them.



## HOW TO ORGANISE A NEIGHBOURS' DAY

**Organising this event is extremely straightforward. No particular skills are needed, just a pinch of generosity and a dash of enthusiasm!**

1. Find a venue such as a courtyard, a garden, the entrance hall of a building or a suitable pavement if there is nothing else available! The important thing is that access should be easy and the venue should be a good meeting place for people from several different houses or buildings
2. Advertise! It's easy to let your neighbours know about the event – posters and invitations are available from participating town halls and housing associations, which can be downloaded from the website [www.european-neighbours-day.eu](http://www.european-neighbours-day.eu)
3. Put a poster in the entrance hall displaying the name, time and venue of the event, and then pop the invitations into your neighbours' letter boxes
4. This will ensure that everybody knows about the event: your friends, your neighbours, the caretaker of your building...

**"We are all united neighbours!"**

What if your building was suddenly in a festive mood? No more slamming doors or neighbours rushing past with worried, frowning faces. Time for interaction, conversation and friendship! Every year, **Neighbours' Day** provides a fresh start and a chance to break the cycle of indifference.

**NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER** supports and reinforces this positive attitude on a daily basis. It continues to promote the **spirit of mutual help and solidarity** that has been fostered through shared enjoyment, sincerity and happiness. We hope to bring you new ideas of how to be neighbourly to ensure that **"the right place to be is right next door"**!



President  
Founder of Neighbours' Day

Following the success of **Neighbours' Day**, its founder, Atanase PERIFAN, wanted to go further and extend the spirit of friendship fostered on the day to the rest of the year by encouraging residents to make solidarity and neighbourliness part of their daily lives.

**Developed in partnership with the Ministry for Housing, town halls, social landlords and housing associations**, this plan, known as "**NEIGHBOURS TOGETHER**", gives everyone the opportunity to be part of a positive movement for social values. Neighbours will be invited to do a little bit more to help each other and foster selflessness. This could be anything from helping an elderly person to carry their shopping upstairs, looking after a child for a few minutes, moving a piece of furniture or pruning the bushes in a shared garden to organising support for a person in mental or physical distress...

**For more information:** [www.voisinssolidaires.fr](http://www.voisinssolidaires.fr)

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