

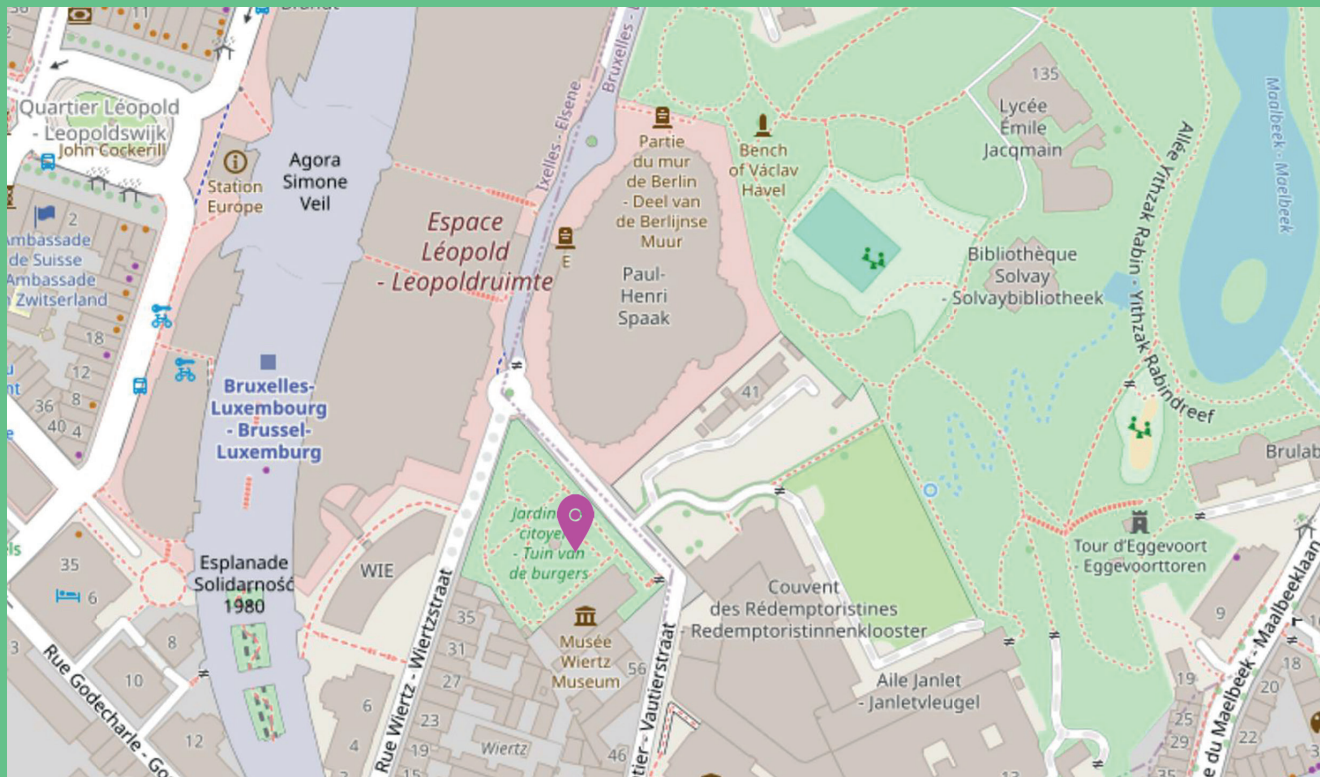
Summer Readings

in the Citizens' Garden

04 | 06 | 11 | 13 July 2023
@12.30



European Parliament



Where: Citizens' Garden, Rue Vautier, 62, 1050 Brussels-Ixelles

When: 04 & 06 July - 11 & 13 July at 12:30

Free entrance - no registration necessary

For more information

about the cultural season of the Citizens' Garden, including concerts, literary readings and other events

citizensgarden@europarl.europa.eu

<https://visiting.europarl.europa.eu/en/visitor-offer/brussels/citizens-garden>

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This publication was produced in Luxembourg for information purposes on the occasion of the Summer Readings in the Citizens' Garden, organised by the European Parliament with the Permanent Representations of Sweden, Spain and Estonia as well as other cultural stakeholders, with the aim of providing an educational reference about the background and artistic legacy of the authors whose works will be presented, and of preserving and promoting their contribution to Europe's cultural heritage.

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SUMMER READINGS IN THE CITIZENS' GARDEN

A literary approach towards Europe

This is the second season that the European Parliament organises its series of Summer Readings in the Citizens' Garden. In the first two weeks of July, at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Thursdays, four authors from different countries have been invited to read from their books and discuss with the audience.

The selection has been based on European topics that matter to our today's society, keeping a geographic and gender balanced approach. The literary presentations reveal topics that concern us as European citizens and the authors are ready to deepen our reflection in a live exchange that follows each reading. Experienced moderators will steer through these complex and emotionally touching subject matters.

In the first week, we will highlight authors from Sweden and Spain, the two countries that hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2023. They touch upon matters such as migration, the fight against terrorism as well as the situation of women living in rural areas that is hardly recognised by the general public.

The second week is dedicated to the winner of the European Literature Prize 2020, revealing his human and philosophical view on survival in our contemporary world, illuminating precisely that space of possibility between loss of homeland, euphoria of departure and longing. A young rising Estonian author will share with us her view from the Baltics on the Russian invasion in Ukraine with the background of past Soviet experiences and current personal encounters with people in Ukraine.

The readings will be done in mother tongue with text translations in English. This gives the opportunity to discover the beauty of the linguistic diversity in Europe and to follow the content of the readings at the same time. The discussions will be in English with some flexibility to switch between languages spoken by the audience and the presenters.

Please turn the pages to discover more about the authors and their literary works. We hope to welcome you to these literary discovery tours and inspiring debates!

Authors



04/07 - Alexander Koistinen (Sweden)

06/07 - María Sánchez (Spain)



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11/07 - Maarja Kangro (Estonia)

13/07 - Matthias Nawrat (Germany)



The "Europa" trilogy

a series of geopolitical thrillers, 2014, 2019 & 2022

Alexander Koistinen's "Europa" trilogy consists of "Twilight over Europe" (2014), "The silence of the church bells" (2019) and "The common interest" (2022).

The series is set in a dystopian, but not distant future. The protagonist Axel Hägerstadt is a Swedish operative in the EU's strategic intelligence service. A border conflict, riots in destitute suburbs and terrorist strikes escalate into a security crisis of unimaginable dimensions. Developing unrest in the Spanish territories on the North African coast, where Islamists attempt to seize power, compel the member states to deploy a European battlegroup in Melilla on a peacekeeping mission. Meanwhile though, jihadists have conquered Ceuta, where Axel infiltrates on a mission to assist the underground resistance movement and prepare a military intervention. At the same time, the newly elected president of the EU has enacted harsh new laws on citizenship with dire consequences for Axel's own family. The novels raise reflections on the future of Europe and the potential long-term outcomes of today's policy choices.

Europatrilogin

en serie geopolitiska thrillers, 2014, 2019 & 2022

Alexander Koistinen's Europatrilogi utgörs av *Skygning över Europa* (2014), *Där kyrkklockorna tystnat* (2019) och *Det gemensamma intresset* (2022).

Serien utspelar sig i en dystopisk nära framtid. Huvudpersonen Axel Hägerstedt är en svensk operatör vid EUs strategiska underrättelsetjänst. En gränskonflikt, upplopp i nedgångna förorter och terrordåd eskalerar till en säkerhetspolitisk kris av oanade dimensioner. Oroligheter i de spanska territorierna på Nordafrikas kust föranleder medlemsstaterna att skicka en europeisk stridsgrupp till Melilla inom ramen för en fredsbevarande operation. Under tiden har jihadisterna erövrat Ceuta, dit Axel nästlar in sig med uppdrag att bistå den underjordiska motståndsrörelsen och förbereda ett militärt ingripande. Samtidigt har Unionens folkvalda president instiftat nya, stringenta medborgarskapslagar med omedelbara konsekvenser för Axels egen familj.

Reviews

'[...] Koistinen tackles the sensitive subjects of failed integration, sometimes uncontrolled immigration, a militant Islamism that does not hesitate to use violence and an EU struggling to deal with all the conflicts this has brought. Koistinen is rather salty as he tackles the different political currents that allowed the social and religious contradictions to become unmanageable and led to parallel legal systems and increased violence.'

Dr. Magnus Norell, researcher in the subjects of international terrorism, political violence and the tension between religion and politics. www.bokus.com

Recensioner

"[...] Koistinen tar sig an de känsliga ämnena misslyckad integration, ibland okontrollerad invandring, en militant islamism som inte tvekar att använda våld och ett EU som kämpar med att hantera alla de konflikter detta fört med sig. Koistinen är tämligen salt när han tar sig an de olika politiska strömningar som tillåtit de sociala och religiösa motsättningarna att bli ohanterliga och lett till parallella rättssystem och ökat våld."

Dr. Magnus Norell är forskare i ämnena internationell terrorism, politiskt våld och spänningen mellan religion och politik. www.bokus.com

Alexander Koistinen

04 JULY / 04 JULI

12:30 > 13:30

Reading in Swedish, translation of text into English
Läsning på svenska, översättning av text till engelska

Presentation / Presentation

Cecilia Sundberg

European Parliament, Media Services | Europarlamentets presstjänst



Biography

Alexander Koistinen, born in 1969, is a reserve officer who served in the Balkans and in West Africa. He has an engineering degree from the Royal Institute of Technology and has also worked as an EU official. His ambition was to write books that did not give way to complex issues and that might contribute to the debate about security policy, defence and the future of Europe. Alexander grew up in Danderyd, now shares his time between Cyprus, Belgium and Sweden and runs his own company as IT and business consultant.

Biografi

Alexander Koistinen, född 1969, är reservofficer med internationell tjänstgöring på Balkan och i Västafrika. Han har civilingenjörsexamen från KTH och har även verkat som EU-tjänsteman. Hans ambition blev att skriva böcker som inte väjde för komplexa frågeställningar och som kunde bidra till debatten kring säkerhetspolitik, försvar och Europas framtid. Alexander är uppvuxen i Danderyd, delar sin tid mellan Cypern, Belgien och Sverige och driver egen firma som IT- och affärskonsult.

Europa Nostra Est.?

*This reading is presented to you in cooperation with the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU in the framework of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
Detta läsning presenteras för dig i samarbete med Sveriges ständiga representation vid EU inom ramen för det svenska ordförandeskapet i Europeiska unionens råd.*

Land of women

Novel, 2019

In this highly personal essay, the writer sets out to give voice and space to all the women silenced in the Spanish countryside, to all those who had to give up their education and independence to work the land with their hands and look after their families.

Based on family stories, reflections on science and literature resulting from their readings and some of the conflicts that plague the rural environment in Spain (depopulation and neglect of villages, exploitation of natural resources, non-compliance with environmental policies and working conditions in the countryside), "Land of women" fills a gap in the debate on feminism and rural literature.

It also seeks to offer a realistic vision of life in the countryside, far removed from the bucolic postcards given from the big cities, and to underline the danger of losing forever a knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation.

Tierra de mujeres

Ensayo, 2019

En este ensayo tan personal, la escritora se propone dar voz y espacio a todas las mujeres silenciadas del campo español, a todas aquellas que han tenido que renunciar a su educación e independencia para trabajar la tierra con sus manos y cuidar de sus familias.

A partir de historias familiares, de reflexiones sobre ciencia y literatura fruto de sus lecturas, y de algunos de los conflictos que azotan el medio rural en España (despoblación y abandono de los pueblos, explotación de los recursos naturales, incumplimiento de las políticas ambientales y de las condiciones de trabajo en el campo), "Tierra de mujeres" llena un hueco en el debate sobre feminismo y literatura rural.

Además, busca ofrecer una visión realista de la vida en el campo, alejada de la imagen bucólica que de ella suele tenerse en las grandes ciudades, destacando el peligro de perder para siempre un conocimiento que se ha transmitido de generación en generación.

Reviews

'Narrated with agility, lucidity, forcefulness, and tenderness. There is knowledge, pride, vitality, and fantastic energy in this memoir about the women who, against the tide of history, didn't leave their family homes or their land, the ones who stayed with their men (or without them) in the rural area, the ones who resisted the exodus to the cities.' - El País

Reseñas

"Narrada con agilidad, lucidez, contundencia y ternura. Hay conocimiento, orgullo, vitalidad y una fantástica energía en estas memorias sobre mujeres que, en contra del curso de la historia, no abandonaron sus casas familiares ni su tierra; aquellas que permanecieron con sus hombres (o sin ellos) en el campo, las que resistieron al éxodo a las ciudades." - El País

María Sánchez

06 JULY / 06 DE JULIO

12:30 > 13:30

Reading in Spanish, translation of text into English
Lectura en español, traducción de texto al inglés



Presentation / Presentación

Gonzalo del Puerto

Head of Cultural Affairs | **Jefe de Actividades Culturales**, Instituto Cervantes in Brussels

Biography

María Sánchez was born in Córdoba in 1989. Daughter and granddaughter of veterinarians, she is the first woman in her family to dedicate herself to a profession, that of field veterinarian, traditionally carried out by men. María Sánchez is also a Spanish best-selling author (Princesa de Girona Foundation Arts and Letters Award 2021, among others). In her literary work she re-examines the role of women in rural areas. Her poetry and prose have been translated into several European languages. She is a regular contributor to radio, digital and print media on literature, feminism and rural culture.

Biografía

María Sánchez nació en Córdoba en 1989. Hija y nieta de veterinarios, es la primera mujer de su familia que se dedica a una profesión, la de veterinaria de campo, tradicionalmente desempeñada por hombres. María Sánchez es también una escritora y poeta española de éxito (galardonada con el Premio Fundación Princesa de Girona de las Artes y las Letras 2021, entre otros). En su obra literaria reexamina el papel de la mujer en el medio rural. Su poesía y prosa han sido traducidas a varios idiomas europeos. Colabora habitualmente en medios radiofónicos, digitales e impresos sobre literatura, feminismo y cultura rural..

" Quiero que las nuevas palabras
germinen sin miedo "

'I want new words to germinate without fear.'

This reading is presented to you in cooperation with the Embassy of Spain and the Instituto Cervantes in Brussels in the framework of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2023.

Esta lectura se presenta en colaboración con la Embajada de España y el Instituto Cervantes en Bruselas en el marco de la Presidencia española del Consejo de la Unión Europea 2023.

In the Van

Short Story, 5/2023

During a festival lunch, somewhere on the coast of Southern Italy, an Estonian and a German (Eberhard) get involved in a fierce argument. Against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, Eberhard claims that the Baltic countries do not know Russia; they have no expertise in dealing with their neighbour, and they maltreat their Russian minorities. The Estonian protagonist, in turn, accuses Germans of short-sighted pragmatism, overcaution and general naïveté in their relations with Russia, deriding the German guy's "west-splaining". Later, when the participants of the festival are taken to a farewell dinner in another town in a minibus, things get ugly. When both protagonists finally talk again, they suddenly hear the sirens of an air raid alert coming from a phone app, informing that Western Ukraine is bombed by Russians again.

Eberhardi peer

Lühijutud, 5/2023

Kuskil Lõuna-Itaalia rannikul satuvad eestlane ja sakslane (Eberhard) ühe festivali lõunasöögi ajal ägedasse vaidlusse. Käimas on Ukraina sõda ja väidab Eberhard, et Baltimaad ei tunne Venemaad, neil pole teadmisi oma naabriga tegelemiseks ja nad väärkohtlevad oma vene vähemusi. Eesti peategelane omakorda süüdistab sakslasi lühinägelikus pragmaatilisuses, liiges ettevaatlikkuses ja üldises naiivsuses Venemaa suhtes, naeruvääristades sakslase "läänelikkust". Hiljem, kui festivalil osalejad viiakse minibussiga hüvastijätkuõhtule teise linna, läheb asi koledaks. Kui mõlemad peategelased lõpuks uuesti juttu ajavad, kuulevad nad äkki telefonirakendusest õhurünnaku hoiatussireene, mis teatavad, et venelased pommitavad taas Lääne-Ukrainat.

Reviews

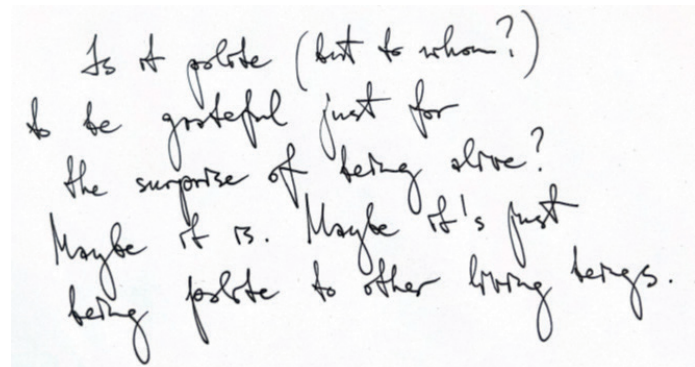
Hers is a style that is poisonous, without sentimentality, she has a keen eye that ridicules all human weaknesses, however, in the midst of all her shocking honesty accompanying her irony, there is also great empathy.

Headread, <https://headread.ee/2019/en/guest/maarja-kangro/>

Arvustused

Kangrole on omane sapine, sentimentaalsusevaba stiil, terav pilk, mis naeruvääristab inimlikke nõrkusi, kuid ironiaga kaasneva ehmatava aususe keskel võib lugeja tajuda erakordselt suurt empaatiat.

Headread, <https://headread.ee/2019/esineja/maarja-kangro/>



Maarja Kangro

11 JULY / 11 JUULIL

12:30 > 13:30

Reading in Estonian, translation of text into English

Eestikeelne lugemine, ingliskeelne tõlge tekstist paberkandjal



© Kirke Kangro, 2019

Presentation / Esitlus

Philip Meersman

Multilingual poet, curator and moderator | mitmekeelne luuletaja, kuraator ja moderaator

Biography

Maarja Kangro was born in 1973 in Tallinn, Estonia, where she currently lives. She has been described as one of the most compelling Estonian authors of her generation. She has published several collections of poetry and volumes of fiction. With her essays and reviews she has contributed to important magazines, newspapers and also radio programs. In addition, she is the author of several libretti for Estonian composers. She has translated fiction, philosophy and poetry from Italian, English, German, and other languages (among others Umberto Ecco and, Magnus Enzensberger). She has won numerous prizes, among them twice the most prestigious Estonian literature prize - in 2009 for poetry and in 2011 for prose. Her recent visits to Ukraine gave impact to different publications reflecting an Estonian view on the war in Ukraine and Russian culture.

Biograafia

Maarja Kangro on sündinud 1973. aastal Tallinna ning elab seal ka praegu. Teda on nimetatud üheks oma põlvkonna kõige köitvamaks eesti kirjanikuks. Ta on avaldanud mitu luulekogu ja ilukirjandusteoseid. Tema esseesid ja arvustusi avaldatakse regulaarselt olulistest ajakirjades, ajalehtedes ja ka raadiosaadetes. Lisaks on ta mitmete librettode autor eesti heliloojatele. Ta on tõlkinud ilukirjandust, filosoofiat ja luulet itaalia, inglise, saksa ja teistest keeltest (muuhulgas Umberto Ecco ja Magnus Enzensberger'i loomingut). Ta on võitnud arvukalt auhindu, sealhulgas kaks korda maineka Eesti kirjanduse auhinna - 2009. aastal luule ja 2011. aastal proosa eest. Maarja Kangro hiljutised visiidid Ukrainasse on mõjutanud tema vimaseid publikatsioone kajastades Eesti vaateid Ukraina sõjale ja vene kultuurile.

This reading is presented to you in cooperation with the Estonian Embassy in Brussels and the Estonian Literature Centre, Tallinn.

Kirjandusliku kohtumise aitab tuua teieni Eesti Saatkond Brüsselis ja Eesti Kirjanduse Keskus.

Winner of the European Literature Prize 2020

The sad guest

Novel, 2019

Matthias Nawrat's fourth novel is a philosophical yet human observation of one's self and survival in our contemporary world.

The action takes place in closely observed contemporary Berlin. An attack on the Christmas market at the Memorial Church shakes the sense of security. Against this backdrop, the first-person narrator meets three different protagonists: Dorota, an elderly Polish architect with infectious intellectual energy; Dariusz, a former surgeon who now works as a gas station attendant due to alcohol problems; and Eli, a survivor. Their stories recount the loss of homeland combined with the simultaneous euphoria of a new arrival, of repression and longing.

Gewinner des Europäischen Literaturpreises 2020

Der traurige Gast

Rowohlt, 2019

Matthias Nawrats vierter Roman ist eine philosophische und zugleich menschliche Beobachtung des eigenen Selbst und des Überlebens in unserer heutigen Welt.

Die Handlung spielt in einem genau beobachteten zeitgenössischem Berlin. Der Anschlag auf dem Weihnachtsmarkt an der Gedächtniskirche bringt das Sicherheitsgefühl ins Wanken. Der Ich-Erzähler trifft vor diesem Hintergrund drei unterschiedliche Protagonisten: Dorota, eine ältere, polnische Architektin mit ansteckender intellektueller Energie, Dariusz, einen ehemaligen Chirurgen, der jetzt aufgrund von Alkoholproblemen als Tankwart arbeitet, und Eli, einen Überlebenskünstler. Ihre Geschichten erzählen vom Verlust der Heimat verbunden mit der gleichzeitigen Euphorie eines Neuankommens, vom Verdrängen und gleichzeitigem Verlangen.

Reviews

In his fourth novel, Mathias Nawrat deals with migration and outlines what arriving in a foreign country does to people. [...] Nawrat takes terms such as life planning or continuity ad absurdum; in a subtle manner, but always against the background of historical experiences and injuries.

Deutschlandfunk - von Christoph Schröder, 28.01.2019

Rezensionen

In seinem vierten Roman erzählt Matthias Nawrat von Migration und darüber, was das Ankommen in der Fremde mit den Menschen macht. [...] Subtil führt Nawrat Begriffe wie Lebensplanung oder Kontinuität ad absurdum; unaufdringlich, aber stets vor dem Hintergrund historischer Erfahrungen und Verletzungen.

Deutschlandfunk - von Christoph Schröder, 28.01.2019

Matthias Nawrat

13 JULY / 13. JULI

12:30 > 13:30

Reading in German, translation of text into English
Lesung auf Deutsch, Textübersetzung auf Englisch



Presentation / Präsentation

Dr. Franziska Humphreys

Head of Programme | Beauftragte „Europanetzwerk Deutsch“, Goethe-Institut Brüssel

Biography

Matthias Nawrat was born in Opole, Poland in 1979. At the age of 10, he moved to Germany with his family and now lives in Berlin. His debut novel *Wir zwei allein* (The Two of Us Alone), 2012, achieved international acclaim. Later prize winning publications include his dystopian novel *Unternehmer* (Entrepreneur), 2012 and a fictional family record in *Die vielen Tode unseres Opa Jurek* (The Many Deaths of our Grandpa Jurek), 2017. *Nowosibirsk: Tagebuch* is a journal of his short stay in Siberia on invitation of Goethe-Institut. The author has also published essays and short stories.

Biografie

Matthias Nawrat wurde 1979 in Opole, Polen, geboren. Im Alter von 10 Jahren zog er mit seiner Familie nach Deutschland und lebt heute in Berlin. Sein erster Roman „Wir zwei allein“, 2012, hat bereits internationale Anerkennung bekommen. Zu seinen späteren preisgekrönten Publikationen gehörte sein dystopischer Roman „Unternehmer“, 2012 und eine fiktive Familienaufzeichnung in „Die vielen Tode unseres Opas Jurek“, 2017. In „Nowosibirsk: Tagebuch“ dokumentiert er seinen kurzen Aufenthalt in Sibirien auf Einladung des Goethe-Instituts. Der Autor hat zudem Essays und Kurzgeschichten veröffentlicht.

Literatur darf nicht geschickt sein. Das Ich in einem Text ist für mich immer der Durchgang zu den Anderen.

Matthias Nawrat

This reading is presented to you in cooperation with Goethe-Institut Brussels and the European Literature Prize (EULP).

Diese Lesung wird Ihnen präsentiert in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Goethe-Institut Brüssel und dem Europäischen Literaturpreis (EULP).



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Summer Readings in the Citizens' Garden – Our Partners



Permanent Representation of Sweden
to the European Union, Brussels



04/07 Alexander Koistinen (Sweden)

06/07 María Sánchez (Spain)

11/07 Maarja Kangro (Estonia)

13/07 Matthias Nawrat (Germany)

Directorate-General for Communication
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