

Communiqué on the Commission's Communication on "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture"

*to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee
and the Committee of the Regions*

Culture Action Europe applauds the strong political support shown by all European institutions in their recognition that culture plays a central role in building a more cohesive, inclusive and prosperous Europe.

European leaders expressed their joint commitment to work towards a Union 'where citizens have new opportunities for cultural and social development' in the 2017 Rome Declaration. Culture Action Europe commends the inclusion of culture and education in the leaders' agenda during the Gothenburg Summit, a welcome sign of their commitment to start building a vision for culture in Europe.

The European Commission's Communication on 'Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture' enables the implementation of this joint ambition. The launch of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 in Milan was an inspiring moment of unity. The cultural sector is determined to work together with European institutions to transform Europe into a space where all citizens feel united in diversity.

In light of this, Culture Action Europe calls on the European institutions to:

- Strengthen **synergies between education and culture** as the means to ensure that multidisciplinary approaches, intercultural competences, civic, critical and creative skills are developed in order to seize the opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution and address its associated societal challenges;
- Ensure that a **proper financial support for culture**, the arts and heritage is allocated through the next multiannual financial framework, in order to reflect the shared ambition to make confident progress towards bringing the peoples of Europe together through education and culture;
- Maintain a **balance among funding mechanisms** and adopt an equal and tailored approach to all cultural and creative sectors, so that they can unleash the potential of culture to convey European values and objectives and to deliver on its capacity for cultural, social and economic impact;
- Design a **new European Agenda for Culture**, which stems from an equal recognition of economic, social, humanistic and artistic dimensions of culture, and promotes the potential of culture in all EU policies.

There is increasing evidence that culture and the arts are becoming a systemic element for the strength and progress of the Union. Avoiding fragmentation relies on Europeans learning to live together in culturally diverse societies, for which the preservation of freedom of movement is key. As a result of this and in view of the follow-up to the communication, notably the European Council meeting, Culture Action Europe calls on the European institutions to put culture more prominently on its agenda, including initiatives and actions for the benefit of all European citizens.

Quotes:

"Let us once again acquire this ambition for culture, through which our confidence will be revitalised. Sovereignty, democracy and culture are the three areas of opportunity that I would like to offer to the young people of Europe".

*Emmanuel Macron
7 September 2017*

"Education and culture are the key to the future – both for the individual as well as for our Union as a whole. It is how we turn circumstance into opportunity, how we turn mirrors into windows and how we give roots to what it means to be 'European', in all its diversity".

*Jean-Claude Juncker
14 November 2017*

"Europe is first and foremost a community of culture."

*Donald Tusk
14 November, 2017*

"Culture must become a pillar of EU policies to promote economic growth, build European citizenship and defeat populism".

*Dario Franceschini
7 December, 2017*

"The European Year of Cultural Heritage will also be the year in which we discuss the next multiannual budget. If we are to revitalise the Union and provide our citizens with answers, then we need a budget that reflects their priorities. Investment in education and culture must be increased".

*Antonio Tajani
14 November, 2017*

"Culture and cultural heritage belong there as the most vivid expression of the strength of Europeans' common identity and values. They should play a crucial role in the efforts to make the European Union more united, stronger and more democratic. For this, we want to strengthen our European Agenda for Culture and develop a strong successor to the Creative Europe programme, with ambitious goals and substantially more funding".

*Tibor Navracsics
7 December, 2017*

"The Commission's paper on education and culture is in many ways the best and most ambitious strategy paper that has been written for years at EU level on both policies. The Commission recognises that fostering a European identity must be more proactive and can only succeed through education and culture".

*Petra Kammerevert
14 November, 2017*

"It is now understood that without a cultural and educational dimension in European politics and without considerable investment in Europe's defining values communicating with the world and in the riches of cultural diversity, Europe will not be a player on the world stage".

*Silvia Costa
7 December, 2017*

Culture Action Europe is a cross-sectoral European network giving voice to 80,000 stakeholders of the cultural sector through its 150 members from 27 countries.

Culture Action Europe thanks its members, specifically those present during the European Cultural Forum in Milan, who contributed their ideas to the formation of these points. These included: the Budapest Observatory, the European Choral Association-Europa Cantat, the European Music Council, the European Cultural Foundation, the European Theatre Convention, CUMEDIAE, the Network of European Museum Organisations, Michael Culture, Syndeac, PEARLE*, IETM - International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts, and the European League of Institutes of the Arts.