

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Culture 2000 programme: extention to 2006	
Amending Decision No 508/2000/EC 1998/0169(COD)	
Subject 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		12/06/2003
		PSE ROCARD Michel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		22/05/2003
		PPE-DE BÖGE Reimer	22/05/2003
Council of the European Union		PSE COLOM I NAVAL Joan	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	24/11/2003
European Commission	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2503	05/05/2003
	Commission DG Budget	Commissioner	

Key events			
22/04/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0187	Summary
05/05/2003	Debate in Council	2503	
12/05/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
24/11/2003	Debate in Council	2545	
26/11/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
26/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0417/2003	
16/12/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0563/2003	Summary

10/02/2004	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2004)0079	Summary
08/03/2004	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
31/03/2004	Final act signed		
31/03/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0076(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision No 508/2000/EC 1998/0169(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 151
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2003)0187	22/04/2003	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0165/2003 OJ C 023 27.01.2004, p. 0020-0024	09/10/2003	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0417/2003	26/11/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0563/2003 OJ C 091 15.04.2004, p. 0027-0069 E	16/12/2003	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2004)0079	10/02/2004	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2006)0666	08/11/2006	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

[Decision 2004/626](#)
[OJ L 099 03.04.2004, p. 0003](#) Summary

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

PURPOSE : to amend Decision 508/2000/EC and extend the "Culture 2000" programme. **CONTENT** : the "Culture 2000" programme, adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in February 2000 with an overall budget of EUR 167 million over five years, will expire on 31 December 2004. In the three years of its existence, the programme has enabled over 700 cooperation projects to be supported in performing arts, visual arts, literature and cultural heritage. It has also financed the translation of 250 works and supported events organised as part of "European Capitals of Culture", "European Heritage Days", etc. Overall, this represents thousands of cultural operators involved in events reaching hundreds of thousands of citizens a year. The programme will come to an end at a time of changes of major significance for the future of the EU. This includes enlargement, an IGC based on the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe, the election of the European Parliament and the appointment of a new Commission. These changes will be felt in the cultural sector as well, but it is difficult at

present to see the changes that will be necessary. Nevertheless, continued Community support is absolutely essential to avoid any disruption of the Community's cultural activities as provided for by the Treaty, which involve very many cultural operators in Europe. The European Commission therefore proposes to extend the "Culture 2000" programme unchanged for 2005 and 2006. In order to extend the programme, a legal basis for financing the 2005 projects will have to be adopted in early 2004 and a call for proposals published by the end of the first half of 2004. At the same time, through preparatory actions, the Commission will explore future avenues for Community action in the cultural sphere: new ways of supporting cooperation projects between operators, increased cooperation between Member States and vis-à-vis third countries, support for cultural industries, linking culture/education/training. The experience gained, along with the conclusions drawn from the mid-term evaluation of the "Culture 2000" programme (required by Article 8 of Decision 508/2000/EC) will be used to develop a new approach for a future programme of cultural action and cooperation. On this basis, the European Commission intends to put forward proposals for a new European Community framework programme for culture by the end of 2003, to commence in 2007. The Commission therefore proposes: - to extend the Programme for the years 2005 and 2006; - to set the overall budget for the extended "Culture 2000" programme at EUR 236.5 million.?

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

The committee adopted the report by Michel ROCARD (PES, F) broadly approving the proposal under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure, subject to just two amendments. It pointed out that the ceiling for heading 3 of the financial perspective, which had been increased for the purposes of enlargement, must be respected by the legislative authority if the existing programmes were extended. Moreover, the Commission should provide a detailed assessment of the "Culture 2000" programme by 31 December 2005 so that Parliament could take an informed decision on the proposal for a new framework programme, "Culture 2007".?

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Michel ROCARD (PES, France) and made two amendments to the proposal. (Please see the summary of 26/11/03).?

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

To recall, the European Parliament adopted 2 amendments at its 16 December 2003 plenary session. The Commission has adopted these two amendments. The following amendment was accepted in full : - this amendment aims to introduce a new recital emphasising the fact that the revision of the financial perspective in view of enlargement provides for an increased ceiling for Heading 3 which has to be respected by the legislative authority when extending existing programmes. On the other hand, the Commission adopted the second amendment only in principle. It concerns the following : - the provision of full detailed assessment report on the "Culture 2000" Programme report referred to in this amendment would in fact make sense, as it would look back over a 4 year implementation period; this part is therefore acceptable from the point of view of sound programme management. However, the Commission cannot agree that the presentation of this report should constitute a condition for the consideration by Parliament of the proposal for a new programme (meaning it would not be considered until the end of 2005, although it is due to be presented in the first quarter of 2004). The Commission therefore proposes that a new recital be worded as follows: The Commission should present a full and detailed assessment report on the "Culture 2000" Programme not later than 31 December 2005; this report may, where relevant, provide useful elements in the context of the consideration by the European Parliament and the Council of the future proposal for a new framework programme for Community action on culture, announced for 2004 and planned to start in 2007.?

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

PURPOSE: to amend Decision 508/2000/EC and extend the "Culture 2000" programme.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision 626/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 508/2000/EC establishing the Culture 2000 programme.

CONTENT: the Council adopted this Decision which extends the "Culture 2000" programme for another 2 years. The "Culture 2000" programme was set up as a financing and programming instrument for cultural cooperation for the period running from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004. Its objective was to support cooperation between creative artists, cultural operators, private and public promoters, cultural networks and cultural institutions of the Member States and other participant States, with a view to promoting a cultural area common to the European peoples. In order to ensure the continuity of this action, "Culture 2000" is now extended until 31 December 2006. Moreover, the Council agrees on setting the overall budget for the extended "Culture 2000" programme at EUR 236.5 million.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 23 April 2004.

Culture 2000 programme: extension to 2006

This report is based on the Second Interim Evaluation of the Culture 2000 Programme and has been carried out by an independent consultancy. The consultancy awarded the contract is ?Ecotec Research and Consultancy Ltd.?. In this paper, the Commission presents the consultancy's main findings and set out its recommendations. In addition, the report sets out the Commission's position on the evaluator's report.

The Culture 2000 programme has been the EU's chief cultural financing instrument since 2000 and has a total budget of EUR 236 million.

The purpose of the programme is to support cultural co-operation in order to promote a cultural area common to all the people of Europe. The following three actions receive funding. They are:

Action 1: Supporting annual projects implemented by cultural operators from at least three countries. Translation projects with no partnership requirements are also supported through action 1.

Action 2: Supporting multi-annual projects covered by co-operation agreements. This involves cultural operators from at least five countries.

Action 3: Supporting and promoting special events with a European and/or international dimension.

In summary, the evaluators made the following findings:

- The programme has achieved its goals and provided an adequate mechanism for addressing both the original and current needs of cultural co-operation in Europe.
- The programme clearly addresses shortcomings in fostering trans-national co-operation in Europe as well as generating substantial new co-operation through strengthened links between European cultural operators.
- Those taking part in Culture 2000 have benefited from: shared experience in the cultural field at a European level; increased professionalism through enhanced management skills; improved organisation and individual capacity; and increased dialogue among cultural actors.
- The programme has led to strengthened cultural links among countries and helped raised a sense of European identity. It has also promoted the integration of the new Member States.
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents to the survey indicated that they would seek continued links with the partnerships they had formed. Further, two-thirds of respondents indicated that they would continue their activities even after the end of their project.

The evaluators' recommendations are as follows:

- The allocation of funding available for each cultural field and actions should be presented in the annual call for proposals, in order to enhance transparency in the selection process.
- The Commission should ask all project leaders (and unsuccessful applicants) to complete a short questionnaire seeking their views on the application and selection procedure. This should allow for the adoption of 'Key Performance Indicators' for each programme's objective, against which the impact of the programme can be measured.
- The development of a 'programme dissemination strategy' to promote the programme and its achievements to key stakeholders.
- The setting-up of an on-line 'partner-matching' search database in order to allow cultural operators to search for potential partners and to provide links from the Culture 2000 web pages.
- Simplification of the Culture 2000 application forms.
- Providing applicants with a detailed written feedback on the application alongside an official letter stating the outcome of their application.
- Increasing the number of Technical Assistants whose job it is to check the eligibility of applications. This should shorten the procedural timescale.
- External experts should examine an application twice only. A briefing day for experts should be held before or during the application assessment week in Brussels. Experts should be retained on a multi-annual basis. Feedback from national authorities should be sought in order to discover why experts tend not to return in subsequent years. The work of each expert should be properly assessed.

In its conclusions the Commission states that it shares the overall assessment of the evaluator namely that the Programme has provided a unique contribution to cultural co-operation in Europe. It has been instrumental in enhancing the vitality of cultural exchanges in Europe and it is unlikely that any other instrument would have been more useful than this programme in terms of promoting European cultural co-operation.

The new Cultural programme (2007-2013) will be able to continue supporting cultural activities in Europe. For the new programme attention will be given to three main objectives:

- the cross-border mobility of people working in the cultural sectors;
- the cross-border circulation of works of art and cultural objects; and
- inter-cultural dialogue.

Indeed, the Commission believes that the new programme will go further than its predecessors in strengthening cultural co-operation in Europe.