



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 23. 4. 2013
C(2013) 2255 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Vouli ton Ellinion for its Opinion regarding the Commission's 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 2020-2033 {COM(2012) 407 final}.

The Commission is pleased to note that Vouli ton Ellinion welcomes and supports the continuation of this high-profile European initiative beyond 2019.

As the Vouli ton Ellinion rightly points out, the reinforced evaluation criteria and monitoring procedures foreseen in the Commission's proposal aim to improve on the current scheme in order to maximise the potential benefits for all cities taking the title as well as for their citizens.

The Commission also takes note of your comments regarding the extension of the initiative to candidate and potential candidate countries as well as the possibility for bidding cities to involve their surrounding regions.

The Commission is very happy to be able to count on your support at the very moment when the Commission is negotiating this proposal with the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Vouli ton Ellinion on this issue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mr Evangelos MEIMARAKIS
President of the
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