



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 24.1.2019
C(2019) 163 final*

*Mr Daniel GÜNTHER
President of the Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4
D – 10117 BERLIN*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 {COM(2018) 366 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Bundesrat welcomes the Commission proposal for a stand-alone Creative Europe programme for the period 2021-2027. The Commission has put forward its proposal for the future programme with a view to ensuring continuity and responding to the European Council Conclusions of 14 December 2017, which stressed that ‘Education and culture are key to building inclusive and cohesive societies and to sustaining our competitiveness’¹.

Regarding the Bundesrat’s suggestion to add the mobility of cultural and creative professionals and the cross-border circulation of works as an additional objective to the proposal, the Commission would like to underline that these issues are implicit in the objectives included in the proposal. In fact, both under the Culture and the MEDIA strands, the circulation of works and the mobility of professionals are explicitly mentioned as priorities.

The Commission agrees with the Bundesrat on the importance of reaching new and larger audiences, in particular children and young people. This is a goal underpinned by several actions mentioned in the proposal. For the MEDIA strand, for instance, Annex I explicitly mentions “Initiatives promoting audience development and film education addressing in particular young audiences”.

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/32204/14-final-conclusions-rev1-en.pdf>

Concerning the Bundesrat's comments on the proposed InvestEU Programme², the Commission would like to stress that the cultural and creative sectors are taken into account in strand (a) Support for small and medium-sized enterprises and strand (b) Social inclusion of the InvestEU proposal. The Commission would like to point out that while the InvestEU Programme is a market-driven financial instrument, this does not necessarily entail that the artistic position of projects would suffer.

Regarding the European Union Youth Orchestra, the Commission would like to reiterate the unique role played by the Orchestra in promoting intercultural dialogue, mutual respect and understanding through culture, as well as the way it is acting as a cultural ambassador for the Union by show-casing the richness and diversity of European cultures and emerging talents. Its unique position is further highlighted by the fact that it is the only European orchestra founded via a resolution of the European Parliament. It is for this reason and past experience that the Commission proposes to provide a sustainable funding basis for the European Union Youth Orchestra.

The Commission welcomes the comments of the Bundesrat regarding synergies. It is indeed the intention of the Commission to simplify cooperation modalities between programmes to ensure that the objectives are met fully through a combination of different programmes without subordinating one programme to another.

Finally, the Commission takes note of the suggestions of the Bundesrat concerning the Management Committee, the budget shares for the different strands of the programme, the delegated powers for developing a monitoring and evaluation framework as well as the list of indicators and activities contained in the annexes to the proposed Regulation. The Commission will give due consideration to these comments when negotiating the proposal with the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the concerns raised by the Bundesrat and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

² COM(2018) 439 final.