



*Committee on Culture and Education
The Chair*

12.5.2020

Mr David McAllister
Chair
Committee on Foreign Affairs
BRUSSELS

Mr Bernd Lange
Chair
Committee on International Trade
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on recommendations on the negotiations for a new partnership with the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2020/2023(INI))

Dear Mr McAllister, dear Mr Lange,

On behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education, I would like to submit to you – in the form of a letter – the opinion of the CULT Committee with respect to the above-mentioned report. As requested, the opinion is formulated as a contribution to the resolution.

Should you have any questions with respect to our opinion or wish to discuss any points contained therein, I remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Sabine Verheyen
Chair, Committee on Culture and Education

SUGGESTIONS

- A. whereas the protection and promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity must be a cornerstone of any future agreement with the United Kingdom;
 - B. whereas cooperation in the fields of education, culture and youth exchange are an integral part of a close, cooperative and productive relationship with any third country; whereas the United Kingdom is a crucial partner of the Union in the fields of education, culture, youth and language learning; whereas, although the new agreement is designed to manage a process of divergence, the Union and the United Kingdom should seek to build on the very close cooperation that already exists in those fields on the basis of the common roots established over the UK's 47-year membership of the Union; whereas UK participation in the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes would help to support and foster continued close cooperation and effective networks;
 - C. whereas the UK's continued participation in the Erasmus+ programme would be of clear value to programme beneficiaries in the UK and across the Union; whereas any UK participation in Erasmus+ must respect all relevant rules and conditions of participation, as laid down in the programme Regulation; whereas the UK cannot enjoy any decision-making power with respect to the programme; whereas, in its negotiating mandate, the UK states that it will consider participation in elements of Erasmus+ on a time-limited basis;
 - D. whereas, to date, the UK has not indicated any intention to continue participation in either the Creative Europe or the European Solidarity Corps programmes;
 - E. whereas the UK, in its negotiating mandate, notes that the agreement with the Union could 'promote trade in audiovisual services'; whereas an '*exception culturelle*' has always applied in Union free trade agreements with third countries and there is no precedent for any Union free trade agreement providing for single market-equivalent access for audiovisual media service providers located outside the European Economic Area (EEA);
 - F. whereas the Audiovisual Media Services Directives lays down minimum standards for audiovisual media services in order to ensure the unhindered re-transmission of audiovisual media services on the basis of the country of origin principle;
 - G. whereas the free movement of goods has been reconciled with the protection of cultural objects with artistic, historical or archaeological value through Union rules; whereas the UK does not provide, in its negotiating mandate, any indication of how it envisages future cooperation with respect to the protection of cultural objects;
1. Considers that the agreement should make clear that it will uphold cultural and linguistic diversity in accordance with the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
 2. Welcomes the clear statement in the Union's negotiating directives that future EU-UK relations should also encompass dialogue and exchange in the fields of education and

culture; regrets the absence of any similar ambition in the UK's negotiating mandate; believes that close cooperation, building on the existing close ties, is a prerequisite for a healthy future relationship between the Union and the UK and calls for ambition in that regard; recalls that the mobility of individuals is essential in fostering exchange and welcomes the provisions with respect to mobility for study, training and youth exchange set out in the draft text of the agreement published by the Commission; is, however, concerned that the provisions governing the entry and temporary stay of natural persons for business purposes do not meet the needs of the cultural and creative sector and risk hampering continued cultural exchange;

3. Welcomes the UK government's statement that it remains committed to international education exchanges; reiterates its support for the UK's continued participation in the Erasmus+ programme; recalls that participation in the programme requires the UK to make a full and fair financial contribution; emphasises that, if the UK participates in Erasmus+, it must participate fully in the programme and for the full length of the programme under the MFF; stresses the importance of ensuring the requisite conditions for learning mobility under Erasmus+ both in the UK and the EU, including equal treatment for learners on an exchange, for example with respect to tuition fees, easy access to core services and the avoidance of unjustified financial or administrative burdens;
4. Acknowledges that the UK has not to date indicated any intention to continue participation in either the Creative Europe or European Solidarity Corps programmes; notes that the decision will hamper close cooperation in the fields of culture and youth exchange;
5. Supports unreservedly the clarity in the Union's negotiating directives that audiovisual services should be excluded from the scope of the economic partnership and urges the Commission to remain steadfast in its position.
6. Stresses that access to the market for audiovisual services in the Union can only be guaranteed if the Audiovisual Media Services Directive is fully implemented so that the same re-transmission rights are granted to both sides; recalls that content originating in the UK will continue to be classed as 'European works' after the end of the transition period as long as works originating in non-Member States and non-EEA states which are party to the Council of Europe Convention on Transfrontier Television are included within the 'European works' content quota;
7. Welcomes the inclusion, within the Union's negotiating directives, of issues relating to the return or restitution of unlawfully removed cultural objects to their countries of origin; recalls the steps that the Union has taken in recent years to address the protection and preservation of cultural objects and stresses the importance of continued cooperation with the UK in this field.