

## **JOINT SESSION**

- **SPECIAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**
  - **STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

The aforementioned Committees of the Hellenic Parliament came to a joint session on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 , in order to adopt an

### **OPINION**

**On the Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND  
OF THE COUNCIL,**

**establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the  
years 2020 to 2033**

**COM (2012) 407 final**

The members of the aforementioned Committees , having considered:

- The Proposal's text
- The informational note by the Ministry for Education and Religion, Culture and Sports
- The oral briefing by the Alternate Minister for Education and Religion, Culture and Sports mr. Constantinos Tzavaras

Adopted by majority the following opinion:

#### **Regarding Subsidiarity Principle**

The Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council aims at revising the selection criteria concerning European Capitals of Culture, as well as evaluation criteria and monitoring procedures, with a view to achieve maximum social and economic benefits at a long-term scale. The goals pertaining to cooperation encouragement between member-states in the field of culture and for highlighting common cultural heritage, as well as selection and evaluation procedures are being formed at a European level in order to ensure implementation of common, clear and transparent criteria. Therefore, there are no issues of subsidiarity, since the EU is capable of regulating such issues more effectively.

### **Proportionality Principle**

The Proposal for a Decision is also consistent with the Proportionality Principle as not going beyond what is necessary for achieving its objective. Organisation responsibility and materialization of each competition is carried out at a national level.

### **Comments, remarks**

- Regarding the case of EU candidate countries' possibility to apply to the competition ( article 3), it would be advisable to establish stricter criteria in order to fulfill the "European dimension" and "city of citizens" terms , as well as the candidacy's strong European dimension, taking into consideration as well the limiting of funds in the field of culture- a crucial field regarding both the formation of citizens' European consciousness and the European unity and solidarity-, due to the increase in member-states' number and the special economic conditions created by the economic crisis
- Regarding innovation introduced by article 4 on candidate cities involving their surrounding regions, it is deemed as a successful choice. Participation of smaller sized cities, which, under other circumstances, would not have the possibility to engage into competitions of such range, is deemed positive, both for the competition per se , as extending its scope, and the participating region, as offered the opportunity to highlight its cultural wealth and for acquiring short-term and long-term benefits.