A delegation of Members of the Committee on Culture and Education visited Maribor, the European Capital of Culture 2012, from 11 to 13 July 2012. The delegation was led by Mrs Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID.

One of the aims of the delegation's visit was to look at how the project of European Capital of Culture (ECOC) was implemented in Slovenia. Maribor - the city, which will also hold the title of the European Youth Capital in 2013, has benefited from EU funds for urban development and for cultural projects, and this visit afforded a welcome opportunity for the delegation to observe and ascertain what had been achieved through that financing.

The Representatives of the Maribor 2012 Public Institute, tasked with implementing the ECOC project, expressed their satisfaction with the programme and the rollout of planned events so far, despite some financial difficulties. They stressed that, quote "This is an extraordinary opportunity for us all to develop culture at various levels of society: in public dialogue; by stimulating cultural standards and values as may be needed in any given area; with education; by lifting people's perception of cultural awareness; and by giving equal weight within the community to everyone's opinion."
In the course of a wide-ranging programme of meetings, the delegation exchanged views and discussed experiences with the Mayors of Maribor and Ptuj (one of the partner towns of the ECOC 2012), with the representatives of the University of Maribor, cultural organizations benefiting from the EU Culture 2007 programme, and representatives of regional TV and Radio stations, as well as with artists and journalists.

The delegation was impressed by the achievements of this small-size city and its region throughout the first 6 months of holding the title of the ECOC, and generally by the efforts and investments undertaken to develop and promote cultural projects in this former industrial town.

1. INTRODUCTION

Maribor was awarded the title "European Capital of Culture 2012" in 2009 under the catchword "Pure Energy!" This motto was grounded in an understanding of culture as creative energy, and the ecologically and socially responsible role it must play towards the world. Maribor is the second largest city in Slovenia. Thanks to its location near the Austrian border, Maribor constitutes a gateway into the country as well as into the Balkans. This favorable position makes the city a cultural and economic centre of northeastern Slovenia.

This award constitutes an opportunity for Maribor to establish its distinctive identity based on the use and enhancement of knowledge and culture in the current post-industrial era.

The underlying motive for the year is culture as a means towards the revitalization of the city, the discovery and enhancement of its potential, and telling its stories.

The programme of the ECOC is designed with sustainable development and lifelong learning, inclusion of all social and ethnic groups, special emphasis on children, the elderly, and the vulnerable groups of population borne firmly in mind.

The link with education and research through the University of Maribor, which plays a key role in the dynamics of development, is considered essential to the project.

The logo of the year consists of six colour circles, respectively standing for Maribor and its five partner towns:

The delegation of the Committee on Culture and Education met with the key persons at political and managerial levels, in charge of laying the groundwork for, and now implementing, the programme of the year. Moreover, the delegation was privileged to meet with various stakeholders involved in the implementation and rollout of events within the framework of the Maribor 2012 programme.
2. SUMMARY OF THE MEETINGS

Wednesday, 11 July 2012

13: 00 - 14:30  Working Lunch with the Mayor of Maribor

The delegation programme in Maribor began with a working lunch hosted by the Mayor of Maribor Mr. Franc Kangler, with participation of Vice-Mayor of Maribor Ms Astrid Bah, Head of the Cabinet of the Mayor Ms Anja Kolsek, Director General of the Maribor 2012 Public Institute Dr Suzana Žilic Fišer, Deputy Programme Director for International Cooperation Ms Nataša Kos and Head of Protocol Ms Nina Hojnic.

Mr Kangler, who has served as the Mayor of Maribor for 6 years, began his remarks by stressing the positive impact that joining the EU held for Slovenia. Over the course of his time in office, 49 separate EU projects have been implemented or are ongoing, such as investments in the water supply & sewage system, installation of signposts for blind people, free wireless internet access, electronic info-points, to name but a few.

He also touched upon the issues Maribor had to deal with after it lost a part of its traditional industrial base during the nineties. Nevertheless, Maribor possessed, and still has, strong cultural traditions, including well-known cultural festivals, such as its Lent festival, which as far as this year goes only just ended last week.

The Chair of the CULT committee delegation Mrs. Sanchez - Schmid (EPP) introduced the members of the delegation, and described the main areas of responsibility of the CULT committee and its reasons for coming to visit Maribor. She stressed the importance of seeing at work, locally, those EU policies for which the CULT committee is responsible - culture, education, media, youth and sports, including the EU action of the European Capitals of Culture. At this time this responsibility takes on even added importance, since CULT will soon start its work on the legislative proposal for the future of the ECOC beyond 2019.

The mayor expressed a view that people in Slovenia will only come to truly appreciate the value of having the title of the ECOC after the year ends. One of the gains is that the general environment in the town has improved.

He also mentioned some issues which the city encountered on its way to the title of the ECOC, which, according to the Mayor, mainly stemmed from the rivalry between two biggest towns in Slovenia - Ljubljana and Maribor.

The mayor is strongly in favour of awarding the Title of the ECOC to relatively smaller towns, rather than to the capitals of the Member States, as those wontedly already enjoy well-developed cultural scenes and advanced infrastructure. Therefore, smaller towns can draw the most benefit from this title.
The MEP from Slovenia Mr Milan Zver (EPP) also stressed the positive role of Slovenia's membership in the EU. He said that culture is the strongest guarantee for the future of the EU, through the diversity and multicultural approach it provides.

Mrs Žilič mentioned many indirect effects brought about by the title of the ECOC, such as a marked evolution in people's viewpoints and mindsets, the establishment of stronger ties between culture, education, the economy, and research.

Another major topic which was debated during the working lunch was the impact of the ECOC Title and its legacy for the years ahead.

15:00 - 16:50 Meeting with the representatives of the Maribor 2012 Public Institute

The delegation continued in-depth discussions on Maribor as the ECOC 2012 at the headquarters of the Maribor 2012 Public Institute - Vetrinj Mansion. The team of Maribor 2012 Public Institute was very largely represented at this meeting.

The delegation heard a presentation by Dr Žilič Fišer - Director General of Maribor 2012, on the impact of the ECOC Title so far, and its legacy for the years ahead. More than 400 separate institutions are involved in this project and around 5000 events have been planned throughout the year. In times of crisis, it is essential that the public be convinced that investing in culture is worth the effort. All European Capitals of Culture meet with similar issues, the solutions however are to be found on a case-by-case basis. She stressed the need to think about legacy from the start, by developing strategies for the future from the beginning.

Programme director Mr Mitja Čander presented the main philosophy & ideas behind the concept of Maribor 2012. He described the main features of the ongoing programme for the ECOC 2012, especially from the conceptual and investment standpoints.

Maribor is looking for a new post-industrial identity, based on knowledge and culture. The approach for this year is not so much a celebration of the arts the way it was at the beginning of the ECOC initiative, but rather a showing of the town's potential and a telling of its stories, as well as using culture as a means to revitalize the city and to enhance creativity, solidarity & empathy within society.

Four thematic strands arose naturally out of the existing 16 programme strands: Town Keys, dealing with culture in the city centre, aiming to reanimate it with new content, among other ways by means of an alternative department store; Urban Furrows, sociologically reclaiming neglected city areas, and having as one of its aims the establishment of a seed bank for indigenous Slovene species; Terminal 12, which includes art production, segmented into visual arts, music, intermedia, film, literature, and culture for children and youth; and Life at Your Fingertips, intended for interactive contents, from websites to online television, online radio, external interactive installations, new art, media, technological best practices, etc.

Cultural Embassies proved to be another successful entity aiming at developing the programme's international dimension. Nataša Kos, Deputy Programme Director for International Cooperation explained that it helps to showcase, throughout the year, the cultural heritages, in this case, of 10 Member States and 10 third countries, and involves the cooperation of artists.
The overall budget for the year is €17 million. Early ideas about larger infrastructure projects had to be dropped owing to lack of funding.

Another problem area had to do with the various governing bodies & the local establishment, since the views on how the whole project should be run have not always been consistently convergent.

A rewarding part is the obvious appearance and broad perception of changes in the city, showing that culture can be a major force helping to lead the way out of the current crisis.

Deputy President of the Council Mr Franci Pivec elaborated further on some particular features of the ECOC. He stressed the positive impact of involving various local establishments, e.g., the University of Maribor.

Ms Marta Gregorcic, Head of the Programme Strand 'Urban Furrows' presented main ideas behind this programme's entity. Its main aim being to find a way how to bring people together by solving environmental and social issues. The delegation had a chance to visit one part of this project - Community Urban Eco Gardens - during the visit.

In a course of this meeting some other important points were mentioned, e.g.

- Volunteering plays an important part in the organization of the events, although it is a new concept for Slovenia - around 100 of volunteers are involved.

- Attention is paid to ensuring access to events and involving people with disabilities.

- Sustainability was mentioned as a keyword when discussing the impact of the project on the whole region.

- Assessments: surveys show positive changes in people's perception towards the ECOC and its importance for Slovenia. 80% from the broader region of Maribor attended at least 1 event so far.

Quality assessment will be carried out at the end of the year, but the team is extremely happy with the half-year assessments, which they carried out themselves.

Main findings about the ECOC action in general:

1) The ECOC action has evolved in terms of its purpose - from celebrating arts to broader concepts, as well as involving smaller cities, rather than the capitals. Maribor wants to involve its citizens as much as possible. The team chose to put together a mosaic of various events throughout the year, as opposed to simply putting on a festival of stars. So far they find this to be the right approach.

2) A realistic plan with clear deadlines has to underpin the whole project. It is better to be less ambitious (especially financially) but realistic. Monitoring of commitment & use of budget has to be ensured. The stakeholders must be bound to their commitments.

3) The organizers of the year need to be given a wide measure of autonomy. Provably competent people must be appointed to the key positions, and once appointed, they need to be entrusted to see through the whole project from beginning to end.
All members of the delegation had further questions for the team members: Mr Marco Scurria (EPP) asked about involvement of non-profit organizations, Mr Takkula (ALDE) wanted to learn more about the roles played by local artists & local traditions, as well as cooperation with other ECOC, Mr Becker (EPP) asked about intergenerational aspects.

Local versus international remains one of the trickiest issues, according to the team members: local cultural operators tend to consider ECOC as their very own private preserve, but the international dimension must be there. The organizers face the same claims from both sides and it is impossible to please everyone. Collaborative production is seen as one of the answers.

90% of participating organizations are non-profit, as culture in Slovenia is traditionally non-profit.

The meeting in Vetrinj Mansion was followed by a guided tour through cultural places of interest and locations of the ECOC in Maribor.

In the evening the delegation was invited to the opening of this month’s Cultural Embassy devoted to Great Britain within the framework of the MARIBOR 2012 programme entity Cultural Embassies at the Vetrinj mansion.

The opening remarks were given by Vice-Mayor of Maribor Ms Astrid Bah, Head of the CULT delegation Ms Marie-Therese Sanchez-Schmid, Director General Ms Žilič Fišer, British Ambassador in Slovenia Mr Andrew Page and Director of the British Council in Slovenia James Hampson.

The first day of the visit was concluded by a working dinner at the invitation of the Vice-Mayor of Maribor Mr Tomaž Kancler and with the representatives of MARIBOR 2012 Public Institute.

Thursday, 12 July 2012

09:15 - 10:15 Meeting with Mr Vladimir Rukavina, Director of Cultural Institution Narodni dom and Festival Lent, Mrs Brigita Pavlič, Director of Festival Maribor, Mr Dejan Pestotnik, Vice-President of ACE KIBLA & Mrs Aleksandra Kostič, Manager and President of ACE KIBLA – projects benefiting from the EU CULTURE programme

Second day started with the meeting at the Cultural Institution Narodni dom with three projects currently benefiting from the EU CULTURE programme.

Mr Vladimir Rukavina, Director of Narodni Dom and Festival Lent welcomed the EP delegation. The Lent festival had ended only a few days ago and had been a great success.

EU funds make up one third of the total budget, and this is the second time this funding was successfully applied for.

The Lent festival aims at high quality culture at the lowest possible price, in order to ensure accessibility to all citizens. This way the festival features strong citizens' involvement and a strong European dimension. The main source of the funding occurs via sponsorship (at present -
177 sponsors), and EU funds are essential. At this time, no money is left over for conducting an analysis of the results, nor for promotion of the festival, but no compromises were made in the quality of the festival.

Mr Rukavina expressed the need for a simplified procedure in applying for EU funds. It is deemed still too bureaucratic. The festival had to hire extra staff specifically for that reason.

Mrs Brigita Pavlič spoke of the second oldest festival in Slovenia - the Maribor Festival of classical music taking place in September. Local production accounts for 90% of its content, with a programme uniquely designed for this festival. A follow-on programme then happens throughout the year - at schools, at retirement houses, at prisons, even at flash-mob events for the unemployed etc. ECOC 2012 was strategically used to bring this festival to the next level.

She also finds it challenging to go through the application process for the EU funds, being a non-governmental organization with only 4 staff.

Mr Dejan Pestotnik then presented KIBLA, which unlike the two previously cited organizations is an association of cultural and educational producers & promoters, for gathering more than 300 institutions all over Europe. It benefits from multi-annual EU project funding - not only from the CULTURE programme, but also from the Information Society programme, as well as the Leonardo da Vinci programme.

It ties art with science, and art with education. They offer, for instance, infrastructure free of charge to students for their work, ensuring the establishment of new ties, and networking.

When asked by Mr Scurria about the volunteering side of it, the answer was that volunteering is not yet very developed in Slovenia, but however slowly becoming more widespread.

The meeting was followed by the visit of the exhibition "I will never talk about the war again" in the same location.

10:30 - 11:45 Meeting at the University of Maribor

The delegation then visited the University of Maribor, one of the main partners for the events of the ECOC 2012.

The delegation was welcomed by Prof. dr. Karin Stana Kleinschek, Vice-rector for Research and Arts, Prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič, Vice-Rector for Finances, Mag. Andrejka Golob, Deputy Secretary General for Academic Affairs, Mr Mladen Kraljic, Deputy Secretary General for International Relations, Mr Tomaž Praprotnik, Student Vice-Dean of Faculty of Arts, and Mrs Janja Deutschmann, Secretary of the Student Council and Student Senator of UM.

Mr Kačič introduced the main features of this University. It is the second largest University in Slovenia and covers all of the sciences, with faculties also in other towns in the region.

Then he shared some observations as to the European dimension. If a University wants to participate actively in the EU programmes, it needs to be very strongly established locally. This requires a certain level of standardisation of the EU Member States' universities. That brings up the issue of joint degrees, currently hindered by differences in the accreditation processes.
Participation in Erasmus and other EU programmes is limited, owing to a lack of motivation for local students to take part in such programmes.

Ms Sanchez-Schmid explained the role of CULT in the field of higher education policy, as well as its current work on the next multiannual financial programmes for 2014-20. She invited the representatives of the university to share their views on the current and future EU programmes in the field of education.

The University of Maribor is actively participating in the EU education, training and research programmes. Both Mr Kačič and Mr Kraljic stressed several times that they do not see a need for major change in the current EU programmes for education & training. One of the reasons being that the current Life Long Learning programme already introduced a number of changes to which the university has at last adapted. The new approach put forward by the Commission in the "Erasmus for All" proposal would waste time and resources since they would need to adapt yet again to any new changes. At first glance it seems to them as a very risky proposal, even risking the current Erasmus, Leonardo and other programmes. Mobility skills are very different in those programmes. Mr Kraljic urged that existing branding be kept and to not label everything Erasmus.

A further worry was that EU programmes could easily become elite programmes, which is not an appropriate goal for the mobility programmes of students, contrarily to the research programmes where excellence is indeed called for. In his view, those students who were not excellent, but became 'mobile', would have a fairer shot at becoming excellent when coming back from abroad.

Mr Takkula gave some more details on the ongoing work of CULT on future financial programmes. He also asked to explain this university's approach towards attracting international students.

Mr Becker wanted to find out more about the cooperation with the organizers of the European Capital of Culture 2012.

Mr Zver, formerly minister of education in Slovenia and also a professor at the University of Maribor, touched upon the Europe 2020 strategy, the Bologna process and the need to further develop the European higher education area. He stressed the role of university in society and issues around the funding. National Universities are usually financed through public funding, which leads to the state wanting to have a certain say. That makes it difficult for the university to uphold their autonomy. Moreover, only relatively independent and autonomous universities can be fully beneficiary to society.

The representatives of the university explained more in details their active participation at the ECOC 2012 project via RAZUM: a concept of education and arts bringing an innovative approach to those programmes.

As for international cooperation- the University receives more than 400 applications a year by incoming students, but there are more foreign students coming to Maribor than Slovenian students going abroad.

Further to the EU programmes - the main difficulty lies in the management of those programmes. The professors have to spend 70% of their time on administrative tasks and for managing purposes. Therefore, the EU programmes must become more flexible. As an example the US
experience was mentioned, where a successful project can be extended for up to one year. This is not currently possible in the EU.

The professors also stressed the key role of research at the University of Maribor. The university tries to help the students also after their graduation on how to market their research, how to employ themselves, how to launch their start-ups etc. One has to realize that the university has ultimately to sell what they came up with in their research. An interactive knowledge portal is one of the ways to exchange & cross-pollinate ideas.

The meeting ended on a mention of the further need to exchange information on the future of the EU higher education area.

After the meeting at the University of Maribor, the delegation visited the Community Gardens in Borova vas – project by the programme strand Urban Furrows (Urban Eco Garden Association) in the framework of Capital of Culture programme.

12:15 - 14:15 Visiting the Regional Centre of the Radio and Television Slovenia

The morning programme concluded with a visit to the Regional Centre of Radio & Television Slovenia (RTV Regionalni center Maribor), one of the two regional broadcasting centres of Slovenia's national public broadcasting, which is also a founding member of the European Radio Network EURANET.

RTV Slovenia includes content creation, preparation and broadcasting for two nationwide TV channels, three nationwide radio channels, as well as radio and TV channels for the Italian and Hungarian minorities in Slovenia, for the Romany community, for Slovene national minorities in neighboring countries and Slovene expatriates and workers abroad, as well as radio and TV programmes aimed at foreign audiences, plus teletext and an Internet and mobile portal.

The Maribor office covers 8 % of Slovene national radio and TV coverage.

Mr. Zver reminded of the very important role this station played in opening up Slovenian society.

Mrs. Sanchez-Schmid informed about the CULT committee work in the field of audiovisual policy, as well as about its current work on the future financial programmes in this field.

As for the EU funding, the representatives of the RTV Centre indicated the following:

- Further simplification in criteria adherence is needed in future programmes;
- Radio and TV are different media. Radio is more demanding and requires more teamwork. Its content requires more work in order to adapt to the audiences;
- That smaller and bigger member States cannot be expected to reach similar audience sizes.
- This is not all about the disseminating information, but it's also about telling audiences about people's life in other EU countries, about commonalities and differences with Slovenes. This is what interests the young in Slovenia.
15:00 Visit to Ptuj - partner city in the Maribor 2012 project

In the afternoon the delegation departed to another town in the region - Ptuj. Mayor of Ptuj Dr Štefan Čelan, Deputy Mayor Mrs Helena Neudauer and Head of the Mayor's Cabinet Mag Stanko Glazar welcomed the delegation at the City Hall of Ptuj.

Dr Čelan shared his impressions about the municipality's participation as a partner city in the European Capital of Culture action. This experience shows that culture and knowledge based economy can bring the best results in the current climate. Ptuj is initiating an idea together with some other ECsOC to establish a Cultural Fund within the framework of the EU multiannual financial programmes in order to make full use of Europe's rich cultural heritage, taking the view that it is also a business opportunity.

After the speeches an exchange of gifts took place.

This formal part was followed by the guided tour of the old part of Ptuj. The delegates were privileged to a glimpse into the rich heritage and history of this region by visiting the library of the Minorite Monastery.

The tour ended at the building site of the new cultural and congress hall in the Dominican monastery in Ptuj, funded by EU money. Explanations about this site were given by Director of the Regional Museum Ptuj-Ormož Mr Aleš Arih, Director of Municipal Administration Mag. Janko Širec, Head of the Department of Public Services and Investments of the Municipality of Ptuj Ms Mojca Horvat, archaeologist Mr Ivan Zizek, and representative of Strabag Mr Karel Bogatin.

In the evening Mayor of Ptuj kindly invited the delegation for dinner at spectacular Ptuj Castle.

Friday, 13 July 2012

09:15 - 10:00 Meeting with the organizers of the European Youth Capital 2013

The last day of the visit began with a meeting in the City Hall with the organizers of a future project - Maribor - European Youth Capital 2013 (EYC).
The delegation met with the Vice-Mayor of Maribor, in charge of EYC 2013, **Ms Astrid BAH**, and project coordinators **Ms Sara SORGER, Ms Marja GUČEK, Ms Maja ŠKONTRA** and **Ms Metka ŠALIKA**.

EYC is the title awarded to a European city for a period of one year, during which it is given the chance to showcase, through a multi-faceted programme, its youth-related cultural, social, political and economic life and development. It is an initiative from the European Youth Forum, whose first recipient capital was chosen in 2009.

The coordinators of the project presented their main ideas and concept for the EYC 2013. It aims at young people and youth organizations in order to create conditions for personal development & creativity, and to expand youth networking.

The budget is currently the main worry. The EYC office is therefore looking for partners at all levels. The ECOC 2012 set a high threshold of achievement, and they will strive to keep pace with the high standards that have been set. The Municipality of Maribor is the main partner for this forthcoming project.

Similarly to the ECOC, the EYC will make use of well-established events in the city and the region, but also devise and come up with some new projects and ideas. Also, cooperation with the University of Maribor is foreseen. Volunteering will be used as one of the important elements of this project.

**Mr. Zver** as the EP rapporteur for the report on one of the Commission's flagship initiative - Youth on the Move, asked for more details on the events planned.

**Mrs Sanchez-Schmid** explained the reasons for this EP delegation visit to Maribor. She indicated that CULT is also responsible for youth policy among other EU policy fields. She mentioned that a CULT delegation recently visited the current European Youth capital, Braga, Portugal. She encouraged the organizers of the ECY to use all possible avenues for raising funds. First and foremost, she praised the good cooperation with the municipality of Maribor, which, hopefully, will find ways to also financially support this project.

**10:30 Press conference**

The meeting at City hall was followed by a joint press conference of the EP delegation with the Maribor 2012 Public Institute. The EP was represented by the Head of delegation Mrs Sanchez-Schmid & the EP member from Slovenia Mr Zver, the Maribor 2012 Public Institute by its Director General Mrs. Žilič Fišer.

**Mrs Sanchez-Schmid** praised highly the work done so far in Maribor as the European Capital of culture this year, especially by the team of the Maribor 2012 Public Institute. She stressed the positive involvement of the broader region in the ECOC action, as well as the way ordinary citizens became involved in this year's events.

**Mr Zver** was pleased that Maribor is performing so successfully in its role of the ECOC. The broad range of events is thrilling, certainly also the way how existing traditional events became subsumed within this year's programme. Maribor overall was able to use this Title well and to develop itself further into open, pro- European town.
Mrs. Žilič Fišer spoke further of some details of this visit and its aims. She was especially delighted to find out that CULT committee understands and defines culture every bit as broadly as the team of the Public Institute does - i.e., considering culture not only as involving pure arts, but also encompassing education, research and other fields of human activities.

The official programme was concluded by visiting Art Gallery Maribor with two exhibitions: "Art always wins, Silent Revolutions - Contemporary Design in Slovenia" and exhibition "European Comics, Comic Heroes Rescuing Europe".
## 3. PARTICIPANTS

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<tr>
<th>Members of the EP in protocol order (5)</th>
<th>Political Group</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Marie-Thérèse SANCHEZ-SCHMID</td>
<td>EPP</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>(Head of the delegation)</td>
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<td>Mr Milan ZVER</td>
<td>EPP</td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
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<td>(accompanying member)</td>
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<td>Mr Hannu TAKKULA</td>
<td>ALDE</td>
<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Mr Marco SCURRIA</td>
<td>EPP</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Heinz K. BECKER</td>
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<td>Austria</td>
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### CULT Committee Secretariat (2)

| Ms Inese KRIŠKĀNE                     | Administrator   |
| Ms Terje TUULING                      | Assistant       |

### Political groups' advisers (2)

| Ms Véronique DONCK                   | EPP             |
| Ms Astrid BURHOI                     | ALDE            |

### EP Information Office in Ljubljana

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### Interpretation team (4) (SL/EN)

| Mr Uros PETERC                       | Head of the Interpretation team               |
| Ms Andreja SKARLOVNIK ZIHERL         | Interpreter                                   |
| Ms Katarina KAVEC                    | Interpreter                                   |
| Mr Jorge CAMPAROLAS                  | Conference technician                         |

**Abbreviations:**

- EPP: Group of the European People's Party
- ALDE: Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
- CULT: Committee on Culture and Education