


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2127(INI)	Procedure completed
Cultural industries		
Subject	4.45.08 Cultural and artistic activities, books and reading, arts	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		22/05/2002
		PSE ZORBA Myrsini	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		26/11/2002
		UEN Ó NEACHTAIN Seán	

Key events			
04/07/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/07/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
08/07/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0276/2003	
04/09/2003	Debate in Parliament		
04/09/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0382/2003	Summary
04/09/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2127(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/16344

Documentation gateway	

Document attached to the procedure	B5-0417/2001	21/09/2001	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0276/2003	08/07/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0382/2003 OJ C 076 25.03.2004, p. 0247-0459 E	04/09/2003	EP	Summary

Cultural industries

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Myrsini ZORBA (PES, GR) on cultural industries. It stressed the right to culture of all citizens and the need to safeguard democratic access to cultural goods, and said that Europe's cultural industries reflected its diversity and thus represented an added value to European identity. However, the report pointed to the lack of a global industrial EU strategy and ensuing policy encompassing the cultural industries, including inter alia the book industry and music sectors. It therefore urged the Commission to bring up to date its working papers on culture, taking account in particular of EU enlargement and greater emphasis on the public-private partnership aspect. It also called on the Commission to examine the effects of increasing concentrations in a number of cultural industries, which posed a threat to the transparency of the market and could lead to the disappearance of independents as well as to increasing uniformity in production and distribution. Acknowledging the importance of television and other mass media in the process of democratic opinion-forming, with a view to ensuring and enhancing diversity of opinion and pluralism, MEPs called for the Television without Frontiers directive, together with the Media Plus Programme and the i2i Initiative, to continue to boost European audio-visual production and to improve the circulation of European works within the EU market. The committee also urged the Commission and the Member States to provide greater support for cultural industries in Structural Funds projects for the economic development of regions and cities. Amongst its other recommendations, the report said that consideration should be given to putting in place mechanisms to improve the circulation of non-national European works and that steps should be taken to promote the showing and broadcasting of movies in their original version in order to make spectators familiar with the reality and desirability of a multilingual environment and hence to improve the knowledge of languages. MEPs also asked the Commission and Member States to support efforts to develop the proposed UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity and to consider joining the Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity, launched by UNESCO in 2002, with the aim of uniting partners from public, private and non-governmental sectors, to work on projects that foster growth in local cultural industries. Lastly, the committee reiterated its call to the Intergovernmental Conference for an extension of qualified majority voting for internal Union policies to facilitate support for EU measures to promote the development of the cultural sector. However, it was in favour of maintaining the current rule requiring unanimity in the area of external trade. ?

Cultural industries

The European Parliament adopted the resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Myrsini ZORBA (PES, Greece) on the cultural industries. (Please see the summary of 08/07/03.) Parliament asked the Commission to carry out an in-depth study on a European map of cultural industries. The map should concentrate on cultural, economic, legal, technological and educational aspects, and pay attention also to the implications linked to the enlargement of the EU. The map should contain data on employment, intellectual property rights, index of competitiveness, new products and exports. Lastly, it should be submitted to the appropriate professional bodies and associations for a permanent consultation. Moving on to funding, Parliament called for a revision of the "de minimis" rules on state aids to take account of the unique situation pertaining to SMEs in the cultural sector, in particular those based in peripheral areas. It urged the Commission and the Member States to take account of the cultural industries' specificities when assessing the compliance of national or European supportive measures with the rules of the EU internal market, as well as to provide adequate financing of SMEs in the cultural field, particularly in the start-up phase. Member States should examine ways in which to assist the setting-up and growth of SMEs in the cultural sector through taxation policy, language quotas and other policy instruments. Finally, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to remove the VAT discrimination amongst cultural products by placing music in Annex H of the VAT directive. ?