

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 20 January 2005

Mr José Manuel BARROSO
President of the European Commission

Dear Mr President,

It was with enormous pride and enthusiasm that we listened to your speech on the occasion of the Berlin Cultural Europe conference last November. You correctly said that funding the European Union's Culture budget is a "litmus test of our willingness to go beyond words and to take our action beyond what it is today". We fully agree with you that culture plays an essential role in the process of European integration and therefore, necessarily, in the strategy of Lisbon itself.

As you know all too well, we in the Culture Committee of the European Parliament have embarked upon our deliberations on the Culture 2007 Programme but are, of course, also involved in the on-going discussions of the Union's financial perspectives.

We believe that the time is right to urge Members States and the Commission to join with us in making a public commitment to a campaign for EU culture funding based on 70 cents per citizen per year. We will do all within our power to achieve this modest goal and are convinced on the basis of the commitment you demonstrated in Berlin that you will do likewise.

Plans are underway to take this "70 cents" campaign forward over the next few months and we hope that we will be able to count on your active support and participation on behalf of Europe's culture policy.

Yours faithfully,

Nikolaos SIFUNAKIS, President of the Committee on Culture and Education
Pål SCHMITT, Vice-president of the Committee on Culture and Education
Helga TRÜPEL, Vice-president of the Committee on Culture and Education
Mannolis MAVROMMATIS, Vice-president of the Committee on Culture and Education
Doris PACK, EPP-ED Coordinator for the Committee on Culture and Education
Christa PRETS, PES Coordinator for the Committee on Culture and Education
Hannu TAKKULA, ALDE Coordinator for the Committee on Culture and Education
Vasco GRACA MOURA, Rapporteur on the "Culture 2007 programme"

CC : Josep BORRELL FONTELLES, President of the Temporary Committee on Policy Challenges and Budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007-2013
Reimer BÖGE, Rapporteur on the "Financial Perspective 2007-2013"