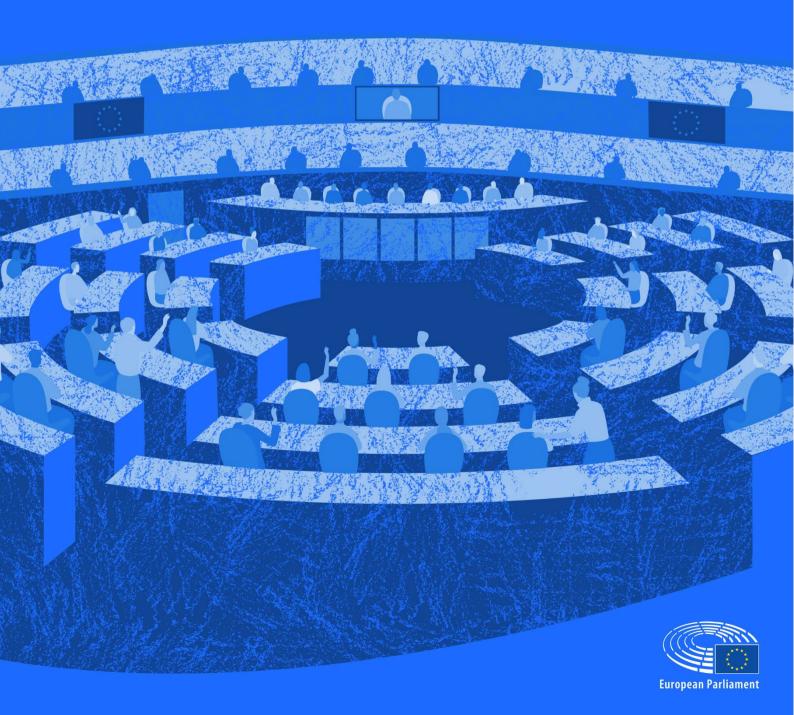
ACTIVITY REPORT

2019 - 2024

CULT

Committee on Culture and Education



This report was produced for the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education.

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Activity Report 2019-2024

Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)

Foreword by the outgoing Chair

Committee mandate

Files of the Committee

Cultural Policy

Education Policy

Audiovisual, Media and Digital Policy

Youth Policy

Sports Policy

Opinions adopted 2019 - 2024

The MFF, Annual budget and Related Opinions

Scrutiny and oversight activities of the Committee

Hearing of Commissioners

Structured dialogue with Commissioners

Delegated and implementing acts

EU institutions, agencies and other international bodies

Questions to the Commission and the Council

Fact finding and outreach activities

European Capitals of Culture

Missions and ad hoc delegations

Activities related to Ukraine and the Russian war of aggression against the country

Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

Public hearings

Policy departments, studies and workshops

Working groups

Annex

Committee Members

Coordinators

Secretariat

Relevant websites

Foreword by the outgoing Chair



As I reflect on the past five years serving as Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education in the European Parliament, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and pride. It has truly been an honour and a privilege to lead a committee composed of Members who share an unwavering dedication to education, culture, youth, media, and sport.

This activity report serves as a testament to the collective efforts of our Committee, documenting the various reports and initiatives we have completed since 2019. Our journey has been one marked by challenges and triumphs alike, as we navigated the complexities of European policy-making with diligence and determination.

Indeed, we began our parliamentary term facing an uphill battle; the unforeseen challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our work and tested our resilience. Despite the devastating impact of the pandemic on culture, education, and youth, the Committee on Culture and Education persevered, steadfast in our commitment to advancing our mission under unprecedented circumstances. We have consistently drawn attention to the severe challenges faced by the sectors, advocating tirelessly for support and recognition.

As we navigate the ongoing challenges presented by the war in Ukraine, we must remain firm in our dedication to promoting peace, solidarity, and cultural exchange. Our work is more critical now than ever before, as we seek to address the multifaceted implications of multiple crises on education, culture, youth and media.

Despite these difficult times, our achievements are manifold. We secured and executed the 2022 European Year of Youth, placing young people at the centre of attention and laying the groundwork for a lasting legacy. We were successful at doubling the funding for key education and culture programmes, while also spearheading successful pilot initiatives that will shape the future of Union programmes.

Our commitment to modernising the regulatory landscape for Europe's cultural and creative sectors has been determined and constant. We have played pivotal roles in setting up the programmes and legislation, such as Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps and the European Media Freedom Act.

Yet, our impact extends beyond headline achievements. Through own-initiative reports, hearings, and workshops, we have shaped the policy agenda, addressing critical issues such as youth policy, digital skills, and the European Education Area.

As we pass the torch to the next Committee, I am confident that they will build upon our achievements and continue to advocate for education, culture, media, youth and sport at the heart of European policy-making.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my colleagues for their collaboration and dedication over the past five years. While we may not always have seen eye-to-eye politically, our collective commitment to fostering a positive and constructive atmosphere has been relentless.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Happy reading, and may our legacy endure for years to come.

Sabine Verheyen

CULT Chair 2019-2024

Committee mandate

Under the European Parliament's Rules of Procedure, the responsibilities of the CULT Committee are:

- 1. The cultural aspects of the European Union, and in particular:
 - a. improving the knowledge and dissemination of culture,
 - b. the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity,
 - c. the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage, cultural exchanges and artistic creation;
- 2. The Union's education policy, including the European higher education area, the promotion of the system of European schools and lifelong learning;
- 3. Audiovisual policy and the cultural and educational aspects of the information society;
- 4. Youth policy;
- 5. The development of a sports and leisure policy;
- 6. Information and media policy;
- 7. Cooperation with third countries in the areas of culture and education and relations with the relevant international organisations and institutions.



CULT Committee meeting on 24 January 2024

Files of the Committee

Cultural Policy

Culture, in its many guises, sits at the core of CULT's remit. In supplementing Member States' cultural policies, the Union's action in the field of culture ranges from safeguarding Europe's cultural heritage, via fostering cooperation between countries' cultural institutions, to supporting those working creatively and promoting their mobility. Key policy documents underpinning the Union's culture policy are the Commission's New European Agenda for Culture (adopted in 2018), the Council's Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026, which aims to implement the former and, in the external field, the joint Commission-European External Action Service (EEAS) EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations (2016). Among the central instruments of the Union's cultural policy are the Creative Europe programme, the European Capitals of Culture initiative, and the European Heritage Label action. Precipitated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, CULT invested considerable energy in advocating initiatives that would bolster the recovery and resilience of the cultural and creative sector at Member State and Union level. This is in addition to laying the foundations for joint Union action to improve the status and working conditions of artists and other cultural and creative professionals. Other noteworthy CULT activities in the cultural field included work on achieving an effective legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018, the New European Bauhaus, the future of the European book sector, cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market.



European Capitals of Culture mission to Kaunas, Lithuania (July 2022)

Legislative Reports

Title	Reference
Creative Europe programme 2021–2027	2018/0190(COD)

Following the Commission's proposal for the Creative Europe Programme 2021–2027 (May 2018) CULT led an extensive period of negotiations with the Council regarding the text of the legislative proposal.

The adopted Regulation took into account many of CULT's concerns. It allowed for a balanced approach giving the colegislators room to exercise their scrutiny rights, while granting the Commission enough flexibility to implement the actions as defined in Annex I (description of the programme actions). The main part of the Regulation related to the amendment to Article 3 (programme objectives), which stipulated that only actions in line with the priorities described in the Regulation are possible under the programme in a closed list for each strand laid down in Annex I. This way, the Commission could not add any new actions or cease implementing the existing ones.

In the current period 2021–2027, Creative Europe benefits from the highest budget ever. The programme receives a total of EUR 2,2 billion; Parliament's initial request was to double the budget to EUR 2,806 billion. Funding is divided over the three strands of the programme: (1) Culture strand (33 %); (2) MEDIA strand (58 %); and (3) Cross-Sectoral strand (9 %).

Parliament managed to include, as one of the main priorities, a special focus on the music sector in the Regulation. Together with cultural heritage and literature, music now benefits from tailor-made and sector specific support. In relation to third country participation, Parliament position was that all third countries wishing to participate in Creative Europe must align with the Audiovisual Media Service Directive (AVMSD), with derogations in duly justified cases. Additionally, Members insisted that the programme had to promote female talent and support women's artistic and professional careers. The commitment to foster gender equality alongside the promotion of inclusion, particularly with reference to people with a disability, were amongst the main objectives to be pursued by Creative Europe projects.



Rapporteur: Massimiliano SMERIGLIO (S&D)

Former Rapporteur (8th legislature): Silvia COSTA (S&D)

I am pleased to say that this is a concrete milestone in the history of Creative Europe, where the programme receives the biggest budaet since inception. We must always remember that without well-resourced cultural and creative sectors Europe as we know it will cease to exist.

Adopted in Committee: 20/02/2019

Adopted in plenary: 20/05/2021

Title

Reference

European capitals of culture 2020-2033

2020/0179(COD)

As a direct consequence of lock-down measures taken across the Union to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, cultural venues were closed down and events cancelled or postponed for an undetermined period of time. This had serious implications on the delivery and preparation of the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) initiative. The most affected were the two ECOCs that held the title in 2020 and the three ECOCs of 2021, whose preparatory work was severely hampered.

In August 2020, the Commission proposed to amend the Decision of Parliament and the Council, at no additional cost. The purpose of the amending Decision was, on the one hand, to extend the duration of the implementation of the European Capitals of Culture 2020 – Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) – to the end of April 2021 and, on the other hand, to postpone the tenure of Timisoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece) from 2021 to 2023 and that of Novi Sad (Serbia) from 2021 to 2022.

CULT adopted a single amendment to the Commission proposal to acknowledge the extensive human and financial investment made by those cities.

Following an accelerated interinstitutional negotiation, without any physical trilogues, CULT endorsed unanimously the provisional agreement on Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

The final act was published in the *Official Journal* before the end of the year 2020.



Rapporteur: Željana ZOVKO (EPP)

The European Capitals of Culture showcase our linguistic, historical and cultural diversity by offering a stage to local creative projects that celebrate our heritage. I am proud that with this report I managed to uphold this project even durina the most challenging times and thereby support cultural and the creative sector of the EU.

Adopted in Committee: 27/10/2020

Adopted in plenary: 17/12/2020

Title	Reference
EU framework for the social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors	2023/2051(INL)

The joint CULT-EMPL legislative initiative took on board a key demand from the CULT own-initiative report on The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU (2021) by calling on the Commission to propose a Unionwide framework on the social and professional situation of artists and other professionals in the cultural and creative sectors ('CCS professionals'). This was through a combination of legislative tools: (1) A Directive on decent working conditions, in particular to ensure fair remuneration and working practices in the sectors, and to facilitate the correct determination of the employment status of CCS professionals; (2) One or more Decisions setting up a mechanism for structured cooperation and the exchange of best practices between Member States, including through a new European platform on the social and professional situation of persons working in the CCS, to be set up with a view to formulating quality standards as regards the status and situation of CCS professionals.

The report also made concrete suggestions in the following areas: the status of artists; cross-border mobility; fair remuneration, practices and funding, the role of the social partners and collective bargaining; education, training opportunities and career development; gender equality and measures against workplace harassment and discrimination; artistic freedom; digital challenges, including challenges posed by generative AI. Topics of particular interest during the negotiations were: (a) the legal base: the choice of legal base was crucial in view of the Union's limited competence in social affairs, in particular in relation to the self-employed. (b) the choice of legislative instruments: whether a decision, directive or Council recommendation was needed for the objective; (c) the scope of the report: whether the sports and entertainment sectors had to be covered; and (d) social conditionality: the objective to ensure that the next cycle of Union programmes targeting the CCS introduces a 'social conditionality' clause.



Rapporteur: Domènec RUIZ DEVESA (S&D)

We often praise Europe as a cultural powerhouse, we are fast in celebrating our cultural heritage, but if we don't address the situation of cultural and creative professionals today, we will not have a future heritage celebrate tomorrow. It is our responsibility to give meaningful solutions to professionals that endure a lot, yet they give us everything, a sector that we must nurture, because without culture, our Union lacks a soul.

Adopted in Committee: 24/10/2023

Adopted in plenary: 21/11/2023

Non-legislative Reports

Own-initiative reports (INI)

TitleReferenceThe New European Bauhaus2021/2255(INI)

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) was an interdisciplinary initiative, announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her 2020 State of the Union speech; it was launched in 2021. It aimed to connect the European Green Deal to ways of living of Union citizens, bringing together architecture, innovation, science and design. This report was jointly drafted by ITRE and CULT.

The Committees were united in welcoming the objectives of the new initiative and the paradigm shift it represented by cutting across disciplines, bringing together cultural, social, scientific and other creative minds to come up with tangible, sustainable and inclusive solutions to improve people's everyday quality of life, by transforming the spaces in which they live to suit better their needs. The Committees regretted that the initiative is not concrete enough to provide explicit ideas to the Commission: the new initiative must focus on creating affordable living spaces, transforming less developed areas, addressing spatial segregation and the historical exclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups. Regarding short-term funding, CULT and ITRE called for EUR 500 million to be added via Horizon Europe during the 2023 revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Moreover, the Committees called on the Commission to turn the NEB into a standalone Union programme with dedicated funding from 2028 onwards. Both Committees insisted that there must be concrete criteria for the selection of Union-funded NEB projects, inter alia: alignment with key Union policies such as the Green Deal and the potential to create new jobs and business opportunities, promote accessibility, affordability, inclusiveness and safety. Further, the report defined criteria for a future Bauhaus Label.

Two public hearings on 16 June 2021 and 20 April 2022 as well as multiple joint meetings of the Shadows Rapporteurs with stakeholders, contributed to the report.



Co-Rapporteur: Marcos ROS SEMPERE (S&D)

With the New European Bauhaus report, Parliament proposes a paradigm shift in the way architecture, design and culture sectors factored in when investing our European funds. It gives a cultural soul to the Green Deal, bringing it closer to our citizens. With this report we call for the need to establish stable funding through the creation of a standalone programme and the development of clear criteria linked to a labelling strategy.

Adopted in Committee: 12/07/2022

Adopted in plenary: 14/09/2022

Achieving an effective policy legacy for the European Year of Cultural Heritage

Title

2019/2194(INI)

Reference

The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) was one of CULT's key achievements during the eighth legislative term. Parliament drove the agenda, actively and successfully guiding the Commission to present a legislative proposal. The proposal was considerably improved by Parliament by means of introducing a few crucial amendments, for instance guaranteeing the implementation of the EYCH in a participatory way. An unparalleled series of initiatives and events were organised across the Union to bring people closer to, and more involved with, their cultural heritage, and to encourage the sharing and appreciation of Europe's rich heritage. The Rapporteur presented a three-fold approach to the topic: (1) Education and skills; (2) Digital cultural heritage and (3) Economic potential and sustainability.

To celebrate the shared as well as the diverse aspects of the Union citizens' perception on cultural heritage, 2018 was chosen as the European Year of Cultural Heritage, during which over 23.000 events took place across the Union. The EYCH was a bottom-up initiative, as civil society organisations advocated its establishment and played a key role in its preparation and implementation. Among its most significant achievements, the EYCH succeeded in creating the necessary momentum and bringing together public and private stakeholders, particularly non-governmental organisations (NGOs) promoting cultural heritage at local, regional and national levels and establishing a truly pan-European movement.

The report emphasised that cultural heritage is a value in its own right and called for the need to establish a permanent platform with organised civil society at its core for cooperation and coordination on cultural heritage policies at Union level.

To safeguard the important richness of our diverse histories, it remains imperative in the future that we enhance EU-wide cooperation and foster a culture of preservation, ensuring it enriches generations to come.



Rapporteur: Dace MELBĀRDE (ECR)

Cultural heritage is not just a legacy of our past; it's a beacon for our future, uniting us through the richness of our diverse histories. This report underscores the critical need for an integrated approach towards cultural heritage, emphasising the importance of education, digital advancement, and sustainability, alongside advocating for increased funding and stronger policy support at all levels of governance.

Adopted in Committee: 27/10/2020

Adopted in plenary: 21/01/2021

Title	Reference
The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the	2020/2261(INI)
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The report underlined that, while the intrinsic value of culture and its contribution to social cohesion and mental well-being are widely recognised, the containment measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic had severely undermined the fragile cultural and creative ecosystem. CULT called for immediate assistance and all necessary emergency measures while also reflecting on an orderly relaunch of this vital sector in terms of structural support. Parliament called on the Member States to include culture in national recovery and resilience plans and to earmark at least 2 % of funds received through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to culture.

In the Resolution, Parliament called on the Commission to propose a 'European Status of the Artist', setting out a common framework concerning working conditions and minimum standards for all artists and cultural (and creative) professionals residing in the Member States. This included artists and professionals of all types of employment (e.g. self-employment as well as fixed-term and temporary employment). This could be implemented through guidelines on key issues such as collective representation, access to social security schemes and taxation. The report also called on the Commission and the Member States to remove all barriers to cross-border mobility concerning visas, taxation, and social security, as well as the recognition of arts-based education degrees.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted many artists' dependence on digital platforms. Concerned that in this new business model many artists and creators could not secure the same amount of income, the report also raised the issue of so-called 'buy-out clauses' imposed on artists by these platforms and the need to ensure that cultural (and creative) workers have access to collective bargaining and can fully enforce the copyright legislation.

The Resolution also called for fostering and defending artistic freedom and urged the Commission to sanction Member States that do not respect artistic freedom.



Rapporteur: Monica SEMEDO (Renew)

This report will help to give artists a better and more secure livelihood by clarifying their status and simplifying access to social security.

Adopted in Committee: 27/09/2021

Adopted in plenary: 20/10/2021

Title Reference The role of culture, education, media and sport in the 2021/2057(INI) fight against racism The report aimed to feed into the Commission's report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive and any related legislation in 2022. The report took a holistic approach, looking at racism in all of its forms rather than creating categorisations that serve to further alienate communities from one another. Studying the underlying structural basis of racism and racist attitudes, the report proposed ways through which culture, sport and media can help to tackle the problem of racism in our societies. Rapporteur: The report asked for the collection of comprehensive and Salima YENBOU informed equality data that could contribute to more (Greens/EFA) targeted policy-making. The initiative insisted on more stringent sanctions for media outlets that publish racist This report takes a content, as well as an EU code of ethics for sports that holistic approach on racism and foresees a addresses racism and other forms future where the fight discrimination. on every form This report recommended to increase efforts at all levels discrimination will be in order to create more inclusive cultural and creative implemented at levels of society and sectors as well as to ensure a more diverse body of staff in based on reliable data. all sectors including wider media representation. It also Calling for stronger prescribed specific training in schools on racism and sanctions against unconscious bias for educators and youth workers as deviant media crucial to ensure safe and unbiased learning environments attitudes, the report in the Union. also calls for reinforced diversity in the cultural Furthermore, the report approached the issue of racism and creative sectors from an intersectional perspective and addressed the and for a specific many forms of discrimination that prevent us from living in training. This report a more inclusive and equal society. Finally, this report paves the way towards a more inclusive and underlined the important role and responsibility of media, unbiased society. with a particular reference to social media, in limiting the spread of racist content and hate speech.

Adopted in Committee: 07/02/2022

08/03/2022

Adopted in plenary:

Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the music streaming market

Title

2023/2054(INI)

Reference

Digital music platforms and music sharing services currently provide access to up to 100 million tracks either for free or for a comparatively low monthly subscription fee. The music streaming market has become the main way through which people access music. Authors have been asking for the value of music and their key role to be recognised and improved in the streaming market, by guaranteeing a fair share of this value to authors, thus contributing to a sustainable ecosystem. In this context, the report addressed the various challenges faced by authors, composers and songwriters in the sector, particularly marked by their low share of revenues. The report provided a series of recommendations in this regard.

Although streaming platforms dominate the music market and have been growing steadily for the last eight years, there were no rules regulating the sector at Union level. The situation is aggravated by the decline in the overall value of music products, with revenues concentrated in the hands of major labels and the most popular artists as well as through the rise of Al-generated content, streaming fraud (i.e. bots manipulating streaming figures), and the manipulation and illegal use of music content by platforms.

CULT called for a legislative act to oblige platforms to make their algorithms and recommendation tools transparent and to guarantee that European works are visible and accessible. A diversity indicator to assess the array of genres and languages available and the presence of independent authors also had to be included. Moreover, the report highlighted that a label should inform the audiences about purely AI-generated works. Finally, CULT asked the Union to invest more in European music, including local and niche artists as well as artists from vulnerable communities to offer a more diverse repertoire. In addition, authors had to be supported in the digital transformation of their business models.



Rapporteur: Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D)

This report serves to shed light on the struggles of European creators, who are at the heart of the music streaming market. We have aimed ensuring they are fairly remunerated for their work. auaranteeina their protection against abusive contracts safeguarding their rights, bearing in mind challenges the increasing digitalisation in order place European authors at the centre and promote cultural diversity in the EU.

Adopted in Committee: 28/11/2023

Adopted in plenary: 17/01/2024

Title Reference The future of the European book sector 2023/2053(INI)

This report marks the first time in a decade that CULT has made specific recommendations for the book sector.

The report highlights both the cultural and economic significance of the book industry in the Union, which accounted for 12 % of the Union average cultural expense and a turnover of more than EUR 23 billion in 2021. The report stresses the importance of the book sector in providing cultural value and the need to defend elements such as a balanced value chain, freedom of expression, editorial diversity, and independence from censorship.

The report addresses the various challenges the book sector is facing within the Union in a wide range of areas, such as environmental sustainability, accessibility, the interoperability of e-books and artificial intelligence (AI). A series of specific recommendations was put forward in order to address these challenges.

The report notably underlined the social importance of access to books, recalling the urgent need to improve accessibility for disabled, blind and partially sighted people, while calling for the transposition of the European Accessibility Act in all Member States. It also stressed the need to better support and promote the circulation of European books, recognising the strategic role of translators, libraries and local bookshops.

Moverover, the report proposed to create a label displaying independent bookshops in the Union and to introduce 'cultural vouchers' and zero-rate VAT for books in the Member States that could facilitate their purchase.

Finally, the report highlighted the dramatic increase in daily screen time, especially by the younger generations. In this light, the report called on the Member States to increase the promotion of reading amongst the youth, including the introduction to books from an early age.



Rapporteur: Tomasz FRANKOWSKI (EPP)

Books are indispensable goods. We need to recognise the essential role they play in society from a cultural, social. economic and intellectual point of view, and to take measures to promote further reading and increase visibility and access European literary works.

Adopted in Committee: 18/07/2023

Adopted in plenary: 14/09/2023

Implementation reports

Title	Reference
Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations	<u>2022/2047(INI)</u>

In this report, CULT assessed the Commission's <u>New European Agenda for Culture</u>, adopted in 2018 and the joint Commission-EEAS <u>EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations (2016)</u>. The report also aimed to feed into the Council's preparations of its <u>Work Plan for Culture 2023–2026</u>.

Overall, the report acknowledged that successful progress has been made in implementing the stated objectives of the two policy documents. However, the implementation report pointed out that both strategic frameworks were in need of updates. Moreover, it stated that there is a need for clarification regarding the role of the Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations concerning the contribution of these plans to supporting the New European Agenda for Culture. Additionally, more focus has to be on the aspects of inclusion and diversity, making culture more accessible and simplifying access to Union funding, especially for entities that are smaller in size.

In relation to the external dimension, the report called on the Commission and the EEAS to improve their coordination and to work towards a coherent, long-term strategy on international cultural relations, backed by sufficient funding. It called for developing an EU cultural diplomacy toolbox, with the dual aim of promoting European culture abroad and supporting the cultural and creative sectors in third countries.

The report also insisted on the need to step up the fight against illicit trafficking in cultural goods and to return cultural works and artefacts to their places of origin as part of Member States' external policy strategy. Finally, it stressed the importance of promoting culture as a facilitator of sustainable development.



Rapporteur: Salima YENBOU (Renew)

This report underlines the need for a robust cultural policy recommending accessible financing, increased participation of civil society and particular attention to cultural diversity and sustainable development. It's an urgent call towards the next CULT Committee and Parliament place culture as a new strategic priority!

Adopted in Committee: 14/11/2022

Adopted in plenary: 14/12/2022

Implementation of the Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027

In this report, CULT emphasised the important role of Creative Europe in supporting the cultural, creative and media sectors through the programme's over-arching objectives, which are to: (1) safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage; and (2) increase the competitiveness and economic potential of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector.

While CULT welcomed the increase in the total budget, the Members regretted how these additional funds are now being largely absorbed by high inflation. Additionally, the report highlighted how the first two years of the programme had been greatly impacted by many unexpected external factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the consequences of the war of aggression against Ukraine, and high inflation. Nonetheless, figures reaffirmed Creative Europe 2021-2027 as a highly successful programme with a number of novelties, which support the cultural and creative sectors in their efforts to become more inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The report highlighted the fact that the new generation of the Creative Europe programme continues to generate significant interest within the cultural, creative and audiovisual sectors, as well as the news media, with an increasing number of applications received under the three strands.

CULT reiterated their call on the Commission and the Member States to strengthen efforts to address the long-term effects of the pandemic on creators and cultural professionals.

The report also contained a number of recommendations regarding the urgent need for improvements regarding IT tools and reporting systems to ensure increased accessibility. The Commission was urged to (1) closely monitor the implementation of greening priorities and their impact on the sectors; (2) promote the human-centric and transparent use of AI in the artistic and creative process; and (3) substantially increase funding for the next Creative Europe programme 2028–2034.



Rapporteur: Massimiliano SMERIGLIO (S&D)

We must not forget, culture and creativity are at the very heart of Europe. This is why this report calls on the Commission and the Member States substantially increase financial allocation Creative the Europe programme 2028-2034, as well enhance to administrative simplification.

Adopted in Committee: 28/11/2023

Adopted in plenary: 16/01/2024

Education Policy

Education is essential not only for the Union's competitiveness in the world, but also for the development of engaged citizens to be able to deal with the challenges of the 21st century.

Among the key achievements in this parliamentary term was the strengthening of Erasmus+, the Union's flagship programme, the budget of which has almost doubled vis-à-vis the previous programming period. Additionally, important steps have been made in light of Erasmus+ to become a more inclusive and green programme for the coming years.

Moreover, CULT has worked hard to turn the vision of an 'European Education Area' (EEA) into reality, and to make the system of European Schools fit for the future. Not least, a key objective has been to entrust citizens with a better understanding of our common past and to foster a (self-)critical European historical consciousness that is essential for addressing present issues and work towards a common future.



EEA Midterm review event, 10 October 2023

Legislative Reports

Title Reference Erasmus+ programme for education, training, youth and sport 2021–2027

The provisional agreement reached on Erasmus+ as the Union's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport by Parliament and the Council negotiators in December 2020 after two and a half years of work and, at times, challenging negotiations was presented and endorsed unanimously by CULT on 11 January 2021. This agreement can be described as a considerable achievement.

While the original budgetary ambitions could unfortunately not be met in full, given the difficult overall context, the new Erasmus+ programme was substantially reinforced with a real-terms increase of around 60 % compared to the previous 2014–2020 programme period.

Overall, the programme's scope broadened, offering more opportunities to more people. This corresponded with the new programme generation containing also some important innovations: the new programme will fund European Universities, Discover EU and Centres of Vocational Excellence, and there will be important simplification measures, a number of which Parliament introduced and secured.

Moreover, a considerably more robust monitoring and evaluation framework and a consistent set of indicators to accompany the programme's implementation have been put in place.

Among the most significant additions to the existing programme is the set of specific targeted measures that were introduced to make the programme more inclusive. This is aimed at reaching people that Erasmus+ has not traditionally managed to reach, and intended to help make the next generation of Erasmus+ an even greater success.



Rapporteur: Milan ZVER (EPP)

I am proud of our success in negotiations on the Erasmus+ Regulation that we concluded in 2020. We achieved one of the largest budget increases all among programmes within the MFF. With this important piece of legislation we stabilised Erasmus+ and we responded to criticism that it was an elitist programme intended for students from well off families. Now, the programme is inclusive with a bigger focus on vocational education, adult education, sports and financial assistance in the form of top-ups and advance financing of projects.

Adopted in Committee: 20/02/2019

Adopted in plenary: 18/05/2021

Non-legislative Reports

Own-initiative reports (INI)

Title	Reference
Effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps	2019/2195(INI)

This report underscored the role of the education, culture and youth programmes in delivering on the broader aims of the European Green Deal, notably by promoting social change and active citizenship. It charted specific ideas and initiatives that can boost the programmes' contribution to the Green Deal and help drive down its environmental impact, while at the same time retaining the programmes' core features. While virtual learning and exchange offer an important and growing complement to physical mobility, and indeed have enabled the programmes to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic, physical mobility offers unique benefits, in terms of intercultural learning and life experiences, which cannot be replicated in a virtual environment. Mobility must therefore remain at the core of the programmes.

Secondly, creative and artistic freedom is an inalienable pillar of the programmes. The three programmes must remain participant-driven and bottom-up. The report included a number of specific measures: (1) to encourage greener transport use; (2) to measure environmental contribution and impact; (3) to promote more environmentally friendly practices; (4) to use the structures in the programmes to support skills acquisition; and (5) to develop and share creative solutions to combat climate change. It also made clear that digital technologies are not a silver bullet and need to be used smartly and inclusively, while participating organisations, which are very often small not-for-profit bodies, need support to help them become greener.

Finally, the report highlighted that serious efforts to green the programmes require money and that, especially given the latest Commission MFF proposal, where money will have to come from outside the programmes. This once again demonstrated the need for effective synergies with other funding programmes.



Rapporteur: Laurence FARRENG (Renew)

Culture and education are the basis for the change towards more sustainable and greener society. Education is key to raise awareness, to responsible train citizens and develop for skills new sustainable development. Culture also has a key role to play in the ecological transition, as a sector undergoing transformation and as a vector of inspiration and societal change.

Adopted in Committee: 13/07/2020

Adopted in plenary: 15/09/2020

Title

Reference

The European Education Area: a shared holistic approach

2020/2243(INI)

Fostering the creation of a genuine European Education Area (EEA) was among the declared key priorities of CULT from the beginning of the ninth parliamentary term. The CULT report on that topic was therefore perceived as being of strategic importance and accompanied by both a dedicated Policy Department study and extensive stakeholder consultations, including an online survey. It was drafted in reply to both the Commission communication of 30 September 2020 on achieving the European Education Area by 2025 (COM(2020)0625) and the Council Resolution of 26 February 2021 on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030). This is notably with a view to inform further political deliberations, speed up the process leading to an EEA and provide concrete ideas for the latter's shape.

The report — emphasising the need for a holistic approach and joint efforts (even in its title) — stressed the importance of fostering an EEA from an educational point of view to provide more and better opportunities for European citizens to study, train and work abroad. It also put emphasis on the need to provide a new impetus for the imperilled European project by fostering civic engagement and a sense of European belonging. In line with this overall objective, the report focuses on the following elements:

- (1) The reasoning for building an EEA; how to effectively bridge institutional and stakeholder approaches; turning vision into reality by defining common strategic priorities and EU-level targets;
- (2) Devising tailored sector-specific measures;
- (3) Establishing an adequate enabling framework and governance structure for the EEA; and
- (4) The means to ensure a greater European dimension in education.



Rapporteur: Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ (EPP)

The vision of the European Education Area has deep roots and is a key to the EU's future. Now, we need to show its full potential for EU citizens. This is why ΕP report emphasises the need to turn vision into reality, such as mutual recognition of learning outcomes or support of teachers.

Adopted in Committee: 11/10/2021

Adopted in plenary: 11/11/2021

Shaping digital education policy

The sanitary crisis that had been continuing for a year when the report was voted clearly demonstrated that digital education is more than a tool. It is a necessity and a solution in the face of lockdown by providing education to as many learners as possible. The adopted report underlined the need for a European approach to digital education. At the same time, it stressed the importance to work with global institutions and actors - including the United Nations, the World Bank and the Council of Europe – in order to identify tailored solutions for the new challenges. The pandemic brought to the fore many of the other gaps in the digital education ecosystem. As emphasised in the report, digital tools are useful for teaching and learning. However, education requires more than having access to digital devices; the report therefore called for an integrated approach, taking into consideration the psychological, social, pedagogical and practical requirements of teaching and learning in a digital context.

The report called for a minimum 10 % allocation for education and 20 % for digital transformation within the recovery and resilience plans, and proposed new initiatives like the creation of the European Online University platform and the promotion of AI and robotics in education. Moreover, the importance of developing digital literacy to address the challenge of harmful and illegal content in the digital environment, including in terms of mental health and well-being, such as online harassment, cyber threats and cyber bullying, child pornography, data and privacy breaches, dangerous online games and disinformation was also underlined.

Members stressed the need to focus on better integration of girls into digital education from an early age, highlighting the need for a joint effort to motivate more girls to study science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM).

The report commended the decision to align the digital education action plan with the seven-year MFF since this enables a longer-term perspective and ties it in with the relevant funding instruments.

2020/2135(INI)



Rapporteur: Victor NEGRESCU (S&D)

This report triggered the COVID pandemic when millions learners around the world switched almost instantly to some form of online education, while in certain European countries, millions of children had access to education all. at Digital education should not be a privilege anymore and learner should be left behind. We need viable European solutions and European Plan for Education.

Adopted in Committee: 24/02/2024

Adopted in plenary: 25/03/2021

Title The System of European Schools: State of play,

Challenges and Perspectives

2022/2149(INI)

Reference

The CULT report on the present and future of the system of European Schools (ESS), took stock of the European Schools and outlined perspectives for future development. The report is structured as follows: (1) State of affairs of the ESS and vision; (2) Governance, management and legal issues: (3) Resources. infrastructure (4) Educational and pedagogical quality; and (5) Outlook. The report recognised the ESS as having significant potential in promoting educational reform across Europe thanks to its distinct model character. The ESS provides high-quality multilingual education with a strong European dimension. The governance structure, the teaching corps and the student body inherently create a direct contact with the educational systems in all the Member States. Moreover, these Member States all recognise the European Baccalaureate. This is especially relevant with regards to the creation of EEA - one of CULT's political priorities in the current legislative term.

With this in mind, the report highlighted the undeniable strengths of the system, but also acknowledged the need for substantial reform in a number of areas, including the governance of the European schools so as to make the system fit for the future. Among other things, CULT called on the Commission to assess the role of the European Schools for and within the EEA, e.g. in the area of language learning and in facilitating the automatic recognition of school diplomas across Europe. The report also called for greater accountability within the ESS, including by means regular dialogue between Parliament and representatives of the European Schools. Moreover, Member States are invited to fulfil their obligations and commitments in full, especially concerning secondment of qualified teachers. The system as a whole is invited to reach out to the wider education ecosystem of national schools to exchange best practices. Not least, the report also called for the financial contributions from the Union to the ESS to feature as a separate budget line in future Union budgets to ensure transparency.



Rapporteur: Ilana CICUREL (Renew)

Our ambition reform of the European Schools system, which is facing a growth crisis, and to enshrine this 'treasure' the European Education Area by making it a laboratory for the development and diffusion of best pedagogical practices for the benefit of all our education systems therefore European youth as a whole.

Adopted in Committee: 25/05/2023

Adopted in plenary: 12/07/2023

Title

Reference

2023/2112(INI)

European historical consciousness

In acknowledging that while a responsible approach to the past is of crucial importance for any democratic body politic, contemporary debates about history and appropriate forms of remembering that history often tend to be highly politicised. The CULT report on European historical consciousness stressed that consciously dealing with the past beyond a national(istic) point of view is an essential part of understanding where we – as Europeans - stand now and where we intend to go in the future. To that aim, the report, which represents the first of its kind in Parliament context, examined ways and means to deal with Europe's complex, conflict-ridden and contested past. More particularly, it assessed past and current "politics of the past" at Union level, identified existing shortcomings, and described ways to foster a "culture of remembering" and (self-)critical historical а consciousness. Such European historical consciousness is considered central for Europeans to be able to come to terms with their past, confidently deal with the present and work towards a common future. The report, which is informed by two Policy Department studies on European Historical Memory: Policies, Challenges and Perspectives and European Identity, consists of four parts: (1) Dealing with Europe's (dark) past as a risk and an opportunity; (2) Politics of the past in the European Union – a critical informed assessment; (3) Towards an historical consciousness in Europe; and (4) Outlook: the legacy of the past and the EU's future.

While a similar draft report on the sensitive issue of European historical memory had failed in Parliament in 2013 due to the particular approach chosen back then — with a focus on "what to remember" rather than "how" — and also insurmountable ideological differences between political groups, this new report met with overall support from across the political spectrum both in Committee and plenary. This is in particular due to the consciously neutral and thoughtful approach of the report, which abstained from making value judgements on specific historical experiences.



Rapporteur: Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP)

Coming to terms with the and past developing a selfcritical historical consciousness, diverse reflecting perspectives and cultural experiences, is essential for building a common European future.

Adopted in Committee: 28/11/2023

Adopted in plenary: 17/01/2024

Implementation reports

Title

Implementation of inclusion measures within Erasmus+ 202

The report looked at the level of success of the Erasmus+ programme in overcoming barriers to reaching those risking exclusion. This scrutiny exercise was primarily motivated by the transition that had happened in 2014 and that had brought a number of small programmes, namely the Lifelong Learning programme and five international cooperation programmes, under one label for the first time. The exercise also allowed the Members of Parliament to use evidence to develop a set of political messages on the future of Erasmus+.

In the preparatory phase, the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) published its <u>European Implementation Assessment</u>. An extensive consultation followed, including a Shadows' meeting with stakeholders and two surveys, one administered to local and pan-European organisations and the other to inclusion officers in national agencies.

The report ascertained that Erasmus+ 2014-2020 tackled inclusion and diversity in a more comprehensive and targeted way than its predecessor programmes. However, it also identified some remaining obstacles for inclusive mobility linked with the grants system and issues with the IT tools. The report also remarked the difficulty of evaluating and assessing the efficacy of inclusion measures given the lack of published data.

The report called on the Commission to develop Erasmus+ financing tools and especially to establish synergies with other programmes for this purpose. For instance, there is a need for an increase in the support given to accompanying teachers and staff of project associations as one of the practical actions that could improve the accessibility of learning mobility.

Parliament also encouraged the Member States and national agencies to facilitate more educational seminars for Erasmus+ staff to carry out projects, develop inclusive methods and explore new ways to reach potential beneficiaries of the programme.

Reference

2021/2009(INI)



Rapporteur: Laurence FARRENG (Renew)

Every young person and adult in training has to be informed of possibilities the offered by the Erasmus+ programme and be able participate an exchange or mobility project without encountering major obstacles. We need to go further for a real democratisation and make Erasmus+ programme for all.

Adopted in Committee: 17/05/2022

Adopted in plenary: 23/06/202

Title

Reference

Implementation of citizenship education actions

2021/2008(INI)

The implementation report thoroughly analysed the existing citizenship education actions in the EU and in particular those foreseen within the Programmes (Erasmus+; European Solidarity Corps and CERV); it formulates specific recommendations on the topic. The report outlined that the emergence of a dynamic European citizenship has been hindered by a knowledge and emotional gap, as well as by a lack of mechanisms enabling citizens' participation and dialogue. Insufficient knowledge of or ignorance about the Union and poor understanding of its functioning and added value may contribute to the perception of a democratic deficit and may lead to mistrust, civic disengagement and Euroscepticism in the Member States.

With this implementation report CULT stressed the need for pedagogical renewal and the adoption of a theoretical and practical approach to citizenship education in the Union, reinforcing the focus on Union and global aspects of citizenship in national curricula. The Resolution noted that only half of students studying in the Union say they have had the opportunity to learn about the European continent at school.

The report therefore suggested stronger engagement at the Union level to better coordinate and deliver meaningful citizenship education actions. It is shown that several programmes, such as Erasmus+, can be mobilised to deliver better results. The report also called for the development of tangible and measurable objectives and benchmarks on citizenship education and for a reflection on an EU curriculum on European and global civic education.



Rapporteur: Domènec RUIZ DEVESA (S&D)

If you do not know how Europe works, then it is very difficult to be an active European citizen. With this **Parliament** report, recommends ways for our citizens to exercise their rights by being more civically engaged and politically active. Parliament recognises that more must be done. The time is now!

Adopted in Committee: 15/03/2022

Adopted in plenary: 06/04/2022

Title	Reference
Implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme 2021–2027 — citizens' engagement and participation	<u>2023/2004(INI)</u>
With this implementation report, CULT insisted on the importance of EU programmes such as the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme that reach out to individual citizens and have a positive impact on their perception of the Union. The report sent a strong signal to the Commission and the Members States for the	

The report took a critical overview of the early stages of implementation of the new CERV programme and in particular Strand N3: (3) Citizens' engagement and participation. The latter has as overarching objective to citizens engagement, exchanges participation in the democratic life of the Union and to raise awareness of the common European history.

next programming period of the CERV programme

commencing in 2028.

The adopted report proposed to reinforce the budget for the future CERV programme in order to build a more resilient society with active citizens, and in particular young people, to counter populist propaganda. CULT proposed that the new CERV programme will support organisations active in defending the rule of law and European values and additionally will have simplified administrative requirements. The programme will establish the Civil Dialogue Group and should encourage citizens' active participation by reinforcing the European dimension of citizenship education.

Finally, CULT suggested that CERV could support the emerging dynamic of linking town twinning initiative along with the networks of towns to the twinning of education establishments, which would reinforce the European dimension of twinning practices.



Rapporteur: Łukasz KOHUT (S&D)

This report recommends ways for the CERV programme become more efficient by cutting red tape and simplifying procedures. It also calls for an increased budget for programme. This so it can be a stronger lever for action, enhancing civic engagement and participation from a fundamental riahts perspective fostering European historical consciousness actively supporting the building of critical historical memory.

Adopted in Committee: 28/11/2023

Adopted in plenary: 04/12/2023

Implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027

2023/2002(INI)

The implementation report took into account the first two and a half years of implementation and contributed towards the mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme. This Union flagship programme encompasses various sectors in the fields of education, training, youth and sport, and it promotes international cooperation and mobility through different key actions and funding mechanisms. The report highlighted that Erasmus+ remains a highly successful programme, even though its beginning had been made difficult by a challenging framework. The level of success is evident given the very high levels of participation and the frequent occurrences of over-subscription. The report's starting point was that Erasmus+ needs to remain focused on quality education with actions that are easily accessed by citizens at grassroots level. It therefore examined barriers to inclusion that result from the level and timing of grants, overly complicated application and reporting requirements and persistent difficulties with IT tools. The report emphasised that these issues can discourage first timers and small sized organisations and therefore need to be urgently addressed. At the same time, the report acknowledged the value of initiatives that promote the green and digital transition of the programme.

Additionally, it stressed the strength of the programme in developing young people's European values through popular mobility and exchange opportunities. It also welcomed the success of new flagship initiatives such as European University Alliance and Centres of Vocational Excellence. Finally, it called for synergies with other Union programmes to deepen the impact of the programme's actions. The report also highlighted issues such as the way forward for the European Universities Initiative and how to improve DiscoverEU. It underlines that more work is required to enhance further inclusion, especially towards persons with disabilities and linguistic minorities. It also stressed the importance of the programme's contribution to teacher training, the next steps in establishing the EEA and the need to improve coordination between the Commission and National agencies.



Rapporteur: Milan ZVER (EPP)

Erasmus+ is a highly successful programme, which continues to evolve: since 2021, it includes flagship initiatives like European University Alliance and Centres of Vocational Excellence. To reach full potential, inclusion should be reinforced to ensure that more citizens can benefit from furthermore, seamless implementation of IT should tools be guaranteed for maximising the programme's impact.

Adopted in Committee: 28/11/2023

Adopted in plenary: 16/01/2024

Audiovisual, Media and Digital Policy

CULT is responsible for audiovisual policy, cultural and educational aspects of the information society and for information and media policy. Its central focus over the ninth parliamentary term was to lead the successful interinstitutional negotiations on the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) and to follow very closely the implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD). In addition, following the COVID-19 pandemic, CULT was very active in supporting the recovery and the digital and green transition of the audiovisual and media sectors.

Finally, CULT contributed to several significant legislative and non-legislative reports that will shape the Union's digital transformation in the years to come, examples are the CULT contribution to the Digital Services Act and to the Artificial Intelligence Act.



Press conference on European Media Freedom Act - outcome of the inter - institutional negotiations (15/12/2023)

Legislative Reports

Title Reference European Media Freedom Act 2022/0277(COD)

The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) is considered a historical and fundamental piece of legislation when it comes to media freedom and pluralism in the Union.

Some of the major achievements of the negotiations and its core elements relate to the fact that the future regulation safeguards the protection of the right to have access to independent media content. Additionally, it states that 'Member States shall protect journalistic sources and confidential communications and shall not use unduly surveillance software'. The EMFA safeguards the full independence of public service media providers and the fact that funding procedures shall ensure sustainable and predictable financial resources.

Regarding the ownership structures of the media service providers, Parliament managed to achieve the reinforcement of several transparency requirements during the interinstitutional negotiations, so that editorial decisions can be taken freely within the editorial line of the media service provider. The future European Board for Media Services ('the Board'), which will replace the current European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) will be fully independent when performing its tasks or exercising its powers. Even though the secretariat of the Board will be part of the Commission, special attention will be paid to the qualifications and the profile of the people to be hired as requested by Parliament. In addition, a consultation mechanism put forward by Parliament will assist the Board in several topics beyond the audiovisual media sector.

Furthermore, in the final text Parliament has addressed the imbalance between media service providers and the very large online platforms, without interfering with the DSA Regulation.

With reference to the Articles linked directly to media market concentration issues, Parliament managed to add certain clarifications, notably on the involvement of national regulatory authorities or bodies and the Board. Last but not least, following te Parliament's demands, transparency in the allocation of public funds to media service providers has been enhanced and an important review clause has been introduced into the text to allow for a thorough follow-up of the implementation of the Regulation and of any related changes linked to the resilience and digital transformation of the media sector.



Rapporteur: Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP)

We must not turn a blind eye to the worrying state freedom press worldwide and in Europe. Media is "not just any business". Beyond its economic dimension, it contributes to education, cultural development and inclusivity in society, protecting fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and access to information. With the European Media Freedom Act, we reach an important legislative milestone to safeguard diversity freedom of our media landscape and journalists and protect our democracies.

Adopted in Committee: 07/09/2023 24/01/2024

Adopted in plenary: 13/03/2024

Non-legislative Reports

Own-initiative reports (INI)

Title	Reference
Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector	2020/2017(INI)
In this report CULT recalled how the use of AI technologies in these sectors could have an impact on the backbone of fundamental rights and values of our society.	
The report highlighted the potential risks and challenges associated with AI, such as data protection, discrimination, and cultural and linguistic diversity.	
Al in education is a significant focus of the report, which called for the data used and produced by Al applications in education to be accessible, interoperable, and of high quality. The report stressed that while Al can benefit education, it is necessary to consider its technological, regulatory, and social aspects. It emphasised the need for human supervision and control over Al technologies in schools and universities, particularly when interacting with students.	Rapporteur: Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP) The development, deployment and use of
Furthermore, the report called for a clear ethical framework for algorithms to protect Union's cultural and linguistic diversity, so that AI technologies can be used in the media to ensure that people have access to culturally and linguistically diverse content. Such a framework should also address the misuse of AI to disseminate fake news and disinformation, in particular deep fakes.	AI can bring several benefits to education, culture and to the audiovisual sector but careful monitoring of potential risks is essential. The fundamental question
Finally, the report highlighted the potential of AI in promoting cultural tourism and in monitoring the illicit trafficking of cultural objects.	is always how to use AI in the best possible way and in compliance with fundamental rights legislation.
	Adopted in Committee: 16/03/2021
	Adopted in plenary: 19/05/2021

Title	Reference
Europe's Media in the Digital Decade: An Action Plan to Support Recovery and Transformation	2021/2017(INI)
The report on <i>Europe's Media in the Digital Decade</i> is a response to the Commission's <u>Action Plan</u> launched in December 2020 to support the recovery and transformation of the media and audio-visual sectors, which have been particularly hit by the pandemic. In practice, the report looked into the challenges of a	
disrupted market in the media sector and suggested ways to overcome those. It called for a comprehensive news media and audiovisual policy, encompassing both legislative and financial support initiatives.	
It also stressed that media convergence requires a new legislative approach. This would provide a level-playing field which would also require fostering a crosscutting horizontal media approach in all forthcoming Union legislation on the Digital sector.	Rapporteur: Dace MELBĀRDE (ECR) With this report, Parliament underlines
Considering the existing market failures and fragmentation, the report called for a substantial financial support for the sector and urged to allocate stronger support for the sector across various MFF programmes and through tax policy reform.	the need for a comprehensive news media and audiovisual policy at the EU level, which brings together both legislative and
Finally, the report recommended to build on the example of the highly successful Creative Europe's MEDIA strand, and to create a permanent NEWS media fund, in order to safeguard the independence of European journalists and journalism, and guarantee the freedom of the press.	financial support.
	Adopted in Committee: 21/09/2021
	Adopted in plenary: 20/10/2021

Title

Reference

Esports and video games

2022/2027(INI)

The report on *Esports and video games* is of strategic importance as it acknowledged the strong growth and innovation potential of the Union video game ecosystem and the need to address esports from an European perspective. The report was accompanied by both a dedicated <u>Policy Department study</u> and extensive stakeholders' consultations.

In the report, Esports and traditional sports are viewed as distinct sectors. However, the report suggested that both sectors could complement each other and promote similar values such as fair play, non-discrimination, and gender equality.

In very concrete terms the report is divided into two main chapters, e.g. (1) video games and esports: challenges, opportunities and a European strategy and (2) esports: fair competitive video gaming within a European framework. In addition, the report asked for (a) the development of a European video game strategy, in order to consolidate European game ecosystem, retaining Union talents and increasing the Union's role; (b) an increase of the number of Union video game productions and of the funding available through Creative Europe and Horizon Europe programmes that should also adapt to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises in the sector; (c) the promotion of video games that showcase European values, history and diversity, stressing their potential 'to contribute to EU soft power'.

Other important proposals from the report include the creation of the European Video Game Observatory; the creation of an Union archive to preserve the most culturally significant European video games and the use of video games and esports in schools.

Following the adoption of the report, the Commission and the Council have committed themselves to harness the great potential of video games in culture, economy and society. Therefore, it will be essential to continue Parliament work on the topic during the tenth legislative term.



Rapporteur: Laurence FARRENG (Renew)

Video games are the most dynamic area of our cultural economy and the only sector that experienced growth during COVID crisis. Gaming has become a vital part of cultural life for half of all Europeans. Yet, we still don't have an European vision for the industry. Therefore, a long-term European video game strategy is needed also in connection to the promotion of esports.

Adopted in Committee: 03/10/2022

Adopted in plenary: 10/11//2022

Implementation reports

Title

Implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services	2022/2038(INI)
Directive	

The report took stock of the developments as regards the implementation of the 2018 revised Directive by the Member States and was accompanied by a dedicated Policy Department study, extensive stakeholders' consultations and a public hearing. As a background, the 2018 revision of the AVMSD aimed at ensuring a level playing field between the traditional broadcasting sector (i.e. television) and video on-demand services (VoD), video-sharing platforms (VSPs), and the audiovisual content on social networks, in order to better protect viewers, encourage innovation and promote European audiovisual content.

The report is critical as regards the delays by the Member States in transposing the revised AVMSD and tackled several issues related to the application of the country-of-origin principle, the accessibility of media services and the prominence of European works. The report emphasised the importance of the AVMSD provisions on the promotion of audiovisual media services of general interest, on the protection of minors against harmful content, on the need for the rules on broadcasting of events of major importance to be respected by the Member States and provides detailed considerations on co- and self-regulation and on media oversight.

Furthermore, the report tackled recent trends linked to the rapid development of audiovisual media services produced by online influencers, the dissemination of media content via online platforms and on the need to address the use of AI in relation to audiovisual media services in order to safeguard freedom of expression. Finally, it recalled the importance of clarifying the links between the AVMSD and other pieces of Union legislation.



Reference

Rapporteur: Petra KAMMEREVERT (S&D)

The AVMSD remains highly relevant for the protection of minors, for advertising rules and for ensuring the independence, accessibility, discoverability and prominence of European

prominence of European works. An open approach to the notion of "European work" and a measured, moderate approach to the requirements of quotas and investment obligations, continuing to take due account of the dynamic developments in the production market, are necessary to ensure the diversity and economic success of audiovisual media services.

Adopted in Committee: 12/04/2023

Adopted in plenary: 09/05/2023

Youth Policy

Our youth is our future. Young people are a major driving force behind the Union project. Therefore, over the past decades the Union has strengthened its policies in support of youth. As this policy field remains largely a national competence, European harmonisation is not always possible and the Union plays a supporting role. For example, Key Action 1 of the Erasmus+ programme, which supports the mobility of individuals, encourages exchanges of young people within the Union and with third countries. CULT has been a strong advocate and vector for strengthening youth policies during this parliamentary term as illustrated by the European Solidarity Corps initiative and the Discover EU project. The year 2022 was the European Year of Youth (EYY), shining a light on the importance of European youth to build a better future — greener, more inclusive and digital. In 2023, as a follow up to the EYY, CULT took an important decision to become a real 'hub' for youth issues at the Parliament and engage further alongside young people bringing them closer to the Union policy and decision-making process in an inclusive approach.



European Youth Event (EYE 2023), Strasbourg (9-10 June 2023)

Legislative Reports

	Reference
European Year of Youth 2022	2021/0328(COD)

The overall objective of the European Year of Youth (EYY2022) – a year dedicated to empowering young people – was to boost the efforts of the Union, the Member States, as well regional and local authorities, together with civil society actors, to empower, honour, support, and engage with young people with a view to bringing the European Union closer and having a long-term positive impact for them.

With the EYY2022, Parliament insisted on renewing the positive perspectives for young people through empowering and supporting them, especially young people with fewer opportunities, to acquire relevant knowledge and competences and thus become active and engaged citizens and actors of change. Parliament also seeks to build capacity for youth participation and civic engagement among young people and mainstream youth policy across all relevant Union policy fields in line with the 2019–2027 European Union Youth Strategy.

The Decision proposed to achieve the objectives of the EYY2022 by organising conferences, events, and policy initiatives targeting young people with a view to promoting an inclusive and accessible debate on challenges that young people face, such as their social situation, access to education and training, as well as working conditions. The aim is to promote youth participation and enhance the use of existing and new innovative tools, channels, and programmes that enable all young people to reach policymakers. The Commission activated a wide range of EU programmes and instruments having a 'youth' component, thus making a significant additional contribution to the EYY2022. In addition, the co-legislators committed to ensuring that the European Year leaves a strong legacy beyond 2022. In January 2024, the Commission adopted a comprehensive Communication on the implementation of the legacy. A noticeable progress relates to the introduction of the 'youth checks' - a type of youth impact assessment on new EU legislation.



Rapporteur: Sabine VERHEYEN (EPP)

With the European Year of Youth we made young people a real priority on our policy agendas. We achieved a strong commitment engaging with young people to create a long lasting legacy of this year and address through real policy measures the issues that came out of it. It will be up to the next Parliament to show that we take youth participation seriously by mainstreaming youth in every policy field.

Adopted in Committee: 16/11/2021

Adopted in plenary: 22/12/2021

Title

Reference

European solidarity Corps programme (2021-2027)

2019/0230(COD)

The Commission's proposal setting a European Solidarity Corps (2021–2027) aims to create opportunities for young people between 18–30 years old to volunteer or work in solidarity-oriented projects. This proposal extends the scope of European Solidarity Corps activities to include those in support of humanitarian aid operations in the humanitarian strand, previously implemented through the EU Aid Volunteers initiative.

The overall objective of the programme is to increase the involvement of young people and organisations in solidarity activities, mainly through volunteering, with the aim of strengthening cohesion, solidarity, democracy, European identity and active citizenship in the Union and beyond, by addressing societal and humanitarian challenges on the ground. Special efforts are made to promote sustainable development, social inclusion and equal opportunities.

Parliament insisted on the strong inclusiveness of the programme supporting young people, including those with fewer opportunities, with easily accessible opportunities to participate in solidarity activities that bring about positive societal change in the Union and abroad, while allowing them to strengthen and duly validate their skills and facilitate their continued participation as active citizens. The programme sets up two strands of actions for the participation of young people, one in solidarity activities, mainly volunteering, and the other in humanitarian aid activities, e.g. the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

Parliament strongly supported the increases of the financial envelope for the implementation of the programme for the period 2021–2027, which has been set at EUR 1 009 000 000 in current prices.

The aim of the Commission is to mobilise more than 300.000 volunteers under the ESC under this programming period.



Rapporteur: Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ (EPP)

With the European Solidarity Corps, the ΕU clearly is committed to supporting Europe's youth. I hope the young generation will increasingly benefit from the opportunities in this programme for volunteering and solidarity projects.

Adopted in Committee: 04/02/2019

Adopted in plenary: 18/05/2021

Non-legislative Reports

Own-initiative reports (INI)

Own-initiative reports (iivi)	
Title	Reference
The impact of COVID-19 closures of educational, cultural, youth and sports activities on children and young people in the EU	<u>2022/2004(INI)</u>
CULT decided to evaluate in a report the first impact of the COVID-19 and in particular of the closures of educational, cultural, youth, and sports activities on children and young people in the EU. The report took account of the profound consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular on young people.	
The report proposed adequate funding and the promotion of opportunities offered by programmes such as Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps as key facilitators for enhancing mobility experiences and increasing their accessibility for all, regardless of income, gender, health, and region of origin.	Rapporteur: Hannes HEIDE (S&D)
It also pointed to the need to apply a holistic understanding of health that aims for complete physical, mental and social well-being and to this end recognises the need for comprehensive, preventive strategies including cultural and sporting activities and promoting the development of creative and social abilities of young people.	Now is the time to learn the right lessons and make our education system crisis-proof in the long term. Adequate funding for educational
The report underlined that the pandemic has aggravated pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. Therefore, in order to leave no one behind, the report recommended to address the wider structural gaps caused by the lack of digital infrastructure and tools, in particular in rural and peripheral areas.	institutions and programmes as well as a massive expansion of psychological support in everyday school life are crucial
Finally, the report recommended tackling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the connected closures of educational, cultural, youth, and sports facilities on the mental health of children and young people through multifaced and holistic Union action and in particular putting in place cross-sectoral preventive measures rather than partial solution with no long term effect.	to create an inclusive and healthy learning environment for all young people. Adopted in Committee: 13/07/2022 Adopted in plenary:
	Adopted in plenary:

13/09/2022

Implementation reports

Title	Reference
Implementation of the European Solidarity Corps	2023/2018(INI)
programme 2021-2027	

This report took stock of the European Solidarity Corps programme 2021–2027, which aims to create opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in solidarity-oriented projects. It also included an overview of the activities in support of humanitarian aid operations (humanitarian strand).

Despite the lack of quantitative data, the overall assessment of the programme is that it meets its objectives. The report focused on a set of suggestions linked to the strong inclusiveness of the programme supporting young people, including those with fewer opportunities.

It emphasised the need to improve the functioning of digital tools and systems, including the linguistic support for participants, the recognition of learning outcomes from volunteering activities, for example by awarding credits, and of youth work. It also suggested using the ESC to promote European citizenship education to young people and strengthening its European civic mobility or transnational volunteering capabilities.

The report suggested reinforcing the visibility and budget of the programme to allow for even more participants, especially those with fewer opportunities. It also called to at least double the financial envelope for the implementation of the programme in the future, as the budget for the 2021–2027 period is not sufficient to cover the increasing demand and unforeseen circumstances.

Finally, the report called for the creation of a special visa category for non-Schengen participants, for exploring new formats of volunteering and revising the number of participants for in-country activities for the next programming period, and strengthening the specific support role of participating organisations.



Rapporteur: Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ (EPP)

We need to focus on enhancing the visibility youth of this programme, represents a unique gateway for European solidarity and volunteering. significant budget increase also necessary to achieve this. I strongly advocate that learning outcomes from volunteering activities and youth work are given their due recognition, for example, by awarding credits.

Adopted in Committee: 24/10/2023

Adopted in plenary: 21/11/2023

Sports Policy

Article 165 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides the legal basis for Union sports policy and a European dimension in sport. However, sports policy remains primarily a national competence. Union policies related to sports are designed primarily to support fair and open competition and to protect the physical and moral integrity of sportspeople. Union sports policy places the volunteering-grassroots dimension of sport at the heart of its actions. The Union offers a wide range of funding opportunities in the field of sport, mainly through the Erasmus+ programme, which promotes participation in sport, physical activity, and voluntary activities. During the ninth term, CULT has dealt with several issues relating to sports policy. Central to its work was a comprehensive own-initiative report on EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward. Beyond that, CULT drew up another report on Esports and video games (see the Chapter on Audiovisual Media and Digital Policy) in order to contribute to the ongoing debate related to the main differences between sports and esports. CULT also attended several annual events such as the European Week of Sport and the EU Sport Forum, which promote more active and healthier lifestyles to people in Europe and address topical issues in the sport sector.

Finally, during the plenary sittings, CULT addressed questions relating to sports in other EU institutions, ensuring a direct form of parliamentary scrutiny when it comes to how the sector is evolving in the Union.



EP Plenary Session - EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward (22/11/2021)

Non-legislative Reports

Title

Own-initiative reports (INI)

EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward

2021/2058(INI)

Reference

The CULT report on *EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward* takes stock of the developments as regards the sports policy since 2017. The report was accompanied by both a dedicated <u>Policy Department study</u> and extensive stakeholders' consultations.

The report is organised around seven thematic strands: (1) Strengthening visibility, cooperation and the mainstreaming of sport in EU policies; (2) Enhancing the principles of a European sports model; (3) Renewing good governance and integrity; (4) Ensuring safe, inclusive and equal sport; (5) Promoting healthy and active lifestyles together with education and development opportunities; (6) Helping sport to ensure a successful recovery; (7) Supporting the transition to a sustainable and innovative future.

In concrete terms it proposed: (a) to establish regular, structured and high-level cooperation led by the European Commission to develop more accountable recommendations in the field of EU sport policy; (b) the creation of an 'EU Sport Coordinator' charged with the role of enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation; (c) a European sports model that recognises the need for a strong commitment to integrating the principles of solidarity, sustainability, inclusiveness for all, open competition, sporting merit and fairness, and accordingly strongly opposes breakaway competitions that undermine such principles and endanger the stability of the overall sports ecosystem; (d) that sports organisations respect the established frequency of international sports tournaments. especially European championships, while taking into account domestic competitions and the health of athletes and players; (e) that the Member States take measures to ensure that all professional athletes have equal access to social and labour protection mechanisms; (f) that the Member States, sports governing bodies and clubs acknowledge the status of fans in sport by involving them in governance and



Rapporteur: Tomasz FRANKOWSKI (EPP)

Sport has tremendous power to unite people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender or socioeconomic status. It keeps us happy, healthy and allows us to learn throughout our lives. It is also an important branch of the economy; making up almost 3% of the EU's GDP and thus needs more visibility and more action at the EU level.

decision-making bodies; (h) that the Commission and the Member States involve all relevant stakeholders in ensuring that sports policy and legislation support gender equality, with particular attention to tackling all forms of violence and harassment, gender stereotypes, low visibility and media coverage, and disparities in wages, premium pay and awards; (i) further increasing funding for sport, beyond the Erasmus+ programme, in a targeted manner with a focus on the social dimension of sport, particularly in grassroots sports.

It also highlighted the importance of fighting against abuses in the gambling sector, including the proliferation of fraudulent sites and predatory practices, in order to protect minors and vulnerable people from any risk.

Finally, the report called on the Commission to effectively tackle the growing problem of illegal streaming of live sport events without delay.

Adopted in Committee: 26/10/2021

Adopted in plenary: 23/11/2021

Opinions adopted 2019 - 2024

During the past five years, CULT also adopted a large number of legislative and non-legislative opinions on issues of direct relevance for its competence. Many of these files fell under the remit of other committees, in particular AFET, EMPL, LIBE, IMCO as well as ITRE, and dealt often with overarching topics covering amongst many fundamental rights, democratic action, (media) freedom and the digital transformation.

Legislative opinions

Title	Reference
Framework for ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies	2020/2012(INL)
Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market	2020/2018(INL)
Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online	2020/2019(INL)
Preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online	2018/0331(COD)
Digital Markets Act	2020/0374(COD)
Digital Services Act	2020/0361(COD)
2030 policy programme 'Path to the Digital Decade'	2021/0293(COD)
Artificial Intelligence Act	2021/0106(COD)
Transparency and targeting of political advertising	2021/0381(COD)
Laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse	2022/0155(COD)
Protection of journalists and human rights defenders from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings	2022/0117(COD)
European Year of Rail (2021)	2020/0035(COD)
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Recast	2019/0151(COD)
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT): strategic innovation agenda 2021–2027	2019/0152(COD)

Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties	2022/2051(INL)
Challenges of sport events' organisers in the digital environment	2020/2073(INL)
Quality traineeships in the EU	2020/2005(INL)
European Year of Skills 2023	2022/0326(COD)
Establishing an EU talent pool	2023/0404(COD)

Non-legislative opinions

Title	Reference
Digital Services Act and fundamental rights issues posed	2020/2022(INI)
Intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies	2020/2015(INI)
Strengthening Media Freedom: the Protection of Journalists in Europe, Hate Speech, Disinformation and the Role of Platforms	2020/2009(INI)
A European strategy for data	2020/2217(INI)
Shaping the digital future of Europe: removing barriers to the functioning of the digital single market and improving the use of AI for European consumers	2020/2216(INI)
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	2021/2036(INI)
European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles	(COM(2022)0028)
The protection of journalists around the world and the European Union's policy on the matter	2022/2057(INI)
Virtual worlds: opportunities, risks and policy implications for the Single Market	2022/2198(INI)
Implementation of the 2019 Geoblocking Regulation in the Digital Single Market	2023/2019(INI)
Recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020/2023(INI)

A strong social Europe for Just Transition - Communication from the Commission	2020/2084(INI)
A new strategy for European SMEs	2020/2131(INI)
European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021	2020/2244(INI)
Establishing an EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism	2020/2038(INI)
EU/Euratom/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and EU/UK Agreement concerning security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information	2020/0383(NLE)
An intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience	2021/2007(INI)
Implementation and delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	2022/2002(INI)
Intersectional discrimination in the European Union: the socio-economic situation of women of African, Middle-Eastern, Latin-American and Asian descent	2021/2243(INI)
Towards equal rights for people with disabilities	2022/2026(INI)
EU-Switzerland relations	2023/2042(INI)
Report on the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies: Combating negative attitudes towards people with Romani background in Europe	2020/2011(INI)
Citizens' dialogues and Citizens' participation in the EU decision-making	2020/2201(INI)
Towards an EU strategy to promote education for children in the world: mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic	2021/2209(INI)

The MFF, Annual budget and Related Opinions

Central to the promotion of the key policy areas for which CULT is responsible are the funding programmes that underpin them (Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps and the CERV). The 7-year financial envelope is laid down in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), while the annual budget is then adopted by the Council and Parliament each year, based on a draft budget drawn up by the Commission. In order to ensure that education, culture, youth, sports and media policies receive adequate funding, CULT plays an active role both in shaping the MFF and in amending the annual budget. Through the discharge procedure, CULT also feeds into the vital process of appraising spending on activities in those policy areas and whether the Commission has properly delivered.

CULT has secured some key budgetary increases in the ninth parliamentary term, with Erasmus+ receiving a substantial reinforcement of around +60 % for the 2021-2027 period compared to the previous 2014-2020 programme. Through the annual budgetary procedures, CULT, in close cooperation with BUDG, has successfully pushed for additional funds for Erasmus+. It has also consistently argued for top-up funding for the Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes, which are immensely popular but chronically suffer from low project success rates. Important increases were, for example, secured for Creative Europe in 2022 and 2023.

The budget also provides an important avenue for pioneering new initiatives through pilot projects and preparatory actions. Here, CULT has been behind some immensely successful schemes (multilingual subtitling of European content, media literacy, media pluralism monitoring etc.). Several of these initiatives have eventually been or will be included in a standing EU programme such as Erasmus+ or Creative Europe. CULT has also worked hard to secure sustainable ventures that provide high-quality, independent coverage of Union affairs.



EP press conference on 'Negotiations on Erasmus+, Creative Europe and Solidarity Corps programme – state of play and where next ?(12/02/2020)

Legislative opinions

Title	Reference
Rights and values programme 2021-2027	2018/0207(COD)
European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) 2021-2027	2018/0206(COD)
InvestEU Programme	2020/0108(COD)
Digital Europe programme 2021–2027	2018/0227(COD)

Non-legislative opinions

Title	Reference
Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - How to finance the Green Deal	2020/2058(INI)
Implementation report on the Recovery and Resilience Facility	2021/2251(INI)
Upscaling the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework: a resilient EU budget fit for new challenges	2022/2046(INI)
Interim report on the proposal for a mid-term revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021–2027	2023/0102R(APP)

Budgetary and discharge opinions

Title	Reference
2018 discharge: EU general budget, European Commission	2019/2055(DEC)
2018 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2019/2072(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III	2019/2213(BUD)
2021 general budget: all sections	2020/1998(BUD)
2019 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission	2020/2140(DEC)
2019 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2020/2156(DEC)

Guidelines for the 2022 Budget - Section III	2020/2265(BUI)
2022 general budget: all sections	2021/0227(BUD)
2020 discharge: General budget of the EU – European Commission	2021/2106(DEC)
2020 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2021/2118(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2023 Budget - Section III	2021/2226(BUI)
2023 general budget: all sections	2022/0212(BUD)
2021 discharge: General budget of the EU – European Commission	2022/2081(DEC)
2021 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2022/2094(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2024 Budget - Section III	2022/2184(BUI)
2024 general budget: all sections	2023/0264(BUD)
2022 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission	2023/2129(DEC)
2018 discharge: EU general budget, European Commission	2019/2055(DEC)
2018 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2019/2072(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III	2019/2213(BUD)
2021 general budget: all sections	2020/1998(BUD)
2021 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission	2022/2081(DEC)
2021 discharge: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)	2022/2094(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2024 Budget - Section III	2022/2184(BUI)
2024 general budget: all sections	2023/0264(BUD)
2022 discharge: General budget of the EU – European Commission	2023/2129(DEC)
Guidelines for the 2025 Budget –Section III	2023/2220(BUI)

Scrutiny and oversight activities of the Committee

CULT has reinforced its capacities and activities on the scrutiny front with regard to delegated acts, the implementation of existing legislation, oral questions and the organisation of regular exchanges of views with representatives of the Commission as well as on the Commission's annual work programme in the context of the so-called 'structured dialogue' with the responsible Commissioners.

Hearing of Commissioners

CULT is responsible for organising the hearing(s) of the Commissioner(s)-designate in charge of culture, education, youth and sport. It also takes part in the hearings of other Commissioners-designate, as a joint or associated Committee (as appropriate), if the portfolio of the Commissioner-designate falls partially within the remit of CULT. In the ninth legislature, CULT participated as a joint Committee together with ITRE (the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy) in the hearing of the Commissioner-designate for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth and together with LIBE (the Committee on Civil Liberties) in the hearing of the Vice-President-designate for Protecting our European Way of Life. Additionally, CULT was appointed as associated Committee in the hearing of the Commissioner-designate for the Internal Market.

In the context of parliamentary scrutiny and political control over the Commission, CULT monitors the commitments made during the hearings of individual Commissioners-designate.

Title	Date
Hearing of Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President-designate for Protecting our European Way of Life	03 October 2019
Hearing of Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner-designate for Innovation and Youth	30 September 2019
Hearing of Thierry Breton, Commissioner-designate for Internal Market	14 November 2019
Hearing of Ilana Ivanova, Commisioner-designate for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth	05 September 2023

Structured dialogue with Commissioners

Title	Date
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Tibor Navracsics	04 September 2019
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel	19 February 2020
Structured dialogue with Commissioners Mariya Gabriel and Thierry Breton	04 May 2020
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel	25 April 2022
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Thierry Breton	15 June 2022
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel	30 November 2022
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Thierry Breton	24 May 2023
Structured dialogue with Vice-President Margaritis Schinas	18 July 2023
Structured dialogue with Commissioner Iliana Ivanova	11 March 2024

Delegated and implementing acts

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union sets out a system for delegating powers to the Commission based on a two-tier structure, consisting of delegated acts and implementing acts.

Delegated acts, non-legislative acts of general application, are foreseen to amend or supplement certain non-essential elements of the legislative act. Concerning delegated acts, Parliament has two important powers: it may decide to revoke the delegation and it can 'veto' a particular delegated act within the scrutiny deadline (two months).

Member States are responsible for the implementation of EU legislation. However, when uniform conditions for implementation of legally binding EU acts are needed, the power to adopt implementing acts can be conferred to the Commission. Regarding implementing acts, Parliament's powers are more limited in this respect. Parliament has the right to scrutinise draft implementing acts and to object where it is of the view that a draft implementing act exceeds the implementing powers provided for in the basic act.

During this legislative term, CULT has endorsed all delegated and implementing acts by the Commission. Delegated and implementing acts are published in $\underline{\text{the}}$ interinstitutional register.

EU Institutions, agencies and other international bodies

Given its remit, CULT also has regular contact with the following EU institutions and international bodies:

- European Committee of the Regions
- European Economic and Social Committee
- the European Court of Auditors
- UNESCO
- Council of Europe and its European Audiovisual Observatory

Via the Commission, CULT is responsible for relations with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), which is based in Brussels. Moreover, under its multilingualism remit, CULT is responsible for relations with the Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union and, in the 2019–2024 legislature, played a role in adopting and scrutinising its budget through the annual budget and discharge procedures.

Questions to the Commission and the Council

Oral questions	Reference
The future of European Education in the context of Covid-19 Committee decision: 22/09/2020 Plenary: 22/10/2020	2020/2760(RSP)
The impact of Covid-19 on youth and on sport Committee decision: 26/01/2021 Plenary: 10/02/2021	2020/2864(RSP)
Future EU financing of the radio network Euranet Plus Committee decision: 27/05/2021 Plenary: 20/06/2021	2021/2708(RSP)
Establishing the European Education Area by 2025 — micro credentials, individual learning accounts and learning for a sustainable environment Committee decision: 25/04/2022 Plenary: 19/05/2022	2022/2568(RSP)
Cultural solidarity with Ukraine and for a joint emergency response mechanism for cultural recovery in Europe Committee decision: 03/10/2022 Plenary: 20/10/2022	2022/2759(RSP)
The new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+) Committee decision: 28/06/2023 Plenary: 05/10/2023	2023/2670(RSP)

Fact finding and outreach activities

European Capitals of Culture

Every year, CULT organises visits to the two European Capitals of Culture. The purpose of the visits is to meet those involved in the organisation of the European Capital of Culture, to assess the Capital's legacy strategy and to discuss culture and education policy more generally with the local, regional and national authorities.

Title	Date
Mission to Matera (Italy)	28-30 October 2019
Mission to Elsch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg)	21-23 February 2022
Mission to Kaunas (Lithuania)	18-20 July 2022
Mission to Novi Sad (Serbia)	19-21 September 2022
Mission to Elefsina (Greece)	20–22 February 2023
Mission to Timisoara (Romania)	2-5 April 2023

Missions and ad hoc delegations

In addition to visits to the European Capitals of Culture, CULT organises delegations to discuss other policy issues within the CULT remit with civil society stakeholders and local and regional authorities.

Title	Date
Mission Washington D.C. (United States of America)	23-27 May 2022
Mission to Budapest (Hungary)	2-4 November 2022
Mission to Warsaw and Lublin (Poland)	15-17 May 2023
Mission to Edinburgh (United Kingdom)	19-21 June 2023

Activities related to Ukraine and the Russian war of aggression against the country

Shortly after the start of Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine, CULT took the decision to hold a series of events in support and solidarity with Ukraine and its people.

On 15 March 2022, CULT held an exchange of views on "The situation of young people in Ukraine and the Russian historical and cultural revisionism". This exchange of views addressed the current situation of young Ukrainians and underlined the importance of providing direct assistance to these young people especially those fleeing the country, with full respect of human rights by ensuring equal treatment for all Ukrainian residents, regardless of their origins.

The second panel highlighted the full repertoire of the Russian regime's propaganda and disinformation machinery both at home and abroad, and exposed the historico-cultural myths and lies expedited by the Kremlin to legitimise the invasion of Ukraine and deny the country of both its state and nationhood.

On 17 May 2022, CULT held an exchange of views entitled "Culture in times of crisis – cultural solidarity in support of Ukraine and beyond". The exchange of views explored the feasibility of combining available resources in an innovative public-philanthropic mechanism for emergency response and support that could address the needs of cultural and heritage sectors in Ukraine. This would subsequently serve as a joint response mechanism for cultural recovery in Europe.

On 16 June 2022, CULT (in association with LIBE and INGE) held and exchange of views on "Media freedom, protection of journalist and fight against disinformation in the context of the war in Ukraine". With this exchange of views, Members focused on the importance of actively supporting and protecting independent journalism as a prerequisite and a central pillar of media freedom and the fight against fake news and disinformation and in its support of democracy and rule of law. Speakers showed the links between the invasion of Ukraine and the targeted and systematic suspension of freedom of speech and opinion in Russia's public space, including through silencing (imprisoning/physically molesting and harassing) of journalists and suspension of broadcasting.

In addition, on 25 April CULT discussed policy measures for Ukraine during a structured dialogue with Commissioner Gabriel. On this occasion, Commissioner Gabriel presented the set of measures taken by the Commission as a policy response to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

On 3 October, CULT adopted a motion for a resolution on "Cultural solidarity with Ukraine and for a joint emergency response mechanism for cultural recovery in Europe", which was endorsed by the EP at its October II Plenary. In its resolution, CULT called on the Commission to explore the possibility of

establishing or acting as a partner in a European emergency response and recovery mechanism dedicated specifically to the cultural and creative ecosystems and to support these sectors hit hard by conflicts, as is currently the case in Ukraine.

On 28 June 2023, CULT held an exchange of views with Members of different committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to focus on ways to support the country in its reconstruction, but also to discuss the more long-term EU accession perspective of the country. The exchange of views focused on media, youth and education, cultural heritage and the EU membership perspective for Ukraine.

Finally, in October 2023, CULT Coordinators committed to carry on the good cooperation with the Ukrainian counterparts beyond the ninth legislature.

In addition, the following two events organised by CULT are worth mentioning:

- Book presentation: "War through the voices of children" by the "Voices of Children" foundation narratives and more than 100 quotes from Ukrainian children living through the war (April 2023)
- Study presentation of the Policy Department <u>Protecting cultural</u> heritage from armed conflicts in Ukraine and beyond (April 2023)



Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

European Citizenship Education 27-28 November 2023

CULT held an Interparliamentary committee meeting to discuss the important subject of "European Citizenship Education" on 27-28 November 2023. This was an opportunity to exchange on the central role of citizenship education actions in their policies and budgets of Member States, ahead of the next European elections in June 2024. 8 MEPs, 39 Members of 17 National Parliaments and invited guests, contributed to the debate.

In the opening session, Mr José Manuel BAR CENDÓN, Secretary of State of Education, for the Spanish Presidency, addressed their Council Conclusions (adopted unanimously on 23 November 2023) on the contribution of education and training to strengthening common European values and democratic citizenship. Ms Pia AHRENKILDE HANSEN, the new Director-General of DG EAC, European Commission, spoke about the state of play of Citizenship Education in Europe.

A number of thematic panels were organised. The first panel focused on European Citizenship Education: best practices (national and European context). Ms Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ, CULT Vice-Chair, outlined the importance of exchanging best practices in the national and European context and mentioned specific EU funded projects as good examples of cooperation in this area. The second speaker, Mr Hans SCHELTEMA, addressed a request to CULT a few months ago on the topic of citizenship education. He also gave a short overview on 'The Peaceable School' a Dutch, targeted, coherent, systematic and long-lasting programme for democratic citizenship education.



In the following panel, CULT MEP Marcos ROS SEMPERE outlined the work of Parliament in the implementation of citizenship education actions. CULT and National Parliamentarians stressed the need to raise awareness of the history of Europe, and how the teaching of this subject contributes to the diversity of the Union.

The last panel featured a presentation by Mr Jaume DUCH GUILLOT, Director General, DG COMM, European Parliament, on the importance of European Citizenship in view of the 2024 European Parliament elections and on opportunities provided by Parliament to engage with young people, such as the EP Ambassadors' school programme, Euroscola, and the European Youth Event (EYE). Members supported these initiatives, and added that the Council conclusions validated the idea of having a module on citizenship education for everyone who takes part in the Erasmus+ or European Solidarity Corps programme, and called on the Commission to design and implement this module.

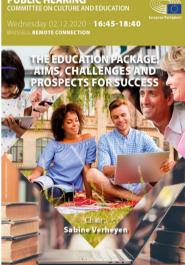
A more detailed summary of the ICM can be found in the official CULT report.





















Culture in the EU's external relations





Public hearings

Title	Date
The European Capitals of Culture: impacts, challenges and prospects	04 December 2019
The use of artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector	19 February 2020
Joint CULT-LIBE hearing on European Citizens' Initiative 'Minority SafePack'	15 October 2020
The education package: aims, challenges and prospects for success	02 December 2020
The status of European citizen's education and possible avenues forward to strengthen civic and democratic education	27 May 2021
Joint CULT-ITRE hearing on the New European Bauhaus	16 June 2021
Creative Europe and the cultural and creative sectors in Horizon Europe: how can synergies and potentials be maximized?	22 June 2021
The Future of Media and Media Pluralism in Europe	13 July 2021
Basic structures and main principles of a European Digital Public Sphere	27 September 2021
Joint CULT-AFET hearing: Culture in the EU's external relations	14 October 2021
Inclusion measures within the Erasmus+ Programme 2014-2020	26 October 2021
The United Kingdom and Erasmus+ (with the involvement of PETI)	15 June 2022
Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations (in association with AFET)	13 July 2022
Implementation of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive	25 October 2022
European Year of Youth - Best practices in the teaching of arts in schools	5 December 2022
European Media Freedom Act	6 February 2023

Policy departments, studies and workshops

The Policy Department B for Structural and Cohesion Policies is specialised in providing expertise for CULT. This includes concomitant expertise, which are research products commissioned or prepared in order to support the work of CULT. Other works by the Policy Department include, among others, briefings for missions and Commissioner hearings.

Completed projects: concomitant expertise for CULT reports

Title of the report	Product	Date
Effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes	Briefing: Virtual formats versus physical mobility Briefing: Effective measures to 'green' Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes - Concomitant expertise for INI report	March 2020
Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector	Briefing: The use of artificial intelligence in education In-depth analysis: The use of artificial intelligence in the audiovisual sector	
Shaping Digital Education policy	In-depth analysis: <u>Shaping</u> Digital Education policy	September 2020
The European Education Area: a shared holistic approach to education, skills and competences	Study: Towards a European education - Critical perspectives on challenges ahead Study: Making the European Education Area a reality: state of	2020 February
	affairs, challenges and prospects	
	Briefing: Approaches of the Council and the Commission to the European Education Area: strategic priorities and quantitative objectives	April 2021
The situation of artists and the cultural recovery in the EU	Study: The Situation of Artists and Cultural Workers and the post-COVID-19 Cultural Recovery in the European Union – Background analysis	March 2021
	Briefing: <u>Policy</u> Recommendations	May 2021
Europe's media in the digital decade: an action plan to support recovery and transformation	Study: Europe's media in the digital decade: An action plan to support recovery and	May 2021

EU sports policy: assessment and	transformation in the news media sector Briefing: Media Action Plan: Key challenges related to media pluralism, media freedom and democracy Briefing: Policy Recommendations Study: EU sports policy:	June 2021
possible ways forward	assessment and possible ways forward	
The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism	Study: Background analysis on The role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism	October 2021
	Briefing: <u>Policy</u> recommendations	November 2021
E-sport and videogames	Study: Esports Briefing: Policy recommendations	May 2022
System of European Schools: state of play, challenges and perspectives	Study: The European schools system: state of play, challenges and perspectives	June 2022
Implementation of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)	Study: Implementation of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive Briefing: Policy Recommendations	November 2022
Resolution on The new European strategy for a better internet for kids (BIK+). Legislative opinion on Laying down rules to prevent and combat child sexual abuse	Study & workshop: The influence of social media on the development of children and young people	February 2023
European Media Freedom Act	Study: European Media Freedom Act - Background Analysis Briefing: Policy recommendations	April 2023
The future of the European book sector	Briefing: <u>The future of the</u> European book sector: a bibliographical review	April 2023
Cultural diversity and the situation of authors in the European music streaming market	Briefing: Cultural diversity and the conditions for authors in the European music streaming market: a bibliographical review	
Implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme 2021–2027 – citizens' engagement and participation	Study: EU funding programmes 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and	September 2023

	future perspectives: Citizens,	
	Equality, Rights and Values –	
	citizens' engagement and	
	participation	
Implementation of the European	Study: EU funding programmes	September
Solidarity Corps programme 2021-	2021–2027 in Culture, Media,	
2027	Education, Youth and Sports:	
	first lessons, challenges and	
	future perspectives: European	
	Solidarity Corps	
	G. I EU ():	
Implementation of the Creative	Study: <u>EU funding programmes</u>	September
Europe Programme 2021–2027	2021-2027 in Culture, Media,	
· ·	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports:	
· ·	2021–2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and	
· ·	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative	
· ·	2021–2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe	2023
Europe Programme 2021–2027 Implementation of the Erasmus+	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe Study: EU funding programmes	2023 September
Europe Programme 2021-2027	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe Study: EU funding programmes 2021-2027 in Culture, Media,	2023 September
Europe Programme 2021–2027 Implementation of the Erasmus+	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe Study: EU funding programmes 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports:	2023 September
Europe Programme 2021–2027 Implementation of the Erasmus+	2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sports: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe Study: EU funding programmes 2021-2027 in Culture, Media,	2023 September

Completed projects: other studies

Title	Date
Study: Culture and creative sectors in the European Union – Key future	August
developments, challenges and opportunities	2019
Study: Education and youth in the European Union – Current challenges	September
and future prospects	2019
Briefing: Commitments made at the hearing of Margaritis SCHINAS,	October
Vice-President-designate - Promoting the European Way of Life	2019
Briefing: Commitments made at the hearing of Mariya GABRIEL,	November
Commissioner-designate - Innovation and Youth	2019
Study: Cultural and Creative Sectors in post-COVID-19 Europe – Crisis	February
effects and policy recommendations	2021
Study: Education and youth in post-COVID-19 Europe - crisis effects	May 2021
and policy recommendations	
Study: The European Union's approach to multilingualism in its own	October
communications policy	2022
Study: The European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main	January
challenges and perspectives	2023
Study: Protecting cultural heritage from armed conflicts in Ukraine and	March
beyond	2023

Annex

Committee Members

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/home/members

List of CULT Committee Members as of 1 March 2024:



Sabine VERHEYEN

Chair

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)

Germany Christlich Demokratische Union Deutschlands



Romeo FRANZ

Vice-Chair

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Germany Bündnis 90/Die Grünen



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Germany Alternative für Deutschland



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Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ (substitute)		Irena JOVEVA (substitute)				

Relevant websites

CULT website

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/home/highlights

Legislative Observatory

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/home/home.do

Presentations from the public hearings

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/events/events-hearings

Newsletters

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cult/home/newsletters

Publications

https://research4committees.blog/category/cult/cult-publications/

European Commission, DG EAC

https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/education-youth-sport-and-culture_en

Council of the European Union

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/?filters=1646

EPRS - European Parliamentary Research Service

http://www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu/eprs/auth/en/1161.html

Think Tank

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html

