

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision 2020/0179(COD)	Procedure completed
European capitals of culture 2020-2033 Amending Decision 2014/445 2012/0199(COD)	
Subject 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	
Legislative priorities Joint Declaration 2021	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible  Culture and Education	Rapporteur  ZOVKO Željana	Appointed 08/09/2020
		Shadow rapporteur  ROS SEMPERE Marcos  BOTOȘ Vlad-Marius  RIBA I GINER Diana  KRUK Elżbieta	
Council of the European Union European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner GABRIEL Mariya	
European Committee of the Regions			

Key events			
18/08/2020	Legislative proposal published	COM(2020)0384	Summary
14/09/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
27/10/2020	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
27/10/2020	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report		

	adopted in committee		
29/10/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0201/2020	Summary
11/11/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
13/11/2020	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
03/12/2020	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations		
17/12/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
17/12/2020	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0374/2020	Summary
23/12/2020	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
23/12/2020	Final act signed		
23/12/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/12/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0179(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Codification
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amending Decision 2014/445 2012/0199(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 165-p4
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/03983

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2020)0384	18/08/2020	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE658.894	09/10/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE658.988	15/10/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0201/2020	29/10/2020	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0374/2020	17/12/2020	EP	Summary
Draft final act	00055/2020/LEX	23/12/2020	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2021)34	27/01/2021	EC	

European capitals of culture 2020-2033

PURPOSE: to prolong the European Capitals of Culture 2020 to 2021.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the attainment of the objectives of the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) action provided for in Decision No 445/2014/EU is seriously jeopardised by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had serious implications on the delivery and preparation of current and upcoming ECOC.

As a direct consequence of lock-down measures taken across Europe, cultural venues have been closed down and cultural events have been cancelled or postponed for an undetermined period of time.

Both had to postpone or cancel all events since March 2020 without any clarity when the situation will come back to normality. In practice, they are prevented from implementing their ECOC year and capitalising on the huge investment made.

In the three ECOC 2021, the pandemic results in a very high a level of uncertainty in nearly all areas associated with their preparation: insecure financing perspectives, unknown future safety regulations and travel restrictions, etc. In addition, there is a high level of uncertainty in the three European Capitals of Culture 2021.

In order to remedy this exceptional situation, cities holding the title of European Capital of Culture that are most severely affected by the pandemic should be allowed to implement their programmes in a way that allows the delivery of the objectives of the action.

CONTENT: The Commission proposes to amend Decision No 445/2014/EU to:

- allow more than two Member States to be included, for the year 2023, in the calendar set out in the Annex to the Decision;
- give Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) the possibility to extend their European Capital of Culture 2020 year until 30 April 2021, without changing the year of designation;
- postpone from 2021 to 2023 the year in which Timisoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece) shall be entitled to host the European Capital of Culture event;
- postpone from 2021 to 2022 the year in which a candidate or potential candidate country may apply to host the European Capital of Culture event.

Following the UKs withdrawal from the Union, only one city is scheduled to hold the ECOC title in 2023. Postponing two of the three ECOC 2021 to 2023 would be more balanced: there would be three ECOC in 2022 and three ECOC in 2023.

The proposal has no direct budgetary implication. The pecuniary Melina Mercouri Prize paid to each designated city by the end of March of the year of the title under conditions specified in Article 14 of the Decision and the costs associated with the work of those members of the expert panel designated by Union institutions and bodies are covered by the existing resources of the Creative Europe programme for the 2014-2020 financial framework, or shall be covered by the subsequent Union programmes supporting culture for the years after 2020.

European capitals of culture 2020-2033

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted the report by eljana ZOVKO (EPP, HR) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

The committee recommended that the European Parliaments position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should support the Commission's proposal to extend the European Capitals of Culture 2020 to 2021.

Members wished to point out that the two European Capitals of Culture 2020 have had to postpone or cancel several events without any clarity when the situation will come back to normality, while still incurring costs for those events. They stressed that the cities have been prevented from implementing their year as a European Capital of Culture and capitalising on the huge human and financial investment made.

European capitals of culture 2020-2033

The European Parliament adopted by 689 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 445/2014/EU establishing a European Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure, supporting the Commission's proposal to extend the European Capitals of Culture 2020 to 2021.

The attainment of the actions objectives presupposes mobility, tourism, organisation of events and public participation, which are extremely difficult if not virtually impossible in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a direct consequence of lockdown measures taken across Europe, cultural venues have been closed down and cultural events have been cancelled or postponed for an undetermined period of time.

The cities which currently hold and will hold the title of European Capital of Culture are impacted to various degrees, primarily depending on the year for which they hold the title. It appears that the impact is strongest on the two cities holding the title in 2020 and the three cities preparing to hold the title in 2021, though the future impact on cities that will subsequently hold the title remains undefined.

The proposal to amend Decision No 445/2014/EU aims to:

- give Rijeka (Croatia) and Galway (Ireland) the possibility to extend their European Capital of Culture 2020 year until 30 April 2021, without changing the year of designation;
- postpone from 2021 to 2023 the year in which Timisoara (Romania) and Elefsina (Greece) shall be entitled to host the European Capital of Culture event;
- postpone from 2021 to 2022 the year in which a candidate or potential candidate country may apply to host the European Capital of Culture event.