

Newsletter

Committee meeting 3 September 2018

Dear Reader,

With the summer recess now behind us and the elections a little over six months away, the European Parliament has moved into the final straight of its five-year mandate. As is clear from our work in the committee on 3 September, that final straight will be busy.

With the Commission's proposal for a new 7-year Multiannual Financial Framework and a series of policy programmes now on the table, the Education and Culture Committee will be carefully scrutinising the programme proposals and the MFF itself and putting its stamp on the various pieces of legislation.

We began on 3 September by looking at some of the key programmes on which the CULT Committee will contribute an opinion (DigitalEurope, Horizon Europe) and, as we move through the autumn, we will examine the reports on which we have enhanced association – Rights and Values programme – and those on which we will take the lead (Erasmus, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps).

We very much look forward, over the coming weeks and months, to engaging with our colleagues across the Parliament, our counterparts in the Commission and Council and our friends in the stakeholder community as we seek to shape the direction of EU cultural, education, media and sport policy for the coming years. It will be a busy, but ultimately very interesting end to this parliamentary term and we are grateful for your support along the way.

Petra Kammerevert, Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education



Interim report on the MFF 2021-2027 - Parliament's position in view of an agreement

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

With the Commission's proposal for the new MFF and the corresponding programme proposals now on the table, the draft opinion sets out the CULT Committee's key priorities going into the detailed MFF negotiations (Parliament must ultimately give consent). The draft opinion notes, with regret, that the proclaimed priority to focus on 'investing in people' is not necessarily backed up by financing. It therefore calls for a tripling of funding for Erasmus+ and a doubling of resources for Creative Europe in the next MFF, together with an over-arching aim of 1% cross-programme spending on culture. The draft opinion also bemoans the Commission's presentation of relative programme budgets, which used current prices – rather than inflation-adjusted constant prices – to compare figures and therefore overstated the real-terms increase. It also calls for genuine flexibility in the MFF to adjust to emerging realities, but insists that this must be done with proper parliamentary oversight, meaning delegated acts for secondary policy choices and a robust mid-term review across programmes. Finally, it welcomes the Commission's political message on cross-programme synergies, but regrets the absence of clear mechanisms to achieve these, and supports the notion of European added value provided that there is a recognition that educational and cultural benefits are often non-tangible.

In the subsequent debate, there was widespread support for the Rapporteur's stance on all the key points. The Commission, for its part, welcomed CULT's support for education, culture and citizenship programmes, though rejected the argument that its MFF-to-MFF comparisons painted a distorted picture.

• [Procedure file](#)

• Amendments deadline: 6 September 2018

• Committee vote: 10 October 2018

• Lead (BUDG) vote: November 2018



Establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027

Consideration of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Bogdan Brunon WENTA, EPP)

As part of the next long-term EU budget (MFF 2021-2027), and with a budget of €9.2 billion, the Digital Europe programme aims to shape Europe's digital transformation for the benefit of citizens and businesses.

The Rapporteur welcomed in that regard the overall objective of the proposed programme - i.e. to support the digital transformation of the European economy, industry and society, in order to bring benefits to European businesses and citizens, whilst reinforcing Europe's capacities in key digital technology areas. He welcomed the effort that the Commission has put into this proposal, stressing, however, the need to provide greater legal clarity and certainty to the programme as it is currently difficult to understand how it will work in practice and how the synergies between programmes will be implemented. He explained that the programme focuses on five specific objectives: (1) high-performance computing, (2) artificial intelligence, (3) cybersecurity, (4) advanced digital skills and (5) deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability. He then briefly presented the main points of the draft opinion: Considering the importance of the specific objective 4 "Advanced digital skills", for which CULT has been granted shared competence with ITRE, he suggested a slight increase of the budget allocated to this specific objective, with a proposal for a budget of around €830 million (9% of the overall budget) instead of the €700 million (7,6%) originally foreseen by the Commission.

As regards the specific objective 5, "Deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability", he also suggested several amendments to strengthen support to cultural and creative industries, in particular in the audio-visual sector, in their ongoing digital transformation. He also stressed the need to guarantee them access to the most advanced and highly performing digital technologies from AI to advanced computing.

• [Procedure file](#)

• Amendments deadline: 7 September 2018

• Committee vote: 10 October 2018

• Lead (ITRE) vote: 21 November 2018



Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

Consideration of the draft opinion (Rapporteur: Luigi MORGANO, S&D)

The Rapporteur welcomed the Commission's proposal for the next generation of the Horizon programme, and the efforts made in increasing its budget to €94 billion for the 2021-2027 period. In that regard, he calls for a further increase of the overall programme budget to €120 billion. He stressed the importance of the first pillar of the programme on "Open Science", which supports frontier research projects defined and driven by researchers themselves through the European Research Council (ERC), funds fellowships and exchanges for researchers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and invests in excellent research infrastructures.

He also recalled the importance of ensuring synergies between Horizon Europe, Creative Europe and Digital Europe, whilst emphasising the need to ensure that cultural and creative sectors would benefit fully not only from such synergies, but also from Horizon Europe itself. He finally underlined the importance of Europeana for the promotion and protection of cultural heritage online, and stressed the need for appropriate funding to support this initiative, notably through Horizon Europe.

Finally, the Rapporteur stressed that, while he welcomed the Commission's proposal, he also regretted the lack of legal clarity, particularly with regard to how the synergies and complementarity between the various programmes would actually work in practice.

• [Procedure file](#)

• Amendments deadline: 5 September 2018

• Committee vote: 10 October 2018

• Lead (ITRE) vote: 21 November 2018



European Territorial Cooperation goal of the cohesion policy (Interreg programme)

Consideration of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Marlene MIZZI, S&D)

The Committee also heard a presentation of the draft opinion by Rapporteur on the so-called Interreg programme. The opinion asks that the Interreg programme (cross-border and interregional cooperation) supports further investment in the areas of culture, education, youth and sport. Such investments are crucial in border regions where barriers to mobility persist because of language differences or a lack of mutual recognition of qualifications and diplomas. In addition, cross-border cooperation in the sphere of intercultural dialogue, education and mobility is particularly important considering that many of the regions are external borders of the EU.

• [Procedure file](#)

• Amendments deadline: 10 September 2018

• Committee vote: 10 October 2018

• Lead (REGI) vote: 21-22 November 2018



New European Agenda for Culture

Consideration of draft report (Rapporteur: Giorgos GRAMMATIKAKIS, S&D)

The Rapporteur presented his draft own-initiative report on the New European Agenda for Culture. In his introductory speech, he focused on the main aspects of the report, underlining that an ambitious strategy needs to be backed up by adequate funding, reiterating the call for doubling of the budget for the Creative Europe programme and proper support for all creative and cultural sectors. He also pointed out the need to improve the social and economic situation of artists and cultural professionals. The Rapporteur also welcomed efforts to support the European music sector and called for the immediate implementation of the strategy for international cultural relations. In the discussion, Members welcomed the draft report and especially the idea of putting in place a single one-stop-shop or portal, where all existing EU funding instruments for CCIs would be listed in a user-friendly and comprehensive manner. Members again raised the question of poor data on culture and creative sectors, calling for new approaches to data collection and more qualitative indicators to better shape cultural policies. In his concluding remarks, the Rapporteur launched the idea of introducing a European year of cultural personality to celebrate the achievements of Europeans who have contributed to the flourishing of culture across the continent.

General budget 2019

Adoption of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Morten LØKKEGAARD, ALDE)

With its budgetary amendments now tabled for consideration in the Budgets Committee, the CULT Committee turned its attention to explaining the rationale for those amendments as it adopted – with a majority of 17 in favour and 5 against – its opinion on the 2019 budget.

The committee calls for a 20% increase across the four Erasmus+ lines to meet current funding needs and a 22% rise for the MEDIA sub-programme, which would need 44% more money just to finance all high-quality projects and which is being asked to boost work on cinema operators' networks and to absorb the highly successful Preparatory Action on the sub-titling of cultural content. It also asks for an additional 10% for both the Culture sub-programme and the cross-sectoral strand of Creative Europe – the former being topped up by a further 3 million EUR to scale up the successful pilot scheme on artists' mobility - and a 10% increase for Europe for Citizens (after the 1.1 million EUR shifted to the European Citizens' Initiative has been restored). The opinion also reflects on the need for a review of the 'multimedia actions' line, with enhanced support for European radio networks, the need to scale up successful media literacy initiatives and the challenges Brexit poses for the European Schools. With respect to Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPAs), the opinion emphasises that past CULT-backed initiatives have gone on to feed the next generation of CULT programmes. However, looking forward, it questions the effectiveness of the current pre-assessment procedure within the Commission and calls on the Budgets Committee to engage more proactively and transparently with opinion-giving committees to ensure that PPAs accurately align with political and policy priorities.

Attention now turns to the Budgets Committee, which will vote on its budgetary amendments during the week of 24 September, and then beyond to conciliation.

The next committee meeting: 24 September 2018

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
- [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
- [The Austrian Presidency of the Council](#)

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