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European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

9 October 1978

DOCUMENT 325/78

INTERIM REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Political Affairs Committee

on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to
the Council (Doc. 497/77) concerning Community action in the cultural sector

Rapporteur: Mr G. AMADEI

1.2.1

PE 54.545/fin.

By letter of 16 January 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities (optionally) requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning Community action in the cultural sector (Doc. 497/77), embodying a draft Council resolution.

On 19 January 1978 the European Parliament referred this document to the Political Affairs Committee as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

At its meeting on 26 January 1978 the Political Affairs Committee appointed Mr Amadei rapporteur. At its meeting of 25 September 1978 the Committee decided to draw up an interim report.

At the same meeting the present report was examined and adopted unanimously.

Present: Mr Bertrand, Chairman; Mr Brugha, Vice-chairman; Mr Amadei, rapporteur; Mr Berkhouwer, Mr Jahn, Mr Klepsch, Mr Mitchell, Mr Rippon, Mr Ryan and Mr Sieglerschmidt.

The explanatory statement will be given orally in plenary session.

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

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The Political Affairs Committee hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council concerning Community action in the cultural sector

The European Parliament,

- conscious that:

- (a) the culture of our continent, in its richness and diversity, constitutes an essential element of European identity and helps to make a reality of the building of Europe for the citizens of its Member States;
- (b) the European cultural heritage must be adequately safeguarded, properly exploited and carefully fostered,

and that for these reasons the Community has a duty to undertake Community action in the cultural sector;

- convinced that all obstacles to the free movement throughout the Community of the various manifestations of culture must be removed and that a start must be made on the solution of the economic and social problems arising in this sector;
- referring to the emphasis laid on culture in the declarations by the Heads of State or Government at the Hague Summit of 1969 and the Paris Summit of 1972 as well as in the 'Declaration on the European Identity' adopted by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1973;
- noting that the Tindemans report on European union makes numerous references to culture as one of the assets of the joint heritage of the peoples of Europe and as an instrument for awakening in the Community's citizens a deeper awareness of their common destiny and their solidarity;
- convinced that the Treaty establishing the Community provides a necessary and sufficient legal basis for Community action in the cultural sector;

- recalling its earlier resolutions of:
 - (a) 13 May 1974 'on measures to protect the European cultural heritage' (Doc. 54/74)¹,
 - (b) 8 March 1976 'on the formation of a European Community youth orchestra' (Doc. 537/75)²,
 - (c) and another of the same date 'on Community action in the cultural sector' (Doc. 542/75)³;
- having regard to the communication from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council of 22 November 1977 concerning Community action in the cultural sector, containing a draft Council resolution⁴;
- having been consulted by the Council of the European Communities (Doc.497/77),
- having regard to the report of its Political Affairs Committee and the opinion of its Committee on Budgets (Doc. 325/78),
- 1. Approves the guidelines for Community action in the cultural sector which it regards as an overall programme on which action should be taken without delay;
- 2. Emphasizes the need to provide adequate funds to carry through this Community action;
- 3. Urges the Commission to continue the various activities already undertaken in this sector in line with the wishes expressed by Parliament in the resolutions referred to above.
- 4. Invites the Commission to accord priority, within the framework of Community action, to measures likely to promote, directly or indirectly, improvement in the social position of cultural workers, to the advantage of social progress, also taking into account the social consequences of technological progress which frequently reduces the level of employment and resources of the authors and interpreters of cultural works;
- 5. Feels that the problems of the audio-visual arts, such as the cinema, which are expressions of a people's culture, should also be considered within the framework of Community action in the cultural sector, in particular in the light of the cultural and social objectives of this action;

¹ OJ No. C 62, 30.5.1974, p. 5
² OJ No. C 79, 5.4.1976, p. 8
³ OJ No. C 79, 5.4.1976, p. 6
⁴ OJ No. C 34, 10.2.1978, p. 2

6. Is of the opinion that, for the better performance of the various activities constituting Community action in this field, comparative information should be obtained on the social situation of cultural workers and requests the Commission to instruct its Statistical Office to undertake the necessary work;
7. Regrets that the Commission has not taken action on the request expressed in its resolution of 13 May 1974 for the creation of a European Fund for monuments and sites, and hopes that the task which was to be assigned to that Fund will be assumed by the European Investment Bank which should grant reduced-interest loans to Member States, local Communities and private owners for the conservation of monuments and sites;
8. Calls on the Commission to submit without delay formal proposals to the Council to enable the various Community action measures to be put into effect in accordance with the priorities proposed above;
9. Reserves the right to take a position on each of these proposals when it is consulted on them by the Council;
10. Invites its Political Affairs Committee to follow closely the progress of Community action in the cultural sector, and, if necessary, to submit a report;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Bertrand, chairman of the Political Affairs Committee

Luxembourg, 6 October 1978

Subject: Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning Community action in the cultural sector (Doc. 497/77)

Dear Mr Bertrand,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above communication at its meeting of 2/3 October 1978.

The introduction to the Commission's communication specifies various options for the future, the majority of which are not of direct interest to the Committee on Budgets. Two points, however, namely the harmonization of taxation in the cultural sector (including the harmonization of VAT on works of art) and a possible European campaign to combat the theft of cultural goods, will fall within the terms of reference of the Committee on Budgets if the Commission submits detailed proposals. For the moment the committee simply takes note of the general declaration of intent.

As regards the budgetary implications of the Commission proposals for 1978 and subsequent years, it should be remembered that, following the adoption of an amendment moved by your committee and approved by the Council during the 1978 budgetary procedure, an amount of 180,000 EUA was entered against Article 393 'expenditure on cultural action' in the 1978 budget. These appropriations are intended, in addition to implementing the Treaty in the cultural sector and on the basis of resolutions of the European Parliament¹, to finance measures for the protection of the architectural heritage and for the promotion of cultural exchanges.

¹ Resolution of 13 May 1974 (OJ No. C 62, 30.5.1974)
Resolution of 8 March 1976 (OJ No. C 79, 5.4.1976)

The Commission proposes the following breakdown of appropriations for 1978 :

	<u>EUA</u>
- Promotion of specialized training for restorers of historic buildings and sites	56,000
- Promotion of nuclear conservation	30,000
- Development of cultural exchanges	50,000
- Pilot scheme : 'European rooms' in museums	<u>44,000</u>
	180,000

The details given regarding the method of calculation are adequate (including the particulars of the rates of remuneration for the staff needed to evaluate projects carried out within the framework of cultural exchanges such as 'Europalia' and other international festivals). However, information supplied for the subsequent years is meagre in contrast. The Committee on Budgets does not believe that it is impossible to produce a breakdown of appropriations based on estimated figures. If the Commission is already in a position to specify amounts of 250,000 EUA for 1979 and 300,000 EUA for 1980 it must also be in a position to explain these figures. The Commission is therefore requested to produce a breakdown for these overall figures without delay and to make it available to the parliamentary committees responsible.

As regards budgetary control (point 5 of annex I), the Committee on Budgets cannot accept the statement:

'General financial control system. Since the number of contracting parties is relatively small, this system will be easy to apply.'

Parliament has frequently expressed its misgivings about the difficulties that have arisen in connection with the provision of grants to establishments not subject to direct supervision by the Institutions. It is nevertheless proposed here to grant financial support to:

- the nuclear research centre in Grenoble (60,000 EUA),
- the European centre for the study and preservation of the urban and architectural heritage (College of Europe, Bruges) (16,500 EUA),
- the International Centre for the study of the conservation and restoration of cultural property (University of Rome) (21,500 EUA),
- the European Centre for training craftsmen in the conservation of the architectural heritage (Venice) (18,000 EUA).

This means that further independent institutions will be receiving Community funds without being subject to any form of direct accountability.

The Commission is requested to report to the Control Subcommittee on the administration of Article 393 during the 1976 and 1977 financial years and to notify it of all the problems that arose.

Subject to these reservations and with the proviso that the Committee on Budgets is notified of, and consulted on all new proposals in the cultural sector, the Committee on Budgets hereby delivers a favourable opinion on the Commission communication and draft Council resolution. It asks the Political Affairs Committee to take account of the views expressed by the Committee on Budgets in drawing up its report.

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(sgd.) Erwin LANGE

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Bangemann, vice-chairman; Lord Bessborough, Lord Bruce of Donington, Mrs Dahlerup, Mr Schreiber, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Shaw and Mr Spinelli.