

Newsletter

Committee meeting 19-20 November 2018



Interparliamentary committee meeting on European Cultural Heritage

On 19 and 20 November 2018, the CULT Committee hosted an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on "European Cultural Heritage", intended to mark the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 (EYCH) and to follow up on the high-level conference organised by President Tajani in June 2018. This large-scale event offered an occasion to foster debate, discuss legislation, share experiences at national level, and explore future actions and ideas on how to ensure a long-term legacy for the EYCH beyond 2018. It involved not only many Commission DGs, stakeholders and national coordinators of the EYCH, but also a record-high number of Members and representatives of national parliaments (42 Members of national parliaments, including 16 committee chairs and 5 vice-chairs, representing a total of 22 EU and 6 candidate countries).

In the light of experiences with previous CULT ICMs, this time the event was organised in two sessions: the first on Monday afternoon was a working session with three parallel thematic panels, followed by a welcome reception and dinner; the second, on Tuesday morning, was a joint plenary session, bringing together all participants to present and discuss the panel results of the previous day. The three panels examined:

1. Culture and Identity; 2. Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage; 3. Cultural Heritage and Education

The new format proved successful, with the working sessions on Monday providing an interactive format allowing for critical exchange on a specific subject among smaller groups of people. In this context, stakeholders and experts were also given the chance to be actively involved. The reception on Monday evening provided a forum for continued debate and exchange between parliamentarians, stakeholders, experts and staff from the European institutions. These debates were then taken up in the more formal plenary session on Tuesday.

Overall, the ICM highlighted the key importance of the EYCH for the European Parliament and providing a platform for the EP and national parliaments to discuss the long-term legacy of the Year.

[More information](#)



Establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027)

The Rapporteur, Silvia Costa, presented her draft report on the proposal for a regulation establishing the Creative Europe Programme for the years 2021-2027. She welcomed the Commission proposal, its continuity with the previous programme and in particular the inclusion of several suggestions in her implementation report adopted by the Parliament in February 2017. However, she regretted that the Commission proposal lacks detail and a precise explanation of actions. Therefore, several amendments focus on better defining the objectives and actions without undermining the necessary flexibility. The work programmes, in her view, should be adopted by means of delegated acts in order to ensure enough flexibility over the period of 7 years, but allow Parliament to exercise scrutiny.

According to the Rapporteur, the Creative Europe Programme is seriously underfunded and suffers from extremely low success rates, which generates frustration and deters many would-be applicants. The Rapporteur calls, therefore, for a substantial increase in the budget from the suggested 1.85 billion to 2.806 billion EUR, which would represent a real-terms doubling of the current budget. This position reflects the Parliament's MFF Interim Report. Concerning the international dimension, she argued for faster inclusion of countries which have been already associated to the current programme and the use of the name 'Creative Europe Mundus' for actions with an external international dimension.

In the discussion, Members overwhelmingly supported the doubling of the budget and the idea of defining actions in more detail. It was also underlined that one of the biggest challenges will be to safeguard what has been achieved in the Guarantee Facility for the cultural and creative sector. As the financial instrument has been moved to InvestEU, there is a risk that the challenges of the sector and its specificity are not properly addressed.

The most controversial issue concerned the Observatory for Culture and Creative Sectors. The Rapporteur suggests that the Commission establish, within its own existing structures an independent body entrusted with measuring the impact of cultural policies and defining relevant indicators. Some Members were reticent about the idea, opposing the creation of a new body. The Rapporteur explained that the aim was to coordinate work on the impact of cultural policies with existing resources and not to create a new body.

Members expressed some doubts on how synergies with other funding EU programmes, mainly through the Seal of Excellence certification, will be implemented in practice.

• [Procedure file](#)

• Amendments deadline: 29 November

• Committee vote: 20 February 2019

Presentation of the Commission report on Europeana and the way forward

This report is based on an independent study providing factual evidence and support for the evaluation of Europeana and possible orientations for its future development. Ms Rehana Schwinninger-Ladak, Head of the Interactive Technologies, Digital for Culture and Education Unit in DG CNECT, informed Members of the success of Europeana over the last 10 years in bringing Europe's digitised cultural heritage to a pan-European audience.

She highlighted that Europeana enabled European cultural institutions to collaborate and share their material online, through common standards and interoperability solutions, as well as to develop a network of aggregators, cultural institutions and digital cultural heritage professionals from across the Union. She then stressed, however, that whilst Europeana had exceeded expectations in terms of quantity, there was still some work to be done on quality. In particular, both content (in terms of geographical scope, thematic coverage and cultural relevance) and metadata (in terms of multilingualism, detail and inconsistencies) could be improved. She then explained that, when improving the technical infrastructure of the portal, it will also be necessary to improve its multilingual nature and the search and filtering facilities.

Finally, she presented the recommendations made by the Commission in its report: (i) upgrading the Europeana platform to improve accessibility of content, searchability and multilingualism, as well as making it easier for data providers and aggregators to use the service, (ii) continuing standardisation and reinforcing common solutions within the digital cultural heritage sector, to the benefit of all stakeholders, in particular improving access for smaller cultural heritage institutions, and (iii) continuing Union funding support under the Digital Europe Programme from 2021. [Report](#)

Adoption of draft reports

Education in the digital era: challenges, opportunities and lessons for EU policy design

The CULT Committee gave whole-hearted backing (26 votes in favour, 0 against and one abstention) to the report on 'Education in the digital era: challenges, opportunities and lessons for EU policy design' (Rapporteur: Yana Toom, ALDE) at its 20 November meeting. The report, drawn up partly in response to the Commission's January 2018 'Digital Education Action Plan' and against a backdrop of low levels of digital skills and wide disparities across Member States and social groups, welcomes the increased policy focus on digital skills. It also applauds the funding available for digital skills initiatives in the next MFF, but calls for a more joined-up policy approach and a bolder long-term vision articulated in an over-arching EU digital skills strategy. Central to the policy response on digital skills is the recognition that it must be anchored in a lifelong learning approach, with targeted interventions for different population groups. With respect to children, it is vital to base the use of digital technologies on research into its effects on brain development and to include age-appropriate education on cyber hygiene, digital literacy, media literacy, data protection and the risks associated with the Internet. Within schools, the report emphasises the need to provide continuous training for teachers (and the time and space to do that training) and to involve them in curriculum design.

A particular digital skills challenge centres on providing upskilling and reskilling opportunities, both within the workplace and for adults who are out of work. The report highlights this glaring omission from the Action Plan and calls for a number of inclusion measures to reach people from disadvantaged groups and ensure that digital progress does not further widen the digital divide. In that regard, the report encourages measures to boost the participation of women in ICT and digital education and careers. It also notes that inadequate connectivity – particular in rural, mountainous or remote areas – and insufficient digital equipment hamper the ability of education and training institutions to make the most of digital opportunities. As the 11 actions in the Action Plan are implemented over the coming years, the report stresses the need for effective monitoring and evaluation both of policy delivery and of digital skills levels. Tools like the Digital Competences Framework need constant updating and better take-up. Finally, the Committee calls on the Commission to conduct a robust mid-term review in 2020, which will identify those areas that merit further or enhanced development and equally those that should be jettisoned because they have not worked.

The report will go to plenary in December 2018 and, if adopted, will offer a foundation for the new Parliament to scrutinise what are likely to be more intensive digital skills policy efforts in the coming years. [Procedure file](#)

New European Agenda for Culture

The draft report on 'New European Agenda for Culture' (Rapporteur: Giorgos Grammatikakis, S&D) was adopted with a large majority (21 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions). The report aims to ensure the right balance between the social, economic, external and digital aspects of cultural policies with the cultural dimension as a cross-cutting priority, and to guarantee consistency between the new Agenda and other programmes such as Creative Europe. [Procedure file](#)

Adoption of draft opinions

Re-use of public information (recast)

The Committee adopted without any dissenting votes the Recast of the Directive on re-use of public information (Rapporteur: Theodoros Zagorakis, EPP, lead committee: ITRE). The CULT Committee gave overall support to the Commission's proposal, in particular to its approach to leave unchanged the treatment of cultural sector bodies (libraries, archives and museums) currently in force as the Directive in this field works satisfactorily. The CULT opinion reflects the need to make as clear and as detailed as possible the list of high-value datasets in Article 13, in order to ensure legal certainty for all parties concerned. Finally, CULT adopted a few amendments to provide further legal clarity, as well as to specify some provisions. [Procedure file](#)

Establishing the InvestEU Programme 2021-2027

The Committee adopted, by a large majority, the opinion on the InvestEU programme (Rapporteur: Angel Dzhambazki, ECR, lead committee: ECON/BUDG) – a programme building on the experience of the Juncker Plan and seeking to mainstream various EU investment instruments to leverage some 650 billion EUR for innovative projects to boost growth, jobs and sustainability. The opinion underlines the need for extra efforts to invest in culture, education and youth, with special focus on risk capital for SMEs in the cultural and creative sector. The opinion also points to the need to strengthen human capital and human skills and capabilities as key enablers of economic and social development. [Procedure file](#)

CULT delegation to Rome (29-31 October 2018)

A delegation of CULT Committee visited Rome to assess the “European Year of Cultural Heritage” in Italy and meet public officials and operators from the cultural and audiovisual sectors. During the visit, the delegation also met the Deputy Mayor of Rome, Mr Luca Bergamo. The debate focused on the strategic use of cultural heritage in urban policy, cultural and educational activities in the suburbs of Rome and a proposal for universal access to museums for Rome’s citizens.

After a visit to the Cinecittà studios, the delegation met producers, distributors and content providers from the audio-visual sector to discuss the future Creative Europe programme. There was a particular focus on the financing obstacles for small-scale projects, and the delegation reassured the interlocutors that the CULT Committee will work with the Commission and the Council in order to double the funds available.

Copyright also featured in the discussions, with agreement that is essential to find the right balance between the needs of users and the needs of artists and authors. The delegation also visited ancient and contemporary art museums and exhibitions and discussed cultural heritage as a service of general interest with the Director of the Italian National Museums, Antonio Lampis.



Members of the CULT delegation: [Petra Kammerevert](#) (S&D, Germany) - Chair, [Mircea Diaconu](#) (ALDE, Romania), [Francis Zammit Dimech](#), EPP Malta, [Marlene Mizzi](#) (S&D, Malta), [Stefano Maullu](#) (EPP, Italy), [Silvia Costa](#) (S&D, Italy), [Luigi Morgano](#) (S&D, Italy).

The next committee meeting: 3 December 2018

Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [Calendar of meetings](#)
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- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
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About the editor

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