




Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	1998/0169(COD) Procedure completed
Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004 Amended by 2003/0076(COD) Amended by 2003/0303(COD) Subject 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		22/11/1999
		PPE-DE GRAÇA MOURA Vasco	
	Former committee responsible		
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		27/07/1999
		PPE-DE GRAÇA MOURA Vasco	
Council of the European Union	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets		25/06/1998
		PPE CHRISTODOULOU Efthymios	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2240	24/01/2000
	Culture	2221	23/11/1999
	Fisheries	2220	22/11/1999
	Culture	2195	28/06/1999
	Culture	2134	17/11/1998
European Commission	Culture	2100	28/05/1998
	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner	

Key events			
06/05/1998	Legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0266	Summary
28/05/1998	Debate in Council	2100	

15/06/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
13/10/1998	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
13/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0370/1998	
04/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
05/11/1998	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0638/1998	Summary
16/11/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0673	Summary
23/04/1999	Council position published	13328/2/1998	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
12/10/1999	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
12/10/1999	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0026/1999	
27/10/1999	Debate in Parliament		
28/10/1999	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0079/1999	Summary
22/11/1999	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
23/11/1999	Debate in Council	2221	
09/12/1999	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		Summary
09/12/1999	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
23/12/1999	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3638/1999	
21/01/2000	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0009/2000	
24/01/2000	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
02/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
03/02/2000	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0035/2000	Summary
14/02/2000	Final act signed		
14/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/03/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0169(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2003/0076(COD)
	Amended by 2003/0303(COD)

Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 151
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/12282

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	B4-1023/1997	08/12/1997	EP	
Document attached to the procedure	B4-1024/1997	08/12/1997	EP	
Legislative proposal	COM(1998)0266	06/05/1998	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1998)0266	06/05/1998	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0370/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0004	13/10/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0638/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0013-0043	05/11/1998	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0673	16/11/1998	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0227/1998 OJ C 051 22.02.1999, p. 0068	18/11/1998	CofR	
Council position	13328/2/1998 OJ C 232 13.08.1999, p. 0025	23/04/1999	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1999)1127	20/07/1999	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0026/1999 OJ C 154 05.06.2000, p. 0007	12/10/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0079/1999 OJ C 154 05.06.2000, p. 0074-0125	28/10/1999	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1999)0629	03/12/1999	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3638/1999	23/12/1999	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading	A5-0009/2000 OJ C 309 27.10.2000, p. 0004	21/01/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0035/2000 OJ C 309 27.10.2000, p. 0013-0061	03/02/2000	EP	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2003)0722	24/11/2003	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2008)0231	29/04/2008	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2000/508 OJ L 063 10.03.2000, p. 0001 Summary

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

OBJECTIVE: to propose a new approach to culture in the context of the new Community programme 'Culture' 2000-2004. **CONTENT:** the new Community approach in the cultural field has a limited number of objectives corresponding to the tasks conferred on the European Community by the Treaty (Article 128), i.e.: - making the most of the cultural area common to Europeans by highlighting their common cultural features; - respecting and promoting cultural diversity; - creativity as a source of sustainable development within the common cultural area; - the contribution of culture to social cohesion; - the spread of European cultures to third countries and dialogue with other cultures. To achieve these objectives, the Commission presented its new programme 'Culture' 2000-2004 (see relevant procedural sheet) in the form of a single financing and programming instrument to promote cultural cooperation and a guidance document for the explicit inclusion of cultural aspects in Community instruments and policies. As regards this document in particular, the Commission notes that Article 128 of the TEU enjoins the Community to take cultural aspects into account in its action. It is for this reason that the Commission feels that it is useful to draw up a guidance framework to strengthen the visibility, impact and coherence of Community laws and instruments having direct or indirect effects on culture for the period 2000-2004. In the Commission's view, three main lines of action are needed to achieve this inclusion of cultural aspects: 1) a legislative framework favourable to culture: the Commission reviews the various regulations and decisions affecting culture at Community level (promotion of cultural diversity by book and reading policy, public aid for culture compatible with the rules of competition, protection of monuments and sites and audiovisual policy), the encouragement of creativity in the Community (protection of copyright and related rights, taxation on cultural goods and services, etc.), and freedom of movement in the cultural field (in particular cultural professionals and cultural goods); 2) the cultural dimension of support policies: it is necessary in particular to define the link between the cultural field and the Community's internal policies. From this point of view, operational lines of action are suggested to promote a better integration of culture into Community instruments: cultural development and cultural improvement of the territory (for instance, via the Fifth RTD Programme, the structural policies, tourism or the information society), training and dissemination of knowledge (in particular through the renewal of the main education, training and youth programmes and the reinforcement of programmes linked to telecommunications); 3) culture in the Community's external relations: the Commission specifies that the Community approach in this area should be based on five factors: respect, within the main international organisations, of European cultural diversity; balanced cultural cooperation with the other regions of the world; cultural development in the developing countries (ACP, Africa); reinforcing cultural cooperation with the eastern European candidates for accession; promoting the spread of European culture in third countries.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

OBJECTIVE: establish the first European Community Framework Programme in support of culture (2000-2004). **SUBSTANCE:** the 'Culture 2000' programme seeks to rationalize and improve the effectiveness of cultural cooperation initiatives through a single financing and programming instrument replacing the three current programmes, KALEIDOSCOPE, ARIANE and RAPHAEL (the first two expiring on 31 December 1998). The total budget of the programme is ECU 167 m for a five year period (from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004). The programme seeks to encourage cooperation between creative artists, cultural operators and cultural institutions in the Member States with a view to achieving the following specific objectives: - the mutual knowledge of the cultural history of the European people thus revealing their common cultural heritage and encouraging cultural dialogue; - encouraging creativity, the international dissemination and greater movement of artists and their creations; - the promotion of cultural diversity and the development of new forms of cultural expression, - the contribution of culture to socioeconomic development; - highlighting the European importance of the cultural heritage; - encouraging European cultures in third countries and dialogues with other cultures around the world. In accordance with these objectives, the Commission will regularly define the necessary priorities. The type of cultural actions eligible for support are: 1) integrated projects covered by structured multiannual cultural cooperation agreements involving several Member States (for example, co-productions and other large scale cultural events, measures to develop further training and mobility for those engaged in the cultural professions, measures involving several different cultural disciplines, measures to improve knowledge of our common cultural heritage; 2) major projects with a European and/or international dimension (for example, the European City of Culture, the creation of a European Union Cultural Festival, the performing arts in the country holding the Presidency of the Union, the cross-border television broadcasting of cultural events, measures to promote cultural dialogue, etc.); 3) Specific innovative and/or experimental projects within the Community and/or in non-member countries (for example, measures to encourage the emergence of new forms of cultural expression such as peace or nature, measures to encourage wider cultural participation by the people of Europe, the creation of multimedia tools to make artistic creation more accessible, measures to promote the profile of European cultures in third countries, etc.). These measures are implemented by the Commission assisted by an advisory committee. 'Culture 2000' is open to participation by the countries of the European Economic Area, Cyprus, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and other countries which have included cooperation agreements containing cultural clauses. It also promotes joint action with UNESCO or the Council of Europe. The programme should be coordinated with and complementary to other Community instruments in the cultural sector (tourism, education, employment, external relations etc.). Measures are being envisaged to give a higher profile to the Community dimension of the measures taken. In addition, the contact points will be set up in the Member States in order to improve communications with the professional experts concerned regarding 'Culture 2000'. An interim report (2002) and a final report (2004) will be drawn up to assess the results of the programme. The reports will be forwarded to the Council and European Parliament. ?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The first framework programme for culture, for 2000-2004, must be made more transparent and effective as well as giving more importance to small projects. These are some of the key ideas in the report by Nana MOUSKOURI (PPE, G) which was adopted unanimously by the Committee. The committee had very substantially amended the Commission proposal, proposing a total budget allocation of ECU 250 m, rather than the 167 m proposed by the Commission. In the interests of greater efficiency, the report proposes a sector-by-sector approach, keeping in mind the different needs of each area of culture. Six vertical actions are defined, each with a suggested percentage of the total allocation: performing arts (theatre, dance, etc), 9%; music, 16%; plastic arts, 7%; heritage, 35%; literature, 9%; other forms of artistic expression, 4%. In addition to this vertical approach to the arts, three horizontal actions are proposed, again with suggested percentages: synergies (trans-sectoral actions), 5%; joint actions with other Community programmes, 5%; actions in support of projects of a major nature and/or having symbolic importance, 10%. A more balanced distribution such as this will allow benefits to accrue to small projects as well as

large. The report also modifies the initial proposals concerning the programme's implementation. It proposes creating closer links between the operators and the organisations having responsibilities in the cultural field. In addition, it offers a more specific definition of cooperation with the Member States. Also advocated is the setting-up of 'European cultural poles', with a view to the widest possible publicisation. One of Mrs Mouskouri's main concerns is the promotion of small-scale actions directly involving the public. Mrs Mouskouri makes detailed proposals for the monitoring and evaluation of the programme, in the interests of transparency and efficiency. The objectives of the various actions are to be realised via two types of measure. Firstly, there is to be support for integrated projects under 'cultural cooperation agreements' - that is, major large-scale projects (e.g. co-production of cultural events) involving at least five Member States. Such cooperation may be multiannual, in which case a report is to be submitted each year. Community support may not exceed 60% of the budget for the agreement or ECU 200 000 per annum. Secondly, there is to be annual support for specific projects involving operators from at least three Member States. One such project could, for instance, be a scheme for improving public access to and participation in the arts (conceived in their full social and regional diversity), including provision for the less-favoured strata and young people. A programme of this nature will require an adequate level of financing from the budget. The Culture Committee therefore proposes a budget of ECU 250 m for the duration of the programme, rather than the figure of 167 m put forward by the Commission.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The first framework programme for culture (2000-2004) ought to be more transparent and effective, and greater importance should be attached to small projects. These are two of the key ideas in the report by Mrs Nana MOUSKOURI (PPE, GR) on establishing a single financing and programming instrument for cultural cooperation (Culture 2000 programme), which was adopted by Parliament. In order to achieve this, Members substantially amended the Commission proposal, and proposed that the budget should be increased from EUR 167 m to EUR 250 m. In Parliament's view, the fundamental objective of the framework programme was to enshrine the cultural dimension as the heart and driving force of the process of European integration. In order to render the programme more effective, the European Parliament proposed a sectoral approach, taking account of the various needs of each field of culture. Six vertical measures were laid down, indicating the approximate share of the financial package to be allocated to each sector: performing arts (theatre and dance) (9%), music (16%), plastic, applied and visual arts (7%), cultural heritage (35%), literature (books, reading and translation) (9%), and other forms of artistic expression (4%). In parallel with this verticalisation of the promotion of culture, three horizontal measures were proposed, likewise with an indicative breakdown of funding: synergies (trans-sectoral activities) (5%), joint activities with other Community programmes (5%), activity in support of major projects and/or projects of symbolic importance (10%). Correcting the balance of the programme in this way would make it possible to impart greater Community added value to small projects and not just to large ones. Parliament also amended the provisions concerning the implementation of the programme. In particular it made provision for closer association of operators and organisations responsible for culture and defined more precisely the cooperation to be entered into with Member States. It altered the comitology arrangements and bolstered the aspects of the programme concerning consistency and complementarity with other Community initiatives. It stressed external cultural cooperation under the programme. Parliament provided for the setting-up of 'European cultural contact points' to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the programme at national and regional level so as to promote small-scale actions directly involving citizens, to ensure constant interaction with the various national and Community institutions providing support and facilitate access to the programme. In order better to meet the needs for transparency and efficiency, the framework programme will be monitored and evaluated in a very detailed manner (interim and final evaluation reports are to be drawn up). As regards the annexes to 'Culture 2000', specifying details of the measures to implement the programme, Parliament completely altered the approach on the basis of its sectoral breakdown of the programme. The objectives of the various actions are to be attained by means of two types of measures. One is support for integrated projects covered by cultural cooperation agreements. These are major projects of symbolic importance (e.g. coproduction of cultural events) involving at least five of the States participating in the programme. This cooperation may be multiannual, in which case a summary of activities undertaken must be submitted annually. Community support must not exceed 60% of the budget for the cultural cooperation agreement, nor may it exceed ECU 200 000 per annum. The second type of measure is annual support for specific projects which must involve operators from at least three of the participating States. These may, for example, have the aim of improving access to culture and increasing participation in it by citizens in all their social and regional diversity, including disadvantaged sections of the population and the young. Parliament laid down details of the selection criteria for access to the programme, particularly stressing the viability of actions. Out of a concern to defend the arts as a whole, Parliament called for a study of fiscal aspects of culture and intellectual property.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The Commission's amended proposal on establishing a single financing and programming instrument for cultural cooperation incorporates, entirely, in part or in spirit, those of the European Parliament's 31 amendments considered to have improved the drafting of the proposal, or to have added new elements which strengthen it, notably in the following areas : - underlining the importance of the establishment of the cultural dimension as a positive force for European and social integration; - stressing the need to safeguard Europe's small cultures and minority languages; - taking account of the extent of success of previous E.U. cultural programmes ; - pointing out the need for a complementary legal framework to reduce cultural obstacles which hinder cultural development ; - promoting the exchange of information among those working in the cultural sector, their creativity, and the dissemination of their work to the public ; - ensuring the coherence and complementarity of this programme with other Community policies which impact on the cultural sector, and with national cultural initiatives ; - defining types of cultural action as either vertical (affecting only one cultural sector) or horizontal (affecting many cultural sectors) ; However, the Commission rejects 14 amendments, notably relating to the following areas: - references to cultural policy and the single market for culture, as these go beyond cooperation between Member States and cultural operators to create a common European cultural area, as envisaged by the EC Treaty; - reference to asserting the European cultural identity towards third countries, preferring the notion of intercultural dialogue; - specific reference under Article 4 "Implementation" to cooperation with Member States, which the Commission feels is unnecessary; - reference to consultation of the Economic and Social Committee in following up the programme, which the Treaty does not require in the cultural sector. Furthermore, the Commission rejects amendments in four other areas : 1) types of activities: attributing percentages of the budget to different cultural sectors could risk lowering the quality of eligible projects, and making the programme too inflexible and difficult to manage ; 2) the budget: the figure of 167 MECU corresponds to the budgetary arrangements agreed by the institutions; 3) comitology; 4) application procedure : this is usually published in the OJ, for the practical use of cultural operators, and for this programme has been approached by the Commission with a view to ensuring transparency and high quality when selecting projects.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

In its common position, the Council accepted 11 of the 31 amendments adopted by the European Parliament in its first reading. These relate to: - underlining the European nature of the programme and its benefits for European integration, - promoting creativity and professionalism in the cultural sector, - ensuring the coherence and the complementarity of the programme with other Community actions that have a cultural impact, - favouring the vertical approach (a single cultural field per action) or the horizontal approach of certain actions (associating several cultural fields). Among the Parliament's amendments not taken up by the Council were those relating to access and public participation in the programme, comitology aspects, programme evaluation and monitoring, and the European cultural poles approach. The common position maintains the budget at 167 million euros, as proposed by the Commission in its initial proposal. It also introduces a new division of the budget between the different actions of the programme (already suggested by the European Parliament), as follows: - 40% for specific actions, - 40% for integrated actions, - 10% for special cultural events, and - 10% for other expenditure related to the implementation of the programme. It states that Community support for special cultural events (other than European cultural capitals and the European cultural month) should not be less than 150,000 EUR and not more than 300,000 EUR per year. Lastly, it changed the type of committee to implement the programme proposed by the Commission to a management committee (or type IIb Committee).?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The Commission is pleased with the adoption of the Council's common position, which reflects the Commission's initial proposal in budgetary terms.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The committee adopted all amendments submitted by rapporteur Vasco GRAÇA MOURA (PPE/ED, P) in the draft recommendation for a second reading (codecision procedure), thus largely confirming its previous position. In response to the Council's common position maintaining the budget laid down in the initial proposal, it insisted that a framework programme worthy of the name could not implement its objectives with a budget of a mere EUR 167 million. It considered that EUR 250 million was the necessary minimum. The committee also expressed fears that the Council's policy of giving priority to major cultural networks and the formation of very strong concentrations of networks would adversely affect small and medium sized networks and make monitoring more difficult. In its view, small and medium-sized activities had the best chance of reaching citizens.

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

In adopting the recommendation for the second reading drafted by Mr. Vasco GRACE MOURA (EPP/ED, P) on the "Culture 2000" programme, the European Parliament broadly confirms its previous position by resubmitting a significant number of amendments approved in its first reading, in particular : - the title of the programme : "Culture 2000" should relate explicitly to European cultural policy rather than cultural cooperation; - the financial framework : EUR 250 million instead of Eur 167 million which was proposed by the Council (this amount may be revised, by not more than 20%, in the context of the annual budgetary conciliation procedure); - the report : the drawing up of the report no later than 31.12.2002 on the results of the programme emphasising the socio-economic consequences of the Community's financial support. In addition, the European Parliament emphasises that the programme allows the wider public to participate in culture and not only those active in the cultural sector. It also includes amendments on comitology. The Parliament made a certain number of amendments to the annexes of the proposal which aim to emphasise the following points : - the annual Community support of projects carried out in partnership or in the form of a network must involve operators from at least three Member States; - the support for bringing together and the common work of cultural organisations in view of implementing important quality projects with a European dimension should involve at least five Member States; - the cultural cooperation agreement for the co-production of of cultural events (exhibitions, festivals), promotion cultural sites, study and research projects will cover a maximum period of three years. The European Parliament introduces technical provisions to implement these cultural cooperation agreements. It specifies, in particular, that the financing of these multiannual cultural cooperation agreements receiving Community support for more than one year must submit to the Committee at the end of each year a summary of activities undertaken and of the expenditure on each activity, in order for the Community support to be carried over a period of the project. The annual financing may not be more than EUR 250 million a year. Other details are set out in the annexes, notably those concerning European prizes in the various cultural spheres, such as literature, translation, architecture etc., or support for projects safeguarding cultural heritage which can be described as 'European heritage laboratories'. Lastly, the European Parliament introduces amendments regarding the share-out in percentages of the funds allocated to different activities.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

In its opinion following the second reading of the European Parliament, the Commission has accepted in their entirety, in part or in spirit, 13 out of the 14 amendments proposed by the European Parliament. The only amendments which were not accepted relate to the "Culture 2000" programme's budget (EUR 250 million were requested by the Parliament instead of EUR 167 million proposed by the Council). To recapitulate, the amendments taken up relate to the following points : - the title of the proposal replacing the term "cultural policy" with "cultural cooperation"; - the addition of a further objective aiming to improve access and participation in culture for a wider audience; - the replacement of the old text with the provisions on "Management procedure" in force since 1999; - the drawing up of a detailed mid-term assessment report on the results of the Culture 2000 programme not later than 31.12.2002 and which is also to be presented to the Economic and Social Committee; - information regarding the number of operators required for eligibility of projects (a minimum of 3 Member States); - the extension of the notion of "special cultural event" to actions of the European prize type, support for projects for conserving and safeguarding the cultural heritage, etc.; - recourse to technical assistance organisations should not exceed the annual budget of 3%; - the amendment of the overall budget breakdown for the programme and indicative estimate of percentages of the budget to be allocated to the main cultural activities (and

specifying that 11% of the programme's budget should relate to books and reading); - the amendment of certain actions integrated within transnational cultural cooperation agreements (in particular, taking up again amendments relating to the amount of Community support for planned actions and the number of operators required for the eligibility of projects). Moreover, the Commission does not accept the amendment relating to the list of activities covered by cooperation agreements, as well as that regarding the role of the management committee.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The Conciliation Committee reached agreement at its second meeting, held on 9 December 1999, despite the problems caused by the need for the Council to act unanimously. The central element of the agreement was a combination of a global budget of 167 million euro (thereby maintaining the Council's position) and a number of compromise amendments on the other budgetary questions. In a declaration on the revision of the programme, the Commission pledged to make an assessment of both the results and the financial framework of the programme no later than 30 June 2002.

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The European Parliament approves the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee regarding the Culture 2000 Programme.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

PURPOSE : to establish the first European Community Framework Programme in support of Culture 2000 (2000-2004). **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Decision 508/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Culture 2000 programme. **CONTENT** : the 'Culture 2000' programme shall contribute to the promotion of a cultural area common to the European peoples. In this context, it shall support cooperation between creative artists, cultural operators, private and public promoters, the activities of the cultural networks, and other partners as well as cultural institutions of the Member States and of the other participant States in order to attain the following objectives: - promotion of cultural dialogue and of mutual knowledge of the culture and history of the European peoples; - promotion of creativity and the transnational dissemination of culture and the movement of artists, creators and other cultural operators and professionals and their works, with a strong emphasis on young and socially disadvantaged people and on cultural diversity; - the highlighting of cultural diversity and the development of new forms of cultural expression; - sharing and highlighting, at European level, the common cultural heritage of European significance; disseminating know-how and promoting good practices concerning its conservation and safeguarding; - taking into account the role of culture in socioeconomic development; - the fostering of intercultural dialogue and mutual exchange between European and non-European cultures; - explicit recognition of culture as an economic factor and as a factor in social integration and citizenship; - improved access to and participation in culture in the European Union for as many citizens as possible. The Culture 2000 programme shall further an effective linkage with measures implemented under other Community policies which have cultural implications. The type of cultural actions eligible for support are: 1) specific innovative and/or experimental actions; 2) integrated actions covered by structured, multiannual cultural Cooperation Agreements; 3) special cultural events with a European and/or international dimension. Furthermore, the financial framework for the implementation of the Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004 is hereby set at EUR 167 million. In addition, the Culture 2000 programme shall be open to participation by the countries of the European Economic Area and also to participation by Cyprus and the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and other countries which have included cooperation agreements containing cultural clauses. It also promotes with UNESCO or the Council of Europe. The programme should be coordinated with and complementary to other external relations. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 14.02.2000.?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

PURPOSE : to present the report from the Commission on the implementation of the "Culture 2000" Programme in the years 2000 and 2001. **CONTENTS** : this report presents a summary of the main findings and recommendations of the mid-term evaluation of the Culture 2000 Programme, which was carried out by the Danish consultancy PLS Ramboll Management, as well as the main reactions and conclusions of the Commission to these recommendations. - Concerning the programming : Culture 2000 followed a comprehensive and coherent logic, aimed at fostering cultural co-operation in Europe. The Programme was complementary to other Community actions and the cultural policies of the Member States. The requirement introduced in 2001 of 5% financial participation by all co-organisers was a good instrument to ascertain the active participation of all cultural operators in the projects, although it may have dissuaded the creation of partnerships with no prior history of co-operation and impede some cultural operators in the associated countries from participating in the Programme. The Commission carried out a number of important activities to disseminate knowledge about the Programme. - As regards the projects : in 2000 and 2001, more than 1 600 applications were submitted to the Programme, of which approximately one quarter received funding. The main beneficiaries were operators from those countries, which also presented the majority of applications. Most selected projects targeted more than one of the specific objectives of the Programme. The number of applications to the Programme declined significantly in 2001. At the same time the number of projects rejected as failing to meet eligibility criteria rose considerably. - With regard to the partnerships : most of the cultural operators receiving funding were relatively small in terms of organisational capacity (budget and staff). The funded projects were managed by a wide variety of organisations (NGOs, national cultural institutions, private enterprises, etc.). The partnerships were mainly formed on the basis of previous co-operation, normally with similar organisations in other countries. - As regards the results : the Programme created cultural added value by creating new forms of cultural expression, attracting greater audiences than planned, and encouraging the movement of artists and cultural operators. Operators completed their projects with the level of quality required. The Programme also succeeded in creating European added value in terms of creating new transnational co-operation and new partnerships that appear to be sustainable. The socio-economic impact seemed to be more restricted. Moreover, the report states that efficiency and effectiveness were reached at project level, at the Cultural Contact Points level, at the Programme management level and, therefore, at the overall Programme level. - Recommendations : the consultancy in charge of the evaluation has presented the following recommendations. The reactions from the Commission are also presented: 1) Improving dissemination and information about the Programme : the Commission already has a clear

dissemination strategy (Cultural Contact Points, e-Newsletter, website, etc.), and does not consider it appropriate to target specific beneficiaries, since all operators have the same rights and the Commission has a duty not to treat them in a discriminatory manner. The Commission already gives information about the number of applications as well as the number of pre-selected and selected projects in its website and in its monthly e-newsletter. 2) Improving management of the Programme : a public consultation was launched in the frame of the preparation of the Programme that will succeed Culture 2000. The Forum 2001 also shed light on the needs of the operators. CCPs should not be overloaded with more work than contractually required, otherwise they will not be able to target their activities properly. The Commission will launch in 2004 the new "SYMMETRY" management system, which will address this and other problems. It belongs to the contractual functions of the CCPs to provide technical assistance to applicants. The Commission will inform them of the need to increase further this activity. The Commission also wonders whether the ability to read a call for proposals and fill the applications correctly is not a sign of competence and credibility of the operator that should not be neglected. The cash-flow problems of the operators will be settled, as from 2004 on the payment ratio will be 70/30. 3) Improving the selection procedure : the selection procedure should be reconsidered, in order to make it shorter than 6 months (through a reduction of the delays given to the European Parliament and the Management Committee). In 2002, the Commission launched a free e-Newsletter, which provides precise information on the progress of applications. 4) Reconsidering the objectives of the Programme : the Programme's current objectives are too broad, especially taking into account the funds available. The choice of objectives is a political one, and the Commission will address this issue at the appropriate moment, namely in the context of the preparation of the cultural Programme that will eventually succeed Culture 2000. In the light of the evaluation and its conclusions and recommendations, the Commission does not consider it necessary to present a proposal for a modification of the Programme for the period remaining to be implemented. Moreover, partly for reasons of overall financial planning and partly in order to have the time to present and have considered, through due process, a proposal for a new Culture programme, the Commission has put forward a proposal extending Culture 2000 by two years, to 31/12/2006. ?

Culture 2000 programme for the period 2000-2004

The purpose of this report is to make a final evaluation of the Culture 2000 programme. The conclusions drawn and recommendations made are based on an extensive survey of the Culture 2000 programme, which was undertaken by external evaluators.

To recall, the key aims of the Culture 2000 programme were to promote a cultural area common to Europe's people. This was to be achieved by supporting activities such as cultural dialogue; promoting creativity; highlighting cultural diversity etc. The main findings of the evaluation are as follows:

External coherence:

?External coherence? refers to how the Culture 2000 programme fits into the broader context of cultural policy and programmes. The evaluators found that other Community programmes such as the structural funds and the Media and Active Citizenship programmes also prioritise culture as well as sharing similar objectives, target groups, outputs and results. Some concerns were raised regarding the small financial envelope of the Culture 2000 programme.

Effectiveness:

The programme was successful in achieving its objectives ? up to a certain point. According to the external evaluators, certain barriers existed preventing cultural actors from participating in the programme. The overall visibility of Culture 2000 amongst those working in the field of culture was felt to be good.

Efficiency:

The external evaluators found that there was a mismatch between staff resources and the volume of work ? particularly at peak times. The Cultural Contact Points, established in the Member States, used their grants effectively and managed to provide an efficient service to cultural operators. For their part, participants were satisfied with the application process and equally positive about the kind of information provided. Where there was criticism it related to the inappropriate timing of the calls for proposals and the length of the process itself. At the same time, however, the evaluators acknowledged that Parliamentary scrutiny under the Management Committee procedure lengthened the process. Similarly the evaluators found that the programme dissemination activities could be substantially improved and that the final project reports were of variable quality and usefulness.

Utility:

The report finds that the Culture 2000 programme gave cultural operators in Europe the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive programme of transnational cooperation covering over 30 countries. The possibility to work on cross-border cultural projects is not offered elsewhere. Thus, according to the report, cultural operators have become more outward-looking and more open to transnational intercultural cooperation.

Sustainability:

Those surveyed found that, through the programme, they have managed to establish, strengthen and extend transnational networks across Europe. This process has also led to the generation of new inter-cultural projects. Further, in certain cases, projects started under the programme managed to continue even after funding ceased. On a final point, the programme had a clear impact on cultural policies in some of the participating countries. It inspired the establishment of new co-financing arrangements in many countries resulting in an overall increase in the amount of funding being made available to intercultural activities.

Following the overall assessment of the programme, the external evaluators set out a number of recommendations relating to:

- Programme management systems: for example, examining staff resources with the volume of work during the life of the programme; the scheduling of an annual visit programme by the Management Authorities to projects in order to provide support and guidance on technical issues.
- Programme communication system: for example, the appointment of a Publications and Communications officer responsible for editorial content and quality control of the Culture webpage and publications; the publication of an annual compendium of projects to made available on the culture webpage of DG EAC.
- Programme dissemination activities: for example, the publication of thematic reports in order to assess the programmes achievements and lessons learnt from good practice; and running a programme of events in order to showcase projects.

To conclude, the Commission shares the evaluator's overall assessment that the programme has provided a stimulus to cross-border cultural cooperation and that it has contributed to a more outward looking approach to cultural activities. More than 1 500 grants were awarded to cultural operators under the programme's actions between 2000 and 2006 with grants exceeding EUR 190 million. Although there is room for improvement, the participants have nevertheless expressed satisfactions with the programme and recognise its overall European added value.