

Newsletter

Committee meeting 21-22 June 2017

Brexit: Implications for Culture and Education Policies

Public hearing

With Brexit talks between the UK and the EU27 having just got underway and the CULT Brexit Monitoring Group ([CULT Highlights](#)) having just begun its work under the chairmanship of Bogdan ZDROJEWSKI, the hearing offered a timely opportunity for the committee to understand more fully what Brexit will mean for culture and education policy.

The hearing started with a presentation by **Professor Giandonato Caggiano** (Roma Tre University), who provided an overview of the legal aspects of Brexit, both in terms of the possible architecture of agreements and with regard to the UK's prospective future participation in EU programmes like Erasmus+ and Creative Europe. He set out different options for future EU-UK cooperation in these fields, such as the Norwegian, Swiss, Canadian and in particular the Turkish models. He also listed a number of legislative files (e.g. the AVMSD) where the effects of Brexit will be felt.

The first panel was devoted to education policy. The first speaker, **Dr Thomas Jorgensen** (European University Association), referred to Brexit as "a major threat to the sector". He defined the UK as the most productive EU country in research and the most popular destination for mobile students in Europe, due to the language, but also to the quality of UK universities. "That is the reason why EUA has argued strongly for future association of the UK to the Erasmus programme as well as for the Framework Programme for Research", he said. He recommended that, as a part of the financial settlement, the UK continue to pay and be eligible for funding from these programmes until they end, and then be associated to the new programmes immediately afterwards. Concerning free movement, he stated clearly that, if a solution was not found during the negotiations, this might result in a highly uneven situation, where UK researchers and students, and their families, would have privileged access to the EU via Directive 2016/801 without reciprocity.

Professor Christine Slade (Bath Spa University and Universities UK) underlined the fact that as much as 55% of mobility of British students takes place through Erasmus+ and that connections into Europe fostered by the EU have been enormously valuable for the UK. She also made an impassioned case for student, teacher and researcher mobility - both inside and outside the EU - arguing that the UK already lags behind. Like Dr Jorgensen before her, she called for political will to ensure that the huge benefits of Erasmus+ both for UK students studying in the EU and for EU students studying in the UK are not lost for future generations.

The second panel on culture policy and the creative sector started with **Bernd Fesel** (European Creative Business Network). He painted a picture of a cultural and creative sector (CCS) that is already suffering the negative effects of Brexit, with data from EU Member States showing a decline of foreign investments in the UK and of exports in goods and services to the UK in 2016. He stressed that failure to safeguard the core conditions of the existing market would jeopardise the CCS in both the EU and the UK. He cautioned in particular that EU Member States had not given adequate thought to the potential repercussions of a breakdown in the market.

The last speaker, **Eluned Hâf** (Wales Arts International) highlighted the importance of maintaining access to networks and of mobility to avoid isolation. She focused on the key impacts of Brexit on the sector (on people and their mobility, on funding for culture programmes in the UK and on the economic success of the cultural and creative sector) and called for any future trade arrangement to retain the cultural exception to enable public support to the sector. She pleaded for the UK's continued participation in Creative Europe and other programmes either following models already established for other non-EU member states, or on the basis of a new model.



Academic further and distance education

Adoption of draft report (Milan ZVER, EPP)

In the report CULT highlights the importance of academic further and distance learning as tools to help education systems respond to the profound and complex changes that our societies and economies are currently undergoing. It recognises the value of such forms of learning in that they provide flexible formats and new learning opportunities for all, irrespective of country, region, class, age or gender. Moreover, it stresses the need for all education systems in the MS to establish a regulatory framework enabling further distance education to function properly, including recognition and validation of the results of formal, non-formal and informal learning.

The report was adopted with 24 votes in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

[Procedure file](#)

Rapporteur's approach to budgetary amendments

(Morten LØKKEGAARD, ALDE)

The Rapporteur set out the central tenets of his approach to the budgetary amendments in the CULT Committee (deadline, 6pm on 26 June), stressing that he would remain faithful to the thrust of the recently adopted opinion on the mandate for the trilogue. This means he will focus on seeking to obtain the additional 50 million EUR for Erasmus+ agreed in the MFF revision, but absent from the draft budget; to provide more clarity on the funding arrangements for the Solidarity Corps; and to deliver more appropriate financing for Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens. The Rapporteur also argued for a separate budget line for the European Year of Cultural Heritage in line with the inter-institutional political agreement, for sustainable funding for Euranet+ and for support for effective pilot projects and preparatory actions. Members agreed with the basic approach of the Rapporteur, also voicing disappointment that the 2018 DB did not include the 50 million top-up for Erasmus+ and reiterating concerns about the lack of clarity surrounding the Solidarity Corps financing.

[Procedure file](#)

Broadcasting regulation (CabSat 2.0)

Adoption of draft opinion (Petra KAMMEREVERT, S&D)

The Committee adopted, with a relatively narrow majority, the opinion on the proposed regulation on “The rules on the exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes”. In its opinion, aims to limit the scope of the regulation as proposed by the Commission. In particular, the application of the principle of ‘country of origin’ is limited to specific types of online ancillary services. In that regard, the opinion aims to exclude from the application of this principle:

- audiovisual works licensed to broadcasting organisations by third parties,
- co-produced audiovisual works unless fully financed by broadcasting organisations,
- works or other protected subject-matter included transmissions of sport events,
- online services which are primarily or solely targeted at an audience in a Member State other than the country in which the broadcasting organisation is mainly established.

It also reinstates the principle of contractual freedom, which makes it possible to limit the exploitation of the rights affected by the principle of country of origin, including by agreeing absolute territorial exclusivity. Furthermore, it suggests that authors retain a right to fair remuneration for the retransmission of their work where they have transferred their retransmission rights to a broadcasting organisation or a producer.

The opinion also addresses the issue of the exploitation of broadcasting programmes through “direct injection”. Broadcasting organisations that transmit their programme carrying signals through direct injection to distributors for reception by the public are liable jointly with those distributors for the acts of communication, and making available, to the public. These broadcasting organisations and distributors should therefore obtain an authorisation from the rightholders concerned for such acts.

[Procedure file](#)

Implementation of the European Disability Strategy

Consideration of draft opinion (Julie WARD, S&D)

The CULT committee held a discussion on Julie WARD's opinion on the progress report published by the Commission in February 2017 on “The European Disability Strategy 2010-2020”. This strategy is the main instrument to support the EU's implementation of UNCRPD and so frames actions at EU level. In her presentation, Ms WARD stated clearly that barriers to mobility remain a challenge and she drew attention, inter alia, to the digital gap. The deadline for amendments is 29 June and the vote is scheduled for 10 October.



Joint ITRE-CULT Hearing of Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner-Designate for Digital Economy and Society

On 20 June 2017, the Committee on Culture and Education, together with the Industry, Energy and Research Committee, held a hearing of Ms Mariya Gabriel. After her nomination by President Juncker as Commissioner responsible for the Digital Economy and Society portfolio, the Council formally decided to consult the Parliament on her appointment in line with the Treaty. The hearing took place from 3pm to 6pm, under the

joint chairmanship of Mr Buzek (ITRE) and Ms Kammerevert (CULT), with the IMCO, JURI and LIBE committees formally associated. The hearing was the first of its kind under the revised Rules of Procedure as Members from the five committees and spanning all political groups could ask up to 25 questions, with the possibility of a follow-up question after the Commissioner-designate's reply. Written replies to questions put in advance were also made available to Members prior to the hearing.

The hearing itself was followed by a meeting of ITRE and CULT Coordinators on Wednesday 21 June to assess the Commissioner-designate's performance. The final decision will be taken at the July plenary.

Joint EMPL-CULT meeting - 21 June 2017

Europass

Adoption of a draft report (Thomas MANN, EPP, and Svetoslav Hristov MALINOV, EPP)

The proposal for a Decision on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass) seeks to modernise EU tools and services and to ensure that they reflect the changing needs of all potential users from the labour market and education and training sectors, are always brought into line with technological developments, new forms of sharing information and of the collaborative economy and are capable of supporting individuals in their multiple life transitions between learning and work.

In the report, the Committees welcome the Commission's efforts to update, modernise and improve the European tools and services regarding skills, competences and qualifications. However, they emphasised that the change should be gradual in order to prevent a heavy administrative burden for the Member States, which may lead to unexpected organisational costs. Moreover, they pointed out that the new common framework provided with this text serves to adapt Europass services to the needs and expectations of users and providers on all sides: learners, job seekers, employers, education and training bodies, social partners, National Europass Centres and national authorities responsible for education/training and employment policies. Members stressed the need for its use to be on a voluntary basis and for proper data protection.

318 amendments were tabled and 36 compromise amendments negotiated. Members adopted the final report with 70 in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions and the mandate to enter into negotiations once Council has adopted its position with 64 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

New Skills Agenda for Europe

Adoption of a draft report (Martina DLABAJOVA, ALDE, and Momchil NEKOV, S&D)

The New Skills Agenda for Europe, set out in the Communication: A New Skills Agenda for Europe - Working together to strengthen human capital, employability and competitiveness, launches a number of actions to ensure that the right training, the right skills and the right support are available to people in the European Union. It aims to make better use of the skills available and to equip people with the new skills that are needed - to help them adapt and anticipate change and find quality jobs and improve their life chances.

In the joint report, CULT and EMPL welcome the Skills Agenda as a step in the right direction, encouraging shared commitment between education providers and employers towards a common vision on the crucial importance of lifelong learning policies. Members believe that it is important that people are equipped with digital skills, as well as being able to use digital technologies in an innovative and creative way. However, in order for this strategy to be effective, there is a need to first provide teachers and educators with the right skills and competencies so that they can demonstrate pedagogical leadership at all levels of education.

513 amendments were tabled and 27 compromise amendments negotiated. The report was adopted with 59 votes in favour, 4 against and 11 abstentions.

[Procedure file](#) (Europass)

[Procedure file](#) (New Skills)

European Capitals of Culture panel

Exchange of views with experts

CULT Members heard Ms Sylvia Amman, Ms Cristina Farinha and Ms Agnieszka Wlazel, the three experts designated by the European Parliament, reporting back to the committee on their activities in the European Capitals of Culture panel for the period 2015-2017. The panel is established by Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

The experts underlined that the European Capitals of Culture are emblematic for the European integration process as they translate European values into concrete policy development and action on local/regional and national level combined with European cooperation and potential worldwide outreach. They outlined the trends in the new ECoCs. According to the experts, one of the strongest assets of the ECoCs is that cities are required to develop a long-term cultural strategy resulting from large-scale stakeholder consultations. This is an excellent tool for involving citizens in decision-making at local level and in the European project. They underlined that ECoCs bring together stakeholders from different fields, not only culture but also innovation, tourism and urban planning. One of the aspects highlighted by experts is the contribution of ECoCs to the image of the EU internationally. Members were interested in possible ways of developing further ECoCs' international cooperation, notably by reinforcing international mobility, exchange and capacity-building between ECoCs and other capitals of culture and cities worldwide.

In the discussion with Members, questions also focused on networking activities between the cities and successful sustainable development of small and medium-sized cities.

The next committee meeting:

Thursday, 29 June 2017 at 9.00-12.30

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
- [Events](#)
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