

PODCAST international cultural relations

Voice 1: Sarah

Voice 2: Brian

JINGLE to open intro to podcast

VOICE 1

You're listening to the European Parliamentary Research Service podcast on an EU strategy for international cultural relations.

VOICE 2

Culture lies deep in the heart of every society. But could it also be used as a tool of international diplomacy? The European Parliament certainly believes so! Provided actions are well coordinated and funded... Stay with us!

END OF INTRO JINGLE

VOICE 2

Europe is a meltingpot of different cultures, languages and traditions...

VOICE 1

Experience in dealing with this diversity, combined with the EU's ambition to uphold the values of democracy and champion a rules-based global order enhances its international role as a soft power...

VOICE 2

... promoting intercultural and religious dialogue, freedom of expression and fundamental values.

VOICE 1

Aware of the diplomatic potential of cultural relations, in 2007 the European Commission proposed an agenda for culture in a globalising world. But until recently, member states have not really coordinated the "cultural aspect" in their external relations... but that could change soon!

VOICE 2

In 2016 the Commission launched a new strategy to place cultural diplomacy at the heart of the EU's relationship with today's world, introducing new elements of coordination, such as cultural focal points in the 140 EU delegations, or embassies, around the globe.

VOICE 1

The Strategy builds on three main pillars: supporting culture as an engine for social and economic development; promoting intercultural dialogue for peace and stability; and protecting cultural heritage against natural disasters, terrorism and armed conflict.

VOICE 2

To help implement the strategy and create synergies among stakeholders, a Cultural Diplomacy Platform was set up in February 2016.

VOICE 1

For the European Parliament the intention is good, but the strategy lacks substance... notably, a clearly defined annual action programme and a separate budget line.

VOICE 2

It also needs clear and measurable goals, priorities and realistic outcomes, as well as a clear division of responsibilities between the EU, its Member States and international partners ...

VOICE 1

Without these elements... can culture really become an effective tool of international diplomacy?

VOICE 2

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MUSIC JINGLE TO CONCLUDE