

**Question for written answer E-005535/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Culture cuts

The Spanish Government has imposed dramatic budget cuts in the area of culture. Iconic institutions are suffering cuts of over 30%. The Prado Museum, the Reina Sofía Museum, the Teatro Real theatre, the Gran Teatro del Liceo theatre, and key areas like the Directorate-General for Cultural Industries, the network of public libraries, and the Institute of Cinematography and Audiovisual Arts (ICAA) are just some of the famous institutions affected.

Nor are the regional governments sparing culture. The Cantabrian Regional Government has imposed a 32% cut on 2013 budgets. Budgets for managing and promoting culture, and for preserving heritage have been almost halved in 2013.

Cantabria's largest cuts will be in the areas of managing and promoting culture, whose budget has been cut by 45% from over EUR 12 million in the current financial year to EUR 6 872 617 in 2013, and cultural heritage, whose current budget of EUR 2 567 074 will be cut by over 33% to EUR 1 734 017.

For the second consecutive year, the iconic Santander International Festival has been one of the major victims of the culture cuts, with its budget slashed by 25%. The Comillas Foundation too had its budget cut from EUR 3 million to EUR 500 000 in 2012. Funding for art and culture in Spain has been reduced drastically in the last year, and the short- and medium-term outlook appears bleak.

Is the Commission aware that investing in culture can boost economic growth?

Can the Commission provide details of its proposal – currently under negotiation – for funding cultural programmes in the 2014-2020 period?

Will the Commission stress to Spain the need to implement a plan to increase funding for art and culture?