



**2015/2104(INI)**

23.9.2015

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the role of the EU within the UN – how to better achieve EU foreign policy goals  
(2015/2104(INI))

Rapporteur: Fernando Maura Barandiarán

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

### *Cultural dimension of the EU foreign policy*

1. Stresses that culture, together with intercultural and interreligious dialogue, is a powerful instrument for European external relations that fosters political dialogue with third countries, cohesion, peace and security, while promoting people-to-people contacts, participative dialogue with cultural actors in different fields and empowerment of citizens and civil society; emphasises, at the same time, that it is first and foremost an autotelic value and as such should be supported;
2. Underlines the fact that cultural policies are based on EU core values, mutual understanding, cooperation and the idea of global cultural citizenship, and that they should therefore be incorporated consistently and strategically into the EU's external action – including into its neighbourhood policy – as tools for promoting European values and fundamental rights, fully respecting other cultures and values;
3. Encourages the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission – especially its Directorate-General (DG) for Education and Culture and its DG for International Cooperation and Development – to give culture a more strategic role in the EU's relations with third countries;
4. Calls for a more integrated approach and fruitful cooperation between the Commission, the EEAS, Parliament and the UN in areas such as the promotion of culture, the preservation of cultural heritage at risk, the combating of illicit trade in cultural property (including inside the EU), conflict prevention, reconciliation processes, peacebuilding, post-conflict mitigation, rapid relief instruments in crisis situations, the development of creative industries, the mobility of culture professionals, cultural goods and services, education and development, student exchange programmes, capacity building, education and training in emergencies and access to culture and education;
5. Emphasises the need for cultural exchanges and forums aimed at mutual understanding and cooperation at bilateral and multilateral level and the need to strengthen a common core of universal values; draws attention, in this regard, to the projects organised by the EEAS and by the Commission's DG for Education and Culture on cultural diplomacy and calls for a joint communication promoting mutual learning and understanding – taking into account projects supported by the Member States – and the development of networks of cultural organisations and NGOs;
6. Points out that education and training have a role to play in emergencies caused by conflict and are thus one aspect that should be included under the broader heading of reception, support and empowerment activities;
7. Highlights the importance of cultural diplomacy and the fact that a common European cultural foreign policy would significantly increase the visibility of the EU in international

organisations such as the UN; asks the Commission, therefore, to devote a separate chapter to cultural diplomacy in its global EU foreign and security policy being drawn up for the June 2016 European Council summit;

8. Notes that education plays an important role in human, social and economic development and is a crucial tool in achieving goals that are central to EU foreign policy, such as peacebuilding and stability in the world, long-lasting development, intercultural dialogue and combating poverty, both within its borders and at global level; stresses the importance of effective cooperation between the EU and the UN aimed at supporting Education for All, improving access and quality education, and strengthening educational systems worldwide;
9. Acknowledges that culture is at the heart of human development, playing an important role in the building of society, the promotion of democracy and social inclusion and in the promotion of human rights and fundamental liberties; calls for the EU, in accordance with its powers and responsibilities, to incorporate cultural diversity and the promotion of human rights as one of the central elements of its international relations and in common European development cooperation in particular, and to ensure that any person who alleges that their cultural rights have been infringed has effective access to remedy;
10. Stresses that interculturality and mutual understanding are key to successful development policies, and therefore encourages the EU and the Member States to promote development education and awareness-raising policies that include this dimension;
11. Encourages the EU and the Member States to promote common interests with third countries, through an equality-based partnership focused on mutual exchange and intercultural cooperation; recommends the development of a dynamic role for culture on the international stage as a 'soft power' that can benefit the EU and its Member States in their relations with the wider world;
12. Stresses the potential that closer cooperation between Member States has for increasing the impact of EU cultural diplomacy, notably through improved coordination between cultural attachés at EU delegations and Member State representations, and the pooling of resources in non-EU countries by Member State cultural bodies;
13. Welcomes, in this regard, the preparatory action on culture in EU external relations as an important instrument in enhancing the role of culture as a strategic factor for human, social and economic development contributing to external policy objectives;
14. Calls on the Vice-President / High Representative to appoint a culture professional in each EU representation in third partner countries (as in the EU-China Delegation) and to provide EEAS staff with training on the cultural dimension of external policy;
15. Encourages enhanced cooperation between cultural institutions and civil society, partnerships between towns, and the creation of European 'creative hubs' in non-EU countries;
16. Calls for a more coherent strategy for the protection and promotion of world heritage and reinforced international cooperation in conflict areas, in closer cooperation with the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS);

17. Recommends that the Commission pro-actively cooperate with the cultural network-based clusters of European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), in cooperation with local institutions, cultural practitioners and civil society, together with Members States' cultural institutes;
18. States that cultural projects and cultural diplomacy initiatives must be monitored and assessed in order to be sure that funds are well used and to ascertain the quality and impact of the initiatives;
19. Stresses the need to compile statistical data on culture and cultural industries in order to contribute to the cultural policy debate and further emphasise the economic potential of cultural and creative industries and their impact on social well-being;
20. Stresses the role of culture in fostering democratisation, peacebuilding and respect for human rights; underlines the EU's commitment to supporting artistic freedom and freedom of cultural expression against censorship and the harassment of artists, researchers, journalists and civil society organisations; encourages the defining of priorities linked to the cultural dimension within the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR);
21. Draws attention to the importance of the 'Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education' adopted in Paris in March 2015, which highlights the need to foster active dialogue between cultures, global solidarity and mutual respect;

#### ***EU-UN cooperation and governance***

22. Welcomes the consolidated cooperation between the EU and UNESCO, based on the adoption of the 2003 Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Union and the United Nations (FAFA), the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the EU and the EU's participation in the UN General Assembly following the UN General Assembly resolution adopted in 2011; calls, however, for more effective EU representation within the UN, particularly in the fields of culture, education, citizenship and the rights of children and young people, and in line with the Lisbon Treaty; stresses that a genuine EU-UN strategic partnership could be achieved by having EU representatives with voting rights on the boards of UN agencies in the areas of culture, education, citizenship and the rights of children and young people and by taking action jointly with UNESCO – and with UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNRWA and UNWOMAN – in the form of financial cooperation and common project management, in agreement with the beneficiary partner countries;
23. Underlines the fact that, in order to strengthen EU-UNESCO cooperation, there is a need to go beyond financial assistance and joint project management by enhancing partnership in the field of education and culture in the long term; calls, therefore, for the establishment of high-level annual strategic dialogue with regard to tackling common challenges in a more sustainable way;
24. Highlights the fact that culture is a key driver for building sustainable societies and calls for the mainstreaming of the cultural dimension in the UN post-2015 agenda for sustainable development and, therefore, in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to

be achieved by 2030, given that culture has a major impact on economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace and security;

25. Recognises that cultural heritage represents the diversity of cultural expressions and therefore plays an important role in the Union's external relations; calls for the adoption of harmonised legislation and international agreements to protect cultural heritage and to combat illicit trafficking of cultural goods, in close cooperation with UNESCO;
26. Highlights the impact of the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) on local and regional development and calls for the continuation and extension of the EU/UNESCO Expert Facility Projects and for UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators (CDIS) to be considered as a methodological reference to assess the multidimensional role of culture in development processes;
27. Underlines the fact that cultural tourism facilitates people-to-people contacts across the world, and welcomes joint efforts to strengthen UNESCO heritage-based tourism in cooperation with the EU, which spurs investment in the cultural sector and makes a sustainable and high-quality contribution to promoting the diversity of cultural expressions;
28. Underlines the need to remove obstacles and improve mobility for artists and culture professionals through various forms of preferential treatment, such as a visa for educational and cultural purposes, to facilitate cultural exchange, research projects, artists' residencies and grants for creators and performers, in line with Article 16 of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, co-signed by the EU;
29. Recommends ensuring cooperation between the EU and the UN for education in emergency programmes in the event of humanitarian crises, armed conflicts and natural disasters, by continuing to support programmes such as UNICEF's Education in Emergencies and Post-Crisis Transition, the UNHCR's quality education programme in refugees camps and the educational work of UNRWA;

### ***Legal instruments***

30. Recalls that the EU has ratified the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and calls on the Member States which have not already done so to ratify the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, which represent important tools for strengthening the protection of global cultural heritage and cultural diversity, as well as the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols, the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage; calls for the harmonisation of legislation and an international agreement on cultural heritage and illicit trafficking;
31. Calls for the improvement of communication strategies in the development of cultural cooperation by using and developing digital resources, such as web-based multilingual

information platforms and online educational resources, in order to foster accessibility, disseminate information in local languages and encourage exchanges and networking among artists, cultural practitioners and civil society organisations;

32. Emphasises the symbolic significance of cultural heritage, which makes its protection essential through greater coordination and public awareness now that, as demonstrated by the recent destruction of cultural sites in Syria and Iraq, it has become a political target;
33. Calls, in this connection, for efforts to stop the destruction of cultural world heritage to be intensified in cooperation with UNESCO and the other UN member states.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	15.9.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 20 - : 4 0 : 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Isabella Adinolfi, Dominique Bilde, Andrea Bocskor, Silvia Costa, Angel Dzhambazki, Jill Evans, Petra Kammerevert, Rikke Karlsson, Andrew Lewer, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Curzio Maltese, Stefano Maullu, Fernando Maura Barandiarán, Luigi Morgano, Momchil Nekov, Yana Toom, Helga Trüpel, Julie Ward, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski, Milan Zver, Krystyna Łybacka
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Sylvie Guillaume, Dietmar Köster, Paul Nuttall, Hermann Winkler