



COMMISSION EUROPEENNE – COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

## Antwerp celebrates EU cultural heritage awards

BRUSSELS, 18 November 2011. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled at Antwerp Central Station on Monday (21 November) to celebrate its 'Grand Prix' in the 2011 EU Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards. The prize, in the conservation category, was awarded to the station – known as the "Railway Cathedral" – in recognition of the superb restoration of the 1905 industrial heritage site. The work was carried out over 11 years, without interrupting rail traffic. The ceremony will be attended by Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Multilingualism, together with Inge Vervotte, Federal Minister for the Civil Service and Public Enterprises. Patrick Janssens, Mayor of Antwerp, will host a reception in the city hall after the ceremony. Belgium was the "champion" country in this year's EU Cultural Heritage Awards, scooping five out of the 27 prizes. The other winning Belgian projects were for the conservation of Villa Empain in Brussels and the Duke's Watermill (s Hertogenmolens) in Aarschot, and for the "Monumental Churches of Antwerp" and "Heart for People's Cafés" projects, in the category of education, training and awareness-raising about cultural heritage. The winners were selected from nearly 140 submitted projects in 31 countries. The final choice was made by independent experts from across Europe. (See IP/11/443 and IP/11/695).

Contacts:

[Dennis Abbott](#) (+32 2 295 92 58)

[Dina Avraam](#) (+32 2 295 96 67)