



EUROPEAN CITIZENS AND CULTURAL ACTORS SAY: “SUPPORTING CULTURE IS SUPPORTING EUROPE!”

25 March, 2019

Dear XXX,

Culture is the foundation of European societies and European unity, underpinning our sense of belonging and fostering democratic participation, providing an enormous economic asset, as well as enhancing community cohesion, intercultural understanding and solidarity. Strong evidence exists of the impacts of culture across policy fields. [The Value and Values of Culture impact review](#) has substantiated [20 reasons why](#) culture merits financial support in the next 2020 EU budget.

EU cultural action, particularly under the Creative Europe programme, has been an essential source of exchange, capacity-building, and cross-border cooperation for the European cultural sector. In addition, the multifaceted nature of EU cultural action therefore requires both a proper financial commitment to Creative Europe, and an acknowledgement of cultural crossovers with other fields of EU action.

Concerned European citizens, cultural operators, artists, policy-makers, researchers and students have already supported Culture Action Europe’s campaign calling on the European Commission and Parliament to recognise the EU added value of cultural investment, by:

- **Doubling the budget available for culture** in absolute terms, given that the cultural sub-programme of Creative Europe is heavily over-subscribed and suffers from severe under-investment, despite proven efficacy and relevance¹
- **Ensuring that 1% of the budget of each EU policy field is allocated to culture**, given its positive impact on domains as varied as health and well-being, social cohesion and equality, education, promotion of democratic principles, external relations, growth and jobs, research and innovation.

The proposals of the European Commission in the New European Agenda for Culture and for the next cycle of Creative Europe set ambitious objectives for culture in social, economic and external domains. These agendas tackle key challenges for the future, such as the digital transition, the need to build synergies between culture, education and R+D+i, all crucial areas to ensure the common European assets of tomorrow. Proper financing is required to fund this new approach.

The European Parliament has taken on board the need for adequate financing for the cultural sector, proposing a doubling of the Creative Europe programme budget in their Interim Report on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027.

Building on the [Culture Action Europe MFF position](#), we strongly support sectoral initiatives, such as the open letter to President Juncker, signed by 70 organisations from across Europe’s cultural and creative sectors and the IETM’s position calling for an EU programme for culture in the post-2020 cycle with strengthened financial allocation and, at least, a double budget increase.

We now ask you to lend your support to these proposals to allow the cultural sector to prosper through a reinforced Creative Europe budget and recognition of culture’s wide impact.

Yours sincerely,

XXX

¹ [REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Mid-term evaluation of the Creative Europe programme \(2014-2020\)](#)

CULTURE ACTION EUROPE (CAE)

Culture Action Europe aisbl (CAE) is the major European network of cultural networks, organisations, artists, activists, academics and policy-makers. CAE is the first port of call for informed opinion and debate about arts and cultural policy in the EU. As the major inter-sectoral network, we bring together all practices in culture: from performing arts, literature, visual arts, design and cross-arts initiatives to community centres and activist groups.

Culture Action Europe believes in the value and values of culture and its contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive societies.

Culture Action Europe envisions culture as central to inclusive, plural, open and sharing societies.

www.cultureactioneurope.org