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Construction européenne

The flags of the European Union are at half-mast in front of the European Commission building in Brussels on 23 March 2016, one day after the explosions that hit the Belgian capital. World leaders united in condemning the carnage in Brussels and pledged to fight terrorism, after ISIS suicide bombers struck 31 people by striking the symbolic heart of the European Union. Patrik Stollarz - AFP

This Agence France-Presse (AFP) package on the European Union has been compiled using the agency's text, photo and graphics archives, and links with official sites.

It explores the European project's beginnings, centuries ago, through to the foundation in the years following World War II of the European bloc, with its subsequent many achievements and crises.

The dossier was compiled by Janet McEvoy.

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