

## Newsletter

CULT Committee meeting on 9 April 2024 and

LEX signing ceremony of the European Media Freedom Act on 11 April 2024

Dear Readers,

As the Chair of the CULT Committee, I am proud of the achievements of the CULT Committee during the 9th legislature that is now drawing to its close. In our [Activity Report](#), you will find a comprehensive overview detailing the multitude of projects and endeavours undertaken by the CULT Committee over the past years in the fields under its remit, ranging from education, to culture, media, the audiovisual sector, sports and, last, but certainly not least, youth.



It gives me particular pleasure to reflect on the remarkable journey we have had during the European Year of Youth. This year has been a testament to the power and potential of our continent's young people, as they have engaged passionately in cultural activities, discussions, and initiatives that have enriched our societies.

Throughout the year, the CULT Committee has been at the forefront of promoting youth participation in cultural affairs, advocating for inclusivity, diversity, and creativity. Our activities have ranged from organizing youth-led cultural events to facilitating dialogues on pressing issues that young people face today. From fostering artistic expression to supporting cultural exchanges, our efforts have been geared towards empowering young individuals to become active agents of change in their communities.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine Verheyen

## #Engaged4YOUth – bringing young people to the forefront of EU policy making



During the last Committee meeting of the 9th legislature, CULT paid a special tribute to Europe's young people through an interactive youth-focused exchange of views. CULT Rapporteurs on leading files in all areas of CULT competence presented and discussed the achievements and challenges that lay ahead for the 10th legislature, in a dynamic 'youth mainstreaming' exercise with over 70 enthusiastic young people and youth organisations.

The first part of the exchange of views was dedicated to **youth and education policies**, starting with the **European Year of Youth (EYY) 2022** as the biggest achievement of the term in the youth field. Initiated by the CULT Committee, it made young people a priority establishing a game-changing dynamic, while tackling young people's concerns in a co-creative process. With thousands of events throughout the EU and beyond in partner countries (more than 13 000 activities in 67 countries), the Year reached millions of young people.

In particular, EYY2022 triggered a reflection on how to bring young people closer to decision and policy making at all levels, aiming to make them active citizens and defenders of our European values. In that context, CULT endorsed its own **#Engaged4YOUth strategy** to mark its commitment to the **Legacy of the EYY2022**. CULT aims to highlight the Year as an example of best practice in the European Parliament which could be replicated as a working method in other committees when developing youth-relevant policies.

CULT rapporteurs then presented the Committee's involvement in the **European Year of Skills**. **This includes** tackling the challenges of **digital education**, the realisation of the **European Education Area**, improving the **System of European Schools** and the implementation of **citizenship education actions**, on which CULT organised an Interparliamentary Committee meeting in 2023. With programmes such as **Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps**, the EP's, and in particular CULT's, strong support for reinforced financing for volunteering in solidarity activities and enhanced youth learning mobility is clearly visible. With a reinforced Erasmus+ (its budget doubled for the 2021-2027 period) and a brand new approach on **inclusiveness**, the two flagship programmes support the participation of people with fewer opportunities as a priority, and aim to contribute to positive change in local communities.

Rapporteurs also summarised the achievements of CULT in the fields of **culture, audiovisual, sports and media**, with a special focus on youth. For example, the **Creative Europe programme** supports creativity

and innovation among young people, boosting their interest in culture, arts and media. The Committee reached important achievements in new areas, such as **The New European Bauhaus** and **E-sports and video games**, and the future of **EU sports policy**, as the rapporteurs outlined. This key legislation will significantly contribute to stimulate young people's critical thinking and independence.



Young people and youth organisations discussed with CULT the need to increase the **budget for CULT programmes in the next MFF**. They proposed ways on how civil society can support EU youth oriented policies. They suggested potential changes to the governance structures of the programmes in order to increase ownership by young people and bring more democratic legitimacy. They also raised issues about the challenges of the future job market and how the programmes can help tackle them.

The last part of the session was dedicated to **youth mainstreaming**. During this session, young people took the floor to present their innovative ideas on how to bring Europe's youth closer to policy and decision making. They asked to be involved in the daily work of the Parliamentary Committees as part of the newly introduced 'youth checks' approach of the legislative term. They also sought a change to the right to vote by lowering the voting age to 16 years old.

Young people and MEPs conveyed a strong message towards the **new Parliament** to continue being **#Engaged4YOUth**, with the aim to involve all Committees in mainstreaming youth in policies that are relevant to the young generation in order to make youth a horizontal policy in every policy field.

## Presentation of the study on Public financing of news media in the EU and Exchange of views with the Commission

On 9 April, Ms Astrid Henningsen presented an independent study on the Public financing of news media in the EU. The study was carried out for the Commission by Henningsen Consulting in association with Technopolis Group and Delange Analytics and is a follow-up of a request made by the Parliament in its 2021 resolution on the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan.

During her presentation, Ms Henningsen summarised the needs and challenges in terms of financing of news media and the various financing practices across EU Member States. More precisely, she clarified that the study is a first mapping exercise and that there is a lack of consolidated data at national level.

Some of the study key findings that were presented relate to (1) the large variations of state budget allocations to news media; (2) to the fact that there is no common EU model of public financing of public service media; and (3) to the lack of transparency regarding the way state advertising is distributed. Furthermore, the researcher emphasised that the news media sectors have been under unprecedented pressures caused by decreasing advertising revenues, changing news media consumption habits and disinformation.



During the debate, CULT raised questions linked to the trust levels towards the public media, to the shift from licence fee models to state budget-funded models and to the potential increased risks of funding volatility and political interference. Furthermore, Members expressed concerns related to the working conditions of journalists when there is an overall lack of funding at national level.

Finally, the Chair recalled the novelties brought by the European Media Freedom Act regarding the funding of public service media and the transparency obligations on state advertising and concluded on the need to further discuss the topic in the near future.

The study is available online and can be consulted [here](#) (2024).

## Presentation of the Commission Communication on a blueprint towards a European degree and the two accompanying Council Recommendations

Commissioner Iliana Ivanova outlined the package on a European degree, consisting of three interlinked initiatives. These are namely the Commission Communication on a blueprint towards a European degree and the two accompanying proposals for Council recommendations, on a European quality assurance and a recognition system in higher education and attractive and sustainable careers in higher education.



The Commissioner stressed the initiative was purely voluntary and aimed to speed up the process for higher education institutions to put in place transnational programmes and joint degrees at Bachelor, Master and Doctoral levels. These would provide students with the opportunity to study in several European countries, with mobility embedded in the structure of the programme or degree. A strengthened framework for quality assurance systems for the recognition of qualifications would create mutual trust between higher education institutions - a precondition for the automatic recognition of qualifications.

In the ensuing debate, CULT stressed the crucial importance of the recognition of qualifications for students, both for degrees and for their credits obtained during an Erasmus+ experience, in addition to the completion of the European Education Area.

## Priority question to the Commission for written answer P-000511/2024/rev.1 - State measures to support the film industry (Rule 138(5))

A priority question was submitted by Ms Petra Kammerevert (S&D) to the Commission on 21 February. The deadline for the Commission to answer was on 14 March. As the reply did not reach the Parliament on time, the matter was put on the Committee's agenda for debate.

During the meeting, CULT reminded the Commission that procedural deadlines need to be respected and commented on the existing types of investment approaches towards audiovisual content. The Commission representative acknowledged the current delays in replying to parliamentary questions and provided additional insights on the distinction between financial obligations as stated in Article 13(2) of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) and fiscal incentives, related to state aid rules.

## LEX signing ceremony of the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA)

The LEX signing ceremony of the European Media Freedom Act took place on 11 April. At the occasion, Ms Roberta Metsola, the President of the Parliament and Mr Benjamin Dalle, the Belgian Minister for Brussels, Youth, Media and Poverty Reduction signed the text jointly. The ceremony marked the historical moment when the two co-legislators, acting on an equal footing, have formally adopted the Act.



## Policy Department Research

### Upcoming projects

#### Studies:

*EU culture and creative sectors policy – overview and future perspectives*

*EU education and youth policy - overview and future perspectives*



### Recently finished projects

#### Concomitant expertise for CULT reports:

*Implementation reports on MFF programmes*

- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Erasmus +](#); September 2023;
- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Creative Europe](#); September 2023;
- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: European Solidarity Corps](#); September 2023;

- Study on [The EU funding programmes for 2021-2027 in Culture, Media, Education, Youth and Sport: first lessons, challenges and future perspectives: Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme - Strand 3 "Citizens' engagement and participation"](#), September 2023.

Legislative report on the *European Media Freedom Act*:

- Background analysis on [European Media Freedom Act](#), April 2023;
- Policy recommendations briefing on [European Media Freedom Act](#), May 2023.

#### Other studies:

- [Protecting cultural heritage from armed conflicts in Ukraine and beyond](#), March 2023;
- [The influence of social media on the development of children and young people](#), February 2023;
- [The European Universities Initiative: first lessons, main challenges and perspectives](#), January 2023.

#### Workshop:

- [Workshop on the influence of social media on the development of children and young people](#), held on 01/03/2023.

#### Useful links and contacts:

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

#### Useful links

- [CULT Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)
- [EP calendar 2024](#)
- [Policy Department Publications in the EP](#)
- [European Parliament - Think Thank](#)
- [The Belgian Presidency of the Council](#)

#### About the editor

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