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Programme Fryslândeï (Friesland Encounter)

4th of September 2018 at Solvay's Library, Rue Belliard 137, Brussels

Fostering Regional Identities and Minority Languages

17.30 – 18.00

Welcome

18.00 – 18.05

Video on multilingualism

18.05 – 18.15

Welcoming speech by Mr Arno Brok, King's

18.15 – 18.35

Commissioner of the Province of Fryslân

Keynote speech by Professor Sabine Ehrhart
(University of Luxemburg) on multilingualism and

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18.35 – 19.15

Panel discussion on regional identity and multilingualism, in the light of current discussions on cultural identity in Europe.

The key issue will be: *'Is European integration an opportunity or a threat to the regional cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe and how does this affect European citizens?'*

Panelists:

- Mr Jan Huitema (MEP; The Netherlands)
- Ms Sabrina Rasom (vice-chair Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity; Italy, South Tyrol/Lidania)
- Mr Francis Zammit Dimech (MEP; Malta)

All participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on the debate.

19.15 – 19.25

Closing remarks by Mr Ingbert Liebing, Secretary of State of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

19.25 – 19.35

Cultural conclusion by Mr Eeltsje Hettinga, Poet of Friesland

During the evening the musical accompaniment will be performed by a combo of four young enthusiastic Frisian musicians that are involved in Leeuwarden-Fryslân European Capital of Culture 2018.

19.35 – 21.00

Network reception with drinks and bites

During the reception MEPs, stakeholders from various European regions and members of the Frisian Regional Council can meet and discuss matters of regional identity and minority languages