

# A GREEN START OF THE YEAR

**Brussels**

**January 30, 17.00-19.30h**



Welcome to the Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018 teaser event, hosted by the Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Belgium and ERRIN.

This Brussels-based event functions as a teaser to come and experience the green movement in European cities. The whole year will be filled with European and international events in Nijmegen European Green Capital. Have a look at <https://greencapital2018.nl/en/calendar/>

The event will also be the official ERRIN new year's reception, so don't miss it!

We hope to inspire you to come to Nijmegen in 2018 and experience the drive towards a greener and more sustainable urban environment, as Nijmegen carries the torch of the green movement in many European towns and cities. We also salute our predecessors from Essen (2017), welcome our successors from Oslo (2019) and are happy to join forces with our 2018 Green Leaf Award partners from Leuven. In the panel, we will discuss concrete urban projects, like ERRIN's UnaLab. All working together towards Green Cities.

**Sign up here!**

<http://bit.ly/2iSZLGY>

## **When**

Tuesday January 30

17.00 - 19.30h

## **Where**

Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the EU

Avenue de Cortenbergh 4-10, Brussels

## **Draft Programme**

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| 17.00 | Entrance with a drink  |
| 17.30 | <b>Welcome</b> by Dutch Permanent Representative to the EU   |
| 17.35 | <b>Nijmegen European Green Capital 2018: the calendar</b><br>Mayor Hubert Bruls and Vice-Mayor Harriët Tiemens                 |
| 17.50 | <b>Pitch by the city of Leuven</b> , European Green Leaf 2018<br>Mayor Louis Tobback, Leuven (tbc)                             |
| 18.00 | <b>Panel</b> : stimulating sustainability in European cities<br>UnaLab, Nijmegen Sit and Heat, Oslo, European Commission (tbc) |
| 18.20 | <b>MEP</b> Bas Eickhout on Green Cities  |
| 18.30 | <b>Drinks and bites</b>  |

## **A green movement**

**Nijmegen has been awarded the title of European Green Capital 2018. For a whole year, we will be the Green Capital of Europe. What a great compliment!**

Next to the Nijmegen-based great kick-off on January 20, 2018, the year includes European conferences on air quality, circular economy, agroforestry, sustainable procurement, climate adaptation, urban logistics, clean medicine, Green Capital 2020 and a sustainable mayor's conference.

We are the first Dutch city to hold this title, with Copenhagen, Bristol, Ljubljana, Essen and several others before us. We have earned the award by spending many years working hard on greening and sustainability. And by 'we' we mean the entire city and surroundings; both young and old, with major and minor activities.

And we're about to celebrate this achievement, and how! In 2018, we'll be showing the Netherlands and Europe *that* it is possible, and *how* it is possible. We'll show people how we invest in food, health and a green living environment, and in sustainable business and technical innovations as well.

And we're still far from finished. Nijmegen, the oldest city in the Netherlands, is now more than ever before a city of the future; a leader of a major green movement. Other people come here to see how we do this, and in turn we learn from others. We want to inspire and activate people and companies, while creating green projects and green jobs. Join us!

### **> What is a Green Capital?**

The European Green Capital Award is an initiative of the European Commission. The title is awarded every year to a European city that leads the way in sustainability, thus serving as a source of inspiration for other cities. The winner then carries the title of European Green Capital for one year.

### **> Who we are there for**

Nijmegen Green Capital is for policymakers from Europe and the Netherlands, for professionals and foreign delegations. However, the green capital is also for the city's own residents, for entrepreneurs, for students, school pupils and tourists. In fact, it is for everyone who loves sustainability. *Old city, green vibe!*

### **> We want to**

- raise our sustainability policy to a higher level and accelerate existing projects
- contribute towards a strong regional economy, with a focus on health, energy and sustainability
- be a challenging role model for medium-sized cities in the coming year
- become widely known in Europe and continue to be a city that thinks and acts in a green manner

