



Culture Programme



## 'European Dimension' Event Summary

### Event title:

***Utrecht Treaty – common European Heritage***

### Initiator of the project:

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***Annet Pasveer*** / Stichting Open Monumentendag, The Netherlands

### Partner countries:

The Netherlands and ... (possibly identified as interested: Spain, France, Portugal, Germany, Belgium, Italy, etc.)

### Event background:

The Treaty of Utrecht was actually a series of individual peace treaties rather than a single document, the last of which was signed on 11 April 1713. Together, these treaties established the 'Peace of Europe' and put an end to a long period of war. For eighteen months, Utrecht had hosted intense negotiations between the diplomats and envoys who had come to this Dutch city to decide the future of the world. The outcome was a lasting peace built on diplomacy and dialogue.

The process was undoubtedly aided by Utrecht's hospitality and by the many artistic and cultural pursuits laid on to impress and entertain the diplomats. When the Treaty was concluded, a collective sigh of relief could be heard throughout Europe. There were numerous concerts and public celebrations, many of which involved lavish firework displays. The Treaty of Utrecht introduced a new balance within Europe, and by virtue of European colonization, throughout much of the rest of the world.

### Origins of the event proposal:

11 April 1713 can be seen as a day that changed the world. Three hundred years later, we shall celebrate this historic occasion, but we shall also celebrate the lasting effects of the Treaty. The principles established in the eighteenth century live on. The Treaty of Utrecht laid the foundations for cooperation and conflict avoidance which are now embodied by organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. The main idea is to give attention to a common historic event in Europe.

**Short description of the event:**

The official celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht will take place in 2013 in the Netherlands. For that reason the theme of the Dutch Heritage Day will probably be "Power and splendor", a theme which emphasizes the European connections. Attention can be paid to democracy, peace, justice, government, but monarchy is also one of the options. In 2013 also 200 years of monarchy is celebrated in the Netherlands.

Our intention is to give special attention to Europe and to invite other countries to join us in this theme. We should work out further ideas and turn them into useful activities, like for instance a publication, a brochure, website-information and pictures, an exhibition or an exchange programme.

The event is focused on the heritage of democracy, peace, justice and government, and other heritage of power and splendor. For example town halls, city halls, courts of law/justice, churches, castles, rural estates.

**European dimension of Utrecht Treaty – common European Heritage:**

To give attention to a common historic event in Europe by sharing the same theme or topic: Treaty of Utrecht, Power and splendor, or another title. It is about peace in Europe, about diplomacy and dialogue and the balance of powers within Europe. The Treaty of Utrecht laid the foundations for cooperation and conflict avoidance which are now embodied by organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations.