



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Directorate-General for Education and Culture

# Designing the future programme of cultural cooperation for the European Union after 2006

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



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**Foreword by Mrs Viviane Reding,  
Member of the European Commission**

European action in the cultural field should first and foremost encourage mutual knowledge and dialogue between Europeans. This seems to me more essential than ever on the eve of a reunited Europe. The enlargements of the next few years will strengthen the need for cultural cooperation in an area which will eventually include 500 million people, but also pose new challenges for the European Union: what forms of cooperation should the Union support, and with what resources?

The Community programmes for encouraging cultural cooperation have for years contributed to establishing a European cultural area, highlighting a specific dimension to the cultural life of our countries. The *Culture 2000* programme is now open to the candidate countries and the countries of the European Economic Area: operators in 30 countries can thus present cultural cooperation projects within this framework.

In order to ensure the continuity of Community cultural action, the European Commission has proposed that the programme be extended until the end of 2006, i.e. by two years. In order to prepare a new programme for the subsequent period, we need to determine more precisely the expectations of cultural players. The proposal for this future programme, which should be discussed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, should be presented to them in good time by the Commission.

The Forum on cultural cooperation in Europe, which we organised in November 2001, and our ongoing discussions with players in the European cultural sector and the other European institutions, have made valuable headway. We must now broaden the debate and turn to specific considerations.

It is an important aspect for the future of our Europe on which we need your opinion. I therefore hope that many of you will participate in depth in this consultation.

*Viviane REDING*

## I. Introduction

The European Commission is using this document to expand upon the consultation it launched in 2001 in the field of cooperation and European cultural action. This is a new stage working towards the new-generation programme to be launched in 2006-2007.

The *Culture 2000* programme finishes at the end of 2004. However, the European Commission is to submit a proposal to extend the programme for two years. This extension will provide the time necessary for an in-depth discussion aimed at preparing proposals on the future of European cooperation in the cultural field which the Commission intends to present towards the end of 2003. The future Community programme for cultural cooperation which will succeed *Culture 2000* should be adopted by the European institutions before the beginning of 2006 in order to start on 1 January 2007; a year is necessary for introducing the new system and launching calls for proposals.

The Commission proposals will be based on the achievements of the *Culture 2000* programme, the evaluation thereof, which should be available in the spring of 2003, the results of ongoing discussions between the European institutions and cultural operators and the in-depth public consultation on the future of cultural action in the European Union, begun at the end of 2001, which will be rounded off with the results of this publication.

This consultation relates to the guidelines referred to in Chapter III, concerning areas of cultural cooperation and the types of operation towards which Community support should be geared, categories of players and operators capable of carrying out such operations and possible procedures for Community intervention.

Chapters IV and V set out the scope of the European Union in cultural matters, and the main results obtained so far through the programmes.

The information provided in these sections is necessarily succinct. A list of Web addresses for further information on all measures or policies mentioned in this document is attached.

This document is not protected by copyright and may be copied and distributed without restriction, but we would ask you to quote the source for greater clarity. It may be downloaded in the eleven official languages of the EU from the DG EAC website at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html)

## II. The context of the consultation

The Treaty on European Union (Article 151) sets precise limits on action by the Union in the cultural field: the aim is to encourage cultural cooperation between the Member States, supplementing action by them while respecting the principle of subsidiarity. The Union should therefore only intervene in the cultural field in so far as the aims of the action envisaged may be better achieved at Community level than at Member State level, for instance with projects with a true European dimension. For further details see Chapter IV.

The first European cultural programmes had been thought up in the context of a Europe of 12 Member States. For a body two or three times bigger as a result of the next enlargement, without a guarantee at this stage of a consequent increase in the budget for cultural action, it is essential to rethink the objectives, the areas of action and the methods of intervention for future Community instruments.

In order to identify the main questions for this consultation, we started with the elements already available. During the first phase of consultation, a significant amount of work was carried out by the Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and some Member States in close cooperation with the cultural environments concerned, including:

- Work within the Council of Ministers: since the Belgian Presidency in the second half of 2001, the Ministers for Culture of the Member States (sometimes together with their colleagues from the candidate countries) have debated within the Council the place of culture in the construction of Europe, and have decided to adopt a work plan to define their priorities for discussion: these include the European added value and mobility in the cultural sector.

References: Council Resolution of 21 January 2002 on the role of culture in the development of the European Union, OJ C 32, 5 February 2002 - Council Resolution of 25 June 2002 on a new work plan on European cooperation in the field of culture, OJ C 162, 6 July 2002 - Council Resolution of 19 December 2002 implementing the work plan for European cooperation in the field of culture: European added value and mobility of persons and circulation of works in the cultural sector, OJ C 13, 18 January 2003.

- Work by the European Parliament: Parliament has provided guidelines in a number of reports and resolutions: for instance, the resolution on cultural cooperation in Europe, approved in September

2001 on the basis of the report by Mr Giorgio Ruffolo, set out a number of options for the future of cultural action. On the initiative of the European Parliament, a new budget line was established in order to test some of the ideas developed, such as establishing a monitoring centre on European culture, or strengthening cultural cooperation between the Member States themselves (budget line B3-2007).

References: European Parliament resolution on cultural cooperation in the European Union, 5 September 2001, OJ C 72E/2002, 21 March 2002; European Parliament resolution on the implementation of the "Culture 2000" programme, 28 February 2002, on the basis of the report by Mr Vasco Graça Moura, OJ C 284E/2002; European Parliament resolution on the importance and dynamics of the theatre and the performing arts in an enlarged Europe, approved in October 2002 on the basis of the report by Mrs Genevieve Fraisse (this resolution has not yet been published in the OJ, but is available on the European Parliament Website, address on page 13 of this document);

- the conclusions of the Forum on cultural cooperation in Europe organised in November 2001 by the European Commission, bringing together 250 cultural players (cultural operators, political decision-makers, administrators, artistes, etc.) on major themes such as European creativity, cultural networks and the creative industries (information available on our Website, see page 13 of this document);

- the conclusions of the "Music in Europe" conference organised by the Belgian Presidency and the European Commission in October 2001 (information available on our Website, see page 13 of this document).

### III. Themes for the consultation

Improving the Union's support mechanisms for cultural cooperation, particularly in the context of a cultural area extended to include 25 Member States, involves better clarification of:

- a/ the overall aim of Community action;
- b/ specific aims;
- c/ the instruments needed;
- d/ the cultural fields covered;
- e/ promoters, partners and beneficiaries from the action;
- f/ any machinery for cooperation on the political priorities of the future programme.

**During the work referred to in Chapter II, converging guidelines were laid down. The main outlines are set out below. The Commission wishes to submit these guidelines to this consultation and calls for comments on each one, including the operational resources for implementing them:**

1. Guidelines on the tasks of the European Union:

The task entrusted to the Union in the cultural field relates essentially to transnational cultural cooperation. This requires joint expertise in the structures and development of cultural cooperation in Europe.

2. Guidelines on the European added value of the action:

EU action in the cultural field calls for more precise objectives with a high European added value, such as:

- strengthening the mobility of artists and of professionals in the cultural sector;<sup>1</sup>
- promoting the circulation of works;
- supporting intercultural dialogue and exchanges.

3. Guidelines on the visibility of the action:

Greater visibility is necessary in order to make EU citizens aware of the role of Europe in cultural cooperation, the development of exchanges and the promotion of cultural diversity.

4. Guidelines on the nature of action:

It is desirable for action by the European Union in the cultural field to promote sustainable cooperation with multiplier effects rather than ephemeral projects which have little link with reality and the needs of the cultural sector. This promotion could in particular be

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<sup>1</sup> See in this regard the study on the mobility and free movement of people and products in the cultural sector, carried out for the Commission in 2002 and available at the following Website: [http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/mobility\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/mobility_en.pdf)

assisted by the creation of European cooperation "platforms", i.e. intermediary structures with the ability to incite and encourage cooperation and support operators of various sizes.

5. Guidelines on inter-institutional cooperation:

These would involve promoting improved synergy between cooperation projects developed by Member States on the one hand and by the European Union on the other. This cooperation would include emblematic measures promoting the feeling of belonging to a single community, such as the European Capitals of Culture.

6. Guidelines on the European cultural industries:

In addition, the music and publishing industries could be taken specifically into account in Community action.

## IV. Scope

The European Union has had competence in cultural matters since the Treaty of Maastricht (Article 151). This is complementary to that of the national or regional authorities, with each State taking charge of its own cultural policy. Community cultural action is not binding; on the contrary, the aim is to supplement and support national policies without seeking to harmonise the legislation of the Member States. The final part of paragraph 5 of Article 151 particularly stresses this point. The Article also lays down that actions in the cultural field shall be adopted by Parliament and the Council in accordance with the co-decision procedure, with an additional condition: unanimity is required in the Council. The Committee of the Regions is also to be consulted.

Community cultural action must comply with three fundamental concepts: respect for cultural diversity, promoting the shared cultural heritage among Europeans, and cooperation between the Member States. There should therefore be intervention on a European scale: if cultural action can be encouraged more effectively and logically at local or national level, it should not be included in the European Union's field of action.<sup>2</sup>

Community action is based on cooperation. It complements and supports action by the Member States in order to:

- improve knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of European peoples;
- conserve and safeguard cultural heritage of European significance;
- support cultural exchanges and artistic and literary creativity.

Since the beginning of 2000, the framework programme *Culture 2000* has replaced the preceding measures for a duration of five years (2000-2004) with a total budget of 167 million euro. The aim of the programme is to promote the creation of a common cultural area for Europeans and to encourage cooperation between cultural players in order to develop intercultural dialogue, knowledge of

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<sup>2</sup> The resolution adopted by the Council in December 2002 proposes in this regard a standard profile for European intervention: it should tend to encourage cooperation between the Member States and have a clearly multilateral character; the aims of this intervention should be better achieved and should have more effect at Community level than at Member State level; their target, audience and main beneficiaries should be European citizens; these measures should be sustainable and contribute to the long-term development of cooperation, integration and cultures in Europe, help to improve knowledge of other cultures and have a high profile and easy accessibility.

history and culture, the transnational dissemination of culture, cultural diversity, creativity, promotion of heritage and socio-economic and social integration.

A number of the current programme's central aims derive naturally from the Treaty and will remain essential to the next programme, particularly the contribution to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States while respecting their national and regional diversity, and the highlighting of the common heritage. To achieve these aims, the programmes need to be designed as effectively as possible with a view to permitting better mutual knowledge of cultures, as well as the mobility of artists and their works.

## V. Situation

### 1. **Culture 2000: what types of measures?**

#### Specific annual measures (Action 1)

*Duration:* one year. *European aid:* between 50 000 and 150 000 euro per project. Carried out in partnership or in the form of a network, these measures should involve operators from at least *three* participating countries. They should be of an innovative or experimental nature.

#### Multiannual measures under transnational agreements ("Action 2")

*Duration:* two years minimum to three years maximum. *European aid:* up to 300 000 euro per project per year. Supported by networks of operators, organisations or cultural institutions, these measures should involve co-organisers from at least *five* participating countries. They are aimed at promoting sustainable cooperation through highly structured, high-quality projects with a large European dimension and should form part of multiannual transnational cooperation agreements.

#### Special cultural events ("Action 3")

*Duration:* depending on the event. *European aid:* between 200 000 and 1 million euro per year for the "European Capitals of Culture" and generally between 150 000 and 300 000 euro per year maximum for other events such as the award of European prizes, European heritage laboratories, etc. Events supported in this context should be emblematic and be on a European scale. In this context, particular support is given to the European Capital of Culture and the European Cultural Month, measures to encourage cultural dialogue, conferences to discuss questions of common cultural interest, the organisation of innovative cultural events which are high-profile and accessible to citizens in general, measures to give recognition to and enhance European artistic talents by means of, among other things, European prizes, and projects for the conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of exceptional importance which deserves to be classified as "European heritage laboratories".

### 2. **Operational support for European cultural organisations**

Alongside the *Culture 2000* programme, in the context of administrative appropriations from the general budget the European Union may award grants to cover the management and operational

costs of organisations working in European cultural interests; this comes under line A3042 (in 2002, 27 organisations were supported in this way with a total budget of 4 228 000 euro).

Bearing in mind that part A of section 3 of the Community budget is set to disappear from the 2004 budget onwards, the question of the future of this line has arisen. The idea of a special legal basis to permit this type of support to continue is being examined. The Commission is to present a proposal for a Decision along these lines in the coming months.

### **3. Cultural action in figures**

Between 1990 and 2000, the European Union supported 2 500 projects with a cultural dimension, involving 12 000 operators. Given the large number of applications for support (due to the variety of potential beneficiaries and the wide range of objectives) and the limits on budget resources, it must also be noted that a large number of projects could not be accepted by the European cultural programmes.

700 projects were supported from among the approximately 2 000 submitted during the first three years of the *Culture 2000* programme. These cooperation projects involve on average five operators from the various countries taking part in the programme. Some 600 of the projects supported are annual measures.

## VI. How to take part in this consultation

The consultation period begins on 10 April 2003 and ends on 10 July 2003.

We invite you to send us your replies using the online answer form available on the DG EAC website:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html)

All data concerning natural persons will remain anonymous. Organisations are invited to identify themselves.

You can also send us your replies in writing to the following address:

"Consultation on the new cultural programme"

European Commission – DG EAC

B-100 - 06/11

B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

**We encourage you to use the online reply form.**

**We can then carry out a more detailed and more useful analysis of your replies.**

## VII. Further information

Culture 2000 programme

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html)

Forum of 21-22 November 2001 on cultural cooperation in Europe

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/forum\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/forum_en.html)

Culture portal for the European Union

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/>

The portal to European Union law

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex>

Council of the European Union

<http://ue.eu.int>

European Parliament

<http://www.europarl.eu.int>

Committee of the Regions of the European Union

<http://www.cor.eu.int>