















Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2022/2047(INI)
Procedure completed	
Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations	
Subject	
4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance	
6.40 Relations with third countries	
6.40.13 Relations with/in the context of international organisations: UN, OSCE, OECD, Council of Europe, EBRD	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 YENBOU Salima	04/05/2022
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 ADINOLFI Isabella	
		 SMERIGLIO Massimiliano	
		 FRANZ Romeo	
		 DA RE Gianantonio	
		 KRUK Elzbieta	
		 GEORGOULIS Alexis	
		Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion
 Foreign Affairs (Associated committee)	 SÁNCHEZ AMOR Nacho	11/05/2022	
	 Development		27/06/2022
		 VERHEYEN Sabine	
European Commission	Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	Commissioner GABRIEL Mariya	

Key events			
09/06/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/06/2022	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
14/11/2022	Vote in committee		
21/11/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0279/2022	Summary
13/12/2022	Debate in Parliament		
14/12/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/12/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0444/2022	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/2047(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57; Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/09201

Documentation gateway					
Committee draft report		PE736.501	28/09/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE737.264	11/10/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE734.199	13/10/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE734.328	17/10/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0279/2022	21/11/2022	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0444/2022	14/12/2022	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2023)111	12/04/2023	EC	

Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations

The Committee on Culture and Education adopted the own-initiative report by Salima YENBOU (Renew, FR) on the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations.

In accordance with Article 167 TFEU, Member States are responsible for their own policies for the cultural sector, while the role of the European Commission is to help address common challenges, with due regard for the EU principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

This report has the objective of assessing and evaluating the implementation of the 2018 New European Agenda for Culture (NEAC) and the 2016 Joint Communication of the European Commission towards an EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations (ICR) (the Joint Communication). The two documents outline the EU's political priorities in the cultural field, with regard to both the internal and the external dimension of cultural policies.

General

Members acknowledged the overall satisfactory implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and of the joint communication

entitled Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations. However, they noted that the assessment of the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture has highlighted shortcomings, mainly in terms of priorities. Their strategic framework needs to be updated to set out the overarching goals of the EU's cultural policy, as well as the practical tools to be used to implement them, including by clarifying how the Council Work Plan for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations contribute to making the updated New European Agenda for Culture operational.

The Council Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 represents an essential tool for steering Member States strategies in addressing the issues that are relevant for the cultural and creative sectors and industries in Europe. In this regard, it should increase cultural policy collaboration and include frameworks of evaluation as an approach for monitoring implementation. Member States are called on to make full use of the potential offered by the EU funding, programmes and policies dedicated to culture and their synergies with appropriate programmes, notably Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, the New European Bauhaus and others.

Social dimension

The report invited the Member States to promote existing cultural and artistic activities and provide further opportunities for active participation, to increase the ability to reach new audiences.

The Commission and the Member States are asked to:

- ensure the inclusion of the most marginalised and under-represented groups in cultural activities and initiatives, not only as passive recipients but also as active creators of these activities, fostering a sense of common belonging and a shared future among all people;
- strengthen their efforts to provide quality information on mobility and exchange programmes for artists and other cultural professionals and practitioners, as well as material support to tackle all kinds of obstacles to mobility in the CCSI, including administrative, financial and linguistic obstacles, as well as obstacles linked to disability.

Economic dimension

Members considered that the workers in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, having been seriously hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, must benefit from a genuine and targeted European recovery. They called on the Member States to dedicate 2 % of their budgets to culture, as Parliament has requested on many occasions.

Parliament has also repeated its call for a European Status of the Artist to be proposed, which would set out a common framework for adequate, fair and transparent working conditions and minimum standards common to all EU countries. Members call for the procedures to apply for EU funding, including those for the Creative Europe programme, to be simplified as they are often still too burdensome and create unnecessarily obstacles for all potential beneficiaries.

External dimension and international cultural relations

Highlighting the role of the EU in promoting a continuous dialogue on cultural policies between its Member States and third countries, Members called on the Member States to ensure adequate funding as a result, in order to strengthen the EU's international capacity in the field of culture and to enable European cultural and creative sectors and industries, including smaller organisations and artists, to become active internationally.

Regretting the lack of a clear and coherent EU strategy for international cultural relations, Members strongly encourage the Commission and the EEAS to regularly exchange practices and lessons learnt and to develop coherent strategies, including steps towards their implementation and tailor-made guidelines for cultural relations activities to be implemented by the EU delegations in third countries and Member States diplomatic representations.

The resolution emphasised the potential of EU international cultural relations to counter disinformation in third countries and foreign interference towards the EU, and the hostile narratives against the EU in illiberal and authoritarian regimes.

Lastly, Parliament warned the Commission, the EEAS, the EU delegations in third countries and the Member States that the EU-funded restoration of war-torn cultural heritage sites in third countries should not benefit belligerents who are accused of human rights violations, legitimise authoritarian regimes, or normalise relations with them.

Implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations

The European Parliament adopted by 455 votes to 114, with 44 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and the EU strategy for international cultural relations.

Members acknowledged the overall satisfactory implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture and of the joint communication entitled Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations. Nonetheless, they noted that the assessment of the implementation of the New European Agenda for Culture has highlighted shortcomings, mainly in terms of priorities. Even though the two documents have withstood the challenges posed by unforeseen crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, their strategic framework needs to be updated to set out the overarching goals of the EU's cultural policy, as well as the practical tools to be used to implement them.

Implementation priorities

According to Members, the Council's work plan for culture 2023-2026 should focus on the following priorities:

- recovery and resilience of the CCSI, by further strengthening their ability to respond to future shocks;
- culture and sustainability, by featuring culture as a driver of sustainable development, well-being and social justice;
- status, working and social conditions of cultural and creative professionals;
- protection and promotion of cultural heritage;
- strengthening and ensuring the effective development and implementation of international cultural relations strategies.

Member States are invited to (i) fully exploit the potential of EU funding, programmes and policies devoted to culture; (ii) fully apply the principle enshrined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and recognise the right to cultural, artistic and scientific life and related cultural rights as human rights for all.

Social dimension

The resolution invited the Member States to promote existing cultural and artistic activities and provide further opportunities for active participation of individuals, in order to increase the capacity to reach new audiences through an inclusive approach.

The Commission and the Member States are asked to:

- ensure the inclusion of the most marginalised and under-represented groups in cultural activities and initiatives, not only as passive recipients but also as active creators of these activities, fostering a sense of common belonging and a shared future among all people;
- strengthen their efforts to provide quality information on mobility and exchange programmes for artists and other cultural professionals and practitioners, as well as material support to tackle all kinds of obstacles to mobility in the CCSI, including administrative, financial and linguistic obstacles, as well as obstacles linked to disability.

Parliament encouraged Member States to recognise the role of arts and culture in promoting healthy lifestyles, mental health and individual and societal well-being. It asked the Commission, building on the success of the DiscoverEU initiative, to consider creating an action under the Erasmus+ programme that would allow young Europeans to benefit from a travel voucher to discover European cultural routes.

Economic dimension

Workers in the cultural and creative sectors and industries, having been seriously hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, should benefit from a genuine and targeted European recovery. Members called on the Member States to dedicate 2 % of their budgets to culture, as Parliament has requested on many occasions. In addition to the measures supporting the economic recovery of the CCSI, the support from the Recovery and Resilience Facility should be used in particular to improve the working conditions, training and up- and reskilling of professionals in the CCSI in order to keep up with the ongoing structural changes in these sectors.

Parliament has also repeated its call for a European Status of the Artist to be proposed, which would set out a common framework for adequate, fair and transparent working conditions and minimum standards common to all EU countries. Members call for the procedures to apply for EU funding, including those for the Creative Europe programme, to be simplified as they are often still too burdensome and create unnecessarily obstacles for all potential beneficiaries.

Parliament pointed out that special attention should be paid to sustainability issues during the restoration of cultural heritage and traditional buildings. It recognised the potential of the New European Bauhaus in contributing to the protection and restoration of cities and their cultural heritage in the event of disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards.

External dimension and international cultural relations

Members consider that culture and intercultural dialogue make a key contribution to fostering mutual understanding within a society and between different societies, and to restoring communication beyond linguistic boundaries on the international stage in challenging global contexts.

Parliament condemned the use of culture by authoritarian governments in particular, which attempt to redefine international rules and values by questioning their universality and to exert their political influence by violating artistic and academic freedom. The resolution highlighted the potential of the EU's international cultural relations to counter disinformation in third countries and foreign interference towards the EU, and the hostile narratives against the EU in illiberal and authoritarian regimes.

Deploring the lack of a clear and coherent EU strategy on international cultural relations, Members encouraged the Commission and the EEAS to regularly exchange practices and lessons learned and to develop coherent strategies based on a common understanding of what constitutes international cultural relations.

Lastly, Parliament called on the Commission to strongly condemn the destruction of historical, artistic and cultural heritage in recent conflicts, as well as the systematic and politically or ideologically targeted destruction of historical, artistic and cultural heritage, and the eradication of the identities and cultures of sovereign states, peoples or minorities. It recalled that the destruction of cultural heritage can constitute a war crime and a violation of human rights.