

Newsletter

Committee meeting 22 January 2019



Romanian Presidency Priorities - Exchange of views

The CULT Committee heard a presentation of the main priorities for the Romanian Presidency in what will be a heavy political agenda with the final Brexit straight and the European elections. Three Ministers were present to briefly detail their policy intentions in the fields of education, culture, youth and sports.

Ms Ecaterina Andronescu, Minister for Education, underlined the Presidency's intention to stimulate mobility, enhance inclusion and promote excellence in education systems. The Presidency slogan is "**Connecting education!**". The Presidency expects to make tangible progress on multilingualism by adopting the Council recommendation on **A comprehensive approach to the teaching and learning of languages** and to support greater inclusion and cohesion, inter alia, through the integration of families and children from third countries by adopting the recommendation on **High Quality Early Childhood Education and Care Systems**. She also set out plans to work towards completing the European Education Area and to move forward on the **Erasmus** file.

Mr Valer-Daniel Breaz, Minister for Culture and National Identity, focused on culture, audio-visual services and copyright. The Presidency will push for more opportunities for CCIs by putting artists at the centre of policy-making, creating innovative financing opportunities and boosting cross-border promotion of European cultural content. Mr Breaz underlined his expectation that progress would be made on the new **Creative Europe** programme. With copyright central to CCIs, the Presidency will seek to seal an agreement on the **Copyright in the Digital Single Market Directive**. The Minister also underlined that the Presidency will follow up on the **European Year of Cultural Heritage** and facilitate work on the quality principles in preserving and restoring heritage.

Finally, the Romanian Minister for Youth and Sport, Mr Constantin-Bogdan Matei, highlighted that equal opportunities for all young people would be a guiding principle for the Presidency with a particular focus on the **Erasmus** and **European Solidarity Corps** programmes. The Presidency will strive to **increase the adaptability of young people to the challenges of the future of work**. The Presidency furthermore aims to foster a **quality dialogue** between public authorities and young people, thus bringing the latter closer to the European project. In the field of sport, the Presidency will put forward a proposal for **Council Conclusions on organised sport for people with disabilities** and in general to foster sport as a way to promote solidarity. Finally, the Presidency intends to work hard on the **fight against doping**.

CULT Members warmly welcomed the ambitious agenda of the Presidency. Members asked for support to reinforce the Erasmus budget, to make effective cross-programme synergies a reality for the CULT programmes and to enhance inclusion for people with fewer opportunities.



Establishing the Creative Europe programme (2021 to 2027)

Consideration of amendments

The Rapporteur, Silvia Costa, presented the state of play of the negotiations on compromise amendments. In her introductory speech, she set out her priorities, such as a new general objective to promote the intrinsic value of culture, a budget increase, the re-introduction of the concept of European added value, the creation of synergies with other programmes, support to independent producers, etc.

She also introduced the pending issues, which will be discussed with Shadow Rapporteurs in the coming weeks: the establishment of reliable indicators, the use of delegated acts, and the proposed European Observatory for Culture and Creative Sectors. In the discussion that followed, shadow rapporteurs agreed on the priority of doubling the budget, without which some actions would be impossible to implement.

The most controversial issue seems the proposal for a European Observatory for Cultural and Creative Sectors, which the Commission would establish using its existing structures and financial and human resources in order to define quantitative and qualitative indicators and to measure the impact of cultural policies. The vote is scheduled in CULT on 20 February.

[Procedure file](#)



Convention on Integrated Safety, Security, and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events

Consideration of draft opinion (Emma McClarkin, ECR)

The Rapporteur explained the origin of the Convention and the reasons why it needs to be updated. She underlined the need to ensure that European stadiums are safe for people wishing to enjoy sport. The Rapporteur encouraged political engagement with international sports governance actors as well as sports stadium safety professionals and called on the Parliament to give its consent to the Council Decision to authorise Member States to become party to the Convention as soon as possible.

In the subsequent discussion, Members overwhelmingly supported the Rapporteur's opinion and agreed on the need to stop hooliganism but also to focus more on prevention and cooperation between Member States.

[Procedure file](#)

Study presentation: Film Financing and the Digital Single Market

The Committee heard Prof. P. Bernt Hugenholtz from the Institute for Information Law of the University of Amsterdam present the main findings of research the CULT Committee requested on Film Financing and the Digital Single Market: its Future, the Role of Territoriality and New Models of Financing.

The research analyses the role of territoriality in film financing, the legal and market challenges territoriality faces as a key model for film financing and the consequences if EU policies were to reduce or mitigate the scope of territorial exclusivity in the audiovisual sector. It provides information on Member States' and EU models of film financing, explores the challenges film financing faces from digital developments and evolving consumer behaviour and analyses possible alternatives to traditional methods of financing and policies to support this.

Members present in the room engaged in a lively debate with the authors of the study. The study provided a lot of food for thought, particularly the recommendation to move from territorial exclusivity to language exclusivity and to develop a policy of backing winners by awarding higher budgets for fewer films.

[The study](#)

Presentation: OperaVision

OperaVision, one of the projects funded through the Creative Europe programme, was presented by Ms Audrey Jungers, General Manager of Opera Europa, and Mr Luke O'Shaughnessy, Project Manager of OperaVision. Launched in October 2017, the project was built on the success of The Opera Platform (2014-2017) and is supervised by the European Association of Opera Companies and Festivals, OperaEuropa. It currently involves 35 partners (opera companies) from 20 countries. OperaVision live-streams operas free-of-charge, subtitled in three languages and available for 6 months. It also provides video material showing behind-the-scenes footage and produces training materials for schools.

Members' questions concerned mainly how OperaVision approaches new audiences, in particular young people and school children, copyright-related issues and potential cooperation with cinemas.

Votes

The Committee adopted the legislative opinion on the proposal for a **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) for 2021-2017** (Rapporteur: María Teresa Giménez Barbat, ALDE; Lead Committee: AFET+DEVE). The new NDICI instrument brings together several EU external action instruments from the current MFF, most of which will expire on 31 December 2020. With an increased budget of €89.2 billion, the NDICI will be the EU's main tool to contribute to poverty eradication and to support democracy and sustainable development in its partner countries. In the Opinion, a more prominent role is given to education and culture, ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and to fostering international cultural relations through cultural diplomacy. The opinion was adopted by a large majority 17 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions. [Procedure file](#)

The Committee also adopted two **discharge opinions** almost unanimously (Rapporteur for both dossiers: Bogdan Zdrojewski (EPP); Lead Committee: CONT):

- the Discharge opinion in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017, Section III - Commission and executive agencies. [Procedure file](#)
- the Discharge opinion in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union for the financial year 2017. [Procedure file](#)

The next committee meeting: 4 February 2019

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