

EuropaNow!

In Prague *EuropaNow!* pays tribute to Jan Palach with the European flag

On 16 January 2019, fifty years after Jan Palach's self-immolation, the *EuropaNow!* pro-European association will be in Prague to pay tribute to the young student who, with his gesture, wanted to wake his fellow citizens up after the Warsaw Pact armies invaded Czechoslovakia.

The sacrifice of Jan Palach, like those of Jan Zajic and Evzen Plocek in the following weeks, belongs to the common memory of all Europeans.

Let us never forget that the European Union is deeply rooted in the memory of the tragic experiences of the 20th century and in the fight against totalitarianism and for freedom.

At a time when obscurantism and nationalists are once again threatening the Continent, it is essential to recall that Jan Palach is an exemplary figure for the Czech people as well all European. He embodies the foundations of our brotherly pact.

In paying tribute to the European hero Jan Palach, *EuropaNow!* also wishes to celebrate the courage of all Charter 77 signatories and in particular of Václav Havel who was once again imprisoned thirty years ago, on 16 January 1989, by the communist regime's political police for having wanted to lay a wreath at the site of the student's immolation. A few months later, when he became President, he urged all European citizens:

"if we are not able to dream of a better Europe, we will never build a better Europe".

EuropaNow! will be present, in the morning from 10 a.m. and in the afternoon from 5 p.m., at Václavské náměstí 42 (in front of the Paul shop) to meet all those wishing to pay tribute to Jan Palach in a spirit of European fraternity. We will then move together towards Jan Palach's memorial.

On this occasion, EuropaNow! will make European flags freely available to reaffirm the will to defend the Union's common values and demand a new Europe, stronger, more just, more democratic, united and federal. A Europe that is no longer only a Europe of nations and of budgetary rules, but a Europe of equal rights and citizens.

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