TEMPLATE

Letter to heads of state / government and ministers for European affairs opposing the cuts to AgoraEU

Please:

1. Translate the letter below into your language. Feel free to adapt it to your national context.
- ***Frugal Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Belgium*** are seeking further cuts: additionally, you can acknowledge budgetary constraints; emphasise how EU cooperation makes national investment go further, cite the potential economic benefit: up to €11 in GDP per euro invested in cultural and creative sectors.
- ***Other Member States ('Friends of Cohesion'):*** encourage them to defend AgoraEU alongside cohesion and agriculture, highlight culture's contribution to regional development and call for at least 2% of their NRPP funding for culture.
  More arguments are here.

2. Replace the country placeholders throughout the text with your country's name.
3. Add the correct salutations at the beginning. You can find the recipients' titles and email addresses in the table. Please double-check these details, as the information was compiled with AI assistance.
4. Add your signature and contact details at the end.
5. Send the letter to the email addresses listed in the table.

Dear [Prime Minister/ President / Federal Chancellor / Taoiseach],

Dear Minister [surname name of your minister responsible for European affairs],

We urge you to oppose the proposed 30% cut to AgoraEU in António Costa's negotiating box for the 2028-2034 MFF. We ask you to reject any agreement on the next MFF that retains this cut.

AgoraEU is the future EU programme supporting culture, media and civil society. António Costa's negotiating box, following the Irish Presidency's proposal, reduces its budget from the Commission's €8.6 billion to €6 billion, putting AgoraEU at risk. Almost a third of its funding would be lost for a 'saving' of 0.14% of the total EU budget.

Meanwhile, Russia is planning to allocate approximately €4.8 billion to culture and media in its 2026 federal budget, more than five times AgoraEU's proposed annual average according to the Irish negotiating box. It is difficult to reconcile calls for European sovereignty with cuts that weaken our ability to resist manipulation. They would leave our public space more exposed to authoritarian influence.

Our children need to be able to discover Europe's cultural diversity. Cutting European creation and distribution would narrow that choice and give algorithms more influence over what reaches them. Should a handful of big tech companies have so much power over what our children encounter? We believe not. On the contrary, we propose boosting AgoraEU's budget with already existing EU fines on big tech companies for breaches of the Digital Services Act, Digital Markets

Act, and AI Act. This money should come on top of a stable, guaranteed budget and provide additional resources.

EU funding helps us get more out of the money we already invest in culture and media. A book published with national support, for example, can reach readers in other countries through EU funding for translation and distribution. Cutting that support means our own investment has less impact.

We share the urgent call by 1000 organisations across Europe and [your country] against the cuts to AgoraEU. We ask you to:

- **Reject the proposed 30% cut and restore AgoraEU** to at least the Commission's €8.6 billion proposal in current prices for 2028-2034;
- **Protect the dedicated Creative Europe – Culture strand within the programme** at no less than the Commission's proposed €1.8 billion in current prices;
- **Include a dedicated cultural chapter in [country]'s National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)**, allocating at least 2% of its funding to culture and involving the cultural sector in its preparation.

Please make these priorities explicit in [country]'s negotiating position and instruct your representatives in the Council to defend them.

We would appreciate an urgent response confirming [your country]'s position.

Kind regards,

[your name]

[name of your organisation]

[contact details, date, signature]