

# EU Day 2016

14th Annual European Union Day: February 29, 2016



## Keynote Address

**“State of the European Union Address”**

delivered by

His Excellency [Henne Schuwer](#), **Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United States**

Monday, February 29, 2016

Alice Campbell Alumni Center Ballroom 601 South Lincoln Avenue Urbana, IL 61801

[\(map\)](#)

10:00 am

*Reception to follow*

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The European Union Center is pleased to announce its 14th annual European Union Day on February 29, 2016.

European Union Day at the University of Illinois is a celebration of transatlantic relations and strives to promote a better understanding between the peoples of the United States and the European Union. The highlight of the celebration is the address by the Ambassador of the country that holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This year, the annual “State of the European Union” address will be delivered by His Excellency [Henne Schuwer](#), **Ambassador of the Netherlands to the United States**.

EU Day is open to the public and provides our citizens with the opportunity to learn about the importance of the European Union to the United States and its role in promoting international relations. Invited guests and dignitaries will include members of the Diplomatic Corps from Washington, DC, members of the Consular Corps from Chicago, business leaders, state and local government officials, and faculty and students from universities and high schools throughout Illinois.

### **The Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

Every six months, on a rotating schedule, an EU member state becomes the presiding state and is leading the work of the EU Council. In the 2009 Lisbon Treaty, a trio principle for the Presidency was introduced. That means that the Presidency's work program is developed by three countries. The Netherlands will hold the Presidency for the first half of 2016. The goals put forth by this Presidency stress innovation and the future. The Presidency is an opportunity for every member state, regardless of its size or length of membership, to influence the EU agenda and guide EU endeavors.



Learn more about [the Netherlands Presidency](#)

EU Day press release is available [here](#).

EU Day poster is available [here](#).

The EU Day 2016 State of the European Union Address can be watched below or on [Illinois Media Space](#).

The EUC's promotional video for EU Day can be viewed on [Youtube](#).

The EU Center is a *National Resource Center* funded through the US Department of Education's Title VI Grant and a *Jean Monnet Center of Excellence* funded through the European Union. The EU Day activities are partially funded by a *Getting to Know Europe* grant from the Delegation of the EU to the US.