



Press release

Brussels, 24 November 2020 - **From today until 10 January, Brussels by Lights is switching on to bring a little light to 142 Brussels streets and squares for the holiday season. The City of Brussels wants to brighten up this out-of-the-ordinary festive period and thank the people of Brussels for the efforts they have been making for many months.**

"While our absolute priority is of course everyone's health, we want to preserve some of the magic of the festive season at the end of the year. As the possibilities of meeting are limited, it's now more necessary than ever to bring some light to the districts of our city and its shopping streets, which we can hope will reopen in compliance with the health regulations in force.", says Fabian Maingain, Alderman for Economic Affairs.

New illuminated streets and squares:

With **11 new streets** and a **new district**, **BRUSSELS BY LIGHTS** is continuing to expand in Brussels and now embraces 142 shopping streets and thoroughfares

In the novelty section, you'll find the **Rue des Pierres** in the heart of the Saint-Jacques district, covered with a luminous ceiling of 55 gold drops, but also the **Rue Fossés aux Loups**, **Rue de l'Écuyer** and **Rue de l'Écuyer**, as well as the **Saint-Géry district**.

The illuminations of the Rue Haute, Rue Blaes and Rue de Flandre have been extended. The magic also continues in places which were already lit up in previous years, such as the pedestrian axis of the city centre and the De Wand shopping district in Laeken.

New luminous works:

Two interactive sound and light works will decorate two squares, in compliance with health measures:

- **Trumpet Flowers**, consisting of 27 gigantic flowers measuring between 2 and 10 metres high have been installed on the Place Fontainas to mark the completion of the work on the boulevards in the centre. These "*flowers*" invite visitors to enter an extraordinary musical garden and to take on the role of conductor for a few minutes, triggering a multitude of sounds with a simple press of the foot. (Artists: Simone Chua, Amigo & Amigo / Sound Design: Otis Studio - Sydney, Australia).

- **Vermell** ("red" in Catalan), which stands in the Place de la Monnaie, consists of eight red spheres of 3 m in diameter which react to environmental elements such as sounds or the body heat emitted by visitors. The work then generates a harmonious choreography. *Vermell* invites passers-by to live a unique experience in a moment of suspension between calm and serenity. (Artists: Alex Posada and Xevi Bayona, Mid Studio - Girona, Spain).

In addition to these two interactive works, **five other three-dimensional installations** will enchant the squares of the Vieille Halle aux Blés, the forecourt in front of Notre Dame du Finistère Church and the Place Jardin aux Fleurs. And let's not forget the arch which gives access to the Rue de Namur, which is enhanced by glittering 3 m high structures.

A total of **16.4 km of light motifs** and **8.8 km of garlands** are enhancing the 142 streets and shopping streets of the city. "*With the environment at the forefront of our mind, we systematically use LED lamps. This has enabled us to reduce the consumption of the entire system to 104.6 kWh, which corresponds to about 69 medium-power hoovers,*" explains Fabian Maingain, also Alderman of the Smart City.

More technical information on the route and the works is available in the press kit which is downloadable on <https://www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/press-pictures/> and where you will also find a few pictures.

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