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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0250/2020**

9.9.2020

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the cultural recovery of Europe  
(2020/2708(RSP))

**Laurence Farreng, Stéphane Séjourné, Vlad-Marius Botoș, Iana Cicurel, Radka Maxová, Monica Semedo, Morten Løkkegaard, Petras Auštrevičius, Ramona Strugariu, Claudia Gamon, Irène Tolleret, Nicola Danti, Klemen Grošelj, Sylvie Brunet, Frédérique Ries, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Marie-Pierre Vedrenne, Andrus Ansip, Olivier Chastel, Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, Clotilde Armand, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Fabienne Keller, Katalin Cseh, Samira Rafaela, Christophe Grudler, Martina Dlabajová, Stéphanie Yon-Courtin, Maite Pagazaurtundúa**  
on behalf of the Renew Group

**B9-0250/2020**

**European Parliament resolution on the cultural recovery of Europe  
(2020/2708(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 6 and 167 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
  - having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 22 thereof,
  - having regard to the Commission communication of 22 May 2018 entitled ‘A New European Agenda for Culture’ (COM(2018)0267),
  - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2016 on a coherent EU policy for cultural and creative industries<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to its resolution of 19 June 2020 on transport and tourism in 2020 and beyond<sup>3</sup>,
  - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2014 to 2020) and repealing Decisions No 1718/2006/EC, No 1855/2006/EC and No 1041/2009/EC (‘the Regulation’)<sup>4</sup>,
  - having regard to the European Council conclusions of 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 July 2020,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas culture is a strategic sector for the European Union, constituting an important part of our economy while reflecting our European values, history and way of life;
- B. whereas European cultural and creative players preserve and promote cultural and linguistic diversity in Europe, and contribute to the strengthening of a European identity at all levels; whereas all EU citizens should have the right to access culture in their own language, with special attention being given to small languages and linguistic minorities;
- C. whereas these players represent an invaluable force for sustainable economic growth in

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 238, 6.7.2018, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2020)0054.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P9\_TA(2020)0169.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 221.

the European Union and its Member States, and are an important source of global competitiveness;

- D. whereas the European cultural and creative industries (CCIs) account for around 4 % of the European gross domestic product, a similar figure to ICT and accommodation and food services; whereas, in 2019, there were 7.4 million people in cultural employment across the EU-27, accounting for 3.7 % of total employment across the EU-27; whereas, in 2019, the proportion of people who were self-employed in the field of culture in the EU-27 was more than double the average observed for the economy as a whole<sup>5</sup>;
  - E. whereas European cultural and creative operators have been among the most severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; whereas the shutdown of this economic sector has had a spill-over effect on other sectors such as transport and tourism;
  - F. whereas the cultural and creative industries form an atypical sector with specific needs and made up of players of various sizes, but above all characterised by the preponderance of small structures (SMEs or self-employed) and irregular income;
  - G. whereas the COVID-19 crisis already has, and will continue to have, a lasting negative effect on cultural and creative production and the resulting income, and therefore on European cultural diversity;
  - H. whereas theatres, cinemas, festivals, concert halls, museums and heritage sites were among the first to close due to containment measures, and are among the last to reopen; whereas the security measures imposed to prevent a new outbreak do not allow them to operate at full capacity, resulting in further loss of income;
  - I. whereas, with many Europeans finding themselves in a situation of isolation during the pandemic, opportunities to access culture online have multiplied, making it more accessible but often free of charge;
  - J. whereas the successive budget proposals for the Creative Europe programme under the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) clearly do not live up to the expectations either of the sector or of Parliament, which has called for the need to double its funding compared to the 2014-2020 MFF;
  - K. whereas the cultural and creative industries will need to remain properly funded and be ready for the transition towards a carbon-neutral continent, as outlined in the European Green Deal;
1. Expresses its sincere solidarity with the artists, creators, authors, publishers, their societies and the other workers and players in the European cultural and creative industries who have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and pays tribute to their actions during the difficult times experienced by millions of Europeans;
  2. Considers it fundamental to combine the historic economic measures taken by the

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<sup>5</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Culture\\_statistics\\_-\\_cultural\\_employment#Self-employment](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Culture_statistics_-_cultural_employment#Self-employment)

European institutions with wide-ranging actions in favour of Europe's cultural and creative forces;

3. Welcomes the Commission's and European Council's efforts in drawing up the 'Next Generation EU' recovery plan, in particular the creation of REACT-EU, which sets out to provide additional funding to much affected economic sectors, such as culture; is alarmed, however, by the fact that no specific amount has been clearly earmarked to directly benefit the CCIs; insists, in this context, that cultural and creative operators should be a focus of the Member States' targeted actions and should benefit widely from the funds and instruments made available by the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP);
4. Urges Member States to consider the CCIs as strategic industries, and to identify a clear budget associated with swift and concrete actions dedicated to the recovery of this sector, which should benefit all of its stakeholders;
5. Welcomes the creation of the EU's instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE), which is intended to support the short-time working measures put in place by the Member States, in particular those concerning SMEs and the self-employed; considers that this instrument can enable CCI players to remain in their field of activity while compensating for their loss of income; calls, in this context, on the Member States to provide adequate guarantees so that SURE can be operational as quickly as possible;
6. Stresses the crucial role of the Creative Europe programme and its MEDIA, Culture and cross-sectoral strands in ensuring a fair degree of stability in the sector through access to European funding until the cultural market recovers; recalls that Parliament has called for a necessary doubling of the budget allocated to this programme for the next MFF; strongly reaffirms, therefore, its position regarding the budget of this and other European programmes supporting CCIs and cultural workers; considers that it is of the utmost importance that the programmes are finalised and passed as soon as possible so that we can ensure a smooth transition to the next programme;
7. Calls on the Commission to work together with the European Capitals of Culture to help them to limit, as much as possible, the disruption caused by the pandemic, in particular with those cities holding the title in 2020 and 2021, through an in-depth dialogue with the organisers; declares its readiness to move forward quickly so as to find a new, balanced and adapted agenda;
8. Calls on the Commission to identify a wide range of funding sources that can benefit CCIs; considers that the future Knowledge and Innovation Community dedicated to CCIs within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology should play a leading role in this context;
9. Welcomes the new support measures under the Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility (CCS GF), which set out to improve access to affordable debt financing for SMEs in the cultural and creative sectors;
10. Calls on the Commission to take action to mitigate the ever-worsening impact of the crisis on CCIs, at a time when the continued cancellation of major festivals and cultural

events is having disastrous financial consequences, particularly for the performing arts sector;

11. Points out that tourism accounts for 10.3 % of the European Union's GDP, 40 % of which is linked to the cultural offer; considers that the gradual recovery of tourism is an opportunity to actively promote European culture and heritage while laying the foundations for sustainable European tourism; calls, in this regard, for the launch of an annual European heritage valorisation programme that reflects European cultural diversity, using the Structural Funds to integrate heritage into European cultural circuits;
12. Considers that we should seize this opportunity to promote European cultural content worldwide by encouraging European production and developing European broadcasting networks; calls on the Commission to cooperate with Member States to ensure the smoothest possible transposition of the related legislation, such as the recast of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive and the Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market;
13. Is of the opinion that the measures taken by the Member States and the Commission to assist cultural and creative operators in Europe should support players and initiatives that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of Europe, including minority languages;
14. Calls on the Commission to propose an ambitious and inclusive communication and promotion policy for culture in Europe, which would enable European cultural content, events and venues to enjoy a truly European and global reach; calls on the Commission to build on the positive results of the European Year of Cultural Heritage to devise a similar initiative dedicated to culture and its role in Europe;
15. Considers that the cultural dimension needs to form part of the dialogue with citizens, in particular during the upcoming Conference on the Future of Europe;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.