

NAME PLACE FUND

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO
SECURE CULTURE FUNDING
IN HORIZON EUROPE
AND THE EUROPEAN
COMPETITIVENESS FUND

CAMPAIGN INFO PACK

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

The EU funds culture through several programmes and is now designing their successors for 2028-2034. One of them is Horizon Europe, the EU's research and innovation programme.

Currently, Horizon contains a dedicated space for culture research called [Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society](#) with a budget of roughly €2.28 billion. Despite years of high-demand and widely celebrated and relevant projects, EU decision-makers [removed culture](#) from their proposal for the next Horizon programme (2028–2034).

Other opportunities for funding in the current EU budget include the [Single Market Programme](#) and the [Digital Europe Programme](#). The latter has funded over €11 million for the digitalisation of cultural heritage including projects such as [Europeana Initiative](#) and the related data space for cultural heritage. **Under the next budget for 2028-2034, these funding opportunities are also at risk.** Instead, the EU has proposed a new programme — the European Competitiveness Fund — which mentions culture only marginally and provides no structural place for it.

As it stands, dedicated funding for culture and creativity is absent from both Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund, which together are worth €409 billion. With negotiations on the next EU budget ongoing between the EU institutions, now is the time for urgent action to make the case for culture and artistic research in the next budget.

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

A coalition of cultural networks started the 'Name, Place, Fund' campaign to secure the presence of culture for research, innovation and competitiveness in the 2028-2034 budget. The campaign focuses specifically on the Horizon Europe and European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). It is coordinated by the Artistic Research Alliance (composed of [Culture Action Europe](#), [ELIA](#), [AEC - European Association of Conservatoires](#), [CILECT](#), [European Association for Architectural Education](#), [EQ-Arts](#), [GEECT](#), [MusiQuE](#), [Society for Artistic Research](#)) and [Michael Culture Association](#), which together represent around 1,200 institutions involved in artistic-cultural research and cultural heritage in Europe.

The goal of the campaign is to influence the European Commission, European Parliament, and the Council of the EU during interinstitutional negotiations and to ask for three things:

- **NAME:** Put culture in the title of a Horizon Europe window: 'Culture and Global Societal Challenges,' and put culture in the title of a Competitiveness Fund policy window.
- **PLACE:** Give culture a dedicated structural component in both programmes. When we say 'dedicated component,' we mean a dedicated budget line, work programmes, and calls. A horizontal principle is not enough for culture, nor is a line inside someone else's policy window. Culture deserves a home of its own.
- **FUND:** We call for €5 billion to be allocated towards culture and artistic research in Horizon Europe, and €3 billion to be allocated towards culture and creative industries in the European Competitiveness Fund.

OUR ACTIONS SO FAR

We have submitted amendments to the EU institutions, including to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, to provide concrete proposals through which culture can be meaningfully supported in Horizon and the ECF.

The Name, Place, Fund social media campaign was also launched on Wednesday 6 May 2026, tagging relevant influential decision-makers and calling for change. We now wish to bring visibility to our campaign, its goals, and to share the experiences of the cultural and creative sectors with Horizon Europe, artistic research, etc. **For that, we need your active involvement.** Read what you can do [here](#).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Three main things:

- I. Post online:
 1. Your story about Horizon Europe;
 2. General endorsement post.
- II. Email the decision-makers.
- III. Spread the word further and invite your members/partners to join the campaign.

Please engage with the campaign in whatever way feels most appropriate for you and your organisation.

Whether you choose to focus on social media, email policymakers, or both, each of the actions below contributes meaningfully on its own.

We have compiled information below on each of these points so you can identify how and/or your organisation wish to contribute and what works best for you.

I. POST ONLINE

You can post on social media (e.g. LinkedIn, Instagram) several things.

The timeline for posting is 30 June 2026: the earlier the better!

1. Your story about Horizon Europe.

If you were ever involved in a Horizon Europe project, we want to hear your story! [If you do not have a story to tell, we recommend moving on to [point 2.](#) of this section.] Our goal is to shine a light on the stories behind the projects funded by Horizon, showcasing how each one goes far beyond work packages, deliverables and KPIs. **Make sure to tag all the policymakers we are targeting (list [here](#)), as this will help showcase the diversity and breadth of artistic research.**

As for the visuals, feel free to use your own images related to the project. Alternatively, you can use the campaign’s #NamePlaceFund carousel or other visuals featuring the main campaign messages, which you can access [here](#). For LinkedIn posts, the carousel should be attached as a PDF file.

Please also include the hashtag #NamePlaceFund in your post.

Here is a template:

I'm [name], a [profession] in [city]. I do [one line description of the work].

[...] insert your Horizon story – recommendations below

That is research. It makes a difference for Europe, and it belongs in its research programme.

Europe is about to decide its next long-term budget, where funding for culture is structurally absent from two major programmes: Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund. Therefore, I am asking the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the EU for three things:

- **NAME:** Put culture in the title of a Horizon Europe window: ‘Culture and Global Societal Challenges’. Put creativity in the title of a Competitiveness Fund policy window.
- **PLACE:** Give culture and creativity dedicated structural components in both programmes. Dedicated components = dedicated budget lines, work programmes, calls. A horizontal principle is not enough, nor is a line inside someone else's policy window. Culture deserves a home of its own.

• **FUND:** €5 billion for culture and artistic research in Horizon Europe. €3 billion for culture and creative industries in the European Competitiveness Fund.

#NamePlaceFund

TAG: Ekaterina Zaharieva, Stéphane Séjourné, Marc Lemaître, Kerstin Jorna, Christian Ehler, Dan Nica, Yvan Verougstraete, Benedetta Scuderi, Marc Botenga, Lina Gálvez, Ivars Ijabs, Ville Niinistö, Nikos Pappas, Rene Repasi, Eszter Lakos, Katri Kulmuni, Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU, Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU

See the list of tags [here](#).

Image related to the project or [#NamePlaceFund carousel](#)

We recommend the following steps for writing your Horizon story:

- Identify one moment or experience from a Horizon project that has stayed with you. Perhaps a first-hand experience, a memorable collaboration or partnership, or a creative interaction you witnessed that lingers in your mind.
- Start with a concrete scene, not with the name of the project.
- Keep the first paragraph short enough that someone will read the second.
- Choose one object, place, voice or moment that stayed with you.
- Show what the artists and cultural professionals actually did in the research room, rehearsal space, archive, street, school, museum or community setting. Describe what you did with your hands, voice, instrument or tool.
- Explain the research question in plain language: ‘We wanted to understand why...’ or ‘We were trying to find out what happens when...’.
- Avoid buzzwords like ‘innovative methodology’, ‘new models’, ‘sustainable frameworks’, ‘raise awareness,’ etc.
- Avoid ornamental numbers. One memorable detail is stronger than ‘500 participants across 12 countries.’
- Show how artistic practice produced knowledge.
- You can include one moment of friction, doubt, correction or surprise.
- Reflect on what made that moment special. Why do you still remember it months or years later? Why does it come to mind now?
- Let a person in the story speak, quote them.
- Write as if explaining the project to an intelligent friend who has never heard of Horizon Europe. Could someone outside your research bubble understand it? That should be the goal.

When combined, feel free to share your post on social media!

Timeline for posting: 30 June 2026, the earlier the better!

For inspiration, we invite you to read articles about Horizon projects in *Horizon – The EU Research and Innovation Magazine*. Notice how they often start with a vivid scene or concrete action that illustrates the project, before moving on to the main takeaways, tangible impact, and personal reflections.

- [From masterpieces to makeup: eco-friendly art conservation gentle enough for human skin](#)
- [Beyond museum walls: games that let you step into history](#)
- [On with the show: AI and virtual reality step in to transform live performance](#)

2. General Endorsement post

If you don't have a story to share, you can still spread the word online through endorsing our campaign.

Feel free to:

- use the example post shared below (aimed at LinkedIn) as a source of inspiration;
- use the [visuals and carousel](#) associated with the Name, Place, Fund campaign;
- use the hashtag #NamePlaceFund;
- tag the decision-makers listed in the [table](#) on social media.
- add the campaign [banner](#) to your email signature

If you use the example post below as a template, we recommend personalising it to your organisation in terms of name, language and style: pay particular attention to adapting the parts highlighted in yellow!

As for the visuals, feel free to use the campaign's #NamePlaceFund carousel or other visuals featuring the main campaign messages, which you can access [here](#). For LinkedIn posts, the carousel should be attached as a PDF file.

Please also include the hashtag #NamePlaceFund in your post.

The timeline for posting is 30 June 2026: the earlier the better!

Example Post (LinkedIn)

⚠ The future of EU cultural and artistic research is at risk. That's why **[your organisation]** support the #NamePlaceFund campaign, calling on the EU institutions to secure EU funding for culture.

Negotiations on the next long-term EU budget (#MFF) are ongoing and one of the largest envelopes, covering research, innovation and competitiveness, is worth €409 billion. This includes Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund... and almost completely ignores culture.

✘ A dedicated component for culture in the European Competitiveness Fund? Nope.

✘ A continuation of Cluster 2 for culture in Horizon Europe? Gone.

The cultural sector deserves and needs better. That's why we're endorsing the #NamePlaceFund campaign, which calls on the European Commission, European Parliament, and the Council, for three things:

- **NAME:** Put culture in the title of a Horizon Europe window: ‘Culture and Global Societal Challenges’. Put creativity in the title of a Competitiveness Fund policy window.
- **PLACE:** Give culture and creativity dedicated structural components in both programmes. This means dedicated budget lines, work programmes, and calls for culture. A horizontal principle is not enough, nor is a line inside someone else's policy window. Culture deserves a home of its own.
- **FUND:** €5 billion for culture and artistic research in Horizon Europe. €3 billion for culture and creative industries in the European Competitiveness Fund.

#NamePlaceFund

TAG: Ekaterina Zaharieva, Stéphane Séjourné, Marc Lemaître, Kerstin Jorna, Christian Ehler, Dan Nica, Yvan Verougstraete, Benedetta Scuderi, Marc Botenga, Lina Gálvez, Ivars Ijabs, Ville Niinistö, Nikos Pappas, Rene Repasi, Eszter Lakos, Katri Kulmuni, Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU, Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU

See the list of tags [here](#).

Attach the [#NamePlaceFund carousel](#)

II. EMAIL THE DECISION-MAKERS

Whom to write? Check out the [list](#).

What to write?

Ideally, each email should be timed according to the negotiations timeline. That is what our coalition does at the technical level: submitting amendments and proposals in line with all relevant deadlines.

We recognise that, as part of a public campaign, it is difficult to coordinate fully with this technical work. But there is still value in reaching out to decision-makers to reiterate your demands or your support for the Name Place Fund campaign, even outside the strict procedural calendar.

Please write individual emails using the **template below**. Select the appropriate addressee and adapt the content accordingly, **keeping only the points that are relevant to that recipient, delete text *in italics***.

In May-June-July 2026, it's best to write to MEPs, as well as to the Cyprus and Irish Presidencies.

Dear Executive Vice-President / Commissioner / Director-General **[Surname]**, *(for Commission officials)*,

Dear Mr / Ms **[Surname]**, *(for MEPs and Council attachés)*

*****Choose the needed tag according to the type of Policymaker*****

[[[[[I am writing to you given your political leadership on the **Horizon Europe Programme / the European Competitiveness Fund** in the next MFF. *(for the Commission officials)*

I am writing to you in your capacity as **rapporteur / shadow rapporteur** for **Horizon Europe / the European Competitiveness Fund**. *(for MEPs)*

I am writing to you given the **[Cyprus / Irish]** Presidency's leadership in steering the Council negotiations on **Horizon Europe / the European Competitiveness Fund**.]]]]

Given the ongoing negotiations on Horizon Europe and the ECF, the positions formulated by the institutions, and the upcoming trilogues, I wanted to reiterate my support for culture and creativity funding in the next Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund.

I represent **[name of organisation]**, which **[brief description of what you do]**.

We were very concerned to see that the Commission's proposals for Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund did not include dedicated structural funding for culture and

creativity. The Parliament's recent position does not fix the problem. In Horizon, culture is downgraded to a 'horizontal principle.' In the Competitiveness Fund, it's squeezed into a single line inside the 'Health, Biotechnology, and Sustainable Prosperity' window.

The lack of support for culture and artistic research sends a message that art is not a serious source of inquiry or understanding, that artists and cultural professionals are not real producers of knowledge, that creativity is welcome only when it serves someone else's research question.

This stands in clear contrast to my personal experience / the experience of [your organisation] with artistic research / Horizon Europe / Digital Europe / Single Market Programme.

[Here you can share your experience with the above-mentioned programmes / ideas about artistic research, creativity and competitiveness, etc.]

Therefore, in the negotiation process, we ask you three things:

- NAME: Put culture in the title of a Horizon Europe pillar/window: 'Culture and Global Societal Challenges'. Put creativity in the title of a Competitiveness Fund policy window.
- PLACE: Give culture and creativity dedicated structural components in both programmes. Dedicated components means dedicated budget lines, work programmes, calls. A horizontal principle is not enough, nor is a line inside someone else's policy window. Culture deserves a home of its own.
- FUND: €5 billion for culture and artistic research in Horizon Europe. €3 billion for culture and creative industries in the European Competitiveness Fund.

Culture and creativity should not appear in these programmes only horizontally, or survive through occasional wording in other policy windows. They should be present as a recognised source of research, innovation and competitiveness in their own right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

[Your name]

III. INVITE YOUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS TO JOIN

In addition to the previous two points, **raising awareness of the campaign within your network(s) would be of great assistance** in gaining visibility and traction for the campaign. This could be through sharing information about the campaign in any newsletter(s) your organisation shares, or inviting organisations from your network directly to contribute to the call by sharing their stories or sharing/re-posting any post(s) that you have shared online. The more visibility we gain and the more tags on decision-makers we achieve, the greater the chances we have of achieving our campaign's goals: Name, Place, and Fund culture in Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund!

THE LIST: DECISION-MAKERS TO TAG AND EMAIL

The list does not contain information about MEPs from the far-right political parties.

Name	Role	LinkedIn	Email	Instagram
Ekaterina Zaharieva	European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, political leadership over the Horizon Europe programme	https://www.linkedin.com/in/ekaterina-zaharieva/	cab-zaharieva-contact@ec.europa.eu	ekaterina_zaharieva
Stéphane Séjourné	Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, political leadership over the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/st%C3%A9phane-s%C3%A9journ%C3%A9-b3190848/	cab-sejourne-contact@ec.europa.eu	stephane_sejourne
Marc Lemaître	Director-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission, responsible for Horizon Europe	-	Marc.LEMAITRE@ec.europa.eu	-
Kerstin Jorna	Director-General for the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), European Commission, responsible for the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/kerstin-jorna-12117328a/	Kerstin.JORNA@ec.europa.eu	-
Christian Ehler	MEP EPP DE, rapporteur for Horizon Europe & the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/christian-ehler-193262340/	christian.ehler@europarl.europa.eu	christian_ehler
Dan Nica	MEP S&D RO, rapporteur for the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-nica-0b95642a9/	dan.nica@europarl.europa.eu	dannicaofficial
Yvan Verougstraete	MEP Renew BE, shadow rapporteur for the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/yvan-verougstraete/	yvan.verougstraete@europarl.europa.eu	yvanverougstraete
Benedetta Scuderi	MEP Greens IT, shadow rapporteur for the European Competitiveness Fund	https://www.linkedin.com/in/benedetta-scuderi/	benedetta.scuderi@europarl.europa.eu	benni.scuderi
Marc Botenga	MEP Left BE, shadow rapporteur for the European Competitiveness Fund	-	marcjohan.botenga@europarl.europa.eu	marcbotenga
Lina Gálvez	MEP S&D ES, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe	-	lina.galvezmunoz@europarl.europa.eu	linagalvezm
Ivars Ijabs	MEP Renew LV, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe	https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivars-ijabs-473a2a177/	ivars.ijabs@europarl.europa.eu	ivarsijabs
Ville Niinistö	MEP Greens FI, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe	https://www.linkedin.com/in/ville-niinisto/	ville.niinisto@europarl.europa.eu	villeniinisto
Nikos Pappas	MEP Left EL, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe	-	nikolaos.pappas@europarl.europa.eu	3pfamilia

Rene Repasi	MEP S&D DE, rapporteur for Horizon Europe (Specific Programme)	https://www.linkedin.com/in/rene-repasi/	rene.repasi@europarl.europa.eu	rene.repasi@europarl.europa.eu
Eszter Lakos	MEP EPP HU, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe (Specific Programme)	https://www.linkedin.com/in/eszter-lakos-6a454910/	eszter.lakos@europarl.europa.eu	lakos_eszter@europarl.europa.eu
Katri Kulmuni	MEP Renew FI, shadow rapporteur for Horizon Europe (Specific Programme)	-	katri.kulmuni@europarl.europa.eu	katri.kulmuni@europarl.europa.eu
Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU	Current Council Presidency, January-June 2026. Chairs Council work during the phase when partial general approaches on Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund are being prepared. Relevant for the Council compromise texts before the Irish Presidency takes over.	https://www.linkedin.com/company/permanent-representation-of-cyprus-to-the-european-union/ https://www.linkedin.com/company/cy2026eu/	<p>For Horizon:</p> <p>Mr Loizos Solomou Attaché (Research, Innovation policy) and Coordinator (Digital Transition) lsolomou@dmrid.gov.cy</p> <p>Mr Pantelis Savvas Ioannou Attaché (Research, Innovation policy) pioannou@dmrid.gov.cy</p> <p>For the ECF:</p> <p>Mr Ioannis Papadopoulo Attaché (Internal Market, Competitiveness and Growth, Competition, Industry) ipapadopoulos@meci.gov.cy</p> <p>Mr Demetris Petrides Attaché (Internal Market, Competitiveness and Growth, Competition, Industry) dpetrides@meci.gov.cy</p> <p>Ms Maria Ashikalis Attaché (Internal Market, Competitiveness and Growth, Competition, Industry) maashikalis@meci.gov.cy</p>	Presidency : cy2026.eu/sec

<p>Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU</p>	<p>Incoming Council Presidency, July-December 2026. Likely to chair Council work during the key phase after EP committee/plenary votes, and potentially during the opening of trilogues on Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund.</p>	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/company/perm-rep-ireland-eu</p>	<p>General email: irlprb@dfa.ie</p> <p>For Horizon: First Secretary: Rachel Barrett (Research and Innovation)</p> <p>Third Secretary: Mark McNulty (Research and Innovation)</p> <p>For the ECF: Counsellor: Caoimhe Gavin (Competitiveness, Industry, European Competitiveness Fund)</p>	<p>irelandineu</p>
<p>Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU</p>	<p>Upcoming Council Presidency, January-June 2027. Relevant if trilogues, final compromises or adoption of Horizon Europe and ECF continue into 2027.</p>	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/company/lt-perm-rep-eu/</p>	<p>General email: office.eu@urm.lt</p> <p>For Horizon:</p> <p>BRIGITA SERAFINAVIČIŪTĖ Attaché for Education and Research Brigita.Serafinaviciute@smsm.lt</p> <p>RASA PEČIUKONIENĖ Attaché for Education and Research rasa.peciukoniene@smsm.lt</p> <p>For the ECF: IGNAS SIMANAVIČIUS Attaché for Economic Affairs (Industry, Innovation & Space) Ignas.Simanavicius@urm.lt</p>	<p>lietuva_es</p>
<p>Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU</p>	<p>Upcoming Council Presidency, July-December 2027. Relevant for possible late-stage adoption, technical follow-up and preparation for 2028 entry into force.</p>	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/company/permanent-representation-of-greece-to-the-european-union-%CE%B7-%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%AC%CE%B4%CE%B1-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B9%CF%82-%CE%B2%CF%81%CF%85%CE%BE%CE%AD%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B5%CF%82/</p>	<p>General email: mea.bruxelles@rp-grece.be</p>	<p>greeceineu</p>

POLICY TIMELINE

This is an indicative timeline. All dates are provisional and subject to change.

Timeline for Horizon Europe

European Parliament

- The ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) Committee (rapporteur: EHLER Christian, EPP) published its [draft report](#) on **13 March 2026**.
- Shadow rapporteurs (GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D), IJABS Ivars (Renew), NIINISTÖ Ville (Greens/EFA), PAPPAS Nikos (The Left), RECHAGNEUX Julie (P/E), ZALEWSKA Anna (ECR) had until **9 April 2026** to table amendments. All amendments can be viewed [here](#).
- Over a thousand amendments were submitted by different stakeholders. The next step is that they will be reviewed and merged into **compromise amendments**, which will form ITRE's main positions for the vote.
- May and June are when the real haggling over compromise amendments takes place.
- **10 September 2026**: ITRE votes on the Horizon report.
- **5 October 2026**: Plenary (all MEPS) votes on the Horizon report, formally establishing Parliament's position.
- Realistically, to influence Parliament, we need to act between now and June.

Council

- At the end of April, the Council produced draft Presidency compromise texts: 8730/26 (Horizon Framework Regulation) and 8731/26 (Horizon Specific Programme).
- These texts are not officially public, but one of the earlier versions of the Horizon Specific Programme was leaked [here](#).
- In this compromise text, the Council proposes to place 'sustaining European cultures and creative industries' under the Society pillar of Horizon Europe, which is a good development.
- A partial general approach (Council's position) on Horizon is expected at the Research Council on 29 May 2026. It is a *partial approach* rather than the Council's final position because it will exclude budgetary elements, funding rates, award and selection rules. On all budget-related MFF matters, the Council expects to reach an agreement until the end of 2026.

Timeline for the European Competitiveness Fund

European Parliament

- The ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) Committee (co-rapporteurs: EHLER Christian (EPP) and NICA Dan (S&D)) published its [draft report](#) on **20 April 2026**.
- Shadow rapporteurs (NAGYOVÁ Jana (Pfe), KOLS Rihards (ECR), VEROUGSTRAETE Yvan (Renew), SCUDERI Benedetta (Greens/EFA), BOTENGA Marc (The Left), KNAFO Sarah (ESN)) had until **11 May 2026** to table amendments.
- The amendment packages should appear on the [ITRE webpage](#) there once processed.
- The next step is that the amendments will be reviewed and merged into compromise amendments, which will form ITRE's main positions for the vote.
- May and June are when the real haggling over compromise amendments takes place.
- **10 September 2026**: ITRE is [provisionally](#) expected to vote on the ECF report.
- Autumn 2026: plenary vote on the ECF is expected.
- Realistically, to influence Parliament, we need to act between now and June.

Council

- The file is being negotiated in the Ad Hoc Working Party on the MFF -- European Competitiveness Fund. The Council has already produced Presidency compromise texts, including 6916/26, a revised Presidency text compiling all chapters, and later chapter-specific texts: 8380/26 on clean transition and industrial decarbonisation, 8381/26 on health, biotechnology, agriculture and bioeconomy, 8382/26 on raw materials value chains and security industry, and 8383/26 on defence.
- Earlier versions of the Council's texts excluded the mention of cultural and creative industries from the ECF legal base. The most recent publicly available consolidated Council Presidency compromise text on the ECF is [ST 6916/26](#), dated 9 March 2026. It restores the mention of culture. Under the Digital Leadership window, the Council text includes 'supporting cultural and creative industries.' This keeps a creative industries hook in the Council text, but only as a sub-objective under Digital Leadership, not as a dedicated window, budget line or structural component.
- **28 May 2026**: the Competitiveness Council is expected to take stock through a progress report on the ECF.
- **16 June 2026**: a partial general approach on the ECF is provisionally scheduled for the General Affairs Council.
- This would be a partial approach rather than the Council's final position because the ECF remains tied to the wider MFF package. As with other MFF files, budgetary envelopes and horizontal issues are likely to remain dependent on the overall MFF negotiations. On all budget-related MFF matters, the Council expects to reach an agreement until the end of 2026.

ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN PROMOTERS

About the Artistic Research Alliance

The Artistic Research Alliance stands for the field of artistic research in all its diversity. This includes academic institutions as well as independent research actors, and research in all art practice disciplines (including architecture, design, film, photography, fine art, media and digital arts, music and the performing arts, creative writing, circus, as well as transdisciplinary efforts).

*Representing around 1000 institutions in the field of artistic research, we offer our collective expertise to contribute to the discourse on key policy, funding, and assessment frameworks. The Artistic Research Alliance is composed of **AEC, CILECT, Culture Action Europe, EAAE, ELIA, EQ-Arts, GEECT, MusiQuE, and SAR.***

Read more about [who we are](#).

About Michael Culture Association

Michael Culture Association (MCA) is a trans-sectoral and trans-domain European network gathering more than 200 public and private organisations from all over Europe and beyond, for the preservation, the promotion and the valorisation of heritage, digital cultural contents, and its communities. Read more [about MCA](#).

