Committee meeting on 1 September 2022

Consideration of draft opinions

Transparency and targeting of political advertising

Sabine Verheyen (EPP, Germany)

CULT held a presentation of its draft opinion on “Transparency and targeting of political advertising”. The Rapporteur, while welcoming the Commission’s new proposal, suggested a series of amendments in order to clarify certain provisions related to the dissemination of political advertising through offline media forms and in order to ensure a consistent approach between offline and online service providers of political advertising. Furthermore, the Rapporteur highlighted the complementarities with the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) and the need to safeguard the freedom of expression and right to information. Finally, the Rapporteur emphasised the cooperation mechanisms between all the authorities involved in the future implementation of the regulation.

In the ensuing debate, CULT Shadow Rapporteurs agreed on the importance of editorial freedom and on the need for more clarity as regards the definition of political advertising and on the need to safeguard the work of journalists and NGOs.

The deadline for amendments is 8 September and the vote will take place at the end of October.

Budget 2023

Morten Løkkegaard (Renew, Denmark)

During the presentation of the CULT draft opinion on the 2023 Budget, the Rapporteur, replaced by Róza Thun und Hohenstein (Renew), highlighted the main budgetary priorities of CULT. Overall, the draft opinion reflects the broad consensus reached in July, when the budgetary amendments were voted in CULT. The Rapporteur emphasised in his draft opinion the need to continue the support to the cultural and creative sectors still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for a significant budgetary increase of the Erasmus+
and Creative Europe Programmes. Furthermore, the Rapporteur in his draft opinion highlighted that the activities ensuring the long-lasting legacy of the 2022 European Year of Youth should be adequately funded.

From the ensuing debate, CULT Shadow Rapporteurs raised the importance of funding actions to fight disinformation and to support the news media sector and quality journalism.

The deadline for amendments is 6 September and the vote will take place at the beginning of October.

**Upscaling the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework: a resilient EU budget fit for new challenges**

*Victor Negrescu (S&D, Romania)*

Massimiliano Smeriglio presented the key points of the draft opinion on behalf of the Rapporteur, Victor Negrescu. He criticised that education, youth and cultural policies were structurally underfunded through the EU budget and that new priorities had aggravated this further, in particular the necessary actions to harness the post-pandemic recovery and to support Ukraine through Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps. Mr Smeriglio also highlighted the issue of proposing a European Status of the Artist and raising fresh funding for the New European Bauhaus.

In the discussion, Members raised the importance of creating a fund to support investigative journalists, evaluating the results of the EU’s multimedia policy and evening out the multiannual budgetary profile of Erasmus+, which is heavily back-loaded. The possibility of introducing a systematic ‘youth check’ was mentioned as a way to honour the legacy of the European Year of Youth 2022.

**Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties**

*Laurence Farreng (Renew, France)*

Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) is currently drafting a parliamentary report on “Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties”, to which CULT contributes in the form of an opinion.

In her presentation, the CULT Rapporteur elaborated on the main elements of the opinion, and in particular the central request of introducing shared competences in the field of education, especially regarding European citizenship education.

In the ensuing debate, Shadow-Rapporteurs and Members expressed strong support for the
opinion, underlining that establishing common minimum standards when it comes to citizenship education, but also the teaching of (European) history or language learning were in the interest of learners, Member States and the EU alike. The request for introducing shared competences in a clearly defined number of areas was thus not to be misread as an attempt to challenge the competences of Member States in educational affairs as such. Rather, it was to be seen as a *sine qua non* for the achievement of such common standards across the Union and thus as a cornerstone for the creation of a genuine European Education Area.

**Policy Department Research**

**Recently finished projects**

**Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:**

INI report on *E-sport and videogames*:
- Background analysis on *Esports*, May 2022;

INI report on *The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism*:
- Background analysis on *The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism*, October 2021;
- Briefing on *The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism – policy recommendations*, November 2021.

- Background analysis on *Europe’s media in the digital decade: an action plan to support recovery and transformation in the news media sector*, May 2021;
- Thematic briefing on *Media Action Plan: key challenges related to media pluralism, media freedom and democracy*, May 2021;
- Briefing on *Media Action Plan: policy recommendations*, May 2021;

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*, March 2021;

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*, February 2021;
- Study on *Towards a European Education – Critical Perspectives on Challenges Ahead*, October 2020;
- Briefing on *Approaches of the Council and the Commission to the European Education Area: strategic priorities and quantitative objectives*, April 2021;
- 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), March 2021;
- Briefing on The European Education Area: bibliographical review (internal), April 2021;

Other studies:
- The European Schools System: state of play, challenges and perspectives, June 2022
- EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward, June 2021;
- Cultural and Creative Sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations, February 2021;
- Education and Youth in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis effects and policy recommendations, May 2021.

Selection of forthcoming projects

Studies:
- The European Union’s approach to multilingualism in its own communications policy (expected October 2022).
- The European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main challenges and perspectives (expected December 2022).

Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:
Implementation report on The revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive:

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: 3 October 2022
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