



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S REASONS

Subject : Common Position adopted by the Council on 21 October 2004 with a view to the adoption of a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 1419/1999/EC establishing a Community action for the "European Capital of Culture" event for the years 2005 to 2019

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S REASONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 17 November 2003, the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for a decision, based on article 151 of the EC Treaty, amending Decision 1419/1999/EC establishing a Community action for the "European Capital of Culture" event for the years 2005 to 2019.
2. The European Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on 22 April 2004. The Commission made an oral presentation of its modified proposal on 29 April 2004.
3. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on 10 May 2004.
4. On 21 October 2004, the Council adopted its common position in accordance with Article 251 (2) of the EC Treaty.

II. AIM OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal aims to allow the new Member States to participate in the European Capital of Culture event before the current decision expires in 2019. It does not change the existing order of entitlement for nominations from Member States, but establishes a new system appointing two Member States eligible to submit nominations each year from 2009 onwards, so that two capitals may be selected in the Member States.

III. ANALYSIS OF THE COMMON POSITION

1. General comments

The Council did not make any amendment to the Commission's proposal.

The Commission accepted in full 1 of the 5 amendments proposed by the Parliament (amendment 1).

2. Amendments made by the European Parliament

2.1. Amendments accepted by the Council

The Council endorsed in full the amendment proposed by the Parliament and accepted by the Commission (amendment 1).

2.2. Amendments not integrated by the Council

The Council, like the Commission, considered that amendments 2, 3, 4 and 5 went beyond the scope of the proposal and did not regard it as appropriate to incorporate them.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The Council considers that its common position is balanced and fully in line with the main objective of the Commission's proposal, thereby facilitating the participation of the new Member States in the European Capital of Culture event as soon as possible.