



0010/2014

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on the right to culture as a fundamental right of EU citizens

Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg (S&D), Gianni Pittella (S&D), Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez (S&D), Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE), Jim Higgins (PPE), Jiří Maštálka (GUE/NGL), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Sophocles Sophocleous (S&D), Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid (PPE), Martina Michels (GUE/NGL), Milan Zver (PPE), Richard Falbr (S&D), Csaba Tabajdi (S&D)

Lapse date: 16.4.2014

0010/2014

Written declaration, under Rule 123 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on the right to culture as a fundamental right of EU citizens¹

1. The EU's cultural heritage needs to be protected and promoted; culture should be made accessible to a wider public, which would in turn foster cultural enrichment and improve the condition of modern society.
2. The cultural and creative sectors accounted for up to 4.5 % of the Union's GDP in 2010 and have created 8.5 million jobs in the EU; they are thus an important growth factor contributing to the development of modern technology and innovation policy.
3. Under Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information², the widespread opening-up of public resources (including the cultural heritage) has the potential to generate up to EUR 40 billion in revenue per year, and the total direct and indirect economic gains across the EU could be as high as EUR 140 billion per year.
4. Access to culture, in the broad sense, is crucial for the social inclusion of EU citizens and the cultural inclusion of the elderly, ethnic minorities and residents of rural or peripheral areas, as it enables them to participate in culture and lifelong learning, and to find jobs.
5. The right to culture is a fundamental right of EU citizens that goes beyond the right to education and health care and should be understood and recognised as the right to participate actively in culture, irrespective of social or geographical restrictions, and as an opportunity for cultural development, irrespective of a person's intellectual ability.
6. The Commission is called on to promote the active participation of EU citizens in culture and to encourage the Member States to increase their investment in this sector.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 123(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.

² OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90.