



Ms Ursula von der Leyen  
President-elect of the European Commission

Brussels, 13 September 2019

**Subject: Bring culture back in the Commissioner's title**

Dear Ms President-elect,

We congratulate you on finalising the challenging task of forming the future European Commission.

Culture is grouped together with youth, research, innovation, sport and education in the portfolio of Ms Gabriel. We are pleased to see culture embedded in this range of areas which are vital for the future of the European Union. **However, we are deeply concerned with the downgrading of the position of culture within the Commissioner's portfolio, primarily reflected in the fact that "Culture" is missing from her title.**

Culture is a distinct and vast component of the European unity, which is essential for building a shared prosperous future for all European citizens. The tremendous role of culture in European integration has been consistently recognised by the European institutions in the past few years, creating an unprecedented opportunity to seize its potential for building a strong and united European community. Now, with **culture missing from the official title of the designated commissioner, we have serious doubts as to whether it will remain at the appropriate level of recognition.**

Undoubtedly, all cultural and creative sectors are powerful drivers of innovation; moreover, culture is closely linked with the youth policies. However, it remains an autonomous domain of enormous dimensions bringing its own contribution to the construction of our societies.

**Therefore, on behalf of 45 organisations co-signing this letter, we call for changing Ms Gabriel's title into "Innovation, Youth and Culture".**

Considering culture's immense role in very different fields of sustainable development, we appreciate that you have embedded some cultural aspects in the portfolios of other Commissioners. To reinforce the new structure, **we call for a specific mandate to foster dialogue and synchronise actions among other commissioners and vice-presidents dealing with culture-related matters.**

Kindest regards,

*Teresa Badia, Secretary General of Culture Action Europe*



## List of signatories:

ARTCENA - Circostrada network  
Associació d'Escriptors en Llengua Catalana  
Association Européenne des Conservatoires  
BJCEM Network  
Center for Kunst & Interkultur - CKI  
Culture Action Europe  
Cultuurconnectie  
Dace Melbårde, 2nd Vice Chair, CULT  
committee  
ECCOM  
Europanostra  
European Choral Association  
European Concert Hall Organisation  
European Cultural Foundation  
European Dancehouse Network  
European Federation of National Youth  
Orchestras (EFNYO)  
European Music Council  
European Theatre Convention  
Europeana Foundation  
Eurozine  
EWC - European Writers' Council  
FECED (Spanish Federation of Dance  
Companies)  
Freemuse  
IETM  
IG Kultur Österreich

Interarts Foundation  
International Association of Art (IAA) Europe  
ITI Germany on behalf of EU Secretariat for  
German Culture NGOs  
Luca Bergamo - Vice Mayor and Deputy Mayor  
for Culture, City of Rome  
Michael culture  
MoreEurope  
National Association of Creative and Cultural  
Industries Latvia  
Niklas Nienaß, MEP- Member of the CULT  
Committee  
On the move  
Onda / Office national de diffusion artistique  
Opera Europa  
PAV  
Public Libraries 2030  
Resartis - Worldwide network of arts residencies  
Riksteatern (The National Theatre of Sweden)  
Stichting H401  
The British Council  
Trans Europe Halles  
Visarte  
Visual Artists Ireland (VAI)  
Waag

**CAE has also launched [an online petition](#) to support the call for changing Ms Gabriel's title to "Innovation, Youth and Culture".**