

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC
17TH PARLIAMENTARY TERM

DOC. XVIII
No 155

RESOLUTION OF THE 7th STANDING COMMITTEE

(Education, heritage, scientific research,
entertainment and sport)

(Rapporteur: MARTINI)
adopted at the sitting of 5 October 2016

ON THE

**PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL ON A EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE (COM(2016) 543
final)**

pursuant to Article 144(1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure

Sent to the President's Office on 11 October 2016

CONTENTS

Text of the Resolution *Page 3*
Opinion of the 14th Standing Committee *Page 4*

The Committee,

having examined the proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Cultural Heritage (COM (2016) 543 final), in accordance with Article 144(1) and (6) of the Rules of Procedure,

whereas the aim of the European Years of Culture is to reflect on certain themes and focus the attention of citizens and institutions on specific subjects;

noting that, in the document in question, the European institutions are proposing that 2018 be designated a European Year of Cultural Heritage, as requested of the European Commission by the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions;

sharing the objective of contributing to the promotion of the role of cultural heritage as an essential element of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, identifying better ways of ensuring its preservation and protection;

noting that the initiative provides an opportunity to also highlight subjects such as training, research, digitisation and conservation, all associated in different ways with cultural heritage;

noting that the European Year of Cultural Heritage will be implemented by means of existing European programmes such as Creative Europe, the European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, *Erasmus +* and Europe for Citizens and that the measures envisaged include information and promotional campaigns as well as European, national, regional and local events;

welcoming the fact that the European Commission has conducted a series of consultations targeting a broad range of stakeholders, also drawing on a fruitful debate made possible by those bodies which bring together the authorities of the Member States responsible for cultural heritage policies;

noting that the proposal appears to be in line with the principle of subsidiarity, as it could not be pursued by Member States alone, and the principle of proportionality, as it is based on existing programmes without imposing any excessive administrative burden;

having regard to the opinion of the 14th Committee;

issues a favourable opinion.

Opinion of the 14th Standing Committee
(EUROPEAN UNION POLICIES)
(Rapporteur: Liuzzi)

4 October 2016

The Committee, having examined the

proposal, whereas:

the proposal designates 2018 as the 'European Year of Cultural Heritage' (Article 1) in order to encourage and support the efforts of Member States and their regional and local authorities to protect, safeguard, re-use, enhance, valorise and promote European cultural heritage in the European Union (Article 2);

the measures to be adopted to achieve these objectives, also at regional and local level, are initiatives, information campaigns, sharing of experiences, studies and research (Article 3);

each Member State is to appoint a national coordinator (Article 4), and they are to coordinate between themselves at European level (Article 5);

funding is provided for (Article 7), given that the European Year of Cultural Heritage will serve as a point of reference for various EU programmes, such as Creative Europe, the Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020 (including digital elements relating to the conservation and development of cultural heritage), Erasmus + and Europe for Citizens. Creative Europe also funds three EU actions specifically dedicated to cultural heritage: European Heritage Days, the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage and the European Heritage Label;

noting that:

the legal basis is Article 167(1) TFEU, according to which 'the Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore;

the added value of the proposal is in enhancing the European dimension of the exchanges of experiences and good practices between the Member States;

consistency with the principle of proportionality is demonstrated by the fact that this action is based on existing programmes and gears communication activities to the themes of the European Year, without imposing any excessive administrative burdens on the authorities implementing the proposal;

also noting that, on 28 October 2015, the Permanent Representations to the EU of Italy and Spain organised a seminar in Brussels entitled 'A European Year of Cultural Heritage: sharing cultural heritage, a joint challenge',

comments favourably on the proposal, within its area of responsibility, with the following observations:

We fully endorse the initiative in question, which has the potential to make a significant contribution to economic growth and social cohesion, making the most of Italy's cultural heritage, including intangible cultural heritage;

In this regard, noting that Matera has been designated European Capital of Culture 2019, following a fierce contest with the cities of Cagliari, Lecce, Perugia, Ravenna and Siena, the measures to promote and support the best possible development the cultural heritage of these Italian cities can be stepped up, in the wider context of enhancing the value of culture as an economic asset for towns and cities throughout Italy.

