



Culture

The logo for Culture Action Europe, featuring the words "culture", "ACTION", and "europe" stacked vertically. "ACTION" is in a larger, bold, sans-serif font and is contained within a dark red arrow pointing to the right. "culture" and "europe" are in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Posted by: Culture Action Europe



Culture Action Europe's appeal for the European Elections 2014

Culture plays a fundamental role in an array of policy areas, including sustainability, the economy, well-being, international cooperation and human rights. Access to culture and active participation in cultural activities provide numerous benefits throughout society and on an individual basis. As well as improving mental health, it encourages an inclusive society through positive intercultural dialogue, promoting respect for minorities and their integration into a community. In this way, culture forms a key component in many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and must be incorporated into a holistic approach to policy-making.

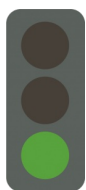
Culture Action Europe (CAE) works with 7 partners and 103 members from across Europe to drive dialogue on culture in Europe and promote its integration into all areas of policy-making, with the aim of developing social growth to realise a sustainable, open and democratic society.

In anticipation of the 2014 European Parliamentary elections, CAE sent a **political manifesto** presenting its vision for the European project and its demands for the future European Parliament to the European political parties, European political groups and all MEPs. This manifesto took the position that cultural development should be viewed as a strategic necessity in order to develop a sustainable future for Europe. It recognised the economic and social changes evolving in European society, and predicted the advancing divisions and rising nationalism that we have seen materialise.

We need to balance sustainable economic growth with a sustainable social model that includes cultural and community development. Democratic participation must be the basis of the future of Europe, as it is the only way to effectively address people's priorities and their fears. A model of this kind demands combining qualitative and quantitative indicators, and thus requires a different form of assessment to categorical economic aims.

2018 has been named the European Year of Cultural Heritage, thanks to the efforts of the Culture and Education Committee, and notably MEP Silvia Costa (S&D, Italy) both in her time as President of the Culture and Education Committee and afterwards. This raises the profile of the role of culture in European society. MEP Petra Kammerevert (S&D, Germany), who is active in the area of digital technology and culture and the opportunities and challenges that arise from this technological advancement, took up the position of Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education at the end of January 2017. CAE welcomes MEP Kammerevert's appointment and looks forward to her contribution and direction in this role.

Key Developments



Intercultural Dialogue

Openness to diversity is an essential cultural competence in modern Europe that is achievable through engagement in intercultural dialogue. The 'Ward Report' (or report on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values) makes this point and associates intercultural dialogue with further benefits for democracy, liberty, human rights and tolerance.

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Freedom of movement for the arts

The 'Ward Report' (or report on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values) emphasised the need for obstacles to the mobility of artists, educators, academics and culture professionals to be removed in order to promote worldwide cultural exchange and cooperation through simplification and harmonisation of visa procedures.

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Alterations have also been proposed by the Commission to the EU Blue Card scheme that was initiated in 2009. Pearle* (Performing Arts Employers Associations League Europe) found that those in the live performance sector have made little use of this scheme due to the barrier created by the complicated conditions that need to be fulfilled to qualify. While a welcome reduction in the length of contract required (from twelve to six months), and

in the time period for notification on the decision of an application (from 90 days to 60 days) have been proposed, this still places significant restrictions and complications in the path of potential applicants.

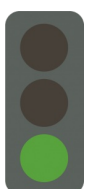


Sustainable development: societies that operate for the good of all citizens

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In the opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education for the above report, Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL, Ireland) stated the view that culture should be considered a fourth pillar of sustainability, both in the EU and globally, but this was unfortunately not incorporated into the final report. Appearing only at the very end of the document, the inclusion of culture was finally very limited, and thus culture has not been sufficiently reflected with regard to its relevance to the pursuit of sustainability. The report, in focussing to such an extent on economic issues, missed the opportunity to elevate the social aspects of sustainability to an adequate level.



International heritage protection and international cultural relations

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Promotion of the value of cultural heritage acts as a response to deliberate destructive actions in conflict zones was highlighted by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Commission, in the joint communication of 8 June 2016, 'Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations'. In this report, the subject of governance and culture was also addressed, calling for greater clarity and coherence in EU instruments relating to cultural heritage and better cooperation with third countries, widespread inclusion of international cultural relations in international cooperation instruments, and effective implementation of current legal instruments for the protection of cultural heritage, copyright and intellectual property.

The role of cultural heritage in external relations (particularly in the case of the Middle East and deliberate destruction and illegal trafficking of heritage) was also recognised in the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council *On a European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)*. Furthermore, this decision stated the importance of the European Year of Cultural Heritage conforming with existing external relations instruments.

In the draft opinion of the Committee on Culture and Education for the Committee on Legal Affairs *with recommendations to the Commission on Cross-border restitution claims of works of art and cultural goods looted in armed conflicts and wars*, Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL, Greece) called for the fundamental principles of the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on stolen or illegally exported cultural objects to be incorporated into a legislative act. Illicit trafficking was previously addressed in the resolution 'Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe' (adopted September 2015), which encouraged the adoption of international agreements to protect against such illegal activity and defend heritage in danger.

STANDOUT MEPS



Silvia Costa

Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

In her present term as MEP, Silvia Costa has authored a report on the implementation of Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020) and was responsible, along with Elmar Brok of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for the joint report on 'Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations'. She has consistently placed a high value on culture and its possibilities, and has worked successfully towards the 2018 European Year for Cultural Heritage.



Julie Ward

Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats

MEP Julie Ward is the author of the highly significant 'Ward Report' (or report on the role of intercultural dialogue, cultural diversity and education in promoting EU fundamental values). MEP Ward has a strong history in the cultural sector, during which, as a citizen, rather than as a politician, she has fought to improve the well-being and empowerment of marginalised communities through the arts. As an MEP, Julie works closely with a range of cultural organisations to create links and develop European projects. She is a bold and energetic actor in the cultural field, pushing for the recognition of the importance of culture in a healthy society and its benefits for individuals, communities and mutual understanding.



Helga Trüpel

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

MEP Helga Trüpel has been Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education since 2004. She has fiercely combatted for adequate funding for the cultural sector at EU level in the Budget Committee. She has shown forward-looking understanding of the digital shift, with

particular concern for socio-political and cultural implications. In the current Parliament, she has demonstrated a focus on creating opportunities for intercultural dialogue through mutual understanding and cultural exchange, including contributions made to the report on 'Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations' and to reports evaluating the Creative Europe and Europe for Citizens programmes.
