# Art and architecture
## at the Council of Europe
### in Strasbourg
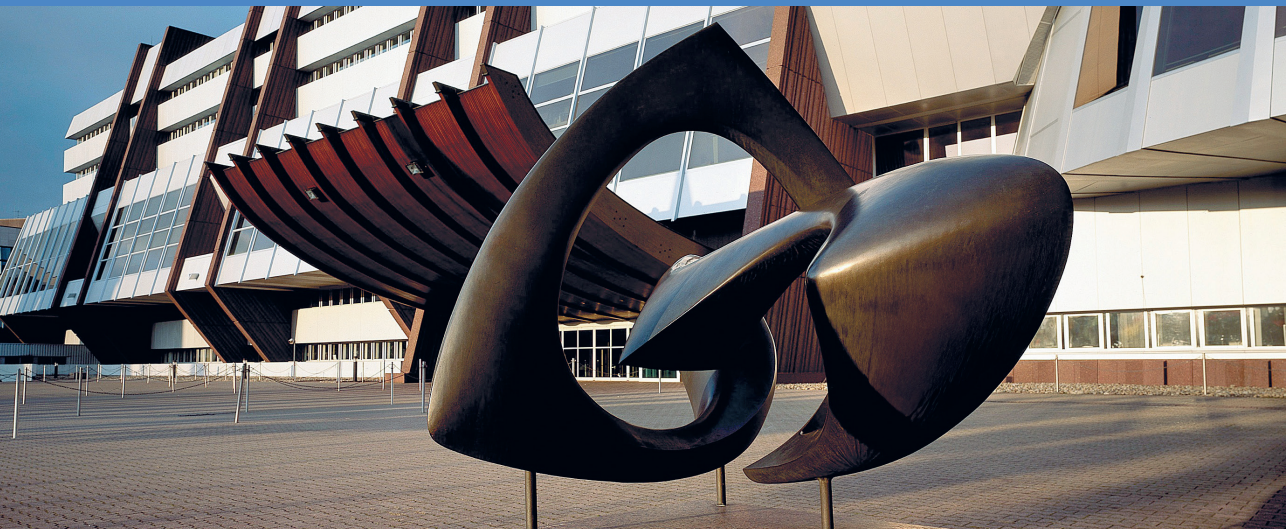
# At the heart of the European district

*The Council of Europe is an international symbol of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Through its buildings and works of art, it also contributes to the cultural richness of the city of Strasbourg. In addition to their modernity and intrinsic artistic qualities, these monuments illustrate the European project and the recent history of our continent.*

*A visit to the European district, around the Palais de l'Europe and close to the Parc de l'Orangerie, reveals an array of buildings and works of art.*

# Remarkable architecture

## The Palais de l'Europe

Designed by French architect Henry Bernard and inaugurated in 1977, the Palais de l'Europe is the Council of Europe's main building.

The Palais, whose entrance is flanked by the flags of all the member states, gives the impression of a solid fortress, contrasting with the more fluid lines of the interior. It reflects the values of unity, strength and trust that characterize the work carried out within its walls. The building's facade is clad in a mosaic of contrasting colours, alternating between concrete buttresses, aluminium and large bay windows.

A gently sloping lawn leads up to the building. This expanse of greenery is where the Maison de l'Europe, the predecessor to the Palais, once stood. It is now the setting for several works of art donated to the Council of Europe.

*Video – Virtual tour*
Explore the different areas and enter the Assembly Chamber and the Committee of Ministers meeting room. (6'45")

*Podcast – Balance of power*
The Palais de l'Europe by Henry Bernard. (7'59")

## The Agora

Inaugurated in April 2008 and designed by the architectural firms Art & Build (Brussels) and Denu et Paradon (Strasbourg), the Agora (from the ancient Greek for "open place of assembly") is the Council of Europe's most recent building.

Its large, glazed facade delimits two interior atriums, around which are organised the conference rooms, clad in patinated copper. These spaces are covered by a metal roof above the main entrance. This progressive building, voted best office building of the year 2008 (MIPIM Award), bears witness to the Council of Europe's commitment to high environmental standards.



*Video – Virtual tour*
Take a tour of this space, with its atriums and surrounding offices and meeting rooms. (2'45")

## European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Healthcare (EDQM)

The EDQM building is located behind the Agora. Designed by the architectural firms Art & Build (Brussels)and Denu et Paradon (Strasbourg), it was inaugurated in March 2007. An arched glass and wood structure combines modern aesthetics and contemporary functionality. It houses laboratories, offices and meeting rooms, which serve the Organisation's role in ensuring the quality of medicines in Europe and beyond.



**Video – Virtual tour**
Take a look inside our laboratories
and discover what the EDQM does
to protect your health. (4'00")
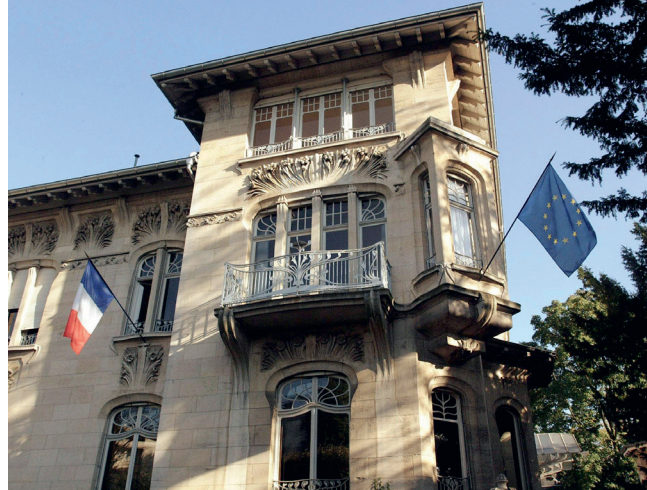
## European Audiovisual Observatory

A unique source of information on the European television and film industry, the European Audiovisual Observatory was created in 1992. Its offices are located in Allée de la Robertsau, in the remarkable Villa Schutzenberger, built in 1900. Designed by Julius Berninger and Henri-Gustave Krafft, this villa is one of the most emblematic examples of Art Nouveau architecture in Strasbourg. Its style is reminiscent of an Italian villa, with an overhanging roof, sculpted decorations and lines in Savonnières stone. Magnificent wrought-iron ornaments contribute to its beauty.



**Video – Virtual tour**
Discover the magnificent facade and interior
of this listed building. (5'33")

## The European Youth Centre

Designed by Norwegian architects
Lund + Slaatto, this contemporary building,
located in the Wacken district, has welcomed
tens of thousands of young people from all
walks of life since 1972. A remarkable example
of modern Scandinavian architecture, the
building features exposed concrete and
aluminium.



**Video – Virtual tour**
Discover this friendly place dedicated to welcoming,
housing and training young people.
(2'45")

## The former building of the European Court of Human Rights

Built in 1965 by architects B. Monnet, J. Aprill and
F. Papillard, this building, located behind the Palais
de l'Europe, was inspired by the De Stijl and Bauhaus
movements. It is a square, two-storey structure
organised around a courtyard. The building is made of
concrete and clad in stone and exotic woods.



**Video – Virtual tour**
Discover the former courtroom of
the European Court of Human Rights.
(2'15")

## The Human Rights Building

Inaugurated in 1995, the Human Rights Building follows the course of the Ill River, which flows through Strasbourg. It is one of the finest creations of British architect Lord Richard Rogers, who also designed the Centre Georges-Pompidou in Paris, the Millennium Dome in London and the National Assembly in Wales.

Imbued with symbolism, its facade evokes the scales of justice, and its large, glazed surfaces underline its transparency and link with the outside world. At the front, the two cylindrical courtrooms of the European Court of Human Rights stand out. These elevated structures connect the public spaces, where circular elements of metal, glass and Vosges sandstone mix, with the more sober, functional office areas.



*Video – Virtual tour*
Enter the large chamber and the small courtroom. Learn more about the European Convention on Human Rights. Discover how your rights are defended on a daily basis. (4'20")

# A prestigious art collection
## *Around the buildings*



## Statue of Poseidon ❷

A reproduction of the "God of the sea" statue, recovered in 1928 from the seabed off Cape Artemision, north of the island of Evia in the Aegean Sea. Calamis may have sculpted the original, which dates back to 450 BC.



## Human rights ❶

This bronze work by artist Mariano González Beltrán stands on the front lawn of the Palais de l'Europe. Donated by Spain, it shows a circle of male and female figures, linked together and is emblematic of a society living in harmony with human rights. The combination of the abstract (the silhouettes) and the figurative (the expressive bodies and faces of the women and children) evokes the cycle of life and the universality of human values.

# Four-leaf clover ❸

This two-metre high angular piece of metal, in chromed steel, is a work by artist Attilio Pierelli. Donated by Italy, it stands on the front lawn of the Palais de l'Europe.



## Europe ❹

Rudolf Kedl's copper sculpture, donated by Austria, stands next to Beltrán's. The Austrian sculptor described this vertical work as "a female silouette rising from the flames".

## Interpenetration ❺

A sculpture by Luxembourgish artist Lucien Wercollier, this bronze piece, with its simple, elegant combination of curves and straight lines, was donated by Luxembourg.

## Auschwitz Memorial ❻

Located at the top of the main entryway stairs, it is the symbol of the Council of Europe's Holocaust Remembrance Day.

This bare block of stone was unveiled in 2005 by Auschwitz survivor Jean Samuel and Szewach Weiss, then Chairman of the Board of Yad Vashem and former President of the Knesset.





## Inukshuk ❼

Behind the Palais de l'Europe, we come across this statue by Percy Tutannuaq, donated by the Canadian Parliament in 1978. A testimony to Inuit culture, *Inukshuk*, whose name means "that which resembles man", is a construction of stone blocks representing the standing figure, both a landmark and a sentinel in its environment.

## A segment of the Berlin Wall ⑧

A walk around the Human Rights Building reveals fragments of the Berlin Wall, donated by Germany.

These concrete blocks, witnesses to the vicissitudes of history, also symbolise the reunification of Germany and the hope of the peoples of Europe.



**Podcast**
*Art breaks down walls –*
*Berlin Wall (7'40")*



## The Petrified Seven ⑨

Next to the Human Rights Building, *The Petrified Seven*, a sculpture by Carl Bucher, created in 1995 and donated by Switzerland, expresses the trauma of physical violence.

# *Inside the buildings*

## Liberty tapestry by Fernand Léger/Paul Eluard

Paul Éluard's famous poem is one of the 20th century's most poignant expressions of universal resistance to repression. It is at the heart of a large, brightly coloured tapestry, based on an artwork by Fernand Léger. In this moving work "colour infiltrates the written word".

**Podcast**
*The power of a word –*
*Liberté, by Fernand Leger/Paul Eluard (6'50")*

PAUL ELUARD

LIBERTÉ J'ÉCRIS TON NOM

Sur mes cahiers d'écolier
Sur mon pupitre et les arbres
Sur le sable sur la neige
J'écris ton nom

Sur toutes les pages lues
Sur toutes les pages blanches
Pierre sang papier ou cendre
J'écris ton nom

Sur les images dorées
Sur les armes des guerriers
Sur la couronne des rois
J'écris ton nom

Sur la jungle et le désert
Sur les nids sur les genêts
Sur l'écho de mon enfance
J'écris ton nom

Sur les merveilles des nuits
Sur le pain blanc des journées
Sur les saisons fiancées
J'écris ton nom

Sur tous mes chiffon
Sur l'étang soleil
Sur le lac lune viv
J'écris ton nor

Sur les champs sur l'
Sur les ailes des oi
Et sur le moulin des
J'écris ton nor

Sur chaque bouffée d
Sur la mer sur les b
Sur la montagne dé
J'écris ton nor

Sur la mousse des
Sur les sueurs de l'
Sur la pluie épaisse
J'écris ton nor

Sur les formes scint
Sur les cloches des c
Sur la verité phys
J'écris ton nor

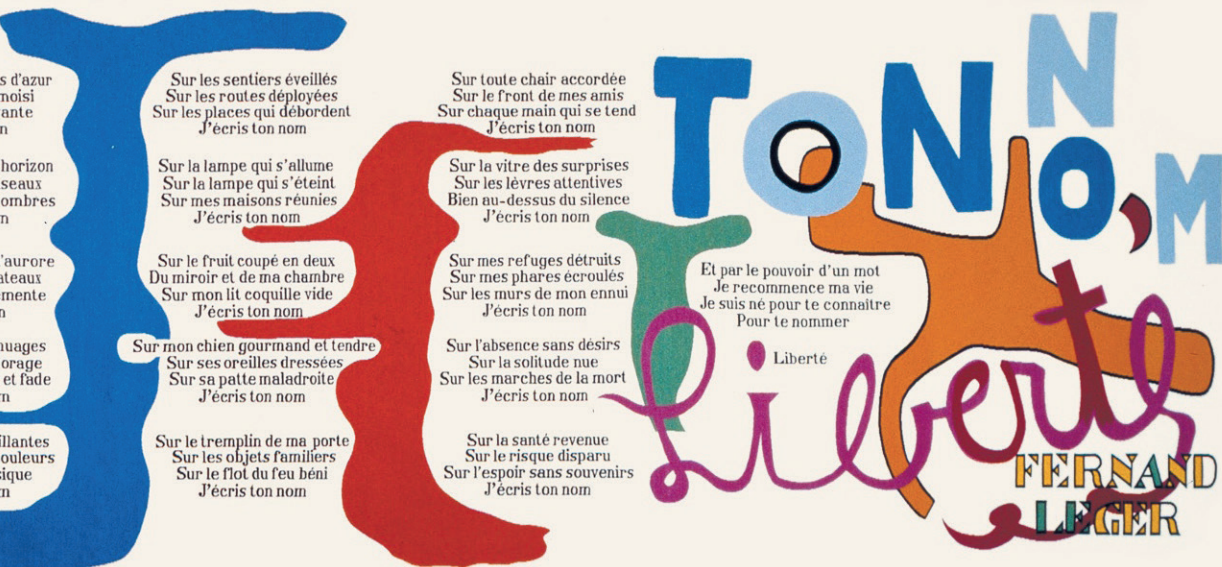## Bust of Sir Winston Churchill by Oscar Nemon

"Let Europe arise!"

As early as 1946, Winston Churchill advocated a union between European countries, a "United States of Europe".

This brilliant orator's words still resonate today at the Council of Europe, where his bust, sculpted by Oscar Nemon, challenges and inspires those who walk by it.



**Podcast**
*Churchill bust
(8'21")*



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Sur les sentiers éveillés
Sur les routes déployées
Sur les places qui débordent
J'écris ton nom

Sur la lampe qui s'allume
Sur la lampe qui s'éteint
Sur mes maisons réunies
J'écris ton nom

Sur le fruit coupé en deux
Du miroir et de ma chambre
Sur mon lit coquille vide
J'écris ton nom

Sur mon chien gourmand et tendre
Sur ses oreilles dressées
Sur sa patte maladroite
J'écris ton nom

Sur le tremplin de ma porte
Sur les objets familiers
Sur le flot du feu béni
J'écris ton nom

Sur toute chair accordée
Sur le front de mes amis
Sur chaque main qui se tend
J'écris ton nom

Sur la vitre des surprises
Sur les lèvres attentives
Bien au-dessus du silence
J'écris ton nom

Sur mes refuges détruits
Sur mes phares écroulés
Sur les murs de mon ennui
J'écris ton nom

Sur l'absence sans désirs
Sur la solitude nue
Sur les marches de la mort
J'écris ton nom

Sur la santé revenue
Sur le risque disparu
Sur l'espoir sans souvenirs
J'écris ton nom

Et par le pouvoir d'un mot
Je recommence ma vie
Je suis né pour te connaître
Pour te nommer

Liberté

TON NOM

Liberté

FERNAND LEGER

## Earth and Cosmos by Robert Rigot

In 1972, on its return from space, this European flag was frozen in a Baccarat crystal sphere by Robert Rigot.



THE FLAG OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE FLOWN ON
APOLLO 16 TO THE MOON APRIL 16,1972 WITH
THE BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT "BIOSTACK" SPONSORED BY
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



*Podcast*
*12 stars on the Moon –*
*From its creation by the*
*Council of Europe in 1955,*
*to its journey to the Moon,*
*this podcast tells the story*
*of the European flag's*
*wild adventure.*
*(5'23")*

## Nadiya – Hope in Ukrainian by Pedro de Andrade Nunes

This portrait is a vibrant tribute to Ukrainian women who "through silent or expressed courage remain a bastion of hope". The work highlights the unequivocal will to win.





*Podcast*
*Надія, Nadiya – "Hope in Ukrainian"*
*(6'37")*

## Hungarian revolution flag

The popular revolt of 1956 against the Hungarian Communist regime marked a turning point in the country's history.

This original flag, which has a hole in its centre, symbolises the country's will to free itself from the yoke of the Soviet Union and move closer to Europe.



*Podcast*
*The colours of freedom –*
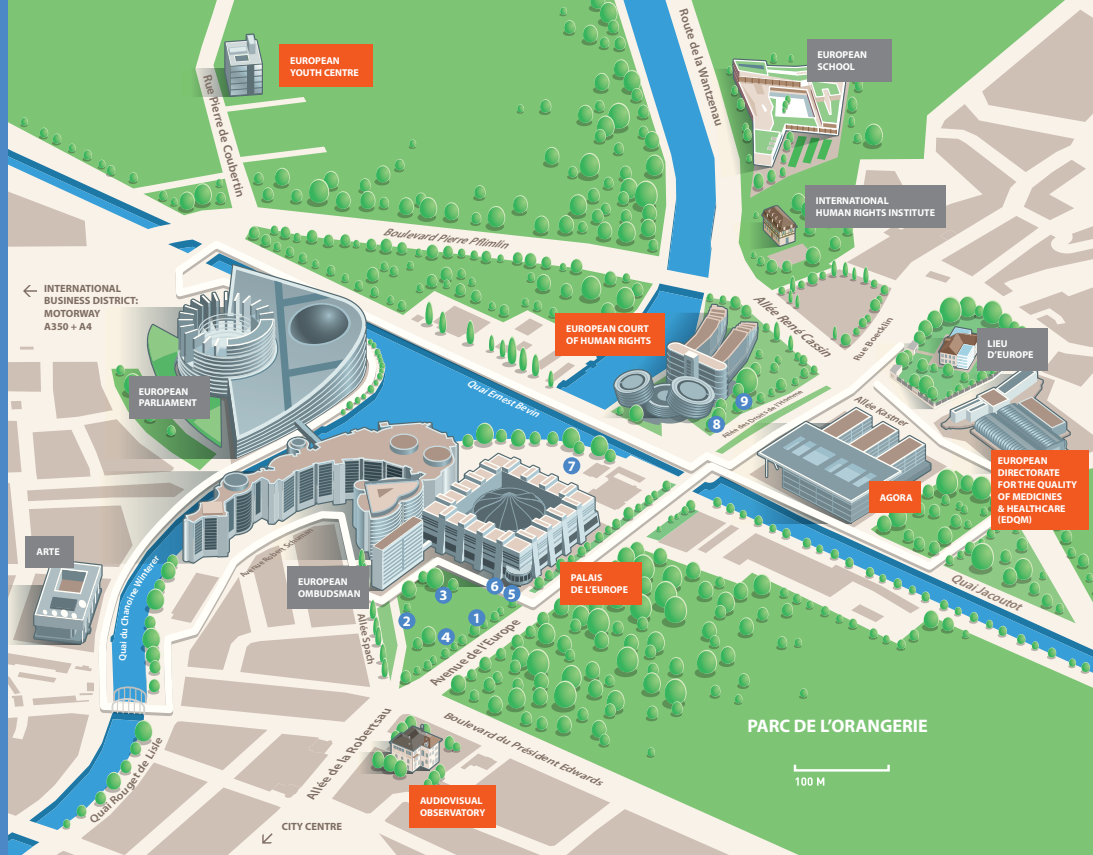*Hungarian revolution flag*
*(8'32")*
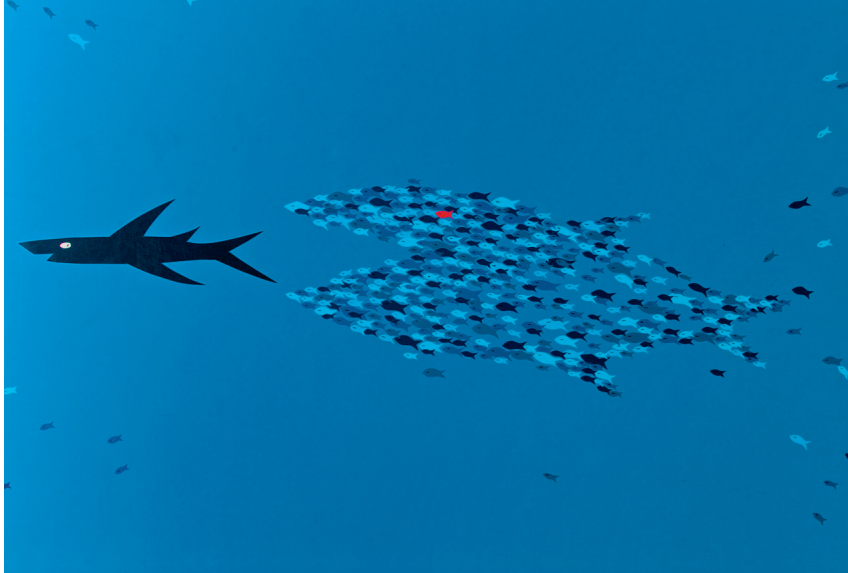
## Fish and shark, by Turhan Selçuk

Regarded as the Picasso of caricature, Turhan Selçuk pioneered the captionless cartoon of the 1940s. This work highlights the power of democracy. It shows that no one is above the law, and that all we need to do is work together to unite against any threat.



*Podcast*
*United we stand*
*(7'49")*

EUROPEAN
YOUTH CENTRE

EUROPEAN
SCHOOL

*Route de la Wantzenau*

*Rue Pierre de Coubertin*

INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

*Boulevard Pierre Pflimlin*

← INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS DISTRICT:
MOTORWAY
A350 + A4

*Allée René Cassin*

*Rue Boecklin*

EUROPEAN COURT
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

LIEU
D'EUROPE

*Quai Ernest Bevin*

EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

9

*Allée Kastner*

8

EUROPEAN
DIRECTORATE
FOR THE QUALITY
OF MEDICINES
& HEALTHCARE
(EDQM)

*Place des Droits de l'Homme*

7

ARTE

AGORA

*Quai du Chanoine Winterer*

*Allée Spach*

EUROPEAN
OMBUDSMAN

6  5

PALAIS
DE L'EUROPE

1

*Quai Jacoutot*

2

4

*Avenue de l'Europe*

*Quai Rouget de Lisle*

PARC DE L'ORANGERIE

*Allée de la Robertsau*

*Boulevard du Président Edwards*

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading
human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member
States, including all the members of the of the
European Union. All Council of Europe member
States have signed up to the European Convention
on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect
human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The
European Court of Human Rights oversees the
implementation of the Convention in member States.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE