



Dear campaigners,

Please find below a template letter you can use to write to your national Ministers of Culture ahead of the upcoming EU long-term budget negotiations and the development of the new EU strategic framework for culture.

We encourage you to centre your message around the [‘Ask, Pay, Trust the Artist’](#) principle and highlight the 9 action points we are calling on national Ministers of Culture to support in shaping their position on EU future cultural policies.

This is a flexible template. You are welcome to translate it into your national language and adapt it to reflect your country’s unique context. We understand that national circumstances differ, so please feel free to incorporate any relevant developments or priorities in your national cultural policy landscape.

However, we recommend keeping the letter focused on your country’s position within EU cultural policy discussions.

We encourage you to sign this letter collectively with other cultural organisations and associations in your country that are active at the European level, benefit from EU support, and wish to have a voice in shaping future cultural policies in the EU. You can coordinate with other Culture Action Europe members through our [regional hubs](#).

Thank you for your continued engagement and advocacy.

Dear Minister _____,

We are a group of [Laniakean] cultural organisations working at the European level and closely aligned with the development of European cultural policies.

We are writing to share our thoughts on the future of EU cultural policy, particularly in relation to the EU's upcoming Culture Compass strategy and the planning of the EU's long-term budget for 2028-2034.

We believe that [Laniakea] should have a strong voice in these discussions and urge the Ministry of Culture to take a proactive, democratic, and pro-European position in the upcoming negotiations based on values such as cultural democracy, solidarity, pluralism, and artistic freedom.

We appreciate your signature on the [joint letter from Europe's culture ministers](#) in support of strengthening the cultural and creative sectors through the Creative Europe Programme. As these discussions move forward, we hope that the Ministry's position will be guided by the principle of [Ask, Pay, and Trust the Artist](#).

- Ask us to contribute: Artists and cultural professionals should be part of every policy discussion, bringing their creativity and innovative approaches to the table.
- Pay us fairly: Ensure decent working conditions and fair remuneration for the use of our intellectual property. Invest in culture to help build a more resilient Europe.
- Trust our lead: Embrace the unpredictability of the arts, support experimental projects, encourage diverse voices, and uphold artistic freedom and the autonomy of cultural organisations.

We would like to outline several key actions the EU can take to deliver on the 'Ask, Pay, Trust' principle and strengthen the culture's role in building a more competitive, democratic, and [secure](#) Europe—and [Laniakea]. We encourage you to consider these action points as you shape your position on the future of EU cultural policies and hope you will support these suggestions in the upcoming negotiations.

Competitiveness

- Establish a common EU definition for cultural and creative sector professionals and set minimum standards to ensure fair working conditions.
- Acknowledge culture's role in driving innovation and strengthening competitiveness through the systemic recognition of artistic research as a valid method of knowledge production within EU research funding and the Competitiveness Fund.

- Ensure that the implementation of the Artificial Intelligence Act and subsequent AI policies safeguard creators from unauthorised use of their work and guarantee fair remuneration.

Democracy

- Leverage the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 to allocate at least 2% toward European cultural content creation and the reinforcement of Europe's democratic cultural ecosystem—across all pillars of the MFF, including a strengthened standalone Creative Europe programme.
- Integrate artistic freedom into the Rule of Law Report to monitor freedom of artistic expression and the autonomy of cultural organisations across the EU.
- Recognise cultural democracy and socially engaged arts as a strategic priority in the Culture Compass and the next EU Work Plan for Culture to strengthen social cohesion and build trust in the role of the arts in society.

Security

- Include culture within the European Democracy Shield, the EU Internal Security Strategy, and the ReArm Europe plan as a strategic defence against disinformation, hybrid threats, and psychological warfare from authoritarian regimes.
- Embed culture into the EU Preparedness Union Strategy and the EU mental health policy to mobilise communities and enhance resilience.
- Support Ukraine's cultural recovery by allocating 2% (~€4 billion) of Russia's frozen assets for this purpose.

These suggestions are already [supported](#) by over 300 representatives of cultural organisations across Europe. We rely on your leadership to amplify the voice of the united cultural sector, both here in [\[Laniakea\]](#) and at the European level.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to ongoing dialogue to ensure that culture remains at the heart of European integration, innovation, and resilience.

Kind regards,