

Question for written answer E-014028/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
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Subject: VP/HR - Culture in external relations

The preparatory action on 'Culture in External Relations' adopted by the European Parliament was launched in early January 2013. It aims to help identify strategies and visions for culture to contribute to the development of external relations. The New Narrative for Europe, also adopted by Parliament, examines the place of Europe in the world, how it is perceived by its partners and the role of culture in the European integration process. In this connection:

1. Can the Vice-President / High Representative elaborate on the steps taken by the EEAS to integrate a cultural dimension into its external policies, building on the emerging consensus among Member States and civil society regarding the need to strengthen the European dimension in the EU's external relations?
2. Would it be possible to appoint a contact point within the EEAS specifically tasked with coordinating cultural diplomacy and cultural relations with the Commission and its DGs and Parliament, with a view to complementing the important work done by the Member States?
3. Could joint policy development in the field of culture be promoted with all relevant stakeholders from EU countries, as a component of public diplomacy?
4. What steps have been taken to employ new technologies and online platforms to provide information on existing EU cultural programmes in the external relations sphere and cultural activities developed by the EU's foreign representations, as well as to facilitate networking between cultural professionals, institutions and civil society?