



BELONGING AND BECOMING

Culture in the Future of Europe

Dear XXX,

Culture is the foundation of who we are as human beings and of our collective life. The future of the European Union as a shared project is difficult to imagine without the explicit recognition of its cultural dimension. Networks across all cultural sectors, cultural organisations, artists, activists, academics and policy-makers call to **make culture a fundamental part of the future of Europe's Strategic Agenda 2019-2024. Investing in culture is a core priority for building a fairer and more inclusive Europe and for promoting principles of equality, plurality and freedom upon which we have built our way of life.**

The Rome declaration of 2017 commits to build a Europe "*where citizens have new opportunities for cultural and social development*" and "*a Union which preserves our cultural heritage and promotes cultural diversity*". This vision was confirmed at the Gothenburg Leaders' Summit in November 2017 and by the European Council in December 2017. In Sibiu, Leaders agreed to safeguard 'our way of life, democracy and the rule of law', defend rights and freedoms, and uphold our shared values and principles.

A better Europe needs more culture. We affirm that culture and democracy are not independent from one another. A European democratic project needs culture to produce an open, inclusive, fair and diverse symbolic shared space.

Contemporary creation spearheads the reflection on social dynamics and future challenges, opening new avenues leading forward. Reinforcing EU actions celebrating cultural diversity, in accordance with the core remit of the EU in the cultural field (Art. 167 TFEU), should be seen as a strategic priority to build the future of Europe. Cultural actors are ready to be a companion and ally in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely,
XXX