

There have been **ministerial resolutions** and other calls for European cultural initiatives since the 1970s, but it was not until 1991 that the EU officially began to deal with culture : under the **Maastricht treaty and its Article 151**, the Union "shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore." EU initiatives "shall be aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their actions". The aim is to encourage the creation of a "European cultural area", as the European Parliament underlined in its **resolution of 5 September 2001** on cultural cooperation in Europe.

Cultural cooperation in Europe is encouraged by means of the **Culture 2000** programme but also by specific actions financed by other European programmes. These involve European cooperation in the broad sense, since the majority of the programmes are open to the Member States of the European Economic Area and to the applicant countries. This cooperation also plays an important role in the relations that the EU maintains with **rest of the world** (third countries or international organisations).

TITLE XII (ex Title IX)

Culture

Article 151 (ex Article 128)

1. The Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.

2. Action by the Community shall be aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting and supplementing their action in the following areas:

— improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples;

— conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance;

— non-commercial cultural exchanges;

— artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector.

3. The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organisations in the sphere of culture, in particular the Council of Europe.

4. The Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of this Treaty, in particular in order to respect and to promote the diversity of its cultures.

5. In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article, the Council:

— acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 and after consulting the Committee of the Regions, shall adopt incentive measures, excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States. The Council shall act unanimously throughout the procedure referred to in Article 251;

— acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 14.7.2004

COM(2004) 469 final

2004/0150 (COD)

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Culture 2007 programme (2007-2013)

(presented by the Commission)

{SEC(2004) 954}

3.2 The specific objectives of the new programme

The specific objectives identified below offer a real European added value. This means that the pursuit of these objectives by Community actions is fully justified in so far as they could not be achieved by action at national level.¹⁷ The projects and actions chosen to benefit from Community support will all have to meet at least two of them.

3.2.1 Supporting the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector

The information provided to professionals on the social, regulatory and tax provisions applicable to a short or long-term stay in another country is still frequently too fragmentary. In order to encourage mobility for these professionals, it therefore appears essential to promote the establishment of networks, move towards greater coordination and promote the dissemination of knowledge and information.

Two sorts of mobility will be encouraged by Community action in the field of culture: mobility for the provision or establishment of cultural services (e.g. tours); mobility with the aim of training, experiencing other cultures or artistic practices, exchanging experiences.

3.2.2 Encouraging the transnational circulation of works of art and artistic and cultural products

Circulating works of art, material or otherwise, and artistic and cultural products beyond national borders involves extra costs for the organiser: transport costs, insurance, prospecting new markets, greater effort to publicise works or artists who may be less well-known abroad, investment of time in getting to know the market (host structures, regulations and administrative formalities, etc.). This objective corresponds to those of the Treaty (Articles 3q and 151) and responds to certain basic Community tasks (completion of the internal market, strengthening European integration through the creation of a common cultural area).

3.2.3 Promoting intercultural dialogue

As an exchange based on openness and equality between cultures, intercultural dialogue leads to mutual enrichment and a common search for shared values and interpretations. It can also play a fundamental role, particularly in integrating new Europeans from a range of cultures.

2004/0150 (COD)

Proposal for a

**DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
establishing the Culture 2007 programme (2007-2013)**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,
Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the first indent of Article 151(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,²⁰

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,²¹

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

(1) It is essential to promote cooperation and cultural exchanges in order to respect and promote the diversity of cultures in Europe and improve knowledge among European citizens of European cultures other than their own. Promoting cultural cooperation and diversity thus helps to make European citizenship a tangible reality by encouraging direct participation by European citizens in the integration process.

(2) Culture should contribute to improving the external visibility of the European Union by promoting its cultural diversity and the common dimensions of its cultures.

(3) For citizens to give their full support to, and participate fully in, European integration, greater emphasis should be placed on their common cultural values and roots as a key element of their identity and their membership of a society founded on freedom, equity, democracy, tolerance and solidarity;

(4) It is also necessary to promote active citizenship and strengthen the fight against exclusion in all its forms, including racism and xenophobia.

²⁰ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

²¹ OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

Article 3

Objectives of the programme

1. The general objective of the programme shall be to enhance the cultural area common to Europeans through the development of cultural cooperation between the creators, cultural players and cultural institutions of the countries taking part in the programme, with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

2. The specific objectives of the programme are:

(a) to promote the transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector;

(b) to encourage the transnational circulation of works and cultural and artistic products;

(c) to encourage intercultural dialogue.

Article 4

The programme's fields of action

1. The objectives of the programme shall be pursued through the implementation of the following measures, as described in the annex:

(a) Support for cultural actions

- Cooperation focal points
- Cooperation measures
- Special measures