

# Towards a European Resolution on Culture

## Supporting Culture as an Instrument for Values, Democracy and Citizenship



The Council and the European Parliament adopt Resolutions suggesting a political desire to act in a given area. This instrument enables the European institutions to suggest guidelines for coordination of national legislations or administrative practices in a non-binding manner.

Since 2013 the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe – a voluntary loose gathering of citizens that in their daily life work in or around culture – has been working on the European Resolution on Culture urging all political and civic leaders to endorse culture as a tool to develop active citizenship and community involvement that leads to social inclusion, solidarity, responsibility and justice.

The European House for Culture (EHFC) and its members believe, like this group of citizens, that long-term policy visions should highlight that culture provides strong mechanisms for the development of civic values. Cultural actors, artists and their creations should be seen as essential partners of political and civic leaders to maximize community participation and recognize that access to culture develops community relations and a sense of belonging.

The EHFC has been involved in this effort and, in partnership with the European Festivals Association (EFA) and the A Soul for Europe (ASfE), has joined its voice asking that during the current legislative period of the European Parliament, MEPs agree that the dimension of culture be added to all sectors of legislation where it is currently lacking, including external affairs, social affairs and human rights.

This took the form of participating in meetings with the European Parliament, participating in A Soul for Europe Forums, in the Brussels Conversations and in the high visibility Berlin Conference where the representatives of the major European political parties that took part in the discussion.

Until the end of this legislative term of the European Parliament the challenge is to have this **European Resolution on Culture** implemented into an official text.

This requires not only the direct action towards the EP but also a concerted effort in the local and national contexts to raise awareness to the need for this resolution. Culture remains in the exclusive rule of the National States, thus, a resolution will only be implemented if in each country, if at each level of policy making its values and action points are supported and ultimately felt as essential as active policies in employment, health and social welfare.

The goal of this dialogue is to establish a European model for a cultural policy that streamlines and acts as a guiding principle across all levels of governance: a model for positive civic values, social justice, solidarity; citizenship through culture, access to culture, cultural participation and artistic creation.

As a result of the process started in 2012 and the discussions held in many forums including the Berlin Conferences and the Brussels Conversations “A Soul for Europe” and the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe propose developing 3 core concepts to be basis of this Resolution:

### From Engaged Citizenship to Community Development

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe urges all political and civic leaders to endorse culture as a tool to develop active citizenship and community involvement that leads to social inclusion, solidarity, responsibility and justice. Long-term policy visions should highlight that culture provides strong mechanisms for the development of civic values. Cultural actors, artists and their creations should be seen as essential partners of political and civic leaders to maximize community participation and relations.

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe asks the European Union and the European Parliament to further recognize that access to culture develops community relations and a sense of belonging. We ask that during this legislative period of the European Parliament, MEPs agree that the dimension of culture be added to all sectors of legislation on citizenship where it is currently lacking, including external affairs, social affairs and human rights. In addition, we ask that the European Parliament recommend that the European Union further negotiate this process through the legislation of Member States, guaranteeing impact on the regions and cities of Europe.

### Ensuring a Fundamental Commitment to Culture

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe urges all political and civic leaders to promote the cultural dimension of the European project as a necessary, integral and urgent complement to the political, social and economic dimensions.

Long-term policy visions should include a provision for a dialogue between the European Union and the Member States about the creation and implementation of a basic level of commitment to culture and the arts at the Member State, regional and local level, as a natural extension of the Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe other recommendations.

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe recommends that this dialogue generates a proposal for an agreement on the minimum percentage of the budget allocated to cultural programs by the Member States as a percentage of GDP, reflecting the similar and equal responsibility they bear towards culture.

### Streamlining Cultural Competence

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe urges all political and civic leaders to take part in the development of a new cultural policy strategy for Europe

The European Union, the Member States, regions, and cities should develop a more globally-connected cultural policy with clear stages of collaboration and implementation, positioning Europe and its values and policies in a global context.

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe asks the European Parliament to advise the European Union to take part in a mutual exchange with Member States, regions, and cities in order to establish a European model for a cultural policy that streamlines and acts as a guiding principle across all levels of governance: a model for positive civic values, social justice, solidarity, citizenship through culture, access to culture, cultural participation and artistic creation.

The Cultural Coalition for a Citizens' Europe asks the European Union, Member States, regions, and cities to ensure that the cultural implications of any policy are taken in account alongside any environmental, diversity, and socio-economic considerations.

European House for Culture

INITIATED BY THE  
EUROPEAN FESTIVALS ASSOCIATION

SaincteletteSquare 17 - 1000 Brussels - Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 644 48 00

info@HouseForCulture.eu www.HouseForCulture.eu