



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2018) 7872 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication ‘A New European Agenda for Culture’ {COM(2018) 267 final}. This Opinion constitutes an important contribution to the ongoing debate on culture at the European level and offers valuable areas for reflection.

The New European Agenda for Culture is a strategic document outlining an ambitious vision for culture. It follows up on the conclusions of the Social Summit in Gothenburg in November 2017 and the European Council in December 2017, where Heads of Government and State expressed their willingness to step up efforts in the areas of education and culture at the European level, recognising that these areas are key to building cohesive societies and sustaining competitiveness. The New Agenda provides a framework, which supports innovation, creativity, diversity, sustainable jobs and growth as well as reinforces the external relations of the European Union.

The Commission is pleased to inform the Camera Deputaților that on 30 May 2018 it proposed a new Creative Europe programme with an increased budget of EUR 1.85 billion for the 2021-2027 period {COM(2018) 366 final}. Many of the suggestions made by the Camera Deputaților in its Opinion on the New European Agenda for Culture are reflected in the Commission proposal for the new programme:

- Increasing cultural participation, enhancing the capacity of European cultural and creative sectors as well as strengthening arts education and culture-based creativity in education are among the priorities of the culture strand of the Commission proposal.*

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- *The new programme aims at strengthen the international dimension of the European cultural and creative sectors and support their competitiveness through innovative trans-border initiatives to exchange, co-create, co-produce and distribute European works and make them accessible to a wide and diverse audience.*
- *The Commission has proposed a new scheme for individual mobility of artists and culture professionals. It has already started testing the conditions and criteria for such a scheme in order to be able to reach the maximum possible number and diversity of participants, ensuring an adequate geographical balance.*
- *The Commission is aware that communities, especially in rural areas, increasingly rely on culture to attract employers, students and tourists. The new programme aims thus at intensifying the testing of new business models, enabling creators to make best use of digital technology for creation and audience development.*
- *Synergies between Creative Europe and the European Structural and Investment Funds are also being facilitated in the new programme proposal. They could trigger additional support for small and medium-sized enterprises active in the cultural and creative sector, including in the rural areas.*
- *As for the music sector, the Commission has proposed to introduce a sectoral approach into the new programme to better respond to the needs of specific cultural and creative sectors, such as music, books and publishing, architecture and cultural heritage, design and fashion as well as cultural tourism.*

The Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaţilor on the need to improve the working environment of culture professionals, also in the rural areas. The challenges include the prevalence of project-based, atypical and part-time employment and the need to adapt the regulatory social protection framework to intermittent contracts and mobile workers. These issues could be given a high priority in the next Work Plan for Culture, which is currently being discussed with Member States within the Council and which should be adopted by the Council in November 2018.

Furthermore, the Commission would like to use the momentum of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 to put more focus on the promotion of culture across the Union. The legacy of the European Year is also being discussed with the Member States in the context of the preparation of the next Work Plan for Culture. The Commission welcomes the suggestion of the Camera Deputaţilor to encourage Member States to develop national action plans for cultural heritage and to link these with environmental protection and landscape conservation.

Finally, the Commission agrees with the Camera Deputaţilor that it is important to support learning in schools, through formal and non-formal educational programmes based on cultural activities. Indeed, in its proposal for a new Erasmus programme post-2020 {COM(2018) 367 final}, the Commission has proposed to increase such activities.

The Commission hopes to have responded to the issues raised by the Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*