

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

It will be advisable to avoid having cities from the same geographic area two years running, and sometimes a capital city will be chosen, at other times a provincial city. Specific anniversaries might be taken into account.

There may well be several candidatures at any one time, and this could give rise to frustration if cities have been chosen for many years ahead. It is therefore of great interest to continue with the European Cultural Month. A year or two of experience will be needed before its success can be judged. It should receive full support as a major European cultural event and should be thought of in the long term as a worthwhile alternative to the European City of Culture, which could be placed just as well in a Community Member State as in a non-Community country. It would be useful to review the situation after "Europe in Graz 1993".

Occasionally there might be twin Cities of Culture in a particular year, when two cities having affinities might want to harmonize their activities. Similarly, two cities might exceptionally want to share a year, each taking a different time period.

Decisions taken now about European Cities of Culture after 1996 should not prejudice any decisions which might need to be taken later about a second operation in the year concerned.

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

ANNEX

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS
OF THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
CONCERNING THE CHOICE OF EUROPEAN CITIES OF CULTURE
AFTER 1996
AND THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL MONTH

The European City of Culture operation is now well established. The European Cultural Month will take place for the first time this year (Europe in Cracow 1992).

The conclusions of 18 May 1990 noted that a first cycle of designations of Cities of Culture among the European Community Member States would be completed in 1996. It was decided that after 1996 not only Member States of the European Community but other democratic European States should be eligible to designate a city as European City of Culture. It was stated that the first designations for the period after 1996 could take place from 1992 onwards.

In making these first designations the Ministers considered it appropriate, given that the field of choice of European City of Culture will be much wider after 1996, to set out some criteria for their own guidance and that of interested European States.

Without making hard and fast rules, they propose to alternate between current Member States (which will have had a City already) and other European States. Flexibility could be allowed between one category and the other for States which are expected to become Community members in the short term.

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

The Council and the Ministers instructed the Committee on Cultural Affairs to continue to follow this matter and noted with interest that a second meeting of experts would be held in the near future.

CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL PATRONAGE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council and the Ministers took note of the Presidency's report on the Conference on business sponsorship of the arts in Europe which was held in Lisbon on 2 and 3 April 1992 under the aegis of the Presidency and of the Commission.

It should be noted that the Council and the Ministers had chosen cultural patronage as one of the priority cultural actions in their conclusions of 27 May 1988.

The Council and the Ministers noted that the guidelines prepared at the Conference would be carried forward under the United Kingdom Presidency.

COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

The Council heard a progress report from the Presidency concerning copyright and neighbouring rights in order to include the cultural aspects in the process of the harmonization of copyright and neighbouring rights which is continuing in the context of completion of the internal market.

The Council agreed to follow the development of this matter closely, particularly its cultural aspects.

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

With this in mind, they instructed the Committee on Cultural Affairs to examine the Commission communication, particularly with a view to a colloquy of Ministers announced by the United Kingdom delegation for 7 September 1992 in Birmingham.

CAMPAIGN FOR RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF BOOKS AND READING

The Council and the Ministers took note of the progress report which the Committee on Cultural Affairs had submitted to them on the campaign for raising public awareness of books and reading, which had been cited as one of the actions to be developed in their Resolution of 18 May 1989 concerning the promotion of books and reading.

The Council and the Ministers thanked the Danish delegation for its offer to inaugurate the campaign in 1993 and welcomed the intention to hold a meeting of national officials and representatives of the book sector in the second half of 1992 for making concrete arrangements for this campaign.

CONSERVATION OF ACID PAPER

The Council and the Ministers took note of the report submitted to them by the Committee on Cultural Affairs on the conservation of acid paper and the use of permanent paper.

It should be noted that pursuant to Action 6 of the Resolution on books and reading of 18 May 1989, a meeting of experts organized by the Netherlands Presidency and the Commission had been held on the subject at The Hague from 17 to 19 December 1991.

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

At the close of the discussion, the Council instructed COREPER to continue examining the two proposals and to report back to it at its next meeting.

EUROPEAN CITIES OF CULTURE AFTER 1996 - EUROPEAN CULTURAL MONTH

After adopting the conclusions set out in the Annex, the Ministers for Culture signified their agreement to the designation of Thessaloniki as European City for Culture for 1997.

As regards the European Cities of Culture for the following years and the European Cultural Month, the Ministers decided to examine applications at their next meeting.

NEW PROSPECTS FOR COMMUNITY CULTURAL ACTION

The Council and the Ministers held an initial exchange of views on the Commission communication concerning new prospects for Community cultural action. The purpose of the communication is to stimulate discussion, on the basis of the "acquis" and with the frontier-free area in view. It is aimed at the adoption of a general reference framework on the basis on which the Commission can subsequently submit specific proposals and programmes.

At the close of the discussion, the Council and the Ministers noted that the Commission communication formed a good basis for discussion to enable them to define the future broad lines of and priorities for Community cultural action.

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED TELEVISION SERVICES IN EUROPE

Following introductory statements by Mr PANDOLFI and Mr DONDELINGER on the proposal for an action plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe which the Commission has just submitted, the Council held a discussion on the proposal.

It should be noted that the purpose of the action plan is to ensure the accelerated development of the market for advanced television services by satellite and cable based on the D2-MAC standard, particularly in its 16/9 format, and the HD-MAC standard. The plan is proposed for the period ending on 31 December 1996.

At the close of the discussion, the Council:

- noted that this proposal was being examined by the Working Party on Telecommunications which, in view of the importance of its cultural aspects, had been enlarged to include the Counsellors responsible for Culture;
- agreed to resume its examination of the cultural aspects of the proposal at a forthcoming meeting.

CULTURAL OBJECTS

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of two texts prepared by the Presidency relating to the proposals for a Regulation and a Directive under examination.

The discussion made it possible to close the gap considerably between delegations' positions on certain issues still unresolved.

Ireland:

Mr Tom KITT

Minister of State of the Department
of the Taoiseach with special
responsibility for Arts and Culture,
Women's Affairs and European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Rocco Antonio CANGELOSI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister with responsibility for
Cultural Affairs

Netherlands:

Mrs Hedy D'ANCONA

Minister for Social Security, Health
and Culture

Portugal:

Mr Pedro Miguel SANTANA LOPES

State Secretary for Culture

Mrs Maria José NOGUEIRA PINTO

Deputy State Secretary to the State
Secretary for Culture

United Kingdom:

Mr David MELLOR

Minister for the National Heritage

.

. .

Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Member

18.V.92
thy/AM/ac

The governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Hugo WECKX

Minister for Culture and Brussels
Affairs (Flemish Community)

Mr Bernd GENTGES

Minister for Education and Training,
Culture, Youth and Scientific Research
(German-speaking Community)

Mr Bernard ANSELME

Chairman of the Executive of the
French-speaking Community and Minister
with responsibility for Culture, the
Budget, the Public Service,
Communications, Sport and Tourism

Denmark:

Mrs Grethe ROSTBØLL

Minister for Culture

Germany:

Mr Hans ZEHETMAIR

Free State of Bavaria:
Minister for Education, the Sciences
and the Arts

Greece:

Mrs Anna PSAROUDA-BENAKI

Minister for Culture

Spain:

Mr Jordi SOLE TURA

Minister for Culture

France:

Mr Jean CADET

Deputy Permanent Representative

Bruxelles, le 18 mai 1992

Note BIO (92) 129 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

433

CONSEIL CULTURE DU 18 MAI
(O. Nette)

Le Conseil Culture a délibéré notamment de trois sujets de substance:

- le programme d'action en faveur de la Télévision à Haute Définition;
- l'exportation de biens culturels et leur restitution en cas d'exportation illégale;
- les perspectives de l'action culturelle future de la Communauté.

Pour ce qui est de la HDTV, le commissaire responsable de la culture et de l'information, M. Jean DONDELINGER a insisté sur l'enjeu culturel que représente cette nouvelle télévision. La création d'une nouvelle norme, d'une nouvelle qualité technique ne sera acceptée par le consommateur qu'à la condition de pouvoir regarder sur son téléviseur de nouveaux programmes utilisant la nouvelle technique.

Le débat au Conseil a fait clairement apparaître qu'aucun Etat membre ne conteste la nécessité d'un soutien à la production de programmes. Au contraire, plusieurs délégations ont affirmé que les 25% alloués à ce volet du plan d'action (total proposé par la Commission: 850 Mécus) étaient le minimum. En revanche, il n'y a pas d'accord à ce stade sur le montant total.

Plusieurs délégations ont également mis en relief la nécessité de soutenir en particulier les petits producteurs indépendants, et de protéger les intérêts des groupes linguistiques dont la langue n'a qu'une diffusion limitée.

"Une convergence remarquable": c'est ainsi que la Présidence a résumé le débat sur l'exportation des biens culturels et de leur restitution en cas d'exportation illégale. M. DONDELINGER a qualifié l'avancée du Conseil de "pas décisif".

Les délégations ont notamment rapproché leurs positions sur la définition du bien culturel, sur le principe de coopération administrative ainsi que sur les délais de prescription. Le Président du Conseil a déclaré lors de la conférence de presse finale qu'il espérait arriver à une position commune encore sous Présidence Portugaise.

Le Comité des Affaires Culturelles examinera la proposition de la Commission relative aux perspectives de l'action culturelle future - qui sera régi par l'article 128 du Traité de Maastricht - en vue d'adopter jusqu'à fin 1992 ces nouvelles orientations. La Présidence a qualifié les propositions de la Commission d'"excellente base de travail". La Grande Bretagne, future Présidence a annoncé quelle organisera un colloque à ce sujet en autonome.

Amitiés
B. Dethomas



