

Newsletter

Committee meetings
21 and 22 June 2021

CULT Rapporteur presenting approach on 2022 budget



On 21 June, Romeo Franz (Greens), CULT's rapporteur for opinion on the 2022 EU budget, presented his approach to the 2022 budgetary procedure for the main programmes and budget lines of interest to the CULT

Committee. The Rapporteur intends to propose, inter alia, limited increases for Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, in order to boost efforts to 'green' the programmes and to promote inclusion. Under Creative Europe, more support should be provided - through the Culture strand - to support the post-pandemic recovery of the cultural and creative sectors, as they have been the most severely affected by the pandemic, and to enhance their resilience in the future. Furthermore, the rapporteur advocates for increasing the allocation for the Citizens engagement strand (formerly Europe for Citizens programme) of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme, to tackle the historically low success rate of applicants. Regarding Multimedia Actions, the Rapporteur wants to secure stable and predictable

multi-year financing for radio networks covering EU affairs. Finally, the CULT Rapporteur expects to propose a high-quality package of CULT-initiated pilot projects and preparatory actions.

In the ensuing discussion, Members highlighted the importance of the social and green dimensions of the CULT programmes. On the question of future EU financing for media networks, on which an EP resolution was adopted on 10 June, CULT Members showed strong unity on the objective. Further, some Members underlined the importance of transparent budgeting and improved communication with citizens regarding EU funding. Finally, several Members emphasised the necessity of a timely, objective assessment of Parliament's proposals for pilot projects and preparatory actions, and warned against a politicisation of the process by the Commission.



Presentation of the study on “EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward” by Policy Department B



The morning of 22 June started with a presentation by Professor Jürgen Mittag (German Sport University of Cologne) and Professor Roland Naul (University of Münster) on the main findings of the study on "EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward". The study had been commissioned by the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies and examines the changes that have affected European sports policy since the Lisbon Treaty and the various dimensions related to this area (e.g. political dimension, economic dimension and the socio-cultural dimension). In addition, the study tackled the current challenges and listed several policy recommendations and actions for effective delivery of the priorities for sports policy at European level.

The ensuing discussion with CULT Members focused on the following elements:

- J the need for stronger coordination in the field of sport, both at Members States' level and EU level;
- J the enhancement of sports-related initiatives by the EP, in particular in terms of sports diplomacy;
- J the need for the European sports model to focus on solidarity and inclusiveness;
- J -the social, health, economic and cultural dimensions of sport;
- J tackling phenomena such as doping, corruption, racism, child abuse, etc.
- J how to respond to challenges related to sports funding, access to information and data, innovation, climate change, and the relationship between the interests of traditional sporting organisations and commercial providers.

The study findings were considered a useful background for the forthcoming CULT report on "EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward" (Rapporteur: Tomasz Frankowski, EPP), for which a first debate took place immediately after the study presentation.

Presentation of the activities of the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (with EACEA Director Mr Roberto Carlini)



On Tuesday, 22 June, the CULT Committee held an exchange of views with Mr Roberto Carlini,

Director of the EACEA, who came to present the structure, responsibilities and managerial arrangements of the EACEA.

The Agency is known for being a catalyst for projects in education, training, youth, sport, audiovisual, culture, citizenship and humanitarian aid. With the new MFF programmes in place, Mr Carlini underlined the growing volume of projects that the Agency is responsible for – over 7000 per year. According to its director, the Agency, which also organises the implementation of a considerable part of the Erasmus+ programme, is focusing its efforts on projects with proven EU

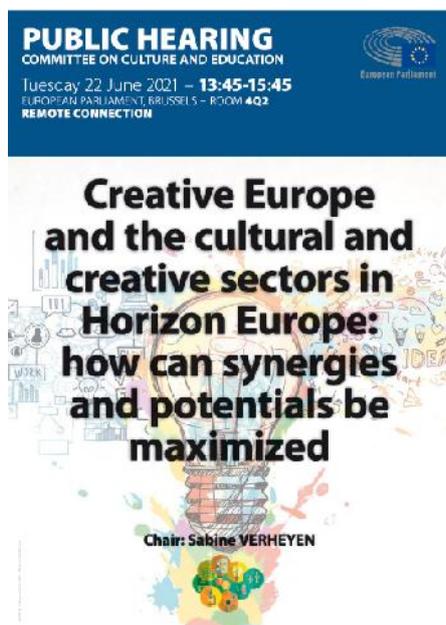
added value, in particular of transnational character. The Agency is also responsible for calls under Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV).

Mr Carlini pointed out that the Agency will see its staff increased to face the growing number of projects and calls under the new MFF, with simplification and accessibility among the main priorities. The Agency makes use of the Commission's "one stop-shop" for EU financing where potential beneficiaries can see all available funding for a given policy field. With simplified financial control and improved governance structures, the EACEA aims to dedicate most of its

resources and efforts to its policy priorities and objectives.

During the dynamic exchange of views that followed the presentation, CULT Members insisted on the importance of the retroactivity clause, which enables projects to claim reimbursement of certain expenses retroactively, but which should also allow for a smooth transition between the 2014-2020 and the 2021-2027 programming period. Members also insisted on the importance of improving the accessibility and inclusiveness of the programmes and the clear division of tasks between the national agencies and the EACEA.

Public hearing on "Creative Europe and the cultural and creative sectors in Horizon Europe: how can synergies and potentials be maximized?"



The public hearing on synergies between the Creative Europe and Horizon Europe programmes was the last point on the agenda of the meeting. Experts, representing a large spectrum of perspectives, including private companies, national public administration, cultural organisations and the Creative Europe desk, presented their analysis of potential synergies between the two programmes, pointing out similar challenges and the different nature of calls in both programmes, as well as various target groups of beneficiaries. They highlighted that, depending on the character of the project, beneficiaries should apply to only one call, in order to avoid creating too many expectations. To this aim, increased collaboration between the programme contact points at national level and capacity building activities were deemed necessary to adequately guide potential candidates.

In the subsequent discussion, Members raised the issue of bureaucratic burden, the role of Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT). They also underlined the need for the Commission DGs to work together on genuine synergies, such as the proposal for a joint call combining creativity, technology and innovation.

Consideration of draft opinions

Strengthening Democracy and Media Freedom and Pluralism in the EU: the undue use of actions under civil and criminal law to silence journalists, NGOs and civil society

(Loucas FOURLAS, EPP)

The CULT Committee held a presentation of the draft opinion on media freedom and pluralism in the EU, focusing in particular on the case of the so-called SLAAPs, or undue use of actions under civil and criminal law to silence civil society and journalists. The Rapporteur, Mr Fourlas, underlined that being a journalist in the EU can be a dangerous profession. Indeed, in many EU countries, journalists continue to experience harsh working conditions with increasing financial and political pressure, surveillance, arbitrary prosecution, trials and prison sentences or violence for doing their work, as illustrated by the tragic assassination of Maltese investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. In his draft opinion to the corresponding JURI report, Mr Fourlas proposed concrete legislative measures to strengthen the independence and freedom of the press and guarantee safe working conditions for journalists, who are key actors in stable democracies. Members of the CULT Committee praised Mr Fourlas's draft, underlining that in a Union based on the rule of law, where the fundamental rights of citizens are guaranteed, there is absolutely no room for unlawful actions aimed at silencing journalists who investigate corruption or other crimes. The CULT Committee is expected to vote on the draft opinion on 31 August 2021.



[Procedure file](#)

An intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience

(Andrey SLABAKOV, ECR)

Intangible assets covered by intellectual property have a growing importance in today's 'knowledge economy'. IP-intensive industries account for 45% of all GDP and 93% of all EU exports. Most importantly - intangible assets play a key role in the global race for technological leadership.

Intellectual property is also a crucial tool in the development of the cultural and creative sectors (CCS), as underlined by the Rapporteur on the draft opinion, Mr Slabakov, during his presentation. Mr Slabakov insisted that the EU needs to make decisive steps towards guaranteeing and safeguarding the benefits of property rights to the "creators". In his draft opinion, Mr Slabakov proposes ways for European CCS companies to reap the full benefit of their creative work through IP rights, with a particular focus on SMEs – the most vulnerable players in the sector. He also deplored the fact that too many European creators are unaware of their IP rights, thus limiting their prospects to further develop their creative potential. According to the Rapporteur, this is particularly true in the context of the competitive international environment. Consequently, the Rapporteur asks the Commission to include a more coherent policy on IP rights in all international agreements.

CULT Members expressed their strong support for the proposed measures and underlined the need for a coherent implementation of the existing legislation, in particular of Article 17 of the directive on copyright in the digital single market, throughout the EU. The draft opinion will be voted in CULT Committee on 31 August 2021.



[Procedure file](#)

Contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act)

Petra KAMMEREVERT (S&D)

The Committee held an exchange of views on the draft opinion on 'contestable and fair markets in the digital sector', the so-called Digital Markets Act. The CULT Rapporteur, Petra Kammerevert (S&D), recalled that gatekeepers were freely exploiting independent media companies as well as entities in the cultural and creative sectors by making direct investment more difficult, dictating the terms of use, prices, and behaviour, as well as using data for their own benefit. In order to systematically and efficiently prevent such actions, the Rapporteur suggests that the dual character of these sectors should be properly taken into account, as both economic and cultural assets, whilst ensuring that they remain independent from State control and influence. In addition, the Rapporteur considers it necessary to ensure a minimum level of transparency in setting advertising prices in order to put business users in a fair negotiating position in relation to gatekeepers. She also considers that new forms of advertising should be regulated in such a way that they handle data respectfully and transparently.

In the subsequent discussion, Members showed strong support for the Rapporteur's amendments, whilst raising other issues such as fundamental rights and copyright. The vote of the opinion is scheduled to take place on 27 September 2021.



[Procedure file](#)

Policy Department Research

Recently finished projects

Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:

INI report on *Europe's Media in the Digital Decade: An Action Plan to Support Recovery and Transformation*:

- Background analysis on [Europe's media in the digital decade: an action plan to support recovery and transformation in the news media sector](#);
- Thematic briefing on [Media Action Plan: key challenges related to media pluralism, media freedom and democracy](#);
- Briefing on [Media Action Plan: policy recommendations](#).

INI report on [The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU](#).

- Background analysis on [The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU](#).
- Policy Recommendations Briefing on [The situation of artists and cultural workers and the post-COVID cultural recovery in the European Union policy](#).

INI report on *The European Education Area: a shared holistic approach to education, skills and competences*:

- Study on [Making the European Education Area a reality: state of affairs, challenges and prospects](#);
- Study on [Towards a European Education – Critical Perspectives on Challenges Ahead](#);
- Briefing on [Approaches of the Council and the Commission to the European Education Area: strategic priorities and quantitative objectives](#);

- Briefing on *The European Education Area seen by the Member States of the European Union - Synthesis of a survey conducted amongst Member States' representatives* (internal);
- Briefing on *The European Education Area: bibliographical review* (internal).

INI report on *Shaping Digital Education policy*:

- In-depth analysis on [Shaping digital education policy](#).

INI report on *Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector*:

- Introductory briefing on [The use of artificial intelligence in the cultural and creative sectors](#);
- In-depth analysis on [The use of artificial intelligence in the audiovisual sector](#);
- Introductory briefing on [The use of artificial intelligence in education](#).

INI report on *Effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes*:

- Introductory briefing on [Effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes](#);
- Briefing on [Virtual formats versus physical mobility](#).

Other studies:

[EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward](#).

[Cultural and Creative Sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations](#).

[Education and Youth in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations](#).

Selection of forthcoming projects

Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:

INI report on *The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism*:

- Background analysis (expected September 2021);
- Policy Recommendations Briefing (expected September 2021).

Other studies:

- *The European Union's approach to multilingualism in its own communications policy* (expected February 2022);

- *The European Schools system: state of play, challenges and perspectives* (expected March 2022).

Useful links and contacts:

- [Research for CULT Committee](#)
- [Supporting analysis for CULT Committee](#)
- <https://twitter.com/PolicyCULT>
- poldep-cohesion@europarl.europa.eu



Next CULT Committee meeting: 13 July 2021

Useful links

-) [CULT Committee website](#)
-) [Meeting documents](#)
-) [Calendar of meetings](#)

-) [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
-) [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
-) [The Portuguese Presidency of the Council](#)

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