



Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland

## Embassy of Ireland PRESS RELEASE

### *TRADFEST Belgium 2016*

In the run up to Ireland's key match against Belgium in the Euros the Embassy of Ireland announces the biggest Irish music and culture festival ever to be held in Belgium

**6 DAYS, 70 PERFORMERS, 40 EVENTS, 20 VENUES, 7 CITIES & TOWNS**

**7-12 JUNE, 2016**

The Embassy of Ireland today announced that it will run Belgium's largest ever traditional Irish music and culture festival which will take place in Belgium on 7-12 June, 2016.

TRADFEST Belgium 2016 will see an explosion of vibrant Irish music across the country for **6 days** this June with over **70 performers** (musicians, dancers and music experts) travelling from all over Ireland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Spain and the United States to perform in **40 events** at **20 venues** including in **7 cities and towns**, in Flagey and in some of Brussels' best known Irish pubs.

Announcing the festival the Ambassador of Ireland H.E. Mr. Éamonn Mac Aodha said:

"Ireland and Belgium are already close partners in many ways.

In June we will face each other in football in the Euro Championships but now before that - through this festival - we will add to the strong cultural bonds which unite both countries.

Irish music will come to Belgium on a scale never seen before and build hugely on the success of last year's TradFest.

Belgians who visit Ireland often do so because of our reputation for great music. We want to offer these potential visitors a sample of what is best in Ireland.

There are also up to 15,000 Irish people living in Belgium who we are here to serve. This festival is for them too.

These are the reasons we are doing this festival.”

The festival programme has enormous variety with something for everyone with an interest in Ireland and Irish culture.

Renowned Irish and world music band *Kila* will headline the festival at Flagey on 8 June. Kila's smile-making, hip-shaking funky brand of Irish music will be presented in a great acoustic setting.

Contemporary Trad Band *Perfect Friction* will open for Kila's headline concert at Flagey.

In addition to the headline concert at Flagey, there will be live sessions in pubs & other venues, a photographic exhibition, a book launch, lectures on music and diaspora, Irish language and dance lessons and much more.

Specific items from the programme include a concert by celebrated Irish artist Liam Ó Maonlaí at Kraainem, music premiered at the Embassy of Ireland on the role of soldiers from Ireland in WW1, a film narrated by Liam Neeson on the 1916 Easter Rising in Roeselare, pub music sessions and Irish dance & language classes in Brussels.

The full programme for this exciting festival is available on

<https://www.dfa.ie/media/embassybelgium/newsandevents/TRADFEST-BELGIUM-2016---FULL-PROGRAMME.pdf>

and on Tradfest Facebook page:

[TRADFEST Belgium 2016](#)

For further information, requests to film venues or any other information please contact Fearghas de Stok, Embassy of Ireland on 0499 58 5328 or 02-2823402

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