



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".