

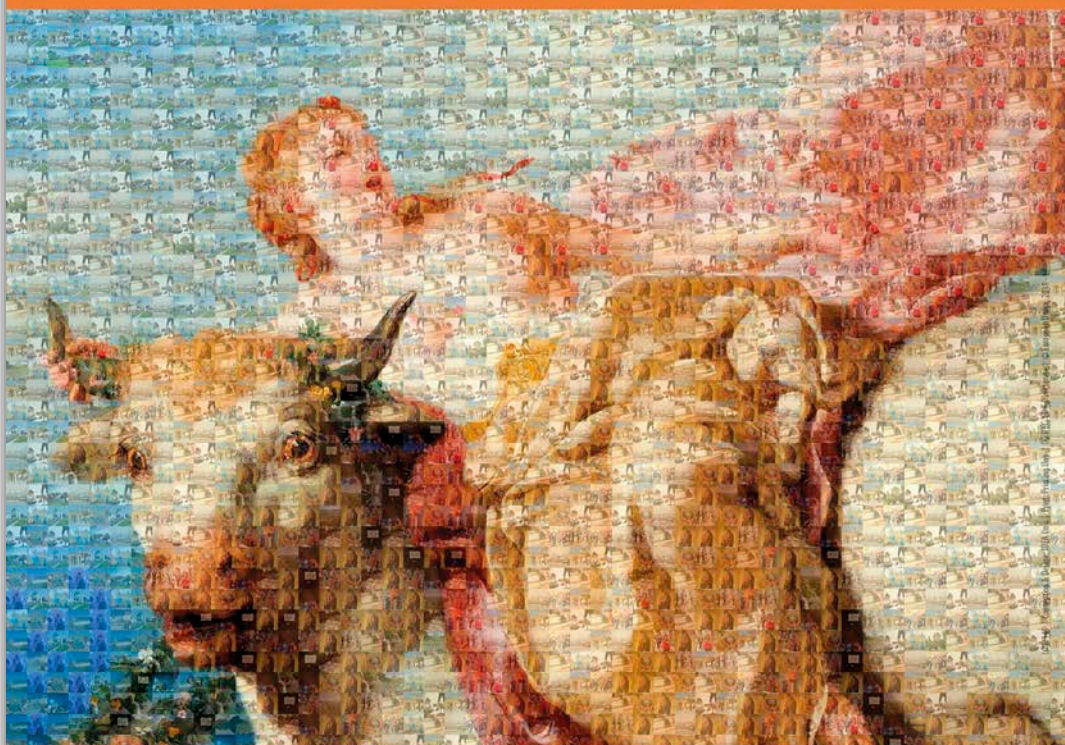


Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
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Report

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting
European Parliament - National Parliaments

EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE



MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2018 15:00-18:30
PARALLEL WORKING SESSIONS

TUESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2018 9:00-12:30
ROOM 4Q1
JÓZSEF ANTALL BUILDING
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
BRUSSELS

**COMMITTEE ON
CULTURE AND EDUCATION**

CHAIRLED BY
PETRA KAMMEREVERT

With the support of the
Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments





First Day: Parallel Working Sessions (19 November 2018)

Panel 1: *Culture and Identity* (House of European History)

Chair: Silvia Costa

Panel 1 was opened with some introductory remarks by **Ms Silvia Costa, Member of the European Parliament and former Chair of the CULT Committee**. She introduced the speakers and underlined the importance of the subject at a time with fundamental challenges not only for our cultural heritage, culture and identity, but also for the very existence of the European project. Referring to the need to preserve European cultural heritage and to safeguard the European project by fostering “Europeanness”, Ms Costa underlined the important efforts made by the European Parliament to reinforce financial support for education, culture and youth programmes (especially Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps). The Chair advanced the central idea that the EU can develop common cultural policies that are fully compatible with our cultural diversity, as manifest, for example, in the CULT Committee’s support for Europeana or the European Agenda for Culture. In this context, Ms Costa particularly welcomed the European Commission’s plan to present an EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage (*European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage*) in Vienna on 7 December 2018 at the official closing conference of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH).

Following Ms Costa’s introduction, **Markus J. Prutsch (European Parliament, Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union)** gave a **presentation on *European Identity***. He elaborated on concepts, challenges and prospects of “collective identity” in a European context, acknowledging the complex nature of collective identities in general and a common European identity in particular. Critically assessing the potential of cultural and political approaches to foster allegiances with a supranational body politic, such as the European Union, his presentation paid particular attention to the role of history and historical remembrance as a specific form of “intangible heritage” in strengthening a European sense of belonging. In recognising the need for European identity to be both political and cultural, Mr Prutsch outlined the vision of a culturally substantiated identity that is compatible with, and reinforces, a democratic and citizen-centred society.

Ms Constanze Itzel, Museum Director, then greeted the participants of the panel on behalf of the House of European History. She highlighted that the goal of the House is to take its visitors through a journey of historical remembrance, showing Europe’s diverse history and experiences, with the objective of questioning, rather than presenting, European identity.

After a few words by Ms Itzel on the venue and the conceptualisation of the permanent exhibition in the House, the panel continued with a series of presentations setting out various experiences and viewpoints on culture, cultural heritage and cultural identity.



Ms Catherine Magnant, head of the European Commission's (DG EAC) taskforce in charge of the implementation of the EYCH, closed the first part of the panel with a presentation on *Our heritage: where the past meets the future* - the official motto of the European Year 2018. Ms Magnant underlined the crucial importance of considering cultural heritage as a resource, as a common history and as a value. She presented various activities of the EYCH that had taken place at a national and European level, with the European institutions, Member States and citizens throughout Europe actively engaged. She also underlined the importance of the EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage as a legacy of the Year, and the need to more actively include culture and cultural heritage in all future EU policies. Successful examples in this regard included the Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes.

During the following **general discussion**, various Members of National Parliaments took the floor to outline their countries' activities during the EYCH 2018. Among other things, they emphasised the importance of education for building a sense of shared cultural identity. In their opinion, it was essential that EU Member States include more European content in their curricula, in order to counter the effects of a growing and widespread sense of competing identities in Europe. They also identified a need to reinforce teaching on multicultural realities in formal, informal and non-formal education. In addition, they praised the reinforced support from EU programmes for culture and research on identity, with cultural heritage providing "meaning" and filling people's perceptions with substance – the feeling of a common, shared experience. There was agreement that it is essential to promote a concept of multiple, coexisting identities, rather than conflicting, exclusive and excluding identities: identity building is a dynamic process, an ever-evolving confluence of various cultural conceptual inputs.

Speakers included:

Mr Radu-Cosmin Preda, MP - Chamber of Deputies, Romania

Mr Arūnas Gelunas, MP - Seimas, Lithuania

Mr Ismajl Kurteshi, MP - Assembly, Kosovo

Ms Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary-General, Europa Nostra

After the first discussion, **Ms Jutta Koenig-Georgiades from the European Commission (DG HOME)** gave a presentation on the Europe for Citizens programme and the promotion of European cultural heritage. The focus was on the growing financial envelope for activities linked to the promotion of cultural heritage, especially through the remembrance strand of the Europe for Citizens programme. She underlined not only the need to remove stereotypes by bringing people together, but also to promote a sense of European citizenship.

The panel continued with a presentation of the "In-between" project on remembrance and solidarity in border regions. The underlying idea here is to confront various historical experiences through images, and to construct a narrative, using historical memory as a component of identity for inhabitants of border regions.



Next, **Ms Maria Kaymanidou from DG RTD, European Commission**, gave a presentation on the impact of Horizon 2020 on research related to identity and cultural heritage, stressing that the EU's research programme showed a strong commitment to culture even under the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013). However, the new programme Horizon Europe will not only substantially increase financial support for culture and cultural heritage, but also resolve some of its predecessors' shortcomings, especially by ending the fragmentation of research and promoting a more holistic approach on the subject at European level.

Mr Uwe Koch, Head of Office of the German Cultural Heritage Committee and national coordinator for the EYCH 2018 in Germany, presented some of the flagship initiatives of the Year at national and European level. He outlined the idea that the partners of the EYCH should draft an EU heritage textbook, serving as a learning and peace-building tool. Mr Koch underlined how important it was to create shared, common emotional moments, like the European Cultural Heritage Summit in June 2018, which should become a regular meeting. In his experience, cultural heritage is best discussed through difficult historical aspects, can build bridges to reach a common understanding, and help reject the competing, exclusive dimensions of cultural identity.

After that, **Ms Anita Bergenstrahle-Lind from the Swedish National Heritage Board** presented a number of bottom-up local projects in Sweden during the EYCH 2018 and underlined the potential dangers of fairly ambiguous concepts like, for instance, cultural identity, being (ab)used as a political tool to exclude "others".

Ms Constanze Metzger from the Council of Europe (CoE) presented the European Cultural Routes, a cooperation project under the aegis of the CoE, which combines tourism, heritage and culture. The project aims to question our sense of belonging by establishing networks for cultural tourism across national borders. In 2017, the CoE launched the Routes4U project, which combines the CoE routes and the four EU macro-regional strategies, in order to increase the impact of cultural and heritage tourism on social, territorial and economic cohesion in the macro-regions. The project was presented as an excellent example of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The last speaker of Panel 1 was **Ms Cornelia Theuns Grootswagers from Future for Religious Heritage**, a non-religious and non-profit organisation working towards the preservation of all kinds of religious heritage buildings and interiors in Europe. The organisation sees a strong link between the most diverse material and immaterial religious heritage across Europe and the sense of cultural identity.



PANEL 2: *Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage*

(József Antall 4Q1)

Chair: Mircea Diaconu

The second panel of the CULT ICM on “European Cultural Heritage” started with a presentation on the state of play of the implementation of the European Year of Cultural Heritage by **Ms Erminia Sciacchitano from DG EAC, European Commission**. She recalled the main objectives of the EYCH, which are not only to raise awareness of the common history of Europe and its values and thereby to reinforce a sense of belonging to Europe, but also to look at ways of better protecting and making the most of Europe’s common cultural heritage. She highlighted that surveys showed that a majority of European citizens consider cultural heritage essential to their communities and beneficial to the economy and society. They consider that public authorities should allocate more funds to Europe’s cultural heritage in a more holistic way and that responsibility in this field should be shared between national, regional and local authorities. In order to achieve those aims, no fewer than 11,500 events reaching over 6 million people are planned during the EYCH. The Union supports different types of activities, such as heritage-related projects and research through different funds and programmes like Creative Europe, Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, and the EU structural funds. She stressed that the Commission was still striving to achieve synergies between the various EU programmes and initiatives that fund projects in the field of cultural heritage. It is something on which the Commission has developed real expertise and has made a firm commitment to continue the legacy of the EYCH in order to maintain these synergies and to keep the momentum created by the common engagement of stakeholders, Member States and the EU institutions.



She then presented in detail two specific initiatives, which were particularly successful in that regard: the “Cherishing Heritage” and “Heritage at Risk” initiatives. Furthermore, she stressed the need for awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, through training in particular. Finally, Ms Sciacchitano presented the study “Safeguarding Cultural Heritage from Natural and Man-made Disasters”. She also presented steps forward in that regard, in particular the EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage, which aims to continue funding and actions, in particular through the next generation of MFF programmes, such as Creative Europe.

Mr Mauro Facchini from DG GROW, European Commission, made a presentation on Copernicus, a unique programme in the world for satellite observation and cultural heritage. This programme allows the observation of a wide variety of changes affecting the EU territory, which can be of particular relevance to cultural heritage. Satellite pictures can give a good idea of the state of cultural heritage sites, in particular the dangers they face: air pollution, wars, deforestation, and natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes. Copernicus gives a good overview of the degree of damage to cultural heritage. In that regard, Mr Facchini gave the specific examples of Rome and Aleppo, by showing satellite images of those sites. He then gave various examples of how Copernicus could be used further for cultural heritage and explored some potential advancements in the field.

In his presentation on the conservation of tangible cultural heritage, **Mr René Martins from DG RTD, European Commission**, recalled the importance of cultural heritage within the EU framework programme for research, stressing that Horizon 2020 invested almost 500 million euro in research and innovation on cultural heritage. In particular, he highlighted the heritage conservation opportunities related to the use of innovative solutions, such as nanotechnologies, advanced materials, advanced manufacturing and processing, and biotechnologies. He presented several examples of projects financed under Horizon 2020, in particular:

- i. **Nano-Cathedral**, which aims to develop new materials, technologies and procedures for the conservation of deteriorated stones in monumental buildings, cathedrals and high-value contemporary architecture;
- ii. **InnovaConcrete**, which aims to protect concrete monuments in several EU countries;
- iii. **Nemosine**, which provides innovative solutions for the storage and conservation of artefacts based on cellulose derivatives;
- iv. **Nanorestart**, which focuses on the synthesis of novel poly-functional nanomaterials and on the development of highly innovative restoration techniques to address the conservation of a wide variety of materials, mainly used by modern and contemporary artists.

During the discussion with the representatives of national parliaments, a wide range of issues was raised. Firstly, the destruction of cultural heritage by natural disasters and the need for solidarity and commitment to protect cultural heritage. Secondly, the value of structural funds for cultural heritage in some Member States and the need for more flexibility in the award criteria so that more buildings can be restored. Thirdly, the need for training and education for



citizens of all ages, especially the importance of training for high-skilled crafts, which could be of particular use in restoring damaged cultural heritage goods. Fourthly, the issue of ideological sustainability and the development of cities, which can affect cultural heritage. And, lastly, the importance of accessibility for all citizens to cultural heritage sites.

Mr Fotios Papoulias from DG ENV, European Commission, focused on linking natural and cultural heritage. He recalled how Natura 2000 was of particular importance to cultural heritage, stressing that the protection offered to cultural assets could benefit nature conservation. He stressed that natural and cultural heritages regularly face similar threats and challenges, highlighting the relevance of integrated management in the field. He also presented the EU Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy, which strengthens the links between natural and cultural heritage. He made a detailed presentation of several case studies of territorial overlaps between programmes dedicated to nature and those addressing cultural heritage: for example, Natura 2000 vs. UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Europa Nostra Awards. Lastly, he identified and analysed common threats, as well as areas of potential synergies and opportunities for both natural and cultural heritage sites, making specific recommendations for integrated management, sustainable funding and investment.

Mr Oriol Freixa Matalonga from UNESCO presented several UNESCO projects for the protection of cultural heritage. He stressed the excellence of cooperation between the Union and the UNESCO. He explained in detail the “World heritage journeys of the European Union” project, which allows people to travel and discover European cultural heritage sites in a different way, in depth and by connecting more with local communities, enhancing de facto mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue.

During the next discussion round, the following points were raised. Firstly, the importance of preserving rural areas, their inhabitants and their customs, in order to avoid rural exodus. And, secondly, the need to protect archaeological sites, which can be achieved by establishing networks which create links between such sites and populations, in order to make people proud of their heritage.

In his presentation, **Mr Giovanni Mendola from the Legal Service of the European Parliament** stressed that, whilst cultural heritage was mainly a matter of Member State competence, there were some legal competences of the Union in supporting the safeguarding of cultural heritage. Quoting Article 3 TEU (the Union shall ensure that cultural heritage is safeguarded) and Article 167 of TFEU (the task to safeguard cultural heritage belongs to the Union), he recalled that the Union’s supporting competence was (and still is) to support and complement the actions of the Member States. Funding can be used for cultural heritage, in particular in the restrictive field of competition law through state-aid (Article 107).

During the last round of discussion, the following points were raised. Firstly, the importance of restoring cultural heritage monuments and maintaining buildings already restored, in order to develop tourism and boost high skilled craft jobs. Secondly, the importance of prevention in



the area of cultural heritage. Thirdly, the need for raising awareness in society of the importance of education and training in fields related to cultural heritage. Fourthly, the preservation of cultural heritage as a common interest, which could ensure stability and peace in some regions and give prestige to the preservation of cultural heritage. The latter should be high on the political agenda of Member States, as should incorporating landscape and environment preservation into cultural heritage preservation.

PANEL 3: *Cultural Heritage and Education* (Altiero Spinelli A3G-2)

Chair: Sabine Verheyen

In her role as Chair of Panel 3, **Ms Sabine Verheyen, Member of the European Parliament**, greeted participants and gave a short introduction on the panel topic of “Cultural Heritage and Education”. She mentioned the importance of education “in”, “for” and “through” cultural heritage and stressed that heritage education could help foster the right skills – both economic and social – for the societies of today. For Ms Verheyen, cultural heritage is a key learning tool. She mentioned the Faro Convention, which calls for the inclusion of cultural heritage across educational levels and disciplines. The main questions addressed by this panel were: how to develop synergies at different levels; which goals should be supported at which level of government; which barriers exist and what is the EU’s role in the whole process.

Ms Lorena Aldana-Ortega from DG EAC, European Commission, presented the aims and activities of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. She outlined that the EYCH aims to encourage the sharing and appreciation of Europe’s cultural heritage as a shared resource, in order to raise awareness of common history and values, to reinforce a sense of belonging to a common European space, to encourage the enjoyment of culture through heritage education and to raise awareness of the importance of Europe’s cultural heritage through education and lifelong learning. Ms Aldana-Ortega defined “cultural heritage” as resources inherited from the past in all forms and aspects: tangible, intangible and digital, e.g. monuments and sites, landscapes and natural sites, skills, knowledge and expressions of human creativity (oral traditions, festivals, songs, etc.), collections in museums, libraries and archives (paintings, books, artefacts, etc.), film heritage.

She outlined that, in order to achieve the goals of the EYCH, all EU institutions and all 28 Member States had been involved, together with nine partner countries, key international organisations (UNESCO, Council of Europe), 35 key stakeholders, as well as EU Delegations. They helped with implementing more than 11,500 events, which took place all across Europe, reaching a total of 6.2 million people. She also referred to the soon-to-be-published EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage. National follow-up measures would be implemented as well: in Luxembourg, a Day of Cultural Heritage will be held in schools every year; Spain will have a day dedicated to young people in museums (June 30, each year); in Malta, each student will get a card granting access to cultural heritage sites free of charge, 365 days a year.

Ms Ann-Louise Dahlgren, the national coordinator of the EYCH in Sweden, highlighted that Sweden’s key theme had been “European Heritage in a Local Context”. One of the



examples she mentioned was the **The Cultural Heritage Step Model** in the Municipality of Tierp (Uppland), where pupils of all eleven elementary and secondary schools take part in a yearly two-week intensive course on local heritage. Each year, the students thus broaden their knowledge on cultural heritage, visit local sites, and learn about local traditions, skills and musical heritage. The project was launched in 2018 during the EYCH, but additional special events are also planned for future European Heritage Days. The aim is to raise awareness and knowledge of, and boost access to, local heritage. When leaving secondary school, every pupil is supposed to obtain a “certificate of local heritage”. A second example is **Homestead 2.0 – Finding the story** in the Municipality of Uddevalla (Västra Götaland), which is a school project to develop a cross-generational method for working with film and digital storytelling in the local community, based on co-operation between existing cultural resources. The aim is to visualise and promote the local community’s historical treasures and stories, to help increase IT and media skills and to bring people closer to each other and their local cultural heritage. It promotes and strengthens increased media literacy, participation in cultural life and enables integration through shared learning about storytelling and digital stories. The last example presented by Ms Dahlgren was **Cultural Heritage in Swedish schools**. The Swedish National Heritage Board has been appointed by the Ministry of Culture and Democracy to identify the importance of integrating cultural heritage as a learning tool in Swedish schools and to promote interaction between the school and cultural heritage institutions. The aim for all students in designated schools is to have the opportunity to come into contact with and use cultural heritage in their learning, regardless of geographical location. The rich variety of content, presented by the cultural heritage institutions, is used as an educational resource in all forms of learning. The schools’ educational and learning system involves various types of cultural heritage institutions in its work (such as museums, local heritage associations etc.).

In the following **general debate**, participants of the panel described their various initiatives, including, for example, projects on an interfaith dialogue-based approach to improving schools’ access to live performances. A common denominator of all contributions was the importance of protecting diversity in cultural heritage and the need to teach people the value of diversity. The EYCH was widely characterised as a successful European Year, which helped bring cultural heritage closer to everyone, especially to young people. The importance of organising a wide range of initiatives for children of different ages also in the future was stressed, as was the need to strengthen European identity through culture and the need for a more systematic approach to foster the necessary synergies between EU institutions and policies.

Speakers included:

Ms Niamh Smyth, MP - Senate, Ireland

Ms Margarida Mano, MP - Sejm, Poland

Mr Cemal Tasar, MP - Grand National Assembly, Turkey

Ms Kornelia Kiss, Culture Action Europe

Mr Milan Zver, MEP



Ms Tanya Hristova, Mayor of Gabrovo Municipality, Bulgaria

Ms Marie-Louise O'Donnell, MP - Senate, Ireland

Mr Suat Ozcan, MP - Grand National Assembly, Turkey

Mr Alexander Colvine, Interpret Europe

Mr Bert Ludwig, Europa Nostra

Ms Julie Ward, MEP

Mr Momchil Nekov, MEP





Second Day: Plenary Sitting (20 November 2018)

Following the three parallel working sessions on the first day of the interparliamentary committee meeting on European Cultural Heritage, at the beginning of the second day **Ms Petra Kammerevert, Chair of the CULT Committee**, welcomed all participants to the common plenary sitting. She outlined that the plenary sitting would begin with the Chairs of these sessions giving a brief overview of each Panel, followed by a general discussion.

In her introductory speech, Ms Kammerevert emphasised that Europe is facing great challenges, economic uncertainty and a global situation with many conflicts. At the same time, culture was described as the best and most effective way of finding viable responses to these challenges and a way of dealing with the current crisis, which was above all an identity crisis. With the ambitious European Year of Cultural Heritage slowly coming to an end, Ms Kammerevert stressed the need for a European sense of belonging beyond different languages and borders to develop, and for the motto of the EYCH to be brought to life: “where the past meets the future”. There was undoubtedly a need for finding unity in diversity and seizing the potential of cultural heritage beyond 2018, for the reason that economic integration was not enough for bringing people together.

Culture can provoke positive and negative emotions, as it can build or break borders; the latter when culture is used as a means of chauvinism, exclusion or domination. Ms Kammerevert therefore concluded her opening speech by expressing the hope that culture and cultural heritage could be used in the future as a catalyst for positive change and unity – for the sake of Europe and all its citizens.

Ms Elisabeth Kornfeind, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Austria to the Kingdom of Belgium, representing the Austrian Presidency of the Council, then outlined the priorities of the Presidency, with culture as a key priority together with the European Year of Cultural Heritage. She outlined that cultural heritage is an important resource because it improves social cohesion. Ms Kornfeind stressed that both traditional and contemporary cultural heritage had been strengthened during the EYCH, which was characterised by huge efforts to implement activities designed to engage young people with culture and cultural heritage. In December, Vienna would also host an international conference to mark the official closing of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, planned as a two-day event. While the first day would be held in the city centre of Vienna and was open to the public (more than 600 participants are expected), participation in the second day (consisting of different thematic panels and key speakers) was by invitation only. Ms Kornfeind underlined the ambition of the Austrian Presidency to continue with the work achieved during the EYCH and have an ambitious follow-up in the years to come. She also called for increased efforts to strengthen cultural heritage at European level, with Creative Europe being a key priority.

After that, **Ms Themis Christophidou, Director-General of DG EAC at the European Commission**, presented the results of the EYCH: more than 11,000 events related to cultural heritage had already taken place, with more than 6 million people involved in those events and



activities, for example the European Heritage Days and various Europa Nostra activities. Most of these activities had been decentralised and implemented by national parliaments and other stakeholders, such as the Council of Europe. In this context, Ms Christophidou mentioned the CoE's European Cultural Routes, an initiative that illustrates how sustainable cultural tourism can be promoted while at the same time heritage sites are protected. First and foremost, however, she stressed the importance of engaging young people with cultural heritage and its preservation.

Thematic Panel 1: *Culture and Identity*

Ms Silvia Costa, Member of the European Parliament, summarised the conclusions from Panel 1 of the Monday session, dealing with European identity. She stressed that there is no contradiction between European identity and cultural diversity, nor a conflict among different identities across Europe. Rather, European identity needs to be built on that cultural complexity and complement rather than replace local, regional and national identities. This process is helpful for uniting our past and future since it generates community. Cultural traditions and experiences have been shared amongst artists and philosophers for years, demonstrating that we indeed have a common European background. Ms Costa concluded that identity should be thought of as a process, not an objective.

In the following discussion, participants expressed their gratitude that the European Year of Cultural Heritage had come to fruition in 2018. They highlighted the fact that the EYCH had really resonated with people, with many projects and initiatives happening at local, national and international level. Participants in the plenary session referred to the passionate debates during the parallel working sessions on Monday. They expressed their desire to see similar fruitful debates in the future, as these are crucial for overcoming what might be called a "European identity crisis", for which cultural heritage might offer a solution. Each historical monument and site tells us a European, not merely national or local, story, which is proof that "Europeanness" has shaped and enriched various national identities across Europe.

Besides understanding the benefits of our shared cultural heritage, it was important to acknowledge the threats that need to be tackled together. Education can be used as a tool for fighting stereotypes and raising awareness about cultural heritage, diversity and identity, especially education from a transcultural perspective and built on local and national diversity. Language was indicated as another key element of identity and diversity, which is why its protection is fundamentally important.

The thematic panel ended with the conclusion that, while the European Year 2018 had been historic in terms of success in protecting cultural heritage and diversity at a European level, it also highlighted the need to look ahead and seize the momentum that cultural heritage had gained with a view to tackle future challenges.



Speakers:

Ms Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary-General, Europa Nostra
Ms Margarida Mano, MP - Assembly of the Republic, Portugal
Ms Camila Gavrilă, MP - Chamber of Deputies, Romania
Ms Dragana Kostić, MP - National Assembly, Serbia
Mr Alberto Gutierrez Alberca, MP - Senate, Spain
Dr. Arūnas Gelūnas, MP - Seimas, Lithuania
Ms Marie-Louise O'Donnell, MP - Senate, Ireland
Mr Dimitrios Sevastakis, MP - Hellenic Parliament, Greece
Ms Vesna Bedeković, MP - Croatian Parliament, Croatia
Ms Dominique Bilde, Member of the European Parliament
Mr Andrija Popović, MP - Assembly, Republic of North Macedonia
Mr Ismajl Kurteshi, MP - Assembly, Kosovo
Ms Snežana Paunović, MP - National Assembly, Serbia

Thematic Panel 2: *Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage*

At the beginning of the second thematic panel, **Mr Mircea Diaconu, Member of the European Parliament**, presented the conclusions from the debates of the Monday session and reported that it had been an excellent meeting with many bright ideas brought to the table. He referred in particular to four issues that had been discussed: the destruction of cultural heritage caused by natural disasters and the importance of crafts, which can be used for restoration; the need to preserve heritage, which was only to be achieved through common societal efforts; the challenges of urban development and the allocation and use of structural and other funds for the preservation of buildings; and the need to ensure accessibility to all cultural heritage sites and provide cultural education at all levels and for all ages. Mr Diaconu also summed up discussions on the importance of preserving rural areas, the need for specific attention to be paid towards archaeological sites and the creation of networks, as well as the importance of redeveloping monuments, investing in tourism, and raising awareness about cultural heritage.

In the following debate, speakers underlined the need for increasing awareness of cultural heritage, its protection and its restoration. They also mentioned heritage destruction, in particular during conflict, and reported on various good practices of using European resources in order to help countries after heritage has been destroyed. Various Members of national parliaments proposed more ambitious digitalisation strategies to preserve cultural diversity, which would help save heritage for the next generations, and advocated projects in the field of cultural heritage combining both European and national identities.

Another topic addressed during the discussion was the importance of education as a key element in defining cultural heritage, but also in transferring knowledge and skills for the effective preservation of material heritage and the protection of working methods and skills. In addition, the work of volunteers in the preservation of cultural heritage was stressed.



Participants also highlighted the need for improving accessibility to cultural heritage and emphasised that culture must not be used as a tool to justify or even foster violence and xenophobia. It was concluded that further European support was not only required, but actually also in the interest of the EU, with investments in culture being beneficial on multiple levels.

Speakers:

Ms Susan Corr, President of ECCO (European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organization)

Mr Kyriakos Hadjiyiannis, MP - House of Representatives, Cyprus

Mr Radu-Cosmin Preda, MP - Senate, Romania

Ms Irena Stefoska, MP - Assembly, Republic of North Macedonia

Mr Jezry Fedorowicz, MP - Senate, Poland

Mr Luigi Gallo, MP - Chamber of Deputies, Italy

Mr Reinhard Pisec, MP - National Council, Austria

Mr Felix Montes Jort, MP - Senate, Spain

Ms Julie Ward, MEP

Ms Teuta Haixu, MP - Assembly, Kosovo

Ms Vesna Bedeković, MP - Croatian Parliament, Croatia

Mr Andrija Popović, MP - Assembly, Republic of North Macedonia

Mr Bogdan Zdrojewski, MEP

Ms Dragana Kostić, MP - National Assembly, Serbia

Thematic Panel 3: *Cultural Heritage and Education*

The third thematic panel was introduced by **Ms Sabine Verheyen, Member of the European Parliament**, who summarised the work of the Monday working session on “Education and Culture”. She outlined that two pillars were central to the EYCH: teaching people about Europe’s cultural heritage and using that same heritage as a key learning tool across age groups. She also underlined that the EU plays a key role in funding cultural heritage projects, and that it will continue to do so in order to ensure that those projects get appropriate support. She concluded that it is vital to cherish diversity (tangible and intangible) and to improve accessibility to cultural heritage (e.g., live performances can be considered as a tool to develop soft skills). It is also important to ensure the participation of different stakeholders in a bottom-up approach, to start with education on cultural heritage as early as possible in school curricula and to boost mobility. Moreover, it is vital to acknowledge the benefits of volunteering in helping preserve cultural heritage, in driving engagement with cultural heritage and in making arts a priority in education (transforming STEM priorities into STEAM priorities, “A” standing for art).

In the following discussion, Members of national parliaments and other stakeholders underlined that culture is one of the pillars of identity and democracy, and therefore needs strengthening, also and in particular through education. Participants stressed that European cultural heritage goes back to ancient times and that it was the task of today’s society to cherish and preserve that rich heritage. One of the most promising ways of achieving that was by educating young people from an early age, raising awareness about the importance of



protecting cultural heritage and possibly making it part of the school curricula. Members of national parliaments gave various accounts of the richness of their cultural heritage and asked for help from the European Union not only in preserving as much of it as possible for future generations, but also in strengthening education on cultural heritage.

Speakers:

Ms Nicole Gesché-Koning, Researcher, Université libre de Bruxelles

Mr Raphaël Gérard, MP - National Assembly, France

Ms Maria Augusta Santos, MP - Assembly of the Republic, Portugal

Mr Ismajl Kurteshi, MP - Assembly, Kosovo

Mr Emrullah İşler, MP - Grand National Assembly, Turkey

Ms Marie-Louise O'Donnell, MP - Senate, Ireland

Ms Anna Wasilewska, MP - Sejm, Poland

Ms Julie Ward, MEP

Mr Dimitrios Sevastakis, MP - Hellenic Parliament, Greece

Ms Dominique Bilde, MEP

Mr Luigi Gallo, MP - Chamber of Deputies, Italy

The plenary session of the 2018 CULT interparliamentary committee meeting on “European Cultural Heritage” finished with a presentation by **Mr Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**.



He thanked the European Parliament for having put culture and cultural heritage at the heart of European policy-making and for having made the EYCH 2018 possible. He also expressed his gratitude to all national parliaments for their support and activities throughout the Year, which

he described as a true success, both in quantitative and qualitative terms. The Commissioner also mentioned the example of DiscoverEU, a pilot initiative enabling 15,000 young Europeans to obtain free travel passes to discover Europe, as a means to raise awareness of Europe's cultural heritage. Another example he reported on was "Story Maps", developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, which offers easily accessible information on initiatives in the field of cultural heritage, such as the European Heritage Label. It also provides access to the digital collections of Europeana, which consist of over 50 million pieces of artwork, including books and media files. He emphasised that all these experiences allow people to examine their local, regional and national identity in a European context, and that this is how we can come to recognise the intertwined and overlapping nature of our identities and societies. The Commissioner described the EU Action Plan for Cultural Heritage as central for ensuring a policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage. It will serve as the central roadmap for the EU's future work in safeguarding and promoting Europe's cultural heritage: "It will start from the actions that the European Commission is implementing during the year, in line with the principles of engagement, sustainability, protection and innovation. It will cover topics such as youth volunteering, the accessibility of cultural heritage and activities to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural goods. Innovation and science will also be high on the agenda". He concluded that the European Year showed the importance of cultural heritage and that cultural heritage must remain at the top of the European political agenda. Most importantly, the Plan requires proper funding, which was one of the key drivers for raising the budget of Creative Europe to EUR 1.85 billion in the EU's next long-term budget from 2021 to 2027.

The livestream of the plenary session on 20 November 2019 is available on the [EPTV website](#)

