

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL FOR THE CULTURE 2007 PROGRAMME

In relation to the upcoming discussion in the CULT Committee of the European Parliament on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the Culture 2007 programme (2007 – 2013), this document suggests amendments for the proposal made by the Commission (paragraph I) and the report made by MEP Graça Moura (paragraph II).



I. Proposals for amendments to the proposal of the Commission

Article

Recital 14 on the complementarity of community actions

Advised action

Please PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT regarding this issue with the following wording:

(14) It is necessary, in order to increase the added value of the Community action, to ensure coherence and complementarity between actions carried out within the framework of this Decision and other relevant Community policies, actions and instruments, in compliance with Article 151(4) of the Treaty. Particular attention should be paid to a closer synergy between education and culture: based on the positive results of the CONNECT Initiative (1999 – 2002), initiated by the European Parliament, it is essential to ensure that projects having a joint character are eligible for support through Community measures in both fields.

Please do NOT support the text for the amendment as proposed in the Graça Moura Report (see below).

Motivation

We refer in relation to this issue to the ‘Recommendations to the European Union on the role of (music) education and training in the new cultural programme of the EU’. In this document, many arguments for a closer synergy between education and culture can be found.

Article

Article 4, paragraph 1, point (c)

Advised action

Please PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT with the following text:

(c) Support for analyses and the collection and dissemination of information on issues relevant to the cultural sector, such as cultural cooperation, the synergy between education and culture, further training of artists and employment in the cultural sector.

Motivation

Studies in the field of culture at European level should be placed in broader framework in order to increase their relevance in relation to other European developments, such as the Lisbon Strategy, and the Bologna and Copenhagen Processes in education.

Article

Article 12

Advised action

Please PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT adding the following point (d):

(d) encouraging cultural awareness of European citizens by strengthening the synergy between education and culture.

Motivation

We refer in relation to this issue to the ‘Recommendations to the European Union on the role of (music) education and training in the new cultural programme of the EU’. In this document, many arguments for a closer synergy between education and culture can be found.

II. Proposals for amendments to the report of MEP Graça Moura

Number of amendment

Amendment 3, recital 3a (new) on the Lisbon Strategy

Advised action

Please DO support an amendment regarding the Lisbon Strategy, but with the following different wording:

It is essential that the cultural sector contributes to and plays a role in broader political European developments. Therefore, the place of the cultural industries in the developments in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy must be strengthened, as these industries contribute increasingly to the EU economy.

Motivation

- 1) A recent EUROSTAT study has shown a significant contribution of the cultural industries to the EU economy
- 2) Cultural education and training can provide knowledge workers in other disciplines with important transferable skills (e.g. creative skills)
- 3) The Lisbon Strategy is strongly focused on technological and scientific areas; Europe’s cultural heritage, including its cultural industries, are unique in the world and should therefore be acknowledge in this process

Number of amendment

Amendment 4, recital 4a (new) on museums

Advised action

Please do NOT support this amendment

Motivation

The proposal for the cultural programme was built on the understanding that no particular cultural sector would receive preferential treatment. This understanding is only acceptable to the various cultural sectors when it is rigorously maintained. The amendment proposed here favours museums in a way that could also be done for other types of institutions that are ‘transmitters’ of European cultural heritage, e.g. opera houses or symphony orchestras.

Number of amendment

Amendment 14, recital 14 on the complementarity of community actions

Advised action

Please DO support an amendment regarding this issue, but with the following different wording:

(14) It is necessary, in order to increase the added value of the Community action, to ensure coherence and complementarity between actions carried out within the framework of this Decision and other relevant Community policies, actions and instruments, in compliance with Article 151(4) of the Treaty. Particular attention should be paid to a closer synergy between education and culture: based on the positive results of the CONNECT Initiative (1999 – 2002), initiated by the European Parliament, it is essential to ensure that projects having a joint character are eligible for support through Community measures in both fields.

Please do NOT support the text for the amendment as proposed in the Graça Moura Report.

Motivation

We refer in relation to this issue to the ‘Recommendations to the European Union on the role of (music) education and training in the new cultural programme of the EU’. In this document, many arguments for a closer synergy between education and culture can be found.

The wording of the amendment drafted by MEP Graça Moura the use of the phrase at the end of the amendment (‘in whichever of the two fields is the more appropriate’) is, although well meant, confusing and will actually be counterproductive to our cause, as it begs the question WHO will decide what will be ‘appropriate’: the Commission? This will create exactly those misunderstandings we are trying to avoid.

Number of amendment

Amendment 10, recital 21a (new) on literary translation

Advised action

Please do NOT support this amendment

Motivation

The proposal for the cultural programme was built on the understanding that no particular cultural sector would receive preferential treatment. This understanding is only acceptable to the various cultural sectors when it is rigorously maintained.

Number of amendment

Amendment 11, article 2, paragraph 1 on the programme budget

Advised action

Please DO support this amendment

Motivation

Referring to the '70 cents for culture' campaign, any proposal to increase the budget of the cultural programme must receive wide support.

Number of amendment

Amendment 19, annex, part I, 1.1, paragraph 6 on cooperation focal points

Advised action

Please DO support this amendment

Motivation

It is well-known fact that is difficult for cultural organisations (especially in the new member states) to find co-funding for their participation in European cultural projects. Therefore any proposal increasing the percentage of the Community support should be supported.

Number of amendment

Amendment 23, annex, part I, 1.2, paragraph 4 on cooperation measures

Advised action

Please DO support this amendment

Motivation

It is well-known fact that is difficult for cultural organisations (especially in the new member states) to find co-funding for their participation in European cultural projects. Therefore any proposal increasing the percentage of the Community support should be supported. This is in particular relevant to the annual projects, which mostly are low-cost projects at the grass-root level of a smaller size.

Number of amendment

Amendment 24, Annex, part I, 1.2, paragraph 5 on literary translations

Advised action

Please do NOT support this amendment

Motivation

The proposal for the cultural programme was built on the understanding that no particular cultural sector would receive preferential treatment. This understanding is only acceptable to the various cultural sectors when it is rigorously maintained. There could be many arguments that could be used to make the same exception on minimum number of partners and the minimum and maximum amounts for Community support for other cultural sector as well.

Proposals drafted by Martin Prchal, European Association of Conservatoires (AEC)