

# Newsletter

## Committee meeting 10 October 2018

### Young people at the heart of policy-making

The 10 October CULT committee meeting focused on bringing the ideas of young people into the Parliament and recognising those who have outstanding and innovative ideas.

It is a tradition that the committee welcomes the annual winners of the European **Charlemagne Youth Prize** to a committee meeting. While it might now be a firm date in the diary, that does not detract from its value or indeed the committee's admiration for the winners. This year, the committee welcomed representatives of the three winning teams from Poland, Italy and Malta.



The first presentation came from the winner of the third prize place - "Never Arrive 2" from Malta, a touching narrative by Somali refugee Farah Abdullahi Abdi about the horrifying journeys of refugees and asylum seekers trying to reach Europe. The project consists of a book, presented and discussed with young people in schools and universities and designed to draw out the positive aspects of multiculturalism. The second prize winner - "Juvenilia" from Italy - was presented by Mirko Gagnato. Juvenilia brings young opera, ballet and classical music lovers from 9 countries together through projects. In parallel, cultural and social programmes are organised to forge a strong spirit of cooperation and friendship.

The final presentation was given by Tomasz Tomalik, on behalf of this year's winning project "Worcation" from Poland. The project is a cooperative campsite combining work and vacation (Worcation) on both sides of the river Neisse where young people from Italy, Germany, Poland, Ukraine and Romania learned crafts and history.

All three projects were acclaimed by the Members of the CULT committee who always greatly admire the inventiveness and diversity of EU youth activism. Members underlined the strong bonds created by music and a shared European cultural heritage.

After the morning's Charlemagne presentations, the afternoon session saw three representatives from the **2018 European Youth Event (EYE2018)** come to present their ideas and proposals. Around 9,000 young people, aged between 16 and 30 and from all over Europe, took part in EYE2018 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 1 and 2 June. EYE2018 served as a platform for dialogue between young citizens and European decision-makers, with 100 follow-up ideas and proposals set out in the [EYE Report](#).

The conclusions of the EYE event are then submitted for further debate in the relevant parliamentary committees, in a bid to continue the dialogue between young Europeans and the European Parliament.

The three participants presented their concerns, dreams and expectations on the following topics: Malou Cecille van Draanen Glismann – East-West school partnership and Skills at School; Martin Urschel – Pan-European media and EU in your neighbourhood; Karolina Holownia – Active citizenship Ambassadors and Micro-grants for EU-Awareness.

Members reengaged with and reacted to the ideas presented by the EYE participants, with a lively and enthusiastic debate on both sides. Members were particularly struck by the young participants' enthusiasm and motivation. The hearing was webstreamed on the Parliament website and also on the social media channels of the European Youth Event.

## Establishing the European Solidarity Corps programme

### Consideration of draft report (Rapporteur: Michaela SOJDOVA, EPP)

The Rapporteur presented her draft report on the European Solidarity Corps, which reintroduces many elements of the current political agreement while adding extra ambition through a recalibrated budget and extended scope and by improving the functioning of the programme. The new Commission proposal aligns the activities of the programme with the new MFF 2021-2027 cycle by proposing a dedicated budget line. In addition, it also extends the scope of European Solidarity Corps activities to include those in support of humanitarian aid operations, previously implemented through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.



The draft report reintroduces an indicative breakdown of the budget to ensure that volunteering remains the core activity of the programme. In the Rapporteur's view, the in-country activities financed by the Corps should also be limited. She also firmly believes that the role of stakeholders and the European Parliament should be strengthened.

During the discussion, the Shadow Rapporteurs emphasised the importance of promoting high-quality volunteering as a concept of lifestyle and tool for personal growth. Members also supported a stronger role for, and ownership by, youth organisations and complementarity of the programme with existing national schemes. Finally, the representatives of the European Commission underlined that it is too early to draw any conclusions on the functioning of the Corps, which will be fully operational only in 2019.

- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: 26 October 2018

- Committee vote: 4 February 2019

## Establishing the Rights and Values programme

### Consideration of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Sylvie GUILLAUME, S&D)

The committee discussed the draft opinion on the Rights and Values programme. In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur stresses that it is more necessary than ever to consolidate the ground occupied by the former Europe for Citizens programme with its evident added value in terms of promoting civic involvement and strengthening a shared sense of belonging to the EU. She proposes, therefore, that the highly symbolic concept of citizenship, which has been dropped from the programme title, be reinstated. More importantly, she suggests that the 'Citizens' engagement' strand be strengthened, with a budget of EUR 500 million, and that remembrance-based activities highlighting the importance of the principles and values that underpin the EU should be developed.



- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: 18 October 2018

- Committee vote: 3 December 2018

## Re-use of public sector information

### Consideration of draft opinion (Rapporteur: Theodoros ZAGORAKIS, EPP)

Members also had an exchange of views on the Recast of the Directive on re-use of public information. The Rapporteur welcomed the Commission's proposal, stressing that he supported in particular the Commission's approach to leaving the treatment of cultural sector bodies (libraries, archives and museums) that currently applies unchanged, as the Directive is working well in this respect. He then briefly presented the main points of his draft opinion. Firstly, the Rapporteur does not object to the Commission's intention to stipulate that certain high-value public sector databases - to be designated, via a delegated act - must be made available free of charge at a future date, though he cautioned that such a list must be as clear and as detailed as possible in order to ensure legal certainty for all parties concerned. During the discussion, Members gave overall support to the Rapporteur.



- [Procedure file](#)

- Amendments deadline: 16 October 2018

- Committee vote: 20 November 2018

## Adoption of MFF related draft opinions

### Interim report on the MFF 2021-2027

The committee gave its full-throated backing to its opinion that will feed into the Parliament's Interim Report on the new Multi-annual Financial Framework (Rapporteur: Petra Kammerevert, S&D; lead committee: BUDG) and ultimately to talks with Council. The committee takes a strong stand in arguing for funding that matches increased ambitions for both the new Erasmus programme (a real-terms tripling vis-à-vis the current MFF) and the new Creative Europe programme (a real-terms doubling). It also presses for a 1% total cross-budget spend on culture (beyond Creative Europe funds) and a 1 EUR per citizen spend on the Europe for Citizens strand of the new Rights and Values Fund. Elsewhere, it argued for a boost in funding for multimedia actions to promote high-quality, independent coverage of European affairs with an appropriate channel mix and welcomed the scaled-up cross-programme support for digital skills.

The opinion also makes clear that restoring trust in the European project needs to be a guiding principle of the next MFF. It welcomes flexibility within the MFF to allow for adjustments as required, but insists that this must come with proper parliamentary oversight (e.g. delegated acts for secondary policy choices) and that programmes require a robust mid-term review and revision mechanism. It also applauds the new, more readable MFF structure, the co-location of education and culture under a single heading and the aspiration of achieving cross-programme synergies, noting, however, that the concept of synergies remains woolly and needs to be properly anchored in the legal base of each programme. Finally, the opinion backs the use of European added value as a yardstick for determining project eligibility (though notes that European added value needs to be carefully defined by action and account for the specificities of education and culture initiatives) and reiterates the need to avoid a repeat of the previous payments backlog, which hits small education and culture operators particularly hard and thus risks undermining the value of the programmes. [Procedure file](#)

### Interreg

The committee adopted with a clear majority its opinion on the future Interreg programme - the EU programme for territorial cooperation. The opinion (Rapporteur: Marlene Mizzi, S&D, lead committee: REGI), proposes to reinforce the educational, cultural and youth aspects of European territorial cooperation, especially in the cross-border component, through stronger support to projects in these fields. It also suggests harmonising mutual recognition in education and professional training and fostering culture and cultural heritage as a vector for intercultural dialogue, in particular in EU border regions, which are key players in the EU's outreach to third countries. [Procedure file](#)



### Digital Europe programme

The committee adopted, without any dissenting votes, its opinion on Digital Europe (Rapporteur: Bogdan Brunon Wenta, EPP; lead committee: ITRE). The opinion gives overall support to the Commission's proposal to set up the Digital Europe programme, which aims to support the digital transformation of the European economy, industry and society, whilst reinforcing Europe's capacities in key digital technology areas. The opinion provides greater legal clarity and certainty to the Programme, considering the difficulties in understanding how the Programme would work in practice and how the synergies across programmes would be achieved. Furthermore, it stresses the importance of specific objective 4 on "Advanced digital skills" for which CULT has shared competences with ITRE. In that regard, CULT proposes an increase of the budget allocated to this specific objective to around €830 million (9% of the overall budget). As regards specific objective 5, "Deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability", CULT adopted several amendments to strengthen support to cultural and creative industries, in particular in the audiovisual sector, in their ongoing digital transformation and to guarantee them access to the most advanced and high-performing digital technologies from AI to advanced computing. Finally, CULT considers that multi-annual work programmes must be adopted by delegated acts.

[Procedure file](#)

### Horizon Europe programme

The committee also adopted, without any dissenting votes, its opinion on Horizon (Rapporteur: Luigi Morgano, S&D; lead committee: ITRE). The committee gives overall backing to the Commission's proposal for the next generation of the Horizon programme, whilst suggesting an increase to the proposed budget to €120 billion for the 2021-2027 period. The committee stresses the importance of the first pillar of the Programme, the "Open Science pillar", and of ensuring synergies between Horizon Europe, Creative Europe and Digital Europe programmes. In that regard, the committee emphasises the need to ensure that cultural and creative sectors benefit fully not only from such synergies, but also from Horizon Europe itself. Finally, the opinion underlines the importance of Europeana for the promotion and protection of cultural heritage online, and stresses the need to guarantee appropriate funding to support this initiative, notably through Horizon Europe. [Procedure file](#)

## Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law - Adoption of draft opinion

The committee also adopted its opinion on the "Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law" (Rapporteur: Curzio Maltese, GUE/NGL; lead committee: LIBE). The vote went smoothly and all the 23 compromise amendments proposed by the Rapporteur on whole articles of the Commission's proposal were adopted. With this opinion, the committee endorses clearly the position of the Rapporteur, which aims essentially to guarantee the fundamental right to information by ensuring a more comprehensive protection for informants and removing the obstacles to disclosure.

[Procedure file](#)

## Study - Towards the implementation of the European framework of cultural mobility

The presentation of the study was directly linked to the legislative work on the Commission proposal on the new Creative Europe programme, where a horizontal action on mobility of cultural professionals has been introduced in the Culture strand.

The experts, Clémentine Daubeuf and Ms Teodora Pletsou from KEA European Affairs focused on the importance of and obstacles to mobility in the cultural and creative sectors, EU policy developments supporting mobility and the new scheme announced in Creative Europe. They also presented some recommendations for better coordination between Member States' policies in order to overcome barriers to mobility.

The debate that followed the experts' presentation focused on the implementation of the mobility priority within the new Creative Europe programme, remedies to regulatory obstacles to mobility and synergies between, and promotion of, existing initiatives at local, national and EU level.

[Study](#)

**The next committee meeting: 22 October 2018 (Strasbourg)**

## 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](#)

### About the editor

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