



## PRESS RELEASE

# The "14-18, it's our history!" exhibition opens its doors on 26 February 2014 at the Museum of the Armed Forces in Brussels

To commemorate the Centenary of the First World War, the **Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History**, together with the **Museum of Europe**, will host a major exhibition entitled "14-18, it's our history!" from 26 February 2014. Thanks to the extremely rich and unique collections of the Museum of the Armed Forces, this exhibition will allow the public to understand every facet of a conflict that left the whole of Europe battered and weakened. The history of the conflict has been placed in a broad context, with a place for everyone involved in this drama.

This exhibition, created by the company **Tempora**, is the first event of 2014 and is unquestionably **the major reference exhibition of the commemorations to mark the First World War**. The Federal government and the Flemish, Walloon and Brussels regions have decided to support the exhibition by providing substantial subsidies.

The war and everyday life in occupied Belgium are a key part of the exhibition, but the public is also encouraged to rediscover the history of the mobilisation of the European States who attempted to help Belgium, which had become a central pawn in the conflict. Finally, through authentic objects, décors, testimonies, multi-media installations, films and immersive spaces, visitors can see how the conflict initiated and, to a large extent, influenced the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The role of this exhibition is to raise awareness of the events of this European, and later global, war among a broad section of the public that has forgotten how the war shaped their lives. To achieve this aim, the exhibition appeals to the emotions, making visitors feel that this history concerns them and involves them... involves both their past and their future. This exhibition is therefore an encounter between the history of each person - history with a small 'h' and History with a capital 'H'.

Inside the exhibition, a special route provides **a comparative portrait of King Albert I and Kaiser Wilhelm II**. It is a chronological journey through half a century of European history. We follow the two sovereigns from their birth to their death, looking

at the major sources of confrontation as well as some unexpected similarities. A number of their personal belongings are on display to the public for the first time.

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Information and reservations: [www.expo14-18.be](http://www.expo14-18.be) - Ph.: 02/549.60.49 - **Press relations:**  
[press@expo14-18.be](mailto:press@expo14-18.be)