

**Question for written answer E-010115/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Progress made on culture in the EU's external actions

On 31 March 2011, Parliament adopted a resolution on the cultural dimensions of the Union's external actions¹, stating that culture should be a vital and horizontally integrated element among the broad spectrum of external policies which make up the EU's foreign and security policies.

1. Can the Vice-President / High Representative inform Parliament and publish an account of the follow-up measures she has taken to streamline and mainstream culture in the EU's external actions? What is the VP/HR's response to the call on the Commission, made in the resolution, for a Green Paper on a strategy on culture and cultural cooperation in the EU's external actions, to be followed by a communication?
2. Can the Vice-President / High Representative indicate and elaborate on which steps have been taken by the EEAS to coordinate the strategic deployment of cultural aspects in its external policies? In particular, can it indicate whether there are officials present in the EU representations who are specifically tasked with coordinating cultural programmes?
3. What steps have been taken to remove obstacles by creating specific, short-term stay visa schemes for artists and creators, along the lines of the existing Scientific Visa Programme in force since 2005?
4. What measures does the Vice-President / High Representative intend to take to provide information (by means, for example, of a globally accessible website) on existing EU support programmes in the external relations sphere which have a cultural component, as well as on the planning and organisation of cultural events?
5. What progress has been achieved in establishing a coherent strategy for the protection and promotion of the cultural and natural heritage? How will it use the momentum of establishing Creative Europe to include culture in the EU's external actions?
6. Has an inter-institutional task force for culture in the context of the EU's external relations been established in order to develop and widen coordination, streamlining, strategies and the sharing of best practices?

¹ P7_TA(2011)0239